

Spring  
2018



News from  
the Street



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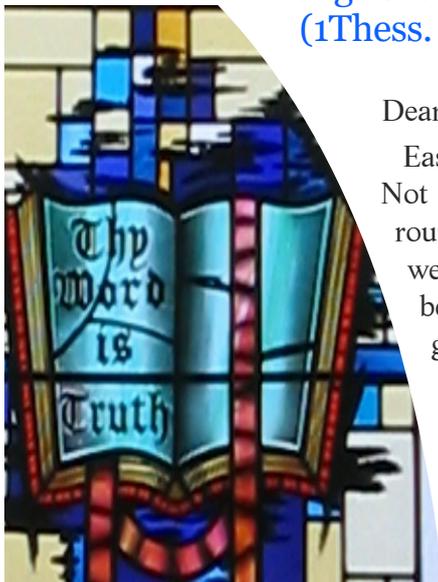
Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." - John 11:25-26

The magazine of Greenwell Street Presbyterian Church, Newtownards

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

# • from the manse

"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.  
(1Thess. 4:13)



Dear friends,

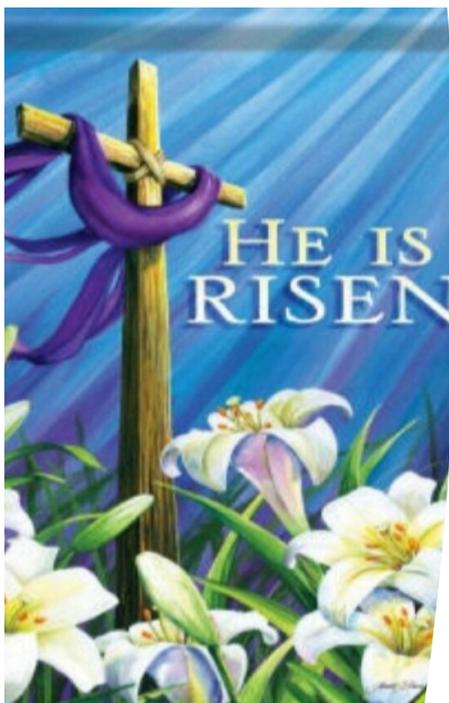
Easter is one of those great Christian festivals. Not that we need to wait for each year to come round to celebrate it, for, as you know, each time we meet together for the Lord's Supper we are being reminded of Christ's death in the place of guilty sinners like us. And each Lord's Day we meet for worship, it is Christ's resurrection that we are celebrating.

These are two of the central events in the Christian faith, both focusing on the person and work of Jesus Christ. They are historical events, something that makes Christianity unique, for no other religious system is dependent on the life of its founder. But they are not just historical events, for they are redemptive events that still have their impact upon and relevance for your life today.

Whether we like it or not, the one thing we all have in common is that we shall die. That is simply the consequence of our being a sinner; death is God's sentence upon our sin. But Calvary is all about God doing something about our sin. Punishing it, yes, he must, but punishing it in another. And bringing Jesus back to life is the confirmation that what he had done on Calvary for us sinners was sufficient. Sufficient to remove the final sting of death from our lives.

That is what makes Christ's death and resurrection relevant for you. For, apart from him, there is no hope beyond this life. We will all die, but we do not need to do so in despair. Rather, through Jesus, death becomes for us simply, yet wonderfully, the doorway to heaven. Have you taken the first step to knowing him? Why not come along on Sunday and hear of the One who can give you life in place of death; hope in place of despair; peace in place of anxieties. Jesus is a wonderful Saviour! I invite you to come to Him.

Your servant in the gospel of Jesus Christ  
Norman McAuley



## 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
- 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)

### Saturdays

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

# • church news

## Fit4Life

We warmly invite women of all ages to meet new friends, have fun, get fit and enjoy a healthy supper. Each evening someone will share what her Christian faith means to her.



The programme runs on Mondays 14 May - 18 June at 7.30pm in the Church Halls. Activities include walks, 'Couch to 3K' and exercises to suit all.

Please encourage your friends, neighbours and work colleagues to come along and please pray much for this Friendship Evangelism outreach event, that the Lord will be glorified and women find the abundant life that Jesus offers. *"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full" - John 10:10*

## Badminton Club Open Night

The Open night will be held on Friday 27 April from 7-10pm with all the usual fun activities for all the family. Why not come along and enjoy the evening with family and friends.



## 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration

In April 1869 the Congregation of Greenwell Street was formed as part of the Presbytery of Ards. Next year the Congregation will be 150 years old and we have much to thank God for what he has done in those years.

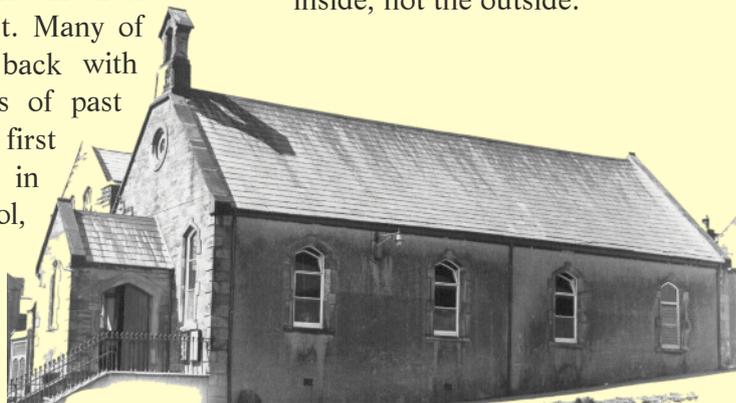
Next year we are planning to have special meetings to thank and praise God for His goodness to us. Many in the congregation can look back with gratitude to God for what he has done in their lives. Through the preached Word and witness of the Lord's people in the organisations and in lives lived for Christ. Many of us can look back with fond memories of past days when we first heard of Jesus in

Sunday School, the Lifeboys, Christian Endeavour, Girls Brigade, Boys Brigade, Children's Outreach and Young Peoples Meetings.

When Rev William McIlwrath began the work, trusting in God to bless the small beginning, never could he have imagined that it would become the Greenwell Street of today. If we were to ask the

people of Newtownards what Church did they claim, many would say Greenwell Street. Although the majority of claimants seldom attend they would say that their Mother, Grandmother, etc. was a member, so it is their Church.

It is good to remember what God has done and what He can still do. Many have tried what the world promises and found it has failed. Plan to join with us in 2019 to celebrate with One who makes and keeps all His Promises. You don't need to buy a new suit or dress and hat come just as you are. Newness in Greenwell Street begins on the inside, not the outside.



### Dates for your diary

Saturday 13 April, 2019

- The Big Birthday Party

Tuesday 16 to Friday 19 April

- Easter Services 2019

Sunday 21 April, 2019

- Anniversary Services

## Easter Services 2018

### PICTURES OF THE CROSS

The services this year will be held in 1<sup>st</sup> Ards Presbyterian Church at 8pm each evening. A time of prayer will be held from 7.15pm to 7.45pm. We are delighted to welcome Revs John Dixon and Ivan McKay as our preachers. We warmly invite you to join with us over these evenings to reflect again on the real meaning of Easter.

Tuesday 27 - Friday 30 March at 8pm each evening

*(Friday's service will conclude with Lord's Supper)*

# Fostering - one family's experience

Since 2002 God placed within my heart a strong desire to foster. Many words and verses of the Bible seemed to strengthen this desire, for example Matthew 18.5 "And whoever welcomes a child like this in my name welcomes me." I was 100% convinced this was God's plan for our family, I just needed God to convince everyone else.

In 2008 our Assistant Minister preached a sermon that was to change my husband's heart. He was talking about practical Christianity and how we should show compassion to others and challenged the congregation to consider fostering children. My husband couldn't quite believe what he had heard as he had asked for God's guidance on the subject.

A missionary friend stayed with us periodically while she studied at Bible College and she quickly became a member of our family.

However when she left for Overseas service in 2008 the sense of loss we experienced was great. We joke that she was our first foster child, but joking aside God used this time to help prepare us for what He had in store.

In 2010 we were approved by the trust as respite foster carers for 2 year old children and under. This process involved all of the family being interviewed, and our house, routine and beliefs assessed to see if we were suitable to have a child placed with us. This was a time of mixed emotions where we all had to come to terms with the change in our family that we would soon experience. It is for this reason that we consider fostering a whole family effort as it would not be possible without everyone's agreement, support and help with the children placed with us.

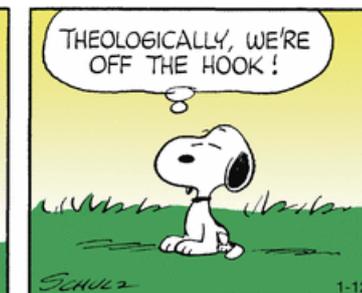
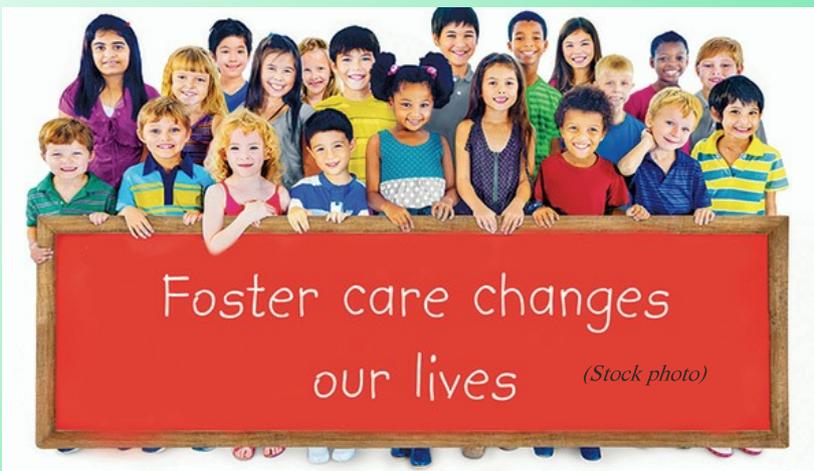
In 2016 we were asked to have a little one for a short period of time, who ultimately would be moving from us

to be adopted. Despite our concerns and fears about how we would cope when the time came for him to move on, we believe that God cleared our path of any obstacles to allow this child to be placed with us. The sense of loss was very real for us all but God gave us the strength, support and wisdom to get through, and placed many people in our path to help. Our own family and church family have been an amazing source of support and encouragement. The day before he left my daughter managed to rally us together to throw a party for him, which was a precious time with lovely memories. Another friend suggested putting together a photo storybook which was able to go with him for his memory box and help his new family to understand him better.

Our whole church family have encouraged us by warmly welcoming the children we care for. People have been generous in their words of encouragement and support and we have been so aware of the many prayers offered for us as a family. We value your prayers for our family, especially for wisdom, guidance, protection and the hearts to love and care for children. We also would value your continuing prayers for the children after they have left our home.

During our time of fostering we have been humbled by the whole experience, despite difficult times we have known the Lord's blessing and His hand upon our lives.

(There are currently four church families who are registered as foster carers.)  
Should you want any further information, go to <http://www.adoptionandfostering.hscni.net/fostering>



# Where are they now? - Colin Burkham

I was ordained and installed as Associate Minister in Greenwell Street back in October 2001. Anna and I loved getting to know so many of you during our time in Greenwell Street and would love to have been with you for longer. Those 2 years of serving the Lord with you were a real blessing and we learned a lot in our time there.

Our life together changed dramatically when we moved to Mersey Street. We moved from one of the largest congregations in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to a small one with about 80 people at a Sunday morning service. We moved from being a recently married couple to (after a few years!) life as a mum and dad with five children.

From the very first time we visited Mersey Street, we loved it. There was life and vitality in the worship, the congregation was very welcoming and not in a hurry to leave after the service, and we were excited about the idea of getting to know everyone's name in a short time! We got settled into the large manse (with help from the wonderful Raymond Hannigan) and were told, 'There are 5 bedrooms. It's up to you to fill them.' The congregation didn't know how seriously we were going to take that charge and we have since been blessed with 3 daughters (Julia, Jessica and Lily) and 2 sons (Noah and Asher). Now we need a bigger manse!



Mersey Street was a mission church for a long time, planted by Megain Memorial which was on the Newtownards Road. They had a strong evangelical heritage but since becoming a full congregation of PCI, had only had one Minister before we came. It seemed like the ideal place for someone who felt called to be a Bible teacher, with a desire to help people grow in their faith and deepen in their knowledge of the Scriptures. There is a real hunger for the Word here - I don't remember ever being

asked to preach for longer in any congregation until I came to Mersey Street! There are also (like in every congregation I'm sure) some lovely people who are very committed to the Lord and to the work here in Mersey Street. I continued to study part-time while ministering here until just a couple of years ago when I got my PhD in Old Testament. I've also been teaching Hebrew and Old Testament in Union College part-time since I came to Mersey Street. Anna enjoys reading, painting, gardening and walking when not looking after the children.

We're still kept in touch with Greenwell Street through Caroline Edwards (Wilson to her own name as they say in these parts - Leslie and Margaret's daughter) and we have a family connection through Dennis McKeeag whose daughter Stephanie is married to Anna's brother Peter. So while we have moved on from Greenwell Street, you are still in our hearts and we're thankful for this opportunity to share a little bit of our story here.

## Ladies visit the IMP

On Tuesdays 28 November and 18 January a group of ladies arrived at the International Meeting Point (IMP) laden with pots of soup, wheaten bread and cheese to serve lunch to people of various nationalities!

It was our great privilege to sit and observe the Tuesday English language classes which were clearly so helpful to the women who attend, and also just to see Christ's love in action through Sharon and the other leaders as it is shown towards all who come along each day. Friendship, a listening ear, bible study, genuine care, practical support e.g. with clothes, bedding and bicycles to name but a few, are just some of the ministries of IMP.

We look forward to continuing these visits and know Sharon and the team value everyone's ongoing prayerful support.



# An Old Heresy in New Clothes!

Gnosticism presents a radically self-centred alternative gospel. Instead of pointing to Christ, Gnosticism proclaims that salvation comes from inside, finding your true identity within. It denies the goodness of the Creator and the glory of his creation. It denies the Incarnation, the resurrection and the need for redemption.

Gnosticism sets itself against true Christianity at every point. It has been described as the ultimate heresy. This false teaching was faced by the Church in the second and third centuries AD.

But far from being ancient history, Gnostic beliefs are rife today. Of course, not many people call themselves Gnostics. But their approach to issues such as transsexualism is clearly rooted in Gnostic thought. Understanding Gnosticism and the Christian response to it will encourage and equip believers to stand firm.

**KEY BELIEF:** Spiritual is good, physical is bad

Gnosticism covers a wide range of ideas, but one key Gnostic teaching is that the spiritual is good and the physical is bad. In their radical rejection of creation and the body, Gnostics see salvation as escape from “matter” – the physical world. This extreme dualism stands in complete opposition to biblical Christianity, and Christians need to be alert to similar thinking in our own culture and even in the Church.

**Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:26-27)**

## Creation

### **GNOSTICS: CREATOR IS BAD SO CREATION IS BAD**

The physical world is “a mistake”, the work of a bad or stupid god, the Demiurge, who is much further down the divine hierarchy than the supreme being.

The Demiurge is the god of the Old Testament and is to blame for making an evil world, full of suffering. The supreme god, however, is only interested in the non-physical spiritual reality. The visible world is bad or meaningless, and no wisdom or truth can be gleaned from it.



### **BIBLE: A GREAT GOD MADE EVERYTHING VERY GOOD**

There is only one God, and he is the Creator of all things. After creating this world “very good” (Genesis 1:31), he is still intimately involved. Not even a sparrow falls to the ground without him (Matthew 10:29). Since the Fall the world has been beset by suffering and evil – even creation groans under the curse (Romans 8:22). But the source of this evil is man’s sinful rebellion against God, not the physical world itself.

God sustains the world in his common grace, and creation still displays his glory (Psalm 19:1). God’s power, wisdom and beauty are clearly perceived in the things that are made (Romans 1:20).

## The body

### **GNOSTICS: YOU ARE NOT YOUR BODY**

The body is part of the material world, so is “contemptible”. It is a worthless shell, which imprisons the true self – the “precious” spirit within. The human spirit is a ‘divine spark’ from a greater divine being than the Demiurge. Someone’s ‘inner person’ is separate from and more real than their physical body.

Rejection of the body can lead to one of two extremes: either strict asceticism, avoiding ‘contamination’ with the physical, or reckless hedonism, seeing no point in keeping the body pure.

### **BIBLE: YOU ARE BODY AND SOUL**

Our bodies are intrinsic to us, and are designed in wisdom and love by our good Creator, to serve and glorify him. We are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14). Yes, sin has tragically brought illness and death (Romans 5:12). But bodily life itself is nothing to be ashamed of. The believer’s body is “a temple of the Holy Spirit”, and we honour God with our bodies by living in obedience to him (1 Corinthians 6:19; Philippians 1:20). And far from being a useless shell, the bodies of believers will be raised again to new life forever (1 Corinthians 15).

## Men and Women

### GNOSTICS: MALE/FEMALE DISTINCTION IS A CORRUPTION

The distinction between men and women should be rejected because it is part of the useless creation order. The ideal is androgyny – a synthesis of male and female, and so neither one nor the other. The outworking of this ranges from goddess worship to saying women need to become men to be saved. But the common theme is seeing the male-female distinction as defective, part of the fallen world of death; we must escape it if we are to find true life.

”When you make the male and the female one and the same, so that the male not be male nor the female female... then *you will enter the kingdom.*” (Gnostic gospel of Thomas)

### BIBLE: MALE-FEMALE DISTINCTION IS GOD’S GOOD DESIGN

Genesis 1:27 says: “in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them”. God deliberately made men and women as different and interdependent. They are equal, but not the same: each sex has its own distinct role to play in God’s design for family, society, and church.



## Implications of a Gnostic view of the body

### GENDER IDENTITY



Since ‘the real you’ is what you feel deep inside, the ‘inner person’ overrides all external factors – including objective biological reality. So the transgender movement claims that ‘gender identity’ doesn’t necessarily align with birth sex. A person can look within to ‘write their own script’ – whether that’s male, female or some other option – regardless of their body.

But God in his wisdom created mankind male and female, body and soul. Sexual identity is written into every cell in our bodies as part of his creation design. Our bodies are intrinsic to who we are and in reality there is no such thing as ‘gender identity’ separate to biological sex.

### HUMAN VALUE

If a living human body is insignificant and only the ‘inner person’ is valuable, the sanctity of human life is on shaky ground. Human worth would then depend on something ‘within’, such as self-awareness or knowledge. Often today’s medical ethics assumes that a human being starts and stops being a ‘full person’ based on mental capacity. So the unborn child is regarded as not yet a person and the individual with advanced dementia



may be viewed as no longer a person. But human life is uniquely precious as created in God’s image. Our significance derives from this, not from our ‘quality of life’, age or capability. In Psalm 139 David thought of himself as a person before birth, praising God who knit him together in his mother’s womb.

### MARRIAGE

In today’s society, marriage is defined by feelings. The complementary natures of men and women are irrelevant. Marriage becomes a disembodied and subjective relationship between any two (or more?) people. At its core this is a Gnostic-like view, exalting the ‘inner self’ over physical reality. And it means that marriage is malleable, with same-sex marriage being just one logical consequence.

But God grounds marriage in his creation. It is defined as being between a man and a woman and forms the foundation for family and society. Marriage is the framework within which love can thrive and children can be raised. God also gives human marriage as a picture of the ultimate marriage between Christ and his Church.



**Justin Martyr (c. 100-165AD)**

“These persons seem to be ignorant of the whole work of God, both of the genesis and formation of man at the first, and why the things in the world were made.”

# A South African Summer



This summer, Urban Saints Ireland is sending a discipleship mission team to Johannesburg, South Africa, from the 13th to the 23rd July 2018. This team will be made up of seven young people from Newtownards Urban Saints, five of whom belong to Greenwell Street Presbyterian Church. They will join with three young people from Tullylish Urban Saints and two Urban Saints leaders to make the 12 person Ireland team. During their time in South Africa the Ireland team will be working alongside 90 other team members from across Urban Saints UK, as they serve God and the South African people.

Urban Saints is a Christian organisation that seeks to make young disciples for Jesus, reaching young people in every community throughout the UK and Ireland. Urban Saints is guided by three core values:

**Adventure:** to help young people break out of their comfort zone and into a world of faith, challenge and following Jesus.

**Discipleship:** in order to see young people live life like Jesus they must be provided with lifelong training and committed support. Through biblical, prayerful and active learning Urban Saints seek to prepare young people for Christian life, leadership and service.

**Justice:** Urban Saints seeks to act justly, to empower young people to engage with justice issues and to understand the importance of loving others first. So they will be eager to respond to a world that cries out for justice.

By providing a sense of belonging, weekly groups, camps, teaching resources and overseas discipleship trips Urban saints gathers, loves, disciples and launches young people and children of all backgrounds, that they might live like Jesus and be part of God's church; actively seeking lives that lead, serve, evangelise and change the world.

The Ireland team will be going for a life-changing overseas experience that will transform their lives and will bring hope to a family trapped by poverty. During the trip the young people will be put into groups of 20-30 to build a house under the supervision of experi-

enced builders. They will also be visiting an orphanage, learning about the long and emotional struggle of apartheid in the country and meeting together to worship God every evening. At the end of the 11 days the work does not stop as there are teams that will go out after to continue God's work.

The Ireland team needs to work to raise a total of £19,500. However this is impossible without God, the team's passion and the generosity of others. The team

would love for you to be a part of this experience as their church family, and your support, prayers and giving will be greatly appreciated.

The team have booked a stall in the market for the 7th April. If anyone would like to bake please leave

your baking with the Francis family at 29 Beverley Walk, Newtownards on 6th April.



**From left to right: Anna Sterritt, James Ritchie, Jemma Thompson, Ewan McCracken, Campbell Brown, Sara Ferguson and Leah Francis.**

## EASTER WORDSEARCH

J	J	U	D	A	S	N	S	P	L
Z	E	R	P	N	I	A	E	Z	E
N	O	S	R	Y	P	I	N	Y	G
L	H	O	U	A	U	L	O	A	N
X	H	C	L	S	M	S	T	R	A
T	P	M	E	V	O	L	S	P	R
B	S	S	I	N	J	G	E	I	B
R	M	Z	C	R	O	S	S	M	C
E	T	A	L	I	P	E	O	R	D
Z	D	J	L	O	N	T	Y	P	W

- |        |       |        |       |
|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| Cross  | Nails | Stone  | Angel |
| Love   | Sin   | Lord   | Cry   |
| Pray   | Tomb  | Risen  |       |
| Thorns | Lamb  | Judas  |       |
| Jesus  | Palm  | Pilate |       |

# Teach us to Pray - *Intercession*

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. We continue to draw on some of this work and thereby, hopefully, to encourage a greater spirit of prayer among us.

## *Intercede for others in your prayers to God*

Our Lord Jesus Christ has taught us to pray not only with others, but also for others. The Apostle Paul has directed us to intercede always for all the saints with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit. Many of his prayers as recorded in his epistles are offered on behalf of his fellow-believers and friends.

We must not think that when we are in this part of prayer we may be any less fervent, or even indifferent, simply because we ourselves are not immediately concerned. Instead, a holy fire of love both to God and man should make our devotions more warm and lively as we pray for others (Eph. 6:18).

## *Pray for Christ's church and kingdom . . .*

Plead with the Lord to break the power of all the enemies of his righteous kingdom, and defeat all their Satan-inspired schemes.

Let all those in authority who set themselves against you and your Anointed Messiah imagine a vain thing. As the God who sits enthroned in heaven, laugh at them. Let your Anointed One rule them with a rod of iron, whenever they take counsel together saying, 'Let us break their chains and fling from us their fetters.' Call them to account in your wrath, and terrify them in your fury (Psa. 2:1-5, 9).

## *Pray for all the ministers of God's Word and sacraments.*

Teach your ministers how they ought to behave in your house, which is the church of the living God. Let them never preach themselves, but always and only Christ Jesus the Lord. Inspire them to exert themselves so that they receive your approval for their work. Make them tireless labourers who will never need to feel ashamed, since they handle your word of truth with precise accuracy.

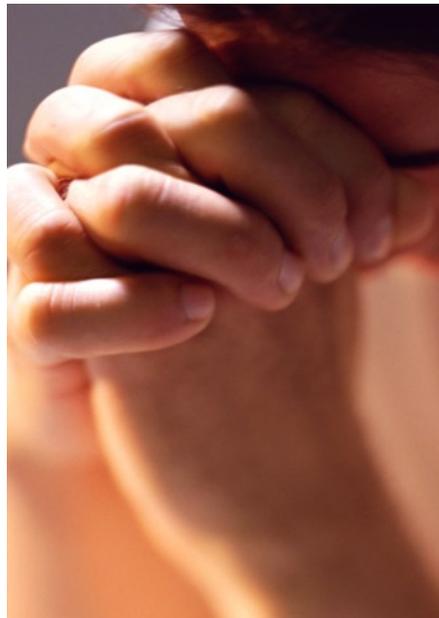
Make them mighty in the Scriptures. Raise up men of God who have the competence that comes from being thoroughly equipped for every good work. In all things let them be a model of good works. Let them not be corrupted in what they teach. Make them serious, sincere, and well-balanced in whatever they say, so that they will never need to be contradicted.

Convict them of the importance of devoting themselves altogether to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and to teaching, rather than being distracted by so many other things that are good in themselves. Show them repeatedly that they must give themselves over to prayer and the ministry of the Word. Let them be absorbed in the few things critical to an effective ministry. Enable them to keep a close watch on themselves and their doctrine, for in practising constant self-scrutiny, they will save both themselves and the people who hear them.

Put the word you want them to say in their mouth, so that they may speak boldly as they openly declare the mystery of the gospel. Let them speak out as they ought to speak. Make every one of your preachers a capable minister of the new covenant. Let their ministry not focus on the letter engraved in stone, which kills by its demands of perfection among fallen sinners. Instead, let them minister in the Spirit, the One who gives life. Lord, show mercy to your ministers, so that they may be faithful. Let the hand of the Lord be with them, that many may believe through their ministry and turn to the Lord.

Keep them sound in the faith. Tutor them so that they always speak things that promote sound doctrine. Let them instruct with meekness those that oppose themselves. Keep your servants from striving. Help them to be gentle in their dealings with all kinds of people. Make them capable teachers who are always patient.

Make them good examples to all believers by everything they say and do. Let their words and deeds manifest the generosity of love, the fullness of the Spirit, the consistency of faith, and the virtue of purity. Let these ministers of the new covenant that bear the vessels of the Lord be fully consecrated as they offer priestly service to you. Inscribe this declaration on their foreheads: 'Holy to the Lord' 1 Tim. 4:12.



# GB Project - Kisoro, Uganda

Girls Brigade Northern Ireland (GBNI) is 125 years old in October 2018. To mark this we are fundraising to build a school in partnership with Fields Of Life, a local charity that works in East Africa. Having already been involved with their "I Am Girl" project in Uganda, GBNI felt that building a school in Uganda would be a fitting way to mark this "milestone". The challenge for GBNI - to raise £125,000 pounds to celebrate 125 years.



You'll see from the photos that we have very happy children – the people of Uganda are extremely rich in spirit! The photos of the new build have just been received as I write this article and it is very exciting to see that the project is nearing completion.

GBNI stepped out in faith and forwarded the money for the project to Fields Of Life in advance of the fundraising from the companies. Having seen the need in Uganda, it was felt it was very necessary to start building as soon as possible. Fundraising has been slow but we are starting to see the money for this project coming in now and we are confident that our companies will raise the £125,000 needed.



I was extremely privileged in my then role as GBNI Chairperson to travel to Uganda in November 2016 and see first-hand the wonderful work

that is being carried out by Fields Of Life in this country. It was a very humbling yet challenging trip, Uganda is a very poor country, yet its people are some of the most content, happy people I have met and they have very little!

Education is life changing in Uganda, but for various reason it's not widely available to kids, some might not go to school because they walk 6km every day to collect water and then carry it home again, and in many cases its dirty water, there is nothing else! By providing wells in villages and schools, Fields of Life is making a real difference.



Fields Of Life work with the local churches to ensure that the schools will be maintained. They had identified such an area for us in Kisoro which is in South West Uganda up in the mountains some 12 and a half hours in a minibus from our base!

On arrival I was surprised to see a school already there – Karwa Centenary Primary School, but as you will see from the photo these classrooms were in fact mud huts and every time it rained a bit more of the school washed away, and it rains a lot in Kisoro!

There has been much excitement among the kids and staff as they have watched the building work progress and they are very much looking forward to getting into their new school – The Karwa Centenary, GBNI Primary school.

Our own GB company will be raising funds for the school we have already raised £1500, the girls are very much invested in this project but then they've seen most of my 1100 photos!

We are hoping to do a breakfast morning on Saturday 17 March, so come and enjoy your breakfast with us and also, for the ladies, an accessory evening but more details will follow! We also have a marathon relay team made up of GB parents!

If you'd like any more information about the work of Fields Of Life or indeed our GBNI project, please come and speak to me, but be warned

once I start talking about Uganda.....



Linda Buchanan  
GB Captain

## Church Directory

As at 16 February

### Baptism

Sarah Watters, daughter of Alan and Jennifer, on 31 December

### Marriage

Congratulations to Garvin Heron and Victoria Wright on the occasion of their marriage on 18 November

### Deaths

Mary Graham, late of Culmore Avenue, on 21 November;

Lawrence Scott, late of Movilla Nursing Home, on 24 November;

Irene Weir, late of Glenbrooke Road, on 25 November;

Arthur Brady, late of Scrabo Isles Nursing Home, on 28 November;

Rachel Tompsett, late of John Street, on 30 November;

Betty Armour, late of Ardmillan Crescent, on 5 December;

Bob Duff, late of Dorrandale Road, on 11 December;

Elizabeth Russell, late of Nendrum Way, on 13 December;

Violet Ogden, late of William Street, on 15 December;

Eva McKenna, late of Bryansburn Nursing Home, on 25 December;

Esther O'Neill, late of Movilla Nursing Home, on 2 January;

Jean McCormick, late of Bangor Care Home, on 8 January;

Minnie Reid, late of Glenmount Avenue, on 17 January;

Cissie Boyce, late of East Street, on 17 January;

Dora Whitla, late of Scrabo Isles Nursing Home, on 21 January;

Josie Scott, late of Movilla Nursing Home, on 30 January;

Joan Donaldson, late of Binian Avenue, on 30 January;

Margo Stewart, late of Balfour Street, on 2 February.

## Memories *with Zandra Perry*

As Girls' Brigade celebrates 125 years this year, Zandra Perry, who is one of the officers, has put some memories in verse.

What does Girl's Brigade mean to me?

Well... It all began when I became three.

White knee socks a Navy Tunic and a Jumper that was red,

Along with a Hat that was plonked on my head.

Under Five singing games was the norm,

With Miss Polly and I'm a little tea pot brewing up a storm.

In squads we had uniform being marked with such care,

With 20p for subs, and 10p for "piggy" if we had spare.

Explorer Choral Speaking was said with such glee,

Are you ready girls, after one, two, three.

GB runs, skipping and DON'T forget your pointed toes,

You've guessed it, it's Explorer PE tied up in white bows.

Junior Section came next, with Blazers and Red Ties,

We've all grown up now, we're not in the Under Fives!!

PE, Choral Speaking, Enrolment and Display songs to sing,

With Drill Downs and Marching becoming the next new thing.

Senior section we wore Blue Ties, Blazers and Navy Skirts,

Have a go at Solo skipping...though your arms are gonna hurt!!

Badge work included showing our display item, with Gateway friends,

With a Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award gained... finally at the end.

In Brigader's we wore Navy Skirts, Blazers with a blue and red stripe tie,

Man O Man how the years have flown right by.

PE Solo work this time, only the courageous would do,

It's the end of an era now, what am I going to do?

Awards, PE, Choral Speaking, Singing Games, Special Items, I hope it won't be long,

Skipping, Marching and Drill Downs, it's the Finale now, let's shout out our last song.

This is Display night, well what can I say,

Everything has worked out, it's going to be ok.

Through the years girls and officers have come and gone,

But your stories came out each week, brightly and shone.

Learning the GB motto from such a early age,

I am happy to say, that I do seek, serve and follow Christ every single day.





## A Gingerbread Christmas

This Christmas past, the light hearted competition that culminates on the night of our Carol Service, involved making a Christmas scene in gingerbread. A number of people made the effort and demonstrated, not only their wonderful baking skills, but some great imagination as well. As such, small prizes were awarded for different skills shown. Our winners this year were Lynn, Naomi and Zandra.



and orphans in the Ekwendeni area of Malawi. They were supported by people in Greenwell Street Church and their friends. A total of £2,655 was given before Christmas to enable ingredients to be bought and venues planned. This year a Christmas celebration along with a meal consisting of rice, nsima, vegetables and chicken, pork or beef was held in 20 villages, spread over 6 days. Those who received this very special meal numbered over 3,000 adults and over 9,000 children, (counting became a problem with so many). The programme coordinator, Esther, writes *"We always fail to find suitable words to express to you our sincere thanks for organising coffee mornings and to thank those who come with the aim of helping the vulnerable children and women in Ekwendeni enjoy celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ."* Many, many thanks, Esther and the team.

## Malawi Aids Orphans & Widows Feeding Programme Christmas parties 2017

December 2017 saw two Christmas Craft & Coffee Mornings being held in the community to raise funds for the Christmas Parties for widows



## Building Project Update

Project Cost    £1,239,872

**Still Owing        £260,118**

It is expected to clear the bank debt in early 2018 and commence repayment of the interest free loans soon after.

Sunday Services  
11am & 7pm

Church website  
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Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC 105225)

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