

Winter  
2016



News from  
the Street

# Happy Christmas?

Each Christmas there seems to be more and more set out on our tables and, consequently, more and more that finds its way into the recyclable bin.

The Coffee morning held each year in aid of the Aids orphans in Malawi provides funds for several thousand orphans to enjoy



This Christmas, let these pictures, not only remind us of the world of a difference between our Christmas celebrations, but make us more and more thankful for the blessings that we enjoy and so often take for granted.

Yet, what faith they exhibit in literally trusting God for each

a Christmas meal. But how different from anything that we have here in Northern Ireland. Stew and rice might not be our idea of Christmas dinner, but for these orphans it is a feast!

mouthful. Perhaps this is where we could all learn from these children in Malawi, appreciating each bite and not taking any of the good things we enjoy for granted.

Have a Happy Christmas!

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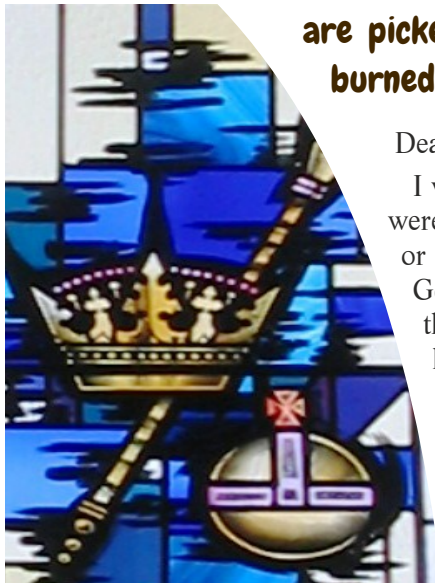
The magazine of Greenwell Street Presbyterian Church, Newtownards

[www.greenwellstreet.org](http://www.greenwellstreet.org)



## • from the **manse**

**"I am the vine; you are the branches. If anyone does not remain in me (bear fruit), he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned" John 15:1,6**



Dear friends,

I wonder how many of you reading the magazine were baptised as infants, either in Greenwell Street or elsewhere? I ask because in a recent sermon Gerry reminded us of the obligations laid upon those who, in baptism, are given the sign of belonging to the Lord. The Child's Catechism asks us the question, *'To what does your baptism bind you?'* And replies, *'To be a true follower of Jesus Christ.'*

Let's think this through for a moment. Brought by your parent/s for baptism, they were claiming God's sign of belonging for you. You were, by that sign, accepted into the visible community of God's people and, to use another analogy, engaged to be the Lord's. You were placed into a privileged position with parents promising to bring you up in that faith and the church providing both support to them, and the teaching of the good news of the gospel. And all this to what purpose? That you would grow up to be a true follower of Jesus Christ. So, are you? Well how can you tell?

The verses above tell us that remaining in Christ (fruitfulness in faith) is the evidence of belonging to Christ. And that's not just believing in God! The devil does that - no, it is knowing Christ and desiring to serve him daily; it is placing him at the centre of all that you do; it is enjoying worshipping together with his people and learning more and more of his amazing love towards us. Is that you?

The reason I ask is because of what Jesus says next. Not remaining in Christ is turning your back on him - and if you were baptised and engaged to be his and you now have no interest in him - that's exactly what you have done. The consequence - too horrendous to think about! So perhaps this Christmas you will reflect on your baptism and, like shepherds and wise men of old, follow him. How different life will be for now and for ever!

The Manse family wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Norman

## Church Programme

### Sundays

8am Prayer meeting (1st in month)  
11am Morning worship  
*(Includes Little Lights 0-4yrs; Sunday School 5-11yrs; Bible Class 12,13yrs)*  
3pm Afternoon Sunday School  
6.30pm Prayer meeting  
7pm Evening worship  
8.15pm Youth Fellowship (11-17yrs)  
8.20pm TnT (18-30yrs)

### Mondays

11am The Friendship Hour (2nd in month)  
6.30pm Girls' Brigade  
8pm Presbyterian Women (1st in month)

### Tuesdays

10am Chat and Hobby Huddle  
6.30pm Junior Christian Fellowship  
7.30pm Bowling Club  
8pm Midweek Bible Teaching & Prayer

### Wednesdays

10am Mother & Toddlers  
2pm Prayer Service  
6.30pm Boys' Brigade  
7.30pm Choir Practice

### Thursdays

10.30am Monthly Bible Study (last in month)  
7.30pm Urban Saints  
7.45pm Women's Home Bible Study (1st in month)  
8pm Women's meeting  
8pm Home Bible studies *(various)*

### Fridays

11am Rendezvous Lunch Club  
6pm Badminton Club (juveniles)  
7.30pm Badminton Club  
8pm Mainly4Men (1st in month)  
9.30pm 'On-street' prayer and outreach ministry

### Saturdays

12-5pm Badminton Club (Juv-niles)  
7.30pm Youth Club

## • church news

### Fit4Life

A trial venture this Autumn saw a 3 week course of Fit4Life, held on a Thursday morning, welcome approx 30 women along each week. We started with a cup of tea during which one of our visiting speakers told of what the Lord means in their lives. This was then followed by exercise in the form of either a walk, or two levels of aerobics.

We thank the Lord for His Hand upon this venture in every way. Thanks to all who helped out and to all who came along.

### Harvest Thanksgiving

Our thanksgiving services were held on Sunday 18 October with our own minister taking the morning service and Rev Maurice Wade (Portavogie) leading worship in the evening. It was a delight to have the choir and quartet lead us in our worship. Thanks to those who so tastefully arranged the harvest fare at the front. All the goodies went to the

kitchen at the Belfast Bible College.

### The Friendship Hour

*Theme: Coping with Life Today*

The Friendship Hour is held on the second Mon-



day of each month from 11.00-12 noon (tea and coffee available from 10.30am). Each month a topic of interest is selected and, when necessary, professionals attend to share information and give advice. We aim for topics which will be of interest, and also beneficial, to all and we would be delighted to see you.

The meetings are held in the 'Welcome' area of the church and are quite informal, giving an opportunity to meet and make new friends. The programme for the New Year is as follows:

9 January: Beware the Scams

13 February: How does your garden grow?

13 March: Those were the days

10 April: Newtownards - a town of historical interest

Past events have been enjoyed by everyone who attended, so please come and join us.



### Church Weekend

The next church weekend is to be held in Castletwellan Castle from Friday 24 to Sunday 26 February, 2017. Booking forms are available to download from the church website or from the information table in the church.

Please consider joining us for what is a very restful, enjoyable and, hopefully, beneficial weekend.



## Christmas Services and events

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 11 December at 4pm         | Carol singing in the streets around the church - open to all.  |
| Sunday 18 December 7pm            | Carol Service by candlelight followed by tea, coffee, mince pies and the christmas competition chocolate logs!! Invite your friends! |
| Friday 23 December 10.30am-2.30pm | Children's Christmas Bible Club  |
| Saturday 24 December 11.15pm      | Christmas Eve service  |
| Sunday 25 December 10.30am        | Christmas morning  |
| Sunday 25 December 7pm            | The first Christmas Night  |
| Saturday 31 December 8pm          | Watch night service ( <i>Tea/coffee served from 7.15-7.45pm</i> )  |
| Sunday 1 January, 2017            | 11am & 7pm Worship services  |



# Two Nights at the Museum!

Green Street Youth Fellowship (GSYF) started the year with a residential weekend at the Ulster Folk & Transport Museum. Seventeen young people and seven leaders left Greenwell Street to spend '2 Nights at the Museum.' Taking time out from everyday life, and getting to know God, who He is and why He is worth knowing.



The venue for the weekend provided an appropriate setting for us to talk about history, calendars, time, people and most importantly God. We learnt that God is not affected by time, He does not



change, His rules and will are constant unlike mankind who constantly changes. Who better to trust in than God? 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever' (Hebrews 3v8).

The weekend began on the Friday night with some games and with much laughter. We enjoyed a time of

*"I loved the treasure hunt, I got really competitive but we had fun and formed lots of closer relationships with friends."*



Saturday was a beautiful day for a treasure hunt. With clues scattered around the grounds of the museum, each group was led to the sweet shop where the winners were able to claim their prizes. Coming together again for a time of praise and talk in the evening, we then had a quiz and some team games. After a competitive game of tug of war, by popular demand, we went on another midnight walk around the museum.

On Sunday afternoon it

was time for us to head home. As we left the museum and returned to Greenwell Street, we were thankful to God for a blessed time with the young people, for the fantastic weather we had and for the time we spent in His name.

*"We loved the midnight walk, activities and games. It was so much fun"*



## GSYF

LUSEAT LUX VESTRA

WE BELIEVE IN  
JESUS FIRST



FRIENDSHIP

SHARING

CARING

HONESTY

RESPONSIBILITY

FUN

RESPECT

LEARNING

SUPPORTING

EPHESIANS CH 5 v1 +2;

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

# Where are they now? - Shaw Thompson

For Evelyn and myself, Sunday 30th June 1985 was our first Sunday in Greenwell Street and for almost four years we enjoyed the fellowship and encouragement of a warm and gracious congregation. We left for Dromara on Sunday 2nd February 1989. We have such fond memories of those days, we often talk and share those experiences, and many names and friendly faces come to mind. Sarah was born on 30th March 1986 and Naomi on 26th July 1988 and both girls were baptised in Greenwell Street. Sarah has some memory of her short time there but, of course, Naomi has not.

These days Evelyn and I continue to minister in First Dromara and have been much encouraged over the years. Some of you may recall the start we had. Three days in we discovered a dry rot infestation in the manse which meant that even before my installation we were looking at a building project (for an aged congregation, with substantial debt). God used those early days in a wonderful way. I remember the support of Dr and Mrs Sterritt and quite a number of Greenwell Street friends coming up to help us move house - three times in 20 days (and to take care of two very little girls while they did so)!

God has done wonderful things for us in Dromara. We have seen many folk saved and added to His church. We now have over 200 families and 685 members, (despite the fact that I have just officiated at my 182nd funeral in Dromara. We had 135 families when we arrived and probably about 50 original families remain as so many of the deaths were the end of a family line. Added to this we are the "country congregation", located two miles out of the village in the country.

Since coming to First Dromara we have built a new Manse, built a new suite of Halls (Dr Sterritt fulfilled Moderators role at the opening) including Youth lounge with Coffee Bar and Class rooms for all ages. Added to this we have renovated our meeting house, installing a complete new ceiling and lighting, new floor new audio visual powerpoint system and complete new heating system. Two new organs. All of this was completed in faith, with a total spend of almost one million pounds. God has been good to us!

More importantly we have seen many people saved. Those young men and women who have come to faith



and taken on leadership roles have been such a blessing. We are now long enough here to see many of the children of those young couples taking a full role. Twenty of those teenagers who were born and grew up under our ministry were on various outreach events this year. We seek to fulfil our missional vision at home and overseas. A team from First Dromara renovated the Dublin Road premises for Belfast City Mission, and we have been in the centre of building a school in Uganda. Thank God he has provided people and resources to do all these things in His name.

Family life is quite different now, Evelyn and I are on our own in the manse. Both our girls came to Saving Faith early in life for which we will be eternally grateful. Both attended Methodist College Belfast. Sarah went on to Brasenose College Oxford and graduated in jurisprudence (law) in 2007. She now lives in London and works as a Financial regulatory Lawyer at linklaters, a magic circle firm in the City. Naomi graduated in Medicine from Queens University in Belfast in 2012, she is now working as a Doctor in Craigavon Hospital, specialising in geriatrics. Going forward in God's will there is much to do in Dromara. We have a vision of reaching the



Naomi's wedding

lost, growing disciples, building His church. There is a time for everything as we learn in Ecclesiastes 3; and just as Esther was placed where she was "for such a time as this", so we believe that God has placed us where He wants us to be. We are in His will and are content to do His bidding.

Shaw and Evelyn Thompson



# Urban Saints Weekend

This year was the Group's 10<sup>th</sup> year at the Ganaway Activity Centre for their annual October weekend away. This year our speaker was Elva, a lovely, very inspiring, spiritual lady who came to speak to us about how each and every one of us is an individual and how we are a gift from God. At the end of each talk we had a chance to share our testimony with everyone.



We had some amazing activities this year. On Saturday morning we went to Ballywalter to do a photo challenge and despite the rain it was very enjoyable. In the afternoon we decorated scooters and then raced them at the centre, which was great fun. After that we went to the beach to play a few games before having an icy cold swim in the sea! On Sunday morning we had a Birthday Party with classic games and cake for those who had Birthdays at the weekend. Then after a very tasty Sunday roast dinner, it was time to say our goodbyes. It was such a memorable weekend and a great opportunity to meet new friends and strengthen our faith.

Katie Holmes



## We all want to be happy. Why is lasting happiness so hard to find?

Life Explored will help people uncover what they're really living for, and shows that the greatest pleasure in life is enjoying God himself.

Life Explored is a new course developed by Christianity Explored Ministries. There are seven interactive sessions based on stunning videos shot all over the globe.

We hope to run a Life Explored course in January 2017. If you are interested, or know someone who is, please sign up.

### *Emmanuel - God With Us is God For Us by --M.Y. Lee*

God of every nation and people,  
From the beginning of Creation  
You have made known your love  
Through the gift of your Son  
Who bears the name Emmanuel, "God with Us."  
In the fullness of time the Christ-child came  
To be the Good News to all humankind.

Emmanuel, God lives with us as one of us;  
Christ, the Word made flesh  
Has come to us as a vulnerable,  
Weak and dependent babe;  
A God who hungered and thirsted,  
And longed for human touch and affection;  
A God who chose to be born  
In obscurity and shame,  
To a virgin, an unwed maiden,  
With a dirty stable as a home  
And a borrowed manger as a bed,  
In a tiny, insignificant town called Bethlehem.

Oh, Mighty God, of humble origins,  
Christ, the Messiah, whom the prophets foretold,  
You were born at a time, and in a place  
Where few welcomed you  
Or even recognized you.

Have we, too, lost a sense of joy and anticipation  
In what the Christ-child may bring?  
Have we been preoccupied with endless activities,  
Distracted by the tinsel, decorations, and gifts—  
Busy preparing for the birthday of Christ;  
So busy that there's no room in our cluttered lives  
To welcome Him when he comes?

Christ, you are the hope of all peoples,  
The wisdom who teaches and guides us,  
The wonderful Counsellor who encourages and consoles,  
The Prince of Peace who calms our troubled minds  
And restless spirits—  
Granting us true inner peace.

Christ, you who are the radiant dawn,  
Shine on those who live in darkness and in shadows,  
Dispel fears, anxieties, and insecurities,  
Restore hearts that have grown cold and distant,  
Enlighten minds which have become darkened  
Through greed, anger, hatred and bitterness.

Christ, You who are the Light of the World,  
Help us to radiate the warmth of your presence.  
Enable us to give of ourselves generously and compassionately  
In bringing joy, peace, and hope to others.

As we wait for the dawn  
Of the coming of the Christ-child,  
We do so with anticipation  
Of new and unexpected challenges.  
Like Mary, we sense the birth pangs of a new era,  
A new kingdom waiting to be born. Amen

# Teach us to Pray - Praise

Who of us does not struggle with prayer? The truth is probably more of us than we would dare to admit to! Matthew Henry (1662-1714) known throughout the church for his Commentary on the Bible, stopped his work on it to do another work that he considered even more important - a method of prayer. Over the next few magazines, we will draw on some of this work and thereby, hopefully, encourage a greater spirit of prayer among us.

*Approach God with a heart full of praise for the glories of his Person and Work.*

Turn your attention totally to this special moment of drawing near to Almighty God. Gather in all your wandering thoughts. Present yourself to him as a living sacrifice with a lively faith. Then bind the sacrifice of your heart and mind with cords to the horns of the altar by the very words of Scripture (*Rom.12:1; Psalms. 118:27*).

*Bring before your mind some of the glorious aspects of this great God*

*1. He is an eternal God who has no beginning of days, end of life, or change caused by the passing of time.*

You are the King eternal, immortal, invisible. Before the mountains were brought forth or you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You are the same yesterday today and forever. At the beginning of time you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They shall perish, but you endure. All of them shall age as though they were articles of clothing. You shall treat them as a change of garments, and they shall be discarded. But you are the same, and your years shall never end (*1 Tim. 1:17; Psalms. 90:2; Hebrews. 13:8; Psalms.102:25-27*).

You are God. You never change, and for that reason alone we are not consumed. Are you not from eternity O Lord our God, our holy One? You are the everlasting God, the Lord and Creator of the farthest reaches of the earth. You never faint with exhaustion. You never grow

weary. There is no way that your understanding can ever be comprehended (*Mal.3:6; Hab.1:12; Isaiah.40:28*).

*2. He is present in all places and at all times with all his glory.*

You are a God at hand, never a far-away God. None can hide himself in some secret place where you cannot see him, for you fill heaven and earth. You are not far from any one of us. We will never escape your presence or elude your Spirit. If we ascend to heaven, you are there. If we make our bed in the earth's depths - Look - there you are! If we fly away on the outstretched wings of the morning's rays or sail to the uttermost parts of the sea's expanse, even there your hand shall lead us and your right hand shall sustain us. We can never outrun you (*Jer.23:23,24; Acts 17:27; Psalms.139:7-10*).

*3. He knows all persons and things perfectly, and sees clearly their most hidden secrets.*

All things are naked and exposed before the eyes of the One with whom we have to do. Even the secret thoughts and intents of every human heart are fully known by you. Your eyes are in every place scrutinizing the evil and the good. They run back and forth throughout the earth that you may show yourself strong in support of those whose hearts are right with you (*Heb. 4:12, 13; Proverbs.15:3; 2 Chron.16:9*).

You search the heart and examine the mind, so that you may give to every man a reward according to his ways, and fruit according to his doings. You have searched us out and known us. You know when we sit down and when we rise up. You understand our thoughts while they are still far off. You carefully analyse the path we travel and wherever we come to rest. You are intimately aware of all our ways. Before a word is formed on our tongue you know it completely. This kind of knowledge astounds us. It is impossible for us to comprehend. Even the darkness is not dark to you, for darkness is as light to you (*Jer.17:10; Psalms.139:1-4, 6,12*).





# Letters to Santa - here and there!



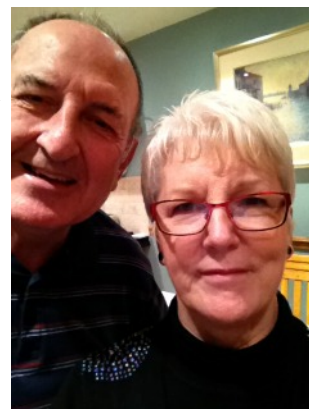
## Me and My Hobby - Karen Rogers

Hi, I'm Karen Rogers. My husband John and I joined the Church back in April. John is a keen gardener and I love creating fun characters from Clayrazy air drying clay.

My daughter Barbara, who owns Clayrazy has me working on a display of the Royal Family you maybe can spot a few here!!



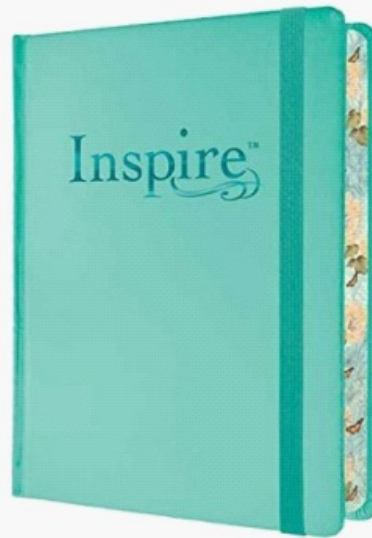
I want to thank the folk at Greenwell Street for making John and I so welcome. We have been so blessed in the few months we have been with you and we already feel so at home. We thank the Lord for his Love and Guidance in our move to Greenwell Street.





# Adult Colouring and Creative Journaling

Have you noticed that adult colouring books are all the rage? Perhaps you have succumbed to this new craze. Research is being carried out into the benefits to mental health of spending time relaxing with a colouring book. Crayola have even released a new adult range of colouring pencils and colouring books. Did you know that there are even Bibles available with highlighted verses and pictures for you to colour? For some people this might seem like a waste of time but to others it presents the opportunity of a new way to meditate on Scripture. When choosing to colour a particular verse it is necessary to decide on which word you wish to stand out from the others and which colour will best achieve this. As you colour, you have the opportunity to concentrate on each word and think about its meaning within the context of the verse and its application to your life or personal circumstances. You might be able to spend time marveling at God's wonderful provision for your life or His love for his creation or you might simply look at the truths presented in a new way. Perhaps you could set yourself the task of memorising each verse you colour.



There is a colouring sheet included in this issue of the magazine. Why don't you take some time to try this new hobby for yourself? If you are happy with the end result you could bring your masterpiece to Church with you on 18<sup>th</sup> December and add it to the display. The pages will be judged in the afternoon and the winners announced after the Carol Service. Remember to add your name - and put your age if you are under 16!

Come on - join in!

## Those were the days - Recognise anyone?





# Mary Berry's Yule Log

## Ingredients

- 4 large eggs
- 100 g caster sugar
- 65 g self-raising flour
- 40 g cocoa powder

For the chocolate icing and topping:

- 275 g dark chocolate, broken into small pieces
- 450 ml double cream
- 4 tbsp apricot jam
- icing sugar, for dusting
- holly and red berries, to garnish

## Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C/gas 6. Grease and line a 33 x 23cm Swiss roll tin with baking parchment, securing the corner with metal paperclips.
2. For the sponge, place the eggs and sugar together in a large bowl. Using an electric hand whisk, beat the mixture until it is pale, light and frothy.
3. Sieve the flour and cocoa powder into the bowl and carefully fold in to the egg mixture, using a metal spoon and taking care not to beat any of the air out of the mixture.
4. Pour in to the lined tin and spread out into the corners. Bake in the middle of the oven for about 8-10 minutes until pale golden and the sides are shrinking away from the edge of the tin.
5. Place a piece of baking parchment bigger than the

Swiss roll on the work surface. Invert the cake on

to the paper and remove (and count!) the paperclips and peel away the baking parchment.

6. Trim the edges of the cake with a sharp knife and make a score mark 2.5cm in along the longer edge. Roll up (from the longer edge) using the paper, rolling it up with the paper inside. Set aside to cool.

7. While the cake is cooling, make the icing. Melt the chocolate and 300ml of the cream in a bowl over a pan of simmering water. Refrigerate until cool and thickened. Whip the remaining cream.

8. Uncurl the cold Swiss roll and remove the paper. Spread a third of the icing over the surface then spread the whipped cream on top, and re-roll tightly. Cut a quarter of the cake off from one end, on the diagonal. Transfer the large piece of cake to a serving plate and angle the cut end to the side of the large cake to make a branch. Cover the surface of the cake with the melted apricot jam.

9. Put the remaining chocolate icing into a piping bag fitted with a star nozzle. Pipe long thick lines along the cake, covering the cake completely so it looks like the bark of a tree. Cover each end with icing or, if you wish to see the cream, leave un-iced.

10. Dust with icing sugar and garnish with fresh holly and red berries.



## The Greenwell Street Christmas Challenge

This year we are asking everyone to put their artistic talents to use to produce a Christmas Log. You might like to bake a swiss roll and decorate it or simply to buy a chocolate roll and add your own Christmas

themed details. Perhaps you would prefer to decorate a wooden log or even a log made of clay or play-dough. You can use any medium you prefer - paper, cloth,



flowers, wool, embroidery, paint; your imagination is the only limit!

Please bring your exhibit to Church on

Sunday 18th December for judging. All logs will be on display after the evening Carol Service. Those which are edible will be enjoyed for supper!

Come on - join in!



# Church Directory

*As at 13th November*

## Births

Annalise Hill, a second daughter to Jamie and Donna-Lee on 18 August

## Marriages

Caroline Robinson to William Wilton on 1 September;

Jordan Ferguson to Peter Crowe on 16 September;

## Deaths

Margaret McDade, late of Mark Street, on 21 August

Nan Stewart, late of Upper Greenwell Street, on 26 August

Violet Mahood, late of Old Shore Road, on 31 August

Sheelagh Goss, late of Scrabo Road, on 2 September

David Gaw, late of Upper Movilla Street, on 3 September

William Heron, late of Beverley Lodge, on 12 September

Margaret Blair, late of Donaghadee Road, on 17 September

Sammy Mills, late of Cranmore Avenue, on 1 October

John Burrows, late of Mountstewart Road, on 6 October

## Christian Acronyms

Here are some of the more popular and well known. (Perhaps you could make up some for the following words; CHRIST, SIN, FORGIVE, HEAVEN)

JAM (Jesus and me)

GRACE (God's riches at Christ's expense)

FROG (Fully relying on God)

PUSH (Pray until something happens)

BIBLE (Basic instructions before leaving earth)

WWJD (what would Jesus do)

JAFFA (Jesus a friend forever always)

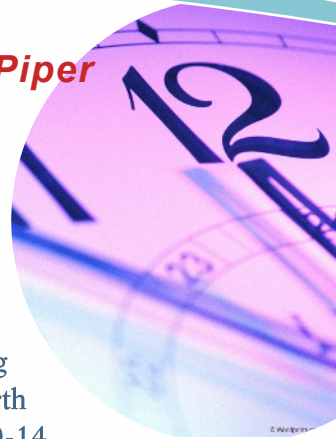
GOLF (God offers love and forgiveness)

FAITH (Forsaking all I trust him)

GOSPEL (God's only son provides everlasting life)

# Just a minute with John Piper

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" Luke 2:10-14



## Should Christians celebrate Christmas?

I sympathize with those who want to be rigorously and distinctly Christian, who want to be disentangled from the world and any pagan roots that might lie beneath our celebration of Christmas, but I don't go that route on this matter because I think there comes a point where the roots are so far gone that the present meaning doesn't carry the pagan connotation anymore. I'm more concerned about a new paganism that gets layered on top of Christian holidays.

Here's the example I use: All language has roots somewhere. Most of our days of the week—if not all—grew out of pagan names too. So should we stop using the word "Sunday" because it may have related to the worship of the sun once upon a time? In modern English "Sunday" doesn't carry that connotation, and that's the very nature of language. In a sense, holidays are like chronological language.

Christmas now means that we mark, in Christian ways, the birth of Jesus Christ. I think the birth, death and resurrection of Christ are the most important events in human history. Not to mark them in some way, by way of special celebration, would be folly it seems to me.

I remember I lived next door to somebody back in seminary who didn't celebrate birthdays for their kid. The idea was, partly, that all days were special for their kid. But if all days are special then it probably means that there are no special days. Yet some things are so good and precious - like anniversaries, birthdays, and even deaths - that they are worthy of being marked. How much more the birth and death of Jesus Christ!

It's really worth the risk, even if the date of December 25 was chosen because of its proximity to some kind of pagan festival. Let's just take it, sanctify it, and make the most of it, because Christ is worthy of being celebrated in his birth.

There is no point in choosing any other date. It won't work.

**Under God, the aim of Greenwell Street Presbyterian Church and all its agencies is:**

**"To promote the worship of God and build a congregation of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ."**

**Through:**

**Biblical preaching; Christian education and prayer; encouraging believers to live to their potential in Christ; seeking to be salt and light in society; and fulfilling "The Great Commission" given in Matthew 28:19.**





## Visiting your Compassion Child

Do you sponsor a child in Bolivia with Compassion?

Would you like to visit your child in his or her home?

It might be possible to organise a group visit to Cochabamba in Bolivia in the summer of 2018. Sponsors from Greenwell Street would travel to Bolivia and spend a few days visiting our 2 Compassion projects. We would have the opportunity to meet the local project workers and visit the 2 churches. We might also be able to meet the parents of our children and spend some time with the families in their own homes.

The cost will be approximately £1600.

If you are interested please speak to Norman or to Kathryn Mahood.



## Prayer Week

During the prayer week in August, the Youth Room was set up for an evening for the use of children. This was then used on Sunday as part of Sunday School.

Different things were set out to help the children think of what to pray for - whether forgiveness, their family, or children who are suffering. As a church it is important that our children learn the importance of prayer and there is no better way than doing it!

## Missions Weekend

The Missions Weekend is being held over 4/5<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 with a children's focus on Saturday morning. The focus over the weekend will be on Europe with speakers from Mission organisations sharing about their work and the challenges that face them.

Thanks to all who regularly support the missionary fund



## Building Project Update

Project Cost £1,239,872

### Owing

To Bank £113,194

Interest free loans £273,000

Total owing £386,194

Approximately 70% of the debt has now been cleared. With the current level of giving, it is hoped to clear the bank debt in less than 2 years.

The committee continues to give God praise for the commitment of the congregation.

Sunday Services  
11am & 7pm

Church website

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