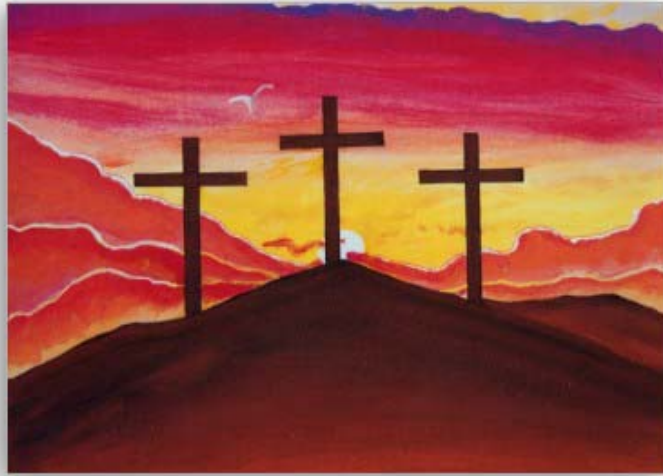


The Chronicle

**Volume 76 Number 3
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**The magazine of
Newtownbreda (St. John's)
Presbyterian Church**



EDITORIAL

Welcome to my first edition as editor of the Chronicle.

Donald Milliken, the outgoing editor, has been a hard act to follow and I am indebted to him for his support at each stage of the publishing process – from the commissioning of articles, mastering the publishing software, and the printing and assembling of copies - it has been a steep learning curve and I pray that I am up to the challenge.

This edition's articles are varied- from the financial situation the church finds itself in to current activities and news from members and former ones, as well as thought provoking ideas on our Christian duty. They come from many authors who have put much time and energy into writing them, so I hope you will read and enjoy them. And don't forget to let me have your own articles or write to me c/o a *Letters to the Editor* page (joan.mcquoid@btinternet.com).

Happy Easter!



From the Study

: **‘What shall I give to the Lord for all his goodness to me?’**

The quotation comes from Psalm 116, and I used it as the platform for a sermon on the theme of Christian giving. I have been asked to repeat in general terms something of what I said.

The Psalm obviously begins with the goodness of God. All Christian response, be it worship, service or giving in any sense, begins with a deep sense of the goodness of God. As Spring breaks and crocuses burst through the ground in colour, we sense God’s goodness in creation.

As Easter comes, with its reflection on the self-giving love of God in Jesus on the cross and his wonderful rising, bringing to us the death of all that destroys life and the promise of life eternal, are we not left breathless by his goodness to us? Daily, we enjoy God’s goodness as silently his care provides for us, his strength sustains us in trials and temptations and as he shapes a future for us beyond anything we can think or conceive of. If this doesn’t stir the heart – if we have lost all sense of thanksgiving – we can go no further. It was in thanksgiving that the Psalmist said *‘What shall I give to the Lord for all his goodness to me?’*

He answers his question in terms of a vow. *‘I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of his people.’* That vow, like the vows our young communicants took recently, will have included a promise to worship faithfully. It will also have included an obligation to present an offering from his income, just as promised in our vows as communicants: *‘I promise to give a fitting proportion of my time, talents and money for the Church’s work in the world.’*

Many members give well and sacrificially. However, a look at the broad statistics of our accounts tell us a number of things. Of the 519 sets of envelopes issued last year, 110 people contributed nothing and only 140 contributed to the Hall’s Redevelopment Fund. In general terms, it is predicted that we will not balance our books at the end of this year unless giving increases. Part of God’s gift to us is the Church, we each, as members of the one body of the Church, have a responsibility to play our part in the work and mission of the congregation. For example, not all of us will use the new facilities in the church hall, but those facilities are being used seven days a week: - sometimes for our uniformed youth organisations which are oversubscribed with applications!

This is part of the mission we share, each of us, as the one body of Christ in Newtownbreda. As part of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, we are asked to contribute over £15,000 per year towards the wider missionary work of the whole Church. This is an opportunity and a responsibility we should all share and when we don't, it means that others are carrying us! Ordinary house keeping bills inflate and can take us by surprise: last year it cost us £4,000 to heat the church building, and £10,000 to heat the halls (used seven days per week).

My role is not to look at the detail of church accounts, nor is it to push financial campaigns. It is, however, to reflect the way of life given in the Bible. When it comes to money, Scripture has plenty to say. Money was frequently the subject of the teaching of Jesus. Gratitude, not directives, should underlie our giving, and our giving reflect our gratitude to God. That is how the Psalmist sees it. There is no sense of compulsion, as St Paul puts it – *'Each one of us must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly, nor under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything, and may provide in abundance for every good work.'*

Giving grows out of gratitude for God's goodness.

Wilfred Orr

A Call for Colin Anderson:

At the time of going to print, Colin has just received a Call from First Donaghadee. He accepted the Call at a meeting of the South Belfast Presbyteron Tuesday 2nd. March. He will be installed at a service in Donaghadee on 23rd. April. Everyone in the Newtownbreda extends to Colin warmest good wishes as he prepares to take on the responsibilities of his own congregation. Our thoughts are with both Colin and Deborah as they make arrangements for their move.

As might be expected of the seaport nearest to Scotland, First Donaghadee has a long Presbyterian history which may go back before the first recorded ordination of the Rev. Andrew Stewart in 1646. Newtownbreda also has links with the congregation. A former minister, the Rev. Harry Gamble was married to a relative of one of our former ministers, the Rev. W. R. Megaw. He was also married to Ethne, a daughter of the Newtownbreda manse. Many will remember our previous organist and choir master, Ronnie McCully. Ronnie began his long career as a church organist as a young man, catching the bus from Belfast to Donaghadee every Sunday, summer and winter, to lead the congregation in praise.

As Colin and Deborah move from us, we are glad to renew our links with the people of First Donaghadee.

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO ----

Twenty five years ago the 1985 spring edition of the St John's Newtownbreda Chronicle reported that

- Rev Orr had been with us for two years, Rev Brian Hughes, his student assistant, had been ordained in January and Bob Meek was editor of the Chronicle
- The AGM was held in February in arctic conditions with snow having to be cleared from the car park, and entertainment of mime, song and dance provided by the Newtownbreda Players, ie Pantomime Group
- The Mothers and Toddlers group was holding a Barn Dance in aid of the Save the Children Fund, tickets costing £1.50!!!
- Focus completed a 24 hour Marathon Run which raised £200 for Ethiopia
- The Presbytery was advertising training for counsellors who could hold Preparation for Marriage classes
- Female volunteers for taking the collection and welcoming worshippers at church services were being sought in an article entitled "...and some are more equal" due to only men carrying out these duties.

THE SAFEST PLACE

How to stay safe in the world today .

1. Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents
2. Do not stay home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home
3. Avoid walking on streets or pavements because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians
4. Avoid travelling by air, rail or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation
5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals so above all else avoid hospitals , BUT
6. You will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur in worship service in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders, therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church! And ... Bible study is safe too --- the percentage of deaths during Bible Study is even less.

**SO,.... for safety's sake, Attend Church and read your Bible
IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE**



WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

This was the topic examined by Focus in a recent Sunday night session. Led by Pete Graham, the 14-18 year olds discussed what made the church and whether it was the building, the community, the worship or the families that attended. Whether Newtownbreda was old fashioned now was put beside the knowledge that it was the first Presbyterian Church to install an organ in the days when music in churches was regarded as sacrilegious. They agreed it was a community brought together by its relationship with Jesus, and with Mark Twain's statement that 'the church was always trying to get others to reform, but it should reform itself a little by way of example'.

People attended, they thought, to see and be seen, say they have been, sleep and nod off and only a few to really worship God. Some but not all of the group found their minds drifting during the sermon or the hymns, feeling that a really good tune could help them understand the words better. The service was perhaps "too safe", but it was difficult to please everyone as each person's needs were different. Ideas for change included using screens with the words of the hymns projected onto them, a slide show of events of the church's week, using a gospel band, reflective videos, and more attention given to topical news in prayers and sermons.

The contrast between the growth of the Baptist and 18% drop in Presbyterian church membership was noted, and suggestions for change made - such as advertising the advantages of church membership, through a camcorder video of weekly events and showing it on the Web, but above all by making relationships with people to encourage them to join. It was important to bring Christ out there to the secular community and above all for young people to be part of the change. Focus members voiced their own reasons for being part of St John's, saying they attended in order "to learn", "to find answers when confused about my faith", "to be part of a community and make like minded friendships", feeling "called to Newtownbreda itself", and many said that they enjoyed going and would miss it if they were not there.

PSALM 23 AND THE PLACE OF WORK

The Lord is my real Boss and I shall not want; He gives me peace when chaos is all around me. He gently reminds me to pray and do all things without murmuring or complaining. He reminds me that He is my Source and not my job. He restores my sanity every day and guides my decisions that I might honour Him in all I do. Even though I face absurd amounts of emails, system crashes, unrealistic deadlines, budget cutbacks, gossiping co-workers, discriminating supervisors and an ageing body that doesn't co-operate every morning, I will not stop- for He is with me, His Presence, His Peace, and His Power will see me through. He raises me up, even when they fail to promote me. He claims me as His own even when the Company threatens to let me go. His faithfulness and His love are better than any bonus cheque. His retirement plan beats any package there is! When it's all said and done, I'll be working for Him a whole lot longer, and for that, **I BLESS HIS NAME!**

ONE DAY AT A TIME!

There are two days in every week about which we need not worry; two days we need not fear. One of these days is **Yesterday**, with all its mistakes and cares, its aches and pains. Yesterday has passed for ever beyond our control. All the worry in the world cannot bring it back. We cannot undo a single word we said or thing we did. Yesterday is gone. The other day we need not worry about is **Tomorrow**, with all its possible difficulties, its burdens, its large promises and poor performance. Tomorrow is also beyond our control. The sun will either rise in splendour or behind a mask of clouds, but it will rise! We have no stake in Tomorrow until it is here. This leaves only one day. **Today!** Anyone can deal with the difficulties of just one day. It is only when we add the burdens of those two awful eternities, Yesterday and Tomorrow, that we break down. It is not the experience of Today that drives us mad, it is remorse or bitterness for something which happened yesterday, and the dread of what Tomorrow will bring. Let us live therefore, **one day at a time!**

INTERVIEW WITH GOD

I dreamed I had an interview with God.

“So you would like to interview me?” God asked.

“If you have the time” I said.

God smiled. “My time is eternity. What questions do you have in mind for me?”

“What surprises you most about humankind?”

God answered... “That they get bored with childhood. They rush to grow up and then long to be children again...

That they lose their health to make money and then lose their money to restore their health...

That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live in neither the present nor the future...

That they live as if they never die, and die as if they had never lived”.

God’s hand took mine and we were silent for a while...

And then I asked... “As a parent, what are some of life’s lessons you want your children to learn?”

God replied with a smile...

“To learn that they cannot make anyone love them. What they can do is let themselves be loved...

To learn that it is not good to compare themselves with others...

To learn that a rich person is not one who has the most, but is one that needs the least...

To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in persons we love, and it takes many years to heal them...

To learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness...

To learn that there are persons who love them dearly, but simply do not know how to express or show their feelings...

To learn that two people can look at the same thing and see it differently...

To learn that it is not always enough that they be forgiven by others, But that they must forgive themselves...

And to learn that I am here always”.



Ray Arnold, Maurice Russell with John Lennon speaking on Images of Ireland at Koinonia

Ormeau Churches Together - Prayer Breakfast

The annual breakfast was held on 23rd January 2010 with around 80 people from Cooke Centenary, Ballynafeigh Methodist, Good Shepherd, St Judes and Newtownbreda congregations. We shared friendship and fellowship while enjoying a cooked breakfast in the St Johns' Hall.

We heard from two guest speakers, Harry Donaghy, an ex prisoner from a Republican background and the other, Frankie Gallaher, a spokes person for the UDA with a Loyalist perspective. Both speakers informed us how they were now working together for peace.

They are involved in discussions with politicians and members of the PSNI

If you have not attended one of the breakfasts before, put the date in your diary when the next is announced, and plan to attend next year.

Sincere appreciation to Janet, Lynn, Matilde, Bruce and Ken together with representatives from the other churches.

Irene Younge

THE BEST KIND OF VALENTINE

For God so loVed the world,
That He gAve
His onLy
BegottEn



SoN
That whosoever
Believeth In Him
Should Not perish
But have Everlasting life

John 3:16

RADIO BROADCAST 31ST JANUARY 2010

The theme of this inspiring service was “Embodying Forgiveness”, which Rev Orr introduced through the story of Jacob and Esau, and which was very appropriate to the violence of the past and the current political discussions on the devolution of policing and justice . Forgiveness can sometimes be too easy, he said; we have to take the forgiveness we receive from Jesus and embody that forgiveness in our own living, acknowledging our guilt and doing something to heal the situation. The theme was explored through beautiful hymns and music on laying our broken world at Jesus’ feet and there being a time for healing, as well as a reading on Peter’s question to Jesus about how many times to forgive someone – seventy times seven! Prayers ranged for communities divided by old quarrels of the past, people who have suffered injustices and those whose hurt has been suffered in silence for years.

So if you missed hearing this broadcast copies are still available in the Church Office on Sunday mornings.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The report of the annual general meeting held in the St. John's Hall on Friday 26th February can be conveniently divided, in true Presbyterian fashion into three sections, Social, Business and Entertainment.

Social

The setting in the Hall was changed from the rather stark functional room to one filled with attractively laid out dining tables, glittering with glass and silver and the *best china*.

Each table was hosted by members of the congregation and as people arrived, greeted by the Rev Orr in the Foyer, they soon found their way to a table to join with friends. A special invitation had been given to new members and they were quickly absorbed into the general atmosphere of bonhomie and goodwill as people talked and laughed engaging in social chit-chat.

A sumptuous two course meal had been prepared by the usual team of dedicated ladies and this was very efficiently served and enjoyed by all as was evidenced by the accumulation of empty plates.

Business

During coffee Bruce Robinson, **Clerk of Session**, brought his report. The following are but a few extracts:

The year ended with the Session looking forward, working intensively on a plan for the future direction of the congregation in its Mission work over the next 5 to 10 years. Session has received a transfusion of vital energy and enthusiasm with the election of 19 new elders.

Pete Graham our new Youth Leader and our new student assistant, Jane Nelson were warmly welcomed.

Session was very pleased to note that Wilfred's talents and in particular his ecumenical work have also been recognised more widely with the invitation from the Dean of Belfast, Rev Houston McKelvey, for him to become one of the two ecumenical canons of St Anne's Cathedral.

With all the activities beyond our congregation it was decided to put Ormeau Churches together on a more formalised basis towards the end of 2009.

Mathilde Stevens and Janet Robinson are our representatives on the newly constituted OCT Committee.

Bruce concluded his report with these remarks.

“In conclusion, it is always difficult to judge where exactly we stand as a congregation. There is no doubt that the membership of the congregation remains under pressure when measured numerically; nevertheless I believe we continue to make progress when I see the extensive linkages that we have made with our own young people and those in the neighbourhood.”

The meeting then progressed to the report of the **Congregational Committee** given by the Secretary, Bob Meek.

In a long and detailed report he expressed in general terms the necessary work that is carried out in maintaining and improving our facilities.

Alluding to the voluntary work carried out, individuals were named and thanked. He made an appeal for all to be proactive in seeking out ways of shouldering the burdens of congregational life as well as sharing in its benefits.

The Financial Report on details of year ended 31st December was given. Our financial position had only been secured by a series of ‘one-off’ windfalls. Bequests amounting to almost £80,000 had enabled us to reduce our borrowing from the Presbyterian Mutual Society to £270,000 and considerably reduced the Halls’ Redevelopment debt. Fund raising activities brought in another £13000. However, support for this Fund through the individual contributions of our members has been less than anticipated. To quote our Treasurer, *‘a long road lies ahead on this project,’ and the length of this journey is a matter of growing concern.*

The Building and Repair Fund was somewhat more adequately supported and is in reasonable shape. But there was a disappointing downturn in the level of support for both the World Development Appeal and the United Appeal.

Virtually half of Newtownbreda’s total income is generated by only 50 contributors. The Church is relying on 1/8th of our contributors for half our funds.

To meet all our commitments we will need to see a very large increase in income to the Free Will Offering. In fact, an increase of more than 20% is essential if we are to keep our heads above water and prevent the General Account going into the red.

After an opportunity for questions the reports of both the Kirk Session and Congregation Committee were adopted unanimously by those in attendance on the very complimentary proposal of Mark Compton seconded by Pete Graham.

Entertainment

The delightful entertainment programme was arranged by Loreto McAuley well known by our congregation. Loreto is the founder of the chamber choir 'Voices' and the McAuley Harp Trio. She is also the director of Sacred Services and organist in several parishes in Belfast.

Loreto accompanied the soloist on the piano and harp and also rendered an enchanting harp solo.

Assisting her were Jeremy Hoy on percussion and drums and the thoroughly engaging and versatile Liz Ross who sang and recited a wonderful and memorable melody of theatre and musical items.

The appreciation of the audience was indicated by the volume and length of their applause.

Conclusion

Altogether we had a most enjoyable evening with much to entertain, but also with a serious side giving rise to considerable future thought and contemplation.

Donald Milliken



DID YOU KNOW:

- the word Easter comes from the Anglo Saxon word Eostre-monath (the month of openings) according to Bede, the English monastic historian
- the original word used for the celebration of Christ rising from the dead was "Pascha", derived from and linked to the Jewish festival of Passover
- rituals related to the goddess Eostre focus on new beginnings, symbolized by the Easter egg, and fertility symbolized by the hare (Easter bunny)

MOTHERING SUNDAY

This year the annual PW service was held on Mothering Sunday, 14th March.

This Christian festival is held throughout Europe and secularly is a celebration of motherhood and synonymous with Mothers' Day. It was in existence even in neolithic times, and from the sixteenth century it was held on the 4th Sunday in Lent to honour the Virgin Mary and "mother church", where people returned to their local church for a service. Domestic servants were given the day off to return to their mothers and it was often the only time whole families could be together. By 1935 however Mothering Sunday was no longer celebrated in Europe and it was only revived by American soldiers in World War II, who celebrated Mother's Day on the second Sunday of March. Then people from Ireland and the UK started celebrating Mother's Day on the same day that Mothering Sunday used to be held before it disappeared.



CONNECT

A new year and a new organisation for Newtownbreda as Connect opened its doors for the first time. Connect is for our P7- Year 11 young people and we meet every Thursday night from 7:30pm-9pm. We have an active night of table tennis (which includes me getting regularly beaten!), pool (again getting beaten regularly!), Wii games, coffee and chat. We've also had bizarre cola bottle experiments our own Connect patented table tennis ball in cup game!

We also have been looking each night at the lessons we can learn from the life of various Bible characters such as Jesus, David, Abraham and Paul. Just want to take the opportunity to thank all those who have supported Connect in these early stages through encouragement and prayer and I want to say a massive thank you to our dedicated team of volunteers – Ruth, Matthew and Duncan, the parents and guardians who drop their young folk off each week and all our Connect people who make the organisation their very own.

A Sunday School teacher asked the children just before she dismissed them to go to church, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"
Annie replied, "Because people are sleeping".

Another teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied "They couldn't get a baby sitter".

ACTS Prayer Format

“If we wish to pray with confidence and gladness, then the words of Holy Scripture will have to be the solid basis of our prayer. For here we know that Jesus Christ, the Word of God, teaches us to pray. The words which come from God become, then, the steps on which we find our way to God.” - Bonhoeffer
Sometimes it’s not so easy to find the right words to use in our prayers and it’s all so easy to lapse into our shopping list of prayer requests for ourselves and for others. That’s why it can be helpful to use the words of scripture to form the basis of our prayer life.

Many of you will already have developed your own method of spending time in prayer before God but others may wish to try a fresh approach. The ACTS prayer Format is one way of developing our devotional prayer life. ACTS is an acronym which stands for A - Prayers of Adoration, C – Prayers of Confession, T – of Thanksgiving and S – of Supplication (in today’s language, supplication is asking for stuff, prayers for ourselves and others).

It will only take 10 minutes of your time, 4 days in the week. First spend some time reading the scripture passage, then meditate or reflect on the passage you have read and finally bring the time to a close with a prayer reflecting on the words you have read and meditated on. For example

Adoration	Psalm 36: 5-9 Praising God for who he is, his wonderful attributes of love, faithfulness, righteousness and justice
Confession	Psalm 51: 1-10 Seeking God’s forgiveness for sins committed and asking him to cleanse and restore us once again
Thanksgiving	Psalm 28: 6-9 Giving thanks to God for showing us mercy, giving us strength to face difficult trials and temptations and thanking him for the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ
Supplication	Psalm 146: 5-10 bringing before, the God of the universe, the problems and concerns of his world, seeking his help and his guidance as we seek to follow Christ in caring for the widow, the orphan, the stranger, the sick and the outcast.

ACTS Prayer passages are at www.breakthroughprayer.com/actsverses

GIRL GUIDING

In September 1909 some girls stepped forward at a Boy Scout rally and asked Baden Powell for “something for the girls, please”. On this the 100th anniversary Guiding has ten million members world wide and 500,00 in the UK. Special events to mark the centenary year are happening under the banner *One World: One Beat*, including a centenary camp at Harewood House in Yorkshire.

Our Girl Guide Captain Margaret Magee will be leading a group of senior guides on a project in Peru for three weeks in July, building a playground for homeless children south of Lima, then climbing Machu Pichu with Peruvian Guides. At a camp in February our senior girls practiced their canoeing for their Duke of Edinburgh and younger ones engaged in adventurous activities.



19th Belfast Rainbow Unit

This term the girls have enjoyed another range of varied activities. In January we made pancakes and decorated buns. The girls dressed up as their favourite Barbie and brought their Barbie dolls along too. In February the girls enjoyed making Valentine cards for someone special and thought about Rainbow Guides in Africa for Thinking Day. As part of the Thinking Day celebrations the girls sang ‘If you’re happy and you know it’ with the Brownies. In March we are looking forward to a sponsored cycle in aid of Children’s Aid N’kwazi and the Halls Redevelopment Appeal around Victoria Park. An Easter Egg Hunt is planned for the last week of term.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO READ?

Why not try the ‘**Left Behind**’ series, which are novels of Earth’s Last Days, written by Tim La Haye and Jerry B Jenkins, the first one in 1998. They are gripping stories of different characters who are left behind after the apocalypse and who battle against Satan in various ways. Available on DVD and in book form, they are suitable for young teenagers or even adults, who can interpret them at a deeper level. As my grand daughter said “I loved reading them – they were very interesting and I understood better what Revelations was about afterwards.” (editor)



Jacynth with Pleupaw in Nepal

SILENT WITNESS?

Mention forensic science and immediately the TV series “ Silent Witness” springs to mind, but in this case the witness is far from silent, as it is Jacynth Hamill who can be seen most Sundays singing in the choir, almost hidden, behind the organist. A well known face in the church, but less well known as a forensic scientist, who fifteen years ago resigned from her job to use her musical talent professionally as a singer of folk and worship music!

Jacynth was brought up in Coleraine, leaving as a young adult for the University of Liverpool to study Chemistry. She then worked for 22 years in the Forensic Science Laboratory, analysing samples using instruments like a mass spectrometer and electron microscope. Initially living and working in Belfast during the week but returning to Coleraine at the week-ends, she only joined Newtownbreda in 1979 after her mother died. Music had always been part of her life, and she soon joined the church choir, set up the singing group, and sang for the Philharmonic, Opera NI and the Corrymeela Singers (in her spare time)! However after the Forensic Lab was bombed, it moved to Carrickfergus and she decided to avail herself of the Civil Services’ voluntary redundancy scheme to pursue a career as a singer and “musical resource person”. In the first couple of years she worked for the Corrymeela Community editing a book of worship resources and running music and worship weekends. A new opportunity was attending a workshop on worship songs in Irish at the

Columbanus Community. From this Jacynth became involved in leading the music for monthly Irish worship services in Fitzroy Church with Rev Bill Boyd of An Tor ar Lasadh also singing Psalm 23 in Irish for an All-Ireland Irish Language Festival. At that stage she thought she had better start learning Irish properly and began to attend classes!!

She had met folk singer Heather Innes through Corrymeela in the 80s, and in 1997 they began to research Celtic prayers and set them to traditional music, making their first recording in 1998, their purpose being to bring spiritual and everyday life together in folk song and prayer. Their duo name is Caim. All this work has resulted in eight CD's which are a mixture of folk and Celtic reflective worship material.

In 2000 Caim were part of the music team for an International Way of Peace conference, and this led to invitations to tour in Canada and the USA. Little did she know how much she would travel with Heather subsequently, promoting their music! As well as her visit with the church to South Africa on behalf of Habitat for Humanity, they have been around twenty times to America and Canada, the UK and Australia.

In 2009 at a UK Christian Meditation conference they sang as people came into the lecture theatre to prepare the atmosphere for meditation. They also provided a fun evening of song, story and dance, as a contrast to the days of lectures and meditation. The same year they went to Thailand to work with Partners, an organization which supports children and young people in refugee camps. Partners encouraged Caim to share music and dance with these children whose life is very drab and restricted. Learning Irish and Scottish dancing brought fun and laughter to them and the music calms them, says Jacynth. A frequent singer at funerals and weddings, she would like to provide music for the confused and the elderly through the Council for Music in Hospitals. Her wish is to continue being a music resource for people, as she loves what she does and sees it as God's work.

The bomb that blew up the Forensic Lab all those years ago inadvertently opened up a totally different career for her, one which she had never envisaged – she quotes from a plaque in the church “but if you wait till the wind and weather are right you won't accomplish anything!” so Jacynth, the silent witness, changed to witnessing for God in music!

Joan McQuoid

GREETINGS

Greetings to everyone at St. John's from a rather chilly Donegal. As I write this, I'm sitting in my study looking out towards the snow covered hills that overshadow Kerrykeel. Tim and I have been here a little over four months and I think I can safely say we are well settled into the Donegal lifestyle. Everyone has been very welcoming; in fact they have gone out of their way to make sure we feel at home.

Having three congregations, Rathmullan, Milford and Kerrykeel, has meant there are three communities to get to know and visiting has taken me from one side of the Fanad Peninsula to the other. I have been up a few long and tricky country roads, had to do a number of challenging three-point turns, and got lost on more than one occasion. Sat Nav is of little use here and a good map essential! We are getting used to the routine of three Sunday morning services. Our Sunday begins with the service at Rathmullan at 9:30, then it's off to Milford for 10:45 followed by the shorter journey to Kerrykeel for a 12:00noon start. The Kerrykeel service always ends with a cup of tea and I am always ready for it. Spare a thought for Tim who goes to all three services and listens to my sermon three times. By the time we get to Kerrykeel he could preach it himself. I have noticed Tim sitting with closed eyes by the third service, and I'll know it's time to worry if he starts to snore!

Just before Christmas I restarted the Youth Fellowship in the three churches – there had been one under the previous minister but meetings had fallen away during the vacancy. So far we have ten young people attending and meetings have been in the manse. We're looking forward to meeting together and also meeting with other Youth Fellowships in the area. I have also been running a Pre-communion class and have been encouraged by the interest and attendance of the young people. I am working with the three congregations to put together our plans for mission. Donegal has its own unique challenges when it comes to mission, one of them being Presbyterians make up only about 5% of the population. On an ecumenical note, my name recently appeared in the local paper as Father Janice Browne!

Tim and I have been exploring the area and have enjoyed some beautiful drives and walks as well as a little golf. We both look forward to the warmer weather of Spring as we continue to discover the beaches and mountains of this beautiful county. And a final note to anyone who would like to join us for a few days – the manse has plenty of room and we have beaches and walks galore on our doorstep, not to mention the opportunity to hear me preach three times on a Sunday morning! Call in to see us anytime. In the meantime, we wish everyone well at St. John's.

Rev Janice Browne

Kirk Session Report

The Kirk Session met on 9th March 2010

The Moderator the Rev Wilfred Orr opened the meeting with Bible Study and constituted the Session with Prayer. The reading was Matthew Ch 16 from verse 13. As we are currently drawing up the Congregational Mission Plan, Mr Orr referred to Rick Warren's '*What Drives Your Church*' - Are we driven by tradition, finances, programmes, buildings or seekers. This is God's Church – What does God want us to do? How is Christ building His Church - Christ talked, He prayed, He befriended the outcast, He healed the sick and wounded, He gathered the children. He loved with a divine love. We are to follow Christ's example.

Communion on 08-01-10 - 158 took communion at the morning service and 28 at the evening service

Youth Pete gave an update on attendances and programme content for all the groups

Youth Council Johnny Browne reported on the progress being made on the implementation and monitoring of the Youth Strategy

Congregational Mission Plan - Simon Doherty gave a report on the progress in drawing together the recommendations made by the eight groups. Kirk Session are meeting on 30th March to finalise the Plan.

General Assembly - Dr Joan McQuoid will again represent us at the meetings of the South Belfast Presbytery - Denis Guiler is the new representative

Special Assembly – The Special Assembly will be held in Coleraine from 16th to 19th August We have places for 3 delegates to attend

Report from South Belfast Presbytery - Presbytery Mission Rally will be held on 21 March in Fisherwick Church at 7pm.

Educators' Appreciation Evening – for all Church members involved in education will be held in Orangefield Church on Tuesday 23rd March

City Centre Mission Strategy – the Mission development Committee is planning to hold a workshop to look at opportunities for City Centre

Mission, It is for anyone who has a heart for God to be at work in the City Centre.

Keith Preston – Keith is a new Irish Mission Worker who will be working mainly with Migrant people

The meeting closed with the Benediction

Irene Younge

Presbyterian Women



Mrs Jenny Orr, Lady Christine Eames and PW Leader Mrs Hilary McCourt at the PW Visitors Night

AMAZING GRACE –II

(the latest news from Grace Chambers in Abaco)

My main work in Abaco has been teaching and training teachers. I first visited the island in 1987, and after serving with the Presbyterian Church of Ireland in Jamaica, received an urgent call from Abaco for help for a few weeks, but, as it turned out, my work was ongoing. I lived in Marsh harbour, the main town with the only traffic lights on the island, at that time. As well as the work I came to do, I soon became involved in teaching and helping teachers on the island. Marsh Harbour has one main government run primary school and one secondary school, with some privately run primary schools and a secondary school. Government teachers are usually trained at the College of the Bahamas in Nassau. Problems in the schools are exacerbated by the increasing numbers of Haitians who have been coming in large numbers, many illegally. Those who stay live in crowded poor conditions and put a strain on the educational and social finances of the government. They do not speak English, so schools and teachers need help to cope.

One of the schools where I taught was Wesley College. The Methodists had a strong foothold in the islands, and as well as the churches, they founded and supported several schools. My work there was unpaid and voluntary, with only one teacher receiving a salary. All the children in my classes were local and black, very far behind in English, Maths and Science skills. However they were a joy to teach and soon made marked progress in all subjects. They particularly loved the trips where I took them into the pinewoods to learn about their environment and how to help with the conservation of the Abaco parrot. They were totally fascinated when I brought gerbils into the classroom, a new experience for them. All their skills improved as their interest in the small animals I brought into the classroom grew.

One of my happiest achievements was the formation of a school choir. These children have a marked sense of rhythm and picked up tunes very easily. They particularly liked Irish tunes. One of my abiding memories is of those bright smiling little faces singing Molly Malone- *She wheels her wheelbarrow-- through streets broad and narrow*, with great gusto, in the square of the town at a public function. We also put on nativity pageants for crowded congregations at the local church. The torch lit procession into the church with the children singing traditional carols, carrying lighted candles, was a memorable scene. The choir sang occasionally at special services in the church in Hopetown on Elbow Cay, where I was living for a time. We had to take a ferry from Marsh Harbour to Hopetown and then a short walk to the church. All of this was exciting for the children who received a great welcome from the congregation there, most of whom were second home owners from the US and Canada, who gave considerable donations to help the work of the church.

HYMN WRITERS

Cecil Frances Alexander was born in 1818 in Dublin, spending her girlhood in Co Wicklow. However the greater part of her life was spent in Londonderry and Strabane, her husband, William Alexander, being appointed the Church of Ireland bishop of Derry in 1867, later becoming Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland. She was a keen supporter of the Oxford Movement, and in 1848 published *Hymns For Little Children*, which include three of the most popular hymns in the English Language: *Once in Royal David's City*, *All Things Bright and Beautiful* and *There is a Green Hill Far Away*. She was an active philanthropist and protector of animals. A further selection of her hymns, tracts and poems was published a year after her death in 1895.

In contrast **Graham Kendrick**, was born in 1950, the son of a Baptist pastor, and he lives in Croydon. He is the author of hundreds of songs over a thirty year period, including *Shine Jesus Shine*, *Knowing You*, *The Servant King* and *Amazing Love* and is still composing and recording, his latest song being *Holy Holy*. Described as a 'father of modern worship music' whose songs are 'crammed full of poetic, divine biblical truth, that have sculpted a view of God that has impacted generations', he is based in the UK and travels internationally participating in tours, festivals, conferences and training events, as a worship leader, speaker and performer. As active advocate for the charity **Compassion** which supports over a million children, he was one of the founders and the songwriter behind the global phenomenon **March for Jesus**.

Introducing the BIG HOUSE...

The Big House Ireland is a new interdenominational Christian charity that exists to help young people know God's love and encounter Jesus, especially when they face difficult life situations. Big House believe that young people are precious and deeply loved by God – no matter who they are, where they come from, or what they face in life. They also recognise that many young people face difficult situations in their lives and that it can be difficult for local churches to know how to help.

Big House wants to make a difference in young people's lives...

It wants to help youth workers, youth leaders and church members help the young people in their lives. They do this by providing short-term residential programmes that are specifically related to the difficulties that young people are facing and which speak of God's words and heart into the young people's lives. They also provide training days for youth and church leaders around specific issues that young people face.

THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA – A Missed Opportunity!

In Oct/Nov '08 I spoke to representatives of Release International (NI) following an evening service at St John's. They were there to pass on their message as a charity which supports persecuted Christians worldwide. I took away a copy of their magazine and a wrist prayer band as a wonderful reminder to pray for their work and for individuals who were being cruelly persecuted. The magazine contained graphic accounts of how many Christians are beaten and often put in horrible jails because they refused, under intense pressure, to denounce their Christian faith. I wonder how we, in the freedom of the Western World, would respond to the same pressures!

In the same edition of Release there was an offer of an opportunity to support persecuted Christian through a challenge to trek for five days on the Great Wall with a UK group in October '09. I was so moved, having read of the plight of those poor people in many countries that I decided immediately to take up the challenge- so I did! I had talked to a walking friend who experienced a trip to the Great Wall with a group and he felt it was indeed physically difficult in places, especially when the walking surface was a bit broken down! I was OK with that! However the sponsorship was rather daunting as we had to raise £2.5k each and the fare to China was £1.5k. Release offered much support and advice on various fund raising methods but my strategy was to advertise my challenge intentions through St John's and additionally to write a short note of explanation to many friends and family seeking support. Thanks to the usual generosity of the St John's folk and friends I was soon well on the way to my target by June '09.

Suddenly however in early August I took ill and had to have emergency surgery. When the surgeon heard that I had arranged to trek the Great Wall of China for five days in October, camping at night, I knew that he would advise me not to go- so, bitterly disappointed I had to cancel the trip – my ambitions to walk the Great Wall had vanished!! I found it hard to accept that I was not to go after all the plans, fund raising etc, although I was able to send a cheque for £1,000 to Release International (NI) as a result of my efforts and your generosity to date. They were very grateful for the money and I believe wrote to all those who donated. The fact that I was able to send a considerable sum to the efforts in support of persecuted Christians was indeed a great compensation for my inability to make the trek!

As I have no experience of life on or off the Wall, Release kindly sent me a copy of the report on the challenge by Alison, one of the team. It enables me to extract a small section from her 28 page account! The difficulty of the walk is summed up in this paragraph- “ *The hardest day was the second day of climbing, when we ascended a slope of 70 degrees for 1,000 feet. Our goal was a watch tower*

on Mount Si Ma Tai, the final few feet being with somewhat perilous access – think vertigo, high tension and sheer drop”.

That sounds pretty exciting to me in contrast to camp one – “ *What struck me about camp one was the silence. We were in a valley surrounded by the Great Wall, with no electricity or traffic. I had never experienced anywhere so remote or peaceful, and felt in awe of nature!*”

I end with a quote from another of the trekkers which reflects well his experience –

“It was amazing, physically the hardest thing I have ever done, but so rewarding. I learned so much about myself, the impact of having the support of others, and the strength of knowing that God is with you every step of the way”.

Ian Bennington

SOME SHOCKING STATISTICS about young people

- 10% self-harm
- 46% have stopped eating to lose weight at least once
- 75% under 16 drink alcohol
- 23% have used illegal drugs
- 26% have used solvents
- 12% have carried a knife or another weapon for protection
- 33% have lost their virginity by age 16
- 30% are bullied
- 4% live with domestic violence
- 6% live with disability
- 30% have been injured in sectarian incidents
- 32% of young people who died in 2006 took their own life
- 14% live in absolute poverty
- 50% poor

God is here: He stands beside you.
God is here; He wants to guide you.
God is here and He will help you,
So do not fear- Your God is near.

D. De Haan

Our Daily Bread March 2 2010

The principal event of the Autumn was a weekend in a Cottage in the Mournes. There are about 12 bunks and we had 16 Scouts with 3 Leaders so all had to be very friendly. There was just one stove to do the cooking but no one went hungry, although we did not have 12 baskets of food remaining. We had a Saturday hike to climb a small mountain and after our Scouts Own service on Sunday morning we hiked to Bloody Bridge, cooking lunch on the way. Parents met us there with lifts home. We had about the only dry weekend of the Autumn, although paths were very wet.

Other activities enjoyed included swimming, archery and wall climbing at Ormeau, assisted by Bob Meek. Cooking pancakes was enjoyed, plus a Fair Trade evening. They always enjoy cooking (and eating) food. The First Aid badge allowed all the Scouts to gain some training plus a badge in this important skill.



Cooking

First Aid

As we go to press an activity weekend away is being planned in late March. With 35 Scouts this year, our highest numbers for many years, the planning has to ensure they all get fed and kept busy.

And to conclude congratulations to Deane Dawson one of our leaders who was married last week.

At the time of going to press, the troop won the district Table Quiz.

“STRANGERS” AMONG US

You are in Belfast,
and you see

.....a group of black teenagers.....

.....a Somali woman in a long flowing headscarf.....

.....a man asking for money outside a shop.....

You hear

.....languages you don't understand.....

There are shops

.....selling food you don't recognise....

.....hair braids and extensions.....

.....henna to decorate the skin.....

Our first response to something new is often emotional - How do you *feel*?
Then, maybe you think about what you have seen.
Then what happens? – What do you *do*?

Are we comfortable with our answers to these questions? If we are honest, there may be words like curiosity, sympathy, fear, anxiety, irritation, excitement, confusion. We may have questions, but we are afraid, and this fear can paralyse us.....from speaking, from asking questions, from taking action.....What if I offend them? I don't know how to ask. What if they think I am racist?

In my experience, it is useful to know the facts about what we do not understand. Embrace's website www.embraceni.org has a very useful leaflet in its resources section called “Who's who, Who's here” which clearly explains all the reasons why people have come here and the differences between different groups e.g. migrant workers, refugees etc.

Some things have become facts of life for us:

- Immigration has come to N Ireland – what a change from generations of Irish emigration!
- People come for many reasons – to work (both professional and low paid), to study, to join family, to flee war or persecution.
- People come for a short time or to settle.

- The “stranger” may be rich or poor, happy or sad, lonely or have many friends, be healthy or ill, be here by choice or not by their own choice, feel comfortable here or feel that they will never fit in this strange land, they may embrace the challenge or they may be damaged in the process.

...and possibly the experiences of Irish emigrants over the years have been no different!

So, what do we do? What should we do? The Bible has much to say about the stranger and hospitality – from Genesis, the journeys of the Israelites, the prophets, the story of Ruth and in the New Testament – how Jesus “met” the stranger etc etc. Again Embrace’s website has many Biblical references which provide a useful starting point for anyone who wishes to look at what the Bible says about the stranger and how communities and people might have relationships with those who are different. Each of us, every church, every community must find our own answers.

What is a Christian response?

Christianity is not about being naive or soft; Jesus certainly wasn’t. Maybe it is about being able to start and continue conversations with people who are different.

Maybe it is about learning to build relationships with people who are different. Maybe it is about opening our eyes to see and our ears to hear how people view US and OUR community.

Maybe it is about being alert for, and speaking out about unfairness and injustice. Maybe it is about remembering that we are all created in the image of God, and seeing this in the people we meet, even those who do not look like us, talk like us, or think like us.

Embrace (NI) is an organization of Christians who are committed to welcoming the stranger in our midst in a practical way. One of their excellent leaflets about who is here can be found at -

<http://www.embraceni.org/wpcontent/uploads/2008/01/whos%20who%20whos%20here%20leaflet.pdf>

Linda Agnew

**How I long to see
Among dawn flowers
The face of God
(Basho, 1644-1694)**

“What about a dawn service on Easter morning?” A brief period of silence – a few stared at the ceiling- a few coughs- a little shuffling of a few feet- the common reaction to an unusual proposition in Presbyterian circles even before it became a proposal and appropriate invocations are made. The Rev Rex Pedlow, most urbane of session moderators, with a half smile, slowly gathered the meeting: “We-ell?” Various little waffles were made. But nobody could find any reason for opposition, or tried to. Out in the cold night air the usual knots clotted, a slightly chilled spirit of spiritual enterprise could be felt. Even the few who might have been disposed on the grounds of apprehensive pneumonia, or matrimonial problems, did not find the courage to challenge their somewhat shaky understanding of predestination. Agreed unanimously!! Rex displayed the rest of the smile. Some wondered what the smile meant and for whom.

About twenty people (if failing memory means anything) stamped around on Saintfield Road near Knockbracken. Dress varied between smart Presbyterian to superannuated Boy Scouts. The odd (and some very odd) dunchers were worn with an appropriate sense of occasion; some seemed more appropriate than others. Those who could feel anything significant in the air did so but none felt any need for exposition. Feet were stamped, quiet guitars (not needed for route marches) were flung on strong young backs, chained in position, quite rightly sensing an occasion.

The hill looked higher than some had expected but they were encouraged to recall that it was nothing like Monte Cassino, though higher than Calvary. Somewhere behind the hill we had expected to see the rising sun. Not yet. Only an ice blue sky and air to tone. We strode, slipped and slithered through the dew soaked withered grass. Some felt they were going too fast and had to adjust the balance between air being exhaled with that being inhaled. This varied with age.

When we reached what passed for the summit someone claimed to have found a sheltered area. None of the rest was acutely conscious of any shelter. A circle was formed and Rex as usual gave the lead. An opening prayer was made and further worship was succinctly offered and carried to our Maker. The exhausted

guitar bearers unhitched the instruments. One of the musicians was heard to ask to no one in particular whether the things had to be played as well!

Brightness to the East over the Castlereagh Hills and, of course the Northern Hemisphere as well, as the sun slowly got out of bed. Hands were rubbed. Some feet were re-stamped (ascension having been slow) and we slowly began the rough descent towards the road. The Lagan Valley below us and extending to the Black Mountain was asleep, overlaid by a mile long white lenticular motionless cloud. We had been gripped by awareness of the occasion ever since we had thawed out on high: a quiet Presbyterian rapture was evoked (just!).

The new sun had now risen above the hill behind us and was filling the big valley right over to the Black Mountain with new born light, chasing the cloud. It was impossible to discern any signs of activity in the thousands of dwellings scattered around the valley.

I reflected briefly on the fate of my grandpa Sam who had died (before my birth) in the hospital's idyllic grounds facing our hill, where he had been treated for ten years for increasingly frequent bouts of epilepsy, apparently to little effect. When fit he had to work in the hospital laundry. One entry in the records stated a little dryly that after a previous day of recurrent falling attacks he was unwilling to go to the laundry. His therapy was however resumed, the final conclusive entry in his record stating that the nurse watched the patient suffer repeated attacks (on what turned out to be his last day) until he died in front of the nurse. It may be that no medical succour was available to him. I prayed that the blacksmith from Newtownards found the peace of Christ and release from his ten years of torture on his passing. He had steamed and rolled the clothes in the hospital laundry. In the only way perhaps open to him he had run the race.....

The cavalry was mustered and charged down to Saintfield Road Church where a generous provision of sausage rolls and tea awaited us. It is suspected that this was the result of a conspiracy between Rex and the minister of Saintfield Road, Rev Jim McAdam. There was no angel with a flaming sword and collection plate stationed between the shivering arrivals and the hot food and drink. DEO GRATIAS.

Victor Arnold (formerly Clerk of Session)

LITTLE NUDGES!

*DON'T LET YOUR WORRIES GET THE BETTER OF YOU—REMEMBER
MOSES STARTED OUT AS A BASKET CASE!*

*Some people are kind, polite and sweet-spirited until you sit in their
pews!*

*MANY PEOPLE WANT TO SERVE GOD, BUT ONLY AS ADVISERS!
When you get to your wits' end, you'll find God lives there.*

*OPPORTUNITY MAY KNOCK ONCE, BUT TEMPTATION BANGS ON THE DOOR
FOR EVER!*

*God Himself doesn't propose to judge a person until they are dead, so
why should you?*

*COINCIDENCE IS WHEN GOD CHOOSES TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS.
Don't put a question mark where God has a full stop!*

*GOD DOESN'T CALL THE QUALIFIED, BUT QUALIFIES THE CALLED!
God promises a safe landing not a calm passage.*

*THE WILL OF GOD NEVER TAKES YOU TO WHERE THE GRACE OF GOD WILL
NOT PROTECT YOU!*

Prayer: don't give God instructions, just report for duty!

*THE TASK AHEAD OF US IS NEVER AS GREAT AS THE POWER BEHIND US.
Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass; it is learning to dance in
the rain!*

*YOU CAN TELL HOW BIG A PERSON IS BY WHAT IT TAKES TO DISCOURAGE
HIM.*

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN PAKISTAN

The following are paraphrases and extracts from an article written by Trevor Pallin's married daughter Andrea, now Mukhtar, who attends the C of E Emmanuel Church in Wimbledon, South London, but who used to be a member of Newtownbreda. She, her husband Chris and their children were attending a family wedding in Lahore last October and wrote about some of their experiences in their church magazine -----

“ As we were flying in and out of Lahore we had been praying for Christians highlighted by Christian Solidarity Worldwide. We wanted to contact LADS (Legal Aid for Destitute and Settlements) to bring them a message of encouragement on behalf of the Emmanuel prayer group which meets once a month.... LADS' lawyer Parvez Chaudhry told us of attempts made on his life and family and being in a car smash when a colleague was killed.

We were able to hand over some small items (similar to the shoebox appeal) for the family of Younis Masih who was awaiting trial. Two brothers who were minors had disappeared, possibly killed and their mother, implicated in the same charge, had already been killed in prison. Talking to the courageous Parvez and his wife challenged us to pray more faithfully for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are at risk of their lives because they follow Christ

So please pray for those Christians falsely accused under the notorious Blasphemy Law punishable by death, but usually commuted to life imprisonment.

Pray also for the families of those accused and those who are found not guilty, as they may be under death threats, as extremists become angry and stir up mobs.

Pray for those who fear for their lives as they are not safe unless they flee from the country...

Pray for those who work for LADS and similar groups who represent accused Christians, Muslims and others against unjust charges Pray for reversals of injustice and laws which are widely abused against Christians and other minority groups.....”



FLOWER ROTA

April	4	Ms C. Haslett & Mrs N. Craig
	11	Mrs O. Cairns
	18	Mr T. Pallin
	25	Mr S. Cairns
May	2	Mrs S. Campbell
	9	Mrs M. McKersie
	16	Mrs I. McCord
	23	Dr J. McQuoid
	30	Mrs O. Jennings
June	6	Miss D. Pollock
	13	Mrs A. Meek
	20	Mrs M. McNeill
	27	Mrs H. McCourt

“I wandr’d lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o’er vales and hills,
When all at once a saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils....”

William Wordsworth

Congregational Register

BAPTISMS:

25th. Dec. Zara Elizabeth, daughter of Laura and Keith McKnight.

DEATHS:

25th. Nov. Mabel Kennedy, Galwally Park

30th. Nov. Olive McCall, Cedarhurst Nursing Home

16th. Dec. Eleanor Dickson, Thompson House, Lisburn

22nd. Dec. Marjorie Irvine, Annadale Nursing Home.

8th. Jan. Maisie Dunn, 35 Newton Park

22nd. Jan. Gordon McBride, 238 Cregagh Road

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome

Donna Wilkinson, 178, Saintfield Road

Ken and Val Newell, Flat 1 The Grange, 32a Deramore Park

Mervyn & Elizabeth Patterson, 69 Sharman Road.

SAINSBURYS ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS

are being collected by the Girl Guides at present, so if you shop at Sainsburys , please think about donating your vouchers to any member of the Guide company or hand to one of the leaders, such as Margaret or Jill.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March

26th. March: Friday: P.W. Concert in St John's Hall

27th. March: Saturday: St John's has Talent in St John's Hall

28th. March: Worship for Palm Sunday.

April

2nd. April: Good Friday: 11.15 a.m. Community worship in Ormeau Park, walking to Cooke Church.

8.00 p.m. Service of Meditation in the Church.

18th. April: Sunday 10.30 a.m. Colin Anderson's 'farewell' service followed by light lunch in the St John's Hall.

23rd. April: Friday: Colin Anderson's Installation in First Donaghadee as minister

25th. April: Sunday afternoon: Newtownbreda hosts the District Scouts St George's Day Service in the afternoon.

May

9th. May: Christian Aid Sunday

16th. May: Communion morning and following evening service.

June

6th. June: Children's Day - morning worship

7th. – 10th. June: Meetings of the General Assembly.

27th. June: Jane Nelson will be 'licensed' in Rosemary Presbyterian Church at evening