

# First Larne Presbyterian Church

# The Bridge News



*"We are here to worship God, build up His church and share His love."*



50 years of faithful service



Why go to communion?



Girl Guides misbehaving?

**"The Lord is good, a strength and stronghold in the day of trouble. He knows those who take refuge and trust in Him"**

**Nahum 1 v 7**



# COLIN'S COLUMN

**"ECCLESIA REFORMATA SEMPER REFORMANDA"**  
(The reformed church is always to be reformed)

My ideal summer is a time when, amongst the ongoing routine, there is opportunity for quality **refreshment, reflection** and **reimagining**. If all goes to plan summer is a time for catching up with family and making plans for the new year in the life of First Larne. The arrival of a grandchild has guaranteed an extra-special and very welcome period of refreshment, reflection and reimagining. For all sorts of reasons life will never be the same again for the current minister of First Larne and all those associated with him!

I find **refreshment** in being introduced to new activities, exploring new places and discovering more about familiar people and places. Summer gives a little more regular time to squeeze in a few more books – usually biographies, which may open me up to a charge of lack of literary imagination.

There is also space for **reflection** upon what has been attempted and achieved during the previous church year. This assessment is usually a wholesome cocktail of inspiration, frustration and regret.

The real challenge of summer is to converge the refreshment and the reflection to produce an invigorating **re-imagining**. If this is achieved the result is a consideration and consolidation of the present that leads to an identifying and refocusing upon compelling and necessary goals for the future.

This **refreshment, reflection, re-imagining** cycle is what Rafiki, the royal adviser in the "Lion King", comments on in suitably sagacious terms:



"Oh yes, the past can hurt.... But the way I see it you can either run from it or learn from it."

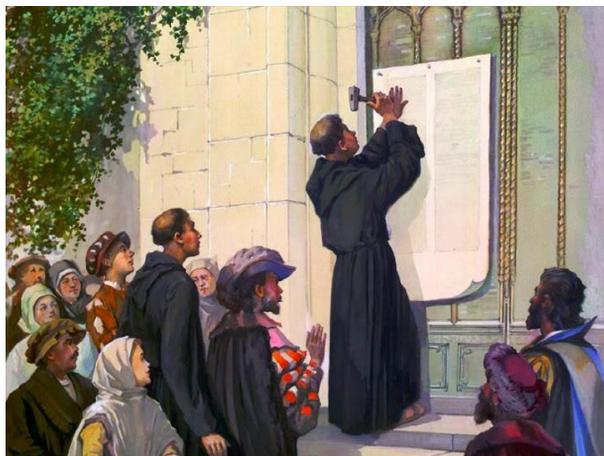
This **refreshment, reflection, re-imagining** cycle is also the process to which Olympic athletes devote years of their lives. In one of this summer's family services I quoted British Olympic rower, Katherine Granger, who, prior to London 2012, had competed in the previous three Olympic Games and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> on each occasion. Finally, at London 2012, in front of her home crowd she won her gold medal. After she won that coveted gold medal she said, "This gold medal has been a huge motivational force for everything I've done every day, and to finally get it is more than I could have ever hoped for. This time it's tears of joy rather than tears of sadness." It was as if everything and everyone in her life up to that moment had to fit in with the goal of a gold medal.

At the time of writing, I can make no informed comment on the effect of Rio 2016. However, I hope we have witnessed and shared the inspiration and exhilaration of athletes excelling in numerous sporting disciplines after years devoted to that merciless and demanding cycle of reflection and reimagining. Of course, the Olympics are not what they used to be – and I am not only referring to the pre-Games doping scandals and the non-attendance and dismissive comments from certain hugely-rewarded sports professionals.

Although there are currently over 300 events to be competed in, some "sports" are no longer included. At the 1900 Paris Olympiad 300 birds were killed at the live Pigeon shooting. At these same games there was a Long Jump for Horses. In the 1906 Athens Games no fatalities occurred at the Pistol Duelling event as competitors shot at mannequins dressed in frock coats with a bull's eye on their throats. In 1904 at St. Louis (USA) the Diving Plunge tested how far athletes could travel in water without actually swimming. As recently as 2008 in Beijing it was mistakenly announced that there would be Olympic Poodle-Clipping. Whilst this turned out to be an April Fool it did have some factual basis. At the 1900 Paris event the Poodle Clipping contest was actually won by a farmer's wife who trimmed seventeen poodles in two hours!

If we in the Church have even dipped our toes into the **refreshment, reflection, reimagining** process we will have realised that *the church is not what it used to be* – nor is the world in which we exist the same as it used to be! What seemed like a good idea then is no longer considered so now. We should also admit that what seems like a good idea now may not be in the "then" of our successors!

The church, as we experience it in our particular congregations, is manifestly not what it used to be. However, it seems to me if we are on the right lines with the **refreshment, reflection, reimagining** process we should be constantly recalibrating and discovering that *the Church is still what it used to be*.



When almost five hundred years ago, on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1517, Martin Luther kicked off the Reformation by nailing his 95 theses on the door of Wittenberger church castle, that was part of a **refreshment, reflection, reimagining** process he had agonisingly worked through. Luther was not setting out to start a new denomination called “protestant”. He, and the other mainstream reformers, were calling the church back to what it was meant to be.

Luther was very uncomfortable at attempts to have a denomination named after him:

“I beg not to have my name mentioned, and to call people, not Lutheran, but Christian. What is Luther? The doctrine is not mine, nor have I been crucified for any one. St. Paul would not suffer Christians to be called after Peter, but only after Christ. Why should I—miserable piece of corruption that I am—have this honour, that the children of Christ should be called after my abominable name? No, no, my dear friends; let us abolish party names, and be called Christians after Christ, whose doctrine we have.”

In 2017, as we approach the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, let us **reflect** on what those reformers set out to achieve. They wanted the Church to progress, to belong to the people and to be what the Church is meant to be – whether in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

The Church is still about Jesus.

The Church is still about fellowship. (That is why we justify having a meeting house which, in its present

state will have served this purpose for 40 years in 2018).

The Church is still about evangelism i.e. sharing the Good News (Gospel).

In Ireland in this year of 2016 we have done a lot of reflecting as the major centenaries associated with the Easter Rising and the Battle of the Somme have been appraised, evaluated and critiqued from all manner of perspectives. In this process I have been challenged and informed, as well as moved to sympathy, anger, respect and a range of other emotional responses. Understanding more of what was done (or not done) back then I hope I have a better understanding of what I and my generation need to do now.

Over the last few years in First Larne we have undertaken a lot of reflection, assessment and honouring of our past (see our 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary book “A People on the Move”). If we are to continue to be a congregation as the Church is meant to be then we need to energetically pursue a process of **reimagining**. If we want to live up to the honoured description of “reformed” with integrity we need to be asking and then acting to ensure that we can still be what the Church is meant to be in 2016 and beyond.

As a new church session gets underway I hope it will not just be another year packed with work and events. I hope we can continue to make significant progress in **reimagining** who we are and what that means for what we look like and what we do on the journey of being the sort of Church God is calling us to be. May we be energised in faith and service by a shared vision of Session, Committee and Congregation committed to a God-honouring **reimagining** of First Larne. You have a part to play in that!

As you **reflect** on your part in the inevitable enterprise of **reimagining** I offer this quote from a recent reflection from the PCI “TIDES” online resource:

**“Disciples choose to celebrate rather than complain, to give of themselves rather than to grumble about others.”**

Rev. Colin McClure

## WHY SHOULD I GO TO COMMUNION?



### **Because Jesus commands you!**

We usually (and properly) speak about the “invitation” to the Lord’s Table – but the fact is Jesus is directly quoted by the Apostle Paul using language which is very unambiguous and directional and intentional:

“The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; **do** this in remembrance of me....’”

1 Corinthians 11 v.23-24

In the original Greek New Testament the word translated into the English “do” has the very real sense of keep doing, be doing, always be found doing, don’t give up doing. Jesus is very clearly not offering an option or an idea you might like to try. He is not saying, “You might like to give this a go if it suits you.” However you approach it, however you read it, this is a command!

Our Shorter Catechism picks up the significance of this directive of Christ’s:

Q.92 What is a sacrament?

“A sacrament is an holy ordinance **instituted** by Christ.....”

Q.96 What is the Lord’s Supper?

“The Lord’s supper is a sacrament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ’s **appointment**, his death is showed forth....”

### **We can’t be church without it!**

Jesus gave us communion to fuel our faith and keep us sharp, on our toes, inspired and inspiring as a congregation of His people.

In Acts 2 v.42 communion is included in the list of must-haves and essential features of any fellowship which presumes to call itself a church:

“They **devoted** themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

The original Greek word we translate as “devoted” has the powerful implication of *steadily persisting* with an *unwavering obstinance*. Again, however you approach it, however you read it, there is no escaping the meaning – “Do it, and keep doing it!”

### **With it we are church!**

A US Navy chaplain recounts the experience of the first communion service he celebrated during the Second World War. He was conducting this service in the cramped confines beside the gun turret on board a naval destroyer. Consequently only three men could come forward at a time to receive the elements. The first three men were the commanding officer of the ship, a fireman’s apprentice, and what was then referred to as a Negro steward’s mate. In the social life of the ship, as on all US Navy ships, there was then a rigid hierarchy that went from top to bottom: 1. white officers 2. white enlisted men and 3. Negro enlisted men.

However, at the Lord’s Table on that ship that hierarchy disappeared. The three men knelt side by side in an absolute equality of need. For a moment there was neither bond nor free, white nor black, officer nor enlisted man. For a moment, with war raging and imminent death a possibility, and in the midst of a rigid racial pecking order, those men were precisely what God intended them to be – men who were united in Christ and united in one another. In the vicinity of that gun turret and at that service of Communion they were truly and really church.

That US Navy Chaplain realised that after worshipping they went back to a world where the old barriers remained. However, he observed that if they had taken seriously their oneness in Christ, they could never again rest comfortably with the utter incongruity of the segregation that was imposed upon them. At Communion they would be profoundly challenged as well as spiritually nourished.

Communion is what we are meant to do and commanded to do if we are serious about being Christians, about being members of the Body of Christ:

“Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.”

1 Corinthians 10 v.16-17

Communion keeps us on track. We are not refused access to the Lord’s Table because we are sinners; we are welcomed precisely because we are sinners – but forgiven sinners, united with Christians across the corridors of space and time.

Communion directs us to being as a congregation should be. If we are part of the Church, the Body of Christ, a sincere and openhearted approach to communion profoundly changes our attitude and approach to fellow Christians. John Calvin makes it clear that if we are together around the Lord’s table “it is impossible for us to wound, despise, reject, injure and offend one of our brethren, but we, at the same time, wound, despise, reject, injure and offend Christ in him.”

### **Not Just Another Service**

Communion is not just another service for people who happen to like that sort of thing. It is **THE**

service for any congregation intending to continue as a truly Christian fellowship.

At the next communion service be very aware that we are coming together to celebrate together as the Body of Christ “between a hope and a memory”:

✠ We are remembering the **past**: re-enacting what Christ did, recalling His words, remembering His actions, rethinking their meaning for us.

✠ We invest the **present** with new meaning; what was true then becomes true now. We do not ritually remember that Christians were once united with Christ; we celebrate that we are united with Him **now**.

✠ We anticipate the **future** for we “proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” We are proclaiming that our oneness with Christ will one day be fully realised in ways beyond our imagining.

*This article, written by Dr. McClure, emanated from a recent discussion at Kirk Session focusing on our need to maintain the centrality of Communion as an essential part of our congregation’s life.*

## **NEWS ON UPCOMING SERVICES**

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September 11am & 7pm Communion Services**

Everyone is warmly invited to this central expression of our identity as a congregation. After the morning service there is an opportunity to continue fellowship AND do something that shows real concern. Have a cuppa and support the work of the NI Hospice.

### **COMMUNICANTS’ GROUP**

Anyone – of any age – who might like to consider communicant membership is encouraged to contact Dr. McClure or mention to any of the staff or elders. In the autumn we arrange for such a group to meet at a convenient time on a few occasions. Participation in these few gatherings does not back anyone into a corner. The few sessions are an informal and relaxed opportunity to consider the implications of communicant membership of PCI.

### **AUTUMN TEACHING SERIES**

Over the next few months, in addition to services on special days or with a special focus, there will be two main sermon series. (see the Dates for Your Diary section for more details)

The first series (mostly in the morning services) is entitled “**Answering Big Questions (ABQ)**”. Using some key encounters with Jesus, as referenced in the Gospels, we shall hear significant answers to some of life’s biggest questions.

In the last three Sunday evenings of October and November we open up the coffee bar (Room 4) for worship and teaching in a series entitled “**Coffee Chats (CC)**”. Each evening there will be a short animated clip introducing issues important for us all. Kirk Session has been looking at ways of making our worship even more accessible to our friends and neighbours. This series is an opportunity with the very definite intention of bringing us together in worship which will provide encouragement for people of all ages.



# GUARDIANS OF ANCORA

HOLIDAY CLUB

During the time in our separate halls, it allowed the leaders to pitch the memory verse, story and quiz to the appropriate age groups, and allowed for age appropriate crafts and games to be carried out – but not before everyone got their very important juice and biscuits! Before we knew it, 12:15pm was approaching and it was time to close in prayer, get everyone organised, and return them to their waiting adults. After tidying up the halls, it was back into the coffee bar for a debrief on how the day went, before we all headed home wanting a lie down!



Take two church halls, add some well thought out decorations, a team of over 40 leaders, teenage helpers, door people and kitchen ladies, over 1000 printed worksheets and colouring sheets, eight different crafts and around 100 children and you've got the recipe for Holiday Bible Club 2016! This year's the theme was "The Guardians of Ancora," where the children became Guardians of the City of Ancora. Their job each day, was to help the Keeper of the Keys and Kal to find lost-story treasures, which helped to unlock a story looking at who Jesus was.



The week itself all ran very smoothly with the biggest "disaster" being a broken trolley which sent juice, milk and biscuits crashing to the ground. Thankfully the blessing was that the pot of scalding hot tea did not spill a single drop! Throughout the week, lots of different activities, games and crafts went on, and hopefully by

Our mornings started off with a short time of devotion (and a cuppa and a bun) for the leaders and helpers, some prayer for the day ahead and set up before the children arrived at 10am. The club itself kicked off with registration, which was made a lot easier this year with our online registration form, where 90% of children registered, making Sheila's job in the morning a lot more relaxed than what it has been in previous years.

looking at the pictures, you'll see that everyone enjoyed themselves in what they were doing.



The younger Guardians (Pre-School to P3) joined the older Guardians (P4-P7) in the Memorial Hall, where each morning, the Keeper of the Keys and Kal would go on a quest to find the lost story-treasure of the day. This time was usually interrupted by the Shiner (Ancora's top news reporter and town crier) who brought the daily headlines of Guardians progress, as well as some funnier headlines such as "BANANAS, ONIONS, JAM AND GRAVY NOW AVAILABLE IN THE GUILD DINING ROOM." During this time, the children sang praise songs, with a new one being introduced this year called "Counting on God" which had some of the leaders in a pickle with the actions! Once the quest of the day was completed, and the story-treasure was found, the younger Guardians went back to their hall.





This write-up wouldn't be complete without my list of thank you's! Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who donated biscuits and juice for week. We had plenty to keep the children going, and even some left over to donate to toddler group and the coffee bar. Of course, the juice and biscuits wouldn't have been distributed without the lovely ladies in the kitchen setting out all the cups and biscuits with

Thank you to all who brought children along this week, whether it was for a couple of days or all five. Without the children coming along we would not have had the opportunity to spread the message of the gospel to them, and would have been left with a lot of biscuits to eat!



Finally, a big thank you to all the leaders involved in the organisation of HBC, from organising the halls, to the decorations and crafts, and those leaders who were involved in working with the children during the week..... without all of you coming to work together Holiday Bible Club wouldn't have happened, and I can't express how thankful I am to each and every one of you.

the right number of cups per table, then collecting everything back in, taking it to the kitchen to be washed, dried and put away again ready for the next day! The kitchen team were a well-oiled machine all week and juice and biscuits wouldn't have run so smoothly without you all. Next, thanks must be given to Margaret Lindsay and her team in the coffee bar, who each morning prepared tea, coffee and a little treat for the leaders before devotions, as well as then running the coffee bar during the club each morning for any parents etc who wanted to stay for a while. This was particularly helpful when one day a P7 didn't want to join the group, but her and her mum were able to complete the craft and worksheet together in the comfort of the coffee bar.

Thank you as well to anyone who supported HBC in other ways, whether it was through prayer, or by any other way that I haven't mentioned, without us all coming together and playing our part, the week never would have happened.

Finally, all of this would not have been possible without the love, strength and guidance that we receive from our Father in Heaven. Without him, there would be nothing to teach the children, and without his strength and power we wouldn't have had the ability to get through the week.

**Natalie Norris.**

Thank-you also to Sheila for co-ordinating sign in each morning and Bev, Nat, Bobby and John for being welcoming faces to the parents and children at the doors as they arrived each morning, and keeping control of the link when there was a rush for the bathrooms!

**“Jesus Said ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.’”  
Matthew 22:37 (NIV).**

# 50 years of faithful service

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June 1966 12 elders were ordained in First Larne Presbyterian Church. The names of 10 of them would mean little to today's congregation, but to our senior members and the two surviving elders they are still remembered as stalwarts of our church. The twelve new elders were Thomas D. Ballantine, Donald Brown, John Burns, William Burns, Robert Clarke, Nathaniel A. Magee, John McCoubrey, George McKinley, Thomas A. McKinley, William J. Moore, Joseph O'Neill, and John Snoddy.

The two surviving elders, George McKinley and Joe O'Neill, reached their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination on exactly the same date, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2016. The congregation marked the occasion at the close of morning service with the presentation by Clerk of Session, Ken McKinley, of two suitably inscribed crystal vases, Rev. Dr. Colin McClure presiding.

Joe and George have been close friends for most of their lifetime. Both were born in the thirties, Joe in Islandmagee and George at Waterloo Road. Joe's family moved to Larne in 1939 and resided at Inver. Life in those distant years was totally different from what we know today. In their early childhood they became aware that a war was in progress and that food and confectionary were rationed.

During those early years both boys became regular in their attendance at church worship. As the years progressed their paths trod remarkably similar ways. Both became followers of the Lord Jesus at an early age and remained so throughout their journeys. It is interesting to note the similarities in their church involvement. Joe attended Larne & Inver afternoon Sabbath School and in his teenage years assisted in the teaching. George attended Olderfleet Sabbath School in the afternoon and he too assisted when a teacher was absent.

The gap closed in 1964 when the two friends came together in Olderfleet Sabbath School which by then met in the morning. Joe served as musician and teacher until 2004. George who had become Superintendent served until 1996.

Involvement in the administration of church activities commenced earlier. At the annual congregational meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1957, the two friends were appointed as committee members. Joe continued with unbroken service thereafter, becoming involved with the F.W.O. counting team.



George opted for five year stints of service first as Secretary and later two stints as Treasurer, one of which was during the building of the new complex. Both were deeply involved in fund raising for this complex. In 1975 when the congregation decided to appoint a Hearing Committee to seek a minister the two men were again selected as part of the group which led to the appointment of Rev. Lambert McAdoo.

In later years involvement with the Men's Fellowship duly followed and with Joe's expertise on the piano and the encouragement of the conductor, Maurice Adams, George sang a solo while dressed as a black and white minstrel.

In the days of Children's Church Joe was the secretary/leader for thirty years – no mean feat! George occasionally assisted as a leader in the senior group. The list is endless. Sufficient to say they have been long time servants of First Larne.

The foregoing is a brief covering of much that these two men were involved in. Not content with their efforts inside First Larne, both found ways strangely enough in the same field of activity. Joe served as a Boys Brigade Officer in the Junior Section at Gardenmore for twenty years and George did likewise in Craigyhill for thirteen years.

The friendship of these two was not limited to church activity. In their early days they played for the same local football team known as Intervale United. Later on when both were employed at Corran Works they played for the works team.

It has been a tremendous journey for both of them. To God be the glory.

## Our new elders

Whilst the rest of the country was absorbed with the "Brexit" referendum, First Larne congregation held our own election of elders. The outcome was the appointment of four new elders, (as pictured L to R) Wesley Magill, Glynis Alexander, Bobby Torbitt and Stephen Reid.



Wesley Magill grew up on the family farm at Raloo and attended Raloo Presbyterian. He came to 1<sup>st</sup> Larne after marrying Lorraine and now has a family of three. Wesley has worked in NIE all his career, presently in Contract Management. He is the Officer in Charge of the 1<sup>st</sup> Larne BB Junior Section and also involved with the BB at Battalion and NI level. His other interests include farming and motorsport. Wesley says "I look forward to carrying out my role as elder of 1<sup>st</sup> Larne".

Glynis Alexander admits to being 48 years old, being very happily married to Robin and having a wonderful daughter, Ashleigh (18). She is daughter in law of Robert and the late Kathleen Alexander. Glynis has worked for the Education Board for 29 years, presently as an Internal Auditor. She

## In Stitches



"In Stitches" began last February. The group uses craft activities to bring women together for fellowship and lots of laughing. Knitting and crochet are not the

only crafts, with some making pictures, sewing, jewellery making, and even colouring in. We have shared a few dropped stitches, and have completed a few beautiful items. Some bring their own activities with them, while others have joined in projects knitting teddies and blankets for charities,

thoroughly enjoys being a member of the choir and part of the Treasury Team. Glynis says "I would firstly like to thank all those who voted for me to be an elder and I realise the great honour associated with this position. I am looking forward to the challenge even though I'm nervous, as I can't promise I will get everything right. I am keen to serve and I will try to carry out my duties to the best of my ability."

Bobby Torbitt is a 67 year old former employee of Larne Papermill. His brother Tommy is also an elder. Now retired and loving it, Bobby says "I am very aware of the honour being given when chosen for eldership and I pray, with God's help that I will fulfil His call".

Stephen Reid has been married to Caragh for ten years and has three children - Matthew (7), Rebecca (5) and Annabelle (10 months). He worked as a teacher of languages in Belfast before moving to Larne Grammar School as Vice Principal in 2010. In the next few months he will become Principal of Larne High School. Stephen says "We have been attending First Larne for the past 3 years as a family and have really enjoyed our time in the congregation. We particularly appreciate the way our children are looked after and nurtured in the church. I am excited to become an Elder in First Larne and am really looking forward to being part of God's work in the congregation and the local community."

The ordination service for Glynis, Bobby, Stephen and Wesley will take place on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm.

and muffs for dementia care. In September we hope to include knitting toys to put under the Christmas tree for under privileged children.

If you already craft, or if you have wanted to learn a new one, we have some very experienced members who would be happy to teach and share their skills. Please come and join us on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ( and 5<sup>th</sup> ) Tuesdays of the month in Room 4 from 10.30 to 12 noon. Time flies when you are enjoying yourself, and we really enjoy our friendship, activity and fellowship on Tuesday mornings. Looking forward to having some new members with us.

**Judith Evans**

# Girl Guides – young and old .....over 18!

## The Big Gig 2016

The Senior section of Girl Guiding is celebrating its Centenary in 2016. Our members here in 3<sup>rd</sup> Larne have taken part in various activities celebrating our Centenary.

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, some of the Senior Section headed to London to attend the Big Gig 2016 at Wembley Arena. This is a concert for Girl Guiding members only, and in the past have had amazing acts on stage. Our seats were 3 rows from the front, but as you can imagine, there wasn't much sitting down. This year's amazing acts included Flur East from X Factor, Callum Scott and Jess Glynn as the headline acts. The concert was just fantastic. Eight thousand girl guides in the one place at the same time can make a lot of noise!



On Sunday we did some sightseeing and lots of shopping. In the evening we headed to China Town for our meal and to take in the sights and sound of London at night. On Monday we went to see the Changing of the Guards at Buckingham Palace. It was also a beautiful day, and so basking in the sunshine eating ice cream. Soon it was time to head back to the hotel, the airport and home. We had a great few days in London having lots of fun and laughter.

The Senior Section is open to girls aged 14 – 25, who are willing to make their Promise. 3<sup>rd</sup> Larne Senior Section meets on Friday nights in the church halls, from 7.30 to 9.30 pm. We would love some new members to come and join us. Many opportunities are open to the girls including badge work, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, peer education, International travel, and the chance to learn many new skills. The opportunities are there to grab with both hands. Above all we have fun.

## Trefoil Guild AGM



On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June, 7 members of Larne Trefoil Guild headed to the UK National Annual General Meeting and Conference in Harrogate, Yorkshire. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row that we have attended the Conference, firstly in Glasgow, then Cheltenham and Londonderry, and Brighton next year, DV. We were there to play as well as attend the meeting.

Betty's Tea shop is a really famous landmark, so our first stop on Saturday morning was a visit to Betty's for brunch, followed by a walk round the shops. The conference was an opportunity to meet up with thousands of other members, and especially our twin Trefoil Guild from Llandudno. Our evening entertainment back at the conference centre was music by local talent, which was very enjoyable.

Sunday was a day to relax and enjoy more of the local area before flying home later that evening. We went to the local park, where we were treated to an amazing 40's themed afternoon. They had craft stalls, big band music, dancing groups and American and British 40's army vehicles, and a spitfire flypast. Many people attending were dressed in 40's style costumes from uniforms to the smartest of styles. It was a brilliant afternoon's fun, enjoying the entertainment, with afternoon tea and cake and ice cream keeping us going.

The Trefoil Guild is open to anyone aged over 18 who wants to keep up an interest in Girl Guiding, and are willing to make their Promise, which links us to every other level of our organisation. Our Larne group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday night of the month. We would love you to come and join us at our meetings. We have a full programme of activity, friendship, fun and food. We look forward to having new and returning members at our first meeting of the new term on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September in room 4.

See you there,

**Judith Evans**

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Larne Guides at Snores 'n' S'mores



We are all looking forward to Guides starting back on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September @ 7.30pm after our summer break. Last year's activities included badge work, crafts, cooking and games. Trips are also a big part of our guiding year, and last year's included places such as GOH for the Christmas pantomime and We are Vertigo. We finished the year off with a fun filled trip to Lorne for our Snores 'n' S'mores weekend.

On Saturday morning the girls did archery and camp craft, which included building a fire and cooking potatoes on it, which tasted great! Saturday afternoon's activities were full of laughter and fun with team challenges and the climbing wall. After some craft, free time and dinner we all participated in camp fire songs around the glowing campfire and of course made s'mores (toasted marshmallows and chocolate biscuits). They went down really well and everyone enjoyed them!

From Friday 24<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June the girls from 3<sup>rd</sup> Larne Guides along with their leaders had the opportunity to go to the Snores 'n' S'mores weekend organised by Girl Guiding Ulster. For many of the girls involved, arriving to camp was a daunting but exciting experience, especially since some had never slept in a tent before!

Sunday morning consisted of some more activities such as grass sledging and walking up a river which meant getting rather wet but having great fun!



The weekend started with an opening ceremony which included around 150 Guides and 50 leaders dancing to songs such as YMCA and the Macarena. After their warm up, the girls had their first activity - a map reading challenge to find resources to make a group mascot. The evening finished with hot chocolate before getting settled into the tents for some sleep...if sleeping happens on a Guide weekend!

Once the girls got dried off it was time to pack up and get ready to go home. The weekend finished with a closing ceremony and the introduction of the Guides to the Chief Commissioner of Girl Guiding Ulster.

Overall the girls all had a fantastic weekend!



**Kathryn, Gillian & Heather**

# The Encouragement of God's Presence with Us

As Christians we go through life facing all the same things as everyone else. Times of happiness, whether it's through family or friends, watching or playing sport, through love but also through many other things. However, we can also face difficult times, times of hurt, betrayal, pain and loss, in which we can feel burdened with emotion, as though we have the weight of the world on our shoulders and like nobody else can understand what we are going through. The truth is that someone, somewhere, has faced what we are facing at one time or another, whether good or bad.

But one thing we all feel when something goes wrong or when we are put in a position of huge responsibility is loneliness. As Christians this is where we can be encouraged because, no matter how lonely we feel and we may think no one understands what we are going through, there is one who fully understands what we are feeling, but also who promises to be with us all the way. That one is God.

If we doubt this then we just need to look at Joshua in the bible. Joshua was in a position of huge responsibility; Moses had died and now he was left with the responsibility of leading an entire nation, talk about having the world on your shoulders! So not only had Joshua lost someone close to him he now had to lead an entire people. How did he feel? Overwhelmed like it was all too much? Well, whatever he felt and thought, God spoke to Joshua in Joshua 1:9 and said **"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with wherever you."** Yes Moses had died but God was still God, he was still present and ready to help and deliver.

There is constant assurance throughout the book of Joshua. Joshua is to be strong because God is with him. Now if you're thinking well, it was easy for Joshua because he was an important character in the bible who was to lead Israel, but what about the Christian like me? Is this promise to Joshua for me as well?

If we look in **Hebrews 13:5-6** it says, **"Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, I will never fail you nor forsake you. Hence we can confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid; what can man do to me?'"**

These verses from Hebrews show us that the promise to Joshua is applied to a Christian congregation and to you. It is also the solution to the sins of covetousness and discontent which releases us from fear in life. As our circumstances change whether for good or for bad

we can be assured that God is saying to us, 'I will be with you' or I will not forsake you.' What confidence we can have then in times of challenge!

**So what does this mean for us as we live our lives?  
How can we live out Joshua 1:9?**

Well, let us consider Joshua 1:9 again **"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with wherever you go."**

1, God first expects us as His followers to live **strong and courageous** lives. Why? Well, look at reasons in **2 Timothy 1:7**, **"for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."** Or look at the words of Jesus in **Acts 1:8** where he tells his followers, **"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."**

2, Next we are to live without fear. **Matthew 10:28** tells us **"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul."** Paul in **Philippians 1:14** also writes concerning fear, **"And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear."** We are to fear God, in a sense of respect and reverence but the scriptures are very clear that we are to live lives that are confident in God and His promises without fear.

3, We can live lives of courage and without fear because we know that God is with us wherever we go. God promises us this and Jesus also spoke in the same way in **Matthew 28:20** in the great commission. **"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."** God promises to never leave us or forsake us no matter what comes our way.

So as we face the daily walk of life as Christians we can remember the promise of Joshua 1:9 in our lives and the lives of our congregation. No matter what has got us down or has become such a challenge to us let us remember, hear and pray the promise from God, **"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with wherever you go."** God is calling us to live lives of courage, without fear and with the knowledge that He is with us always. So let us be encouraged by God's constant courage in our lives and to lean on him through all the blessings and challenges in life.

# Learning to Build a Community



The Wild Goose Resource Group is a semi-autonomous project of the Iona Community. It consists of three resource workers – John Bell, Graham Maule and Jo Love. The WGRG exists to enable and equip congregations and clergy in the shaping and creation of new forms of relevant, participative worship. The WGRG has to find a majority of its own funding. As a result, it exists on a provisional basis, only taking on events for the coming twelve months at a time. The WGRG welcomes donations and other forms of financial support (Gift Aid) towards its work.

One of these events was a weekend hosted by 1<sup>st</sup> Larne Presbyterian Church in May 2016. Graham Maule and Jo Love agreed to visit and lead a worship workshop, followed by an evening Praise Service. They also participated in the Sunday morning service. The Saturday event was very well attended, including people from other areas. Events like these, facilitated by visitors from other countries, are only successful if folk actually attend them. Those who did attend felt that they had received a blessing. Thanks is due to various people who supported the planning and Lorna and the ladies who prepared and served the food. The quality of the food was commented on by many of the participants. Rev Karen Campbell from the PCI worship committee was a speaker at the evening Praise Service and various other clergy also attended.

and I were very involved in the planning for a concert and for various services. The services took place at 9.00 am and 9.00 pm daily and were also attended by many of the people who visit the island daily.



Dr Maule extended an invitation to a week-long series of services and workshops in Iona, which took place during the last week in June 2016. Fiona Gray and Monica Crawford from Islandmagee, who have key roles in the two Presbyterian churches in Islandmagee, attended as did Frank and I. Frank did actually volunteer to go with me and supported the services and workshops very faithfully. The ladies

There were about eighty folk participating in the event, including a significant percentage from America and Denmark. Many of the people who had travelled from America had made the trip, supported by their churches, specially to attend the Iona event, which is usually sold out soon after advertisement. Most of the other participants were from England plus we four from Northern Ireland. There was also a significant percentage of ministers/pastors, some of whom were married and serving together in churches. I left my guitar at home, planning to have a rest in Iona. That is, however, not what actually took place. It was, for me, a bit like a 'busman's holiday,' as I found myself very, very busy. I had the privilege of training a choir from different countries, accompanied in various situations, sang and participated with Fiona, Monica and others in a drama in the Abbey. We three, along with Rev Charlie from America were the voices of God in the Abbey, in the drama about Ezekiel and the bones.

The aspects of the programme that focused on worship and worship leading, were incredibly rewarding, and much blessing was experienced by all. The participants are keeping in touch and some are reflecting on the possibility of church exchanges.

However, this was not all that the event was about. It was essentially about building a community. We were living in the Abbey accommodation and had all of the experiences and chores that people would have had in bygone years. We were delegated tasks, to support the staff and volunteers who run the Abbey. These included preparation of early breakfasts prior to the first service of the day, and then washing dishes and clearing up, while others began preparation for lunch or did the rounds of cleaning the toilets and showers. (Monica was on 'toast', Fiona on 'toilet /shower' duty, and Frank washed many dishes every morning). I also could be seen doing a few duties, such as setting tables and washing all the breakfast cutlery with Monica. The eating arrangements were interesting, with a server at one end of a large table and someone to clear at the other end. People were encouraged to stay in their seats while plates etc. were passed along, rather as I remember school dinners at Larne Grammar School in the 1960s. Giving thanks for the food was the norm. This forging of community was at once difficult and amazing. It is not easy to guard one's own space within a community, but weighed in the balance, it was a very rewarding and worthwhile experience.



For me, a highlight was a trip to Staffa to meet with the puffins. It is a boat trip of about an hour and it is a very rocky journey, followed by a steep climb up to where the puffins fly in to feed their young. The young are sheltered in burrows in the ground. The adult birds fly in with wriggly eel type things hanging from their beaks and slip into the burrows to provide the food. Apparently no one ever sees the puffin chicks, known as pufflings, who take their first flight in the dead of night. The pufflings stay at sea for a number of years. Not everyone sees the puffins either, as they are not always there. We were fortunate. They come right up to humans, a little like puppies. It is said that they intuitively realise that humans are their friends, and will protect them from the gulls.

It was an intense and wonderful week, not quite a retreat, not quite a conference, not quite a holiday, but some strange mixture of all of these and all for God's glory.

**Sylvia Gourley**

## Mountain Ministry

In some very un-June like weather we walked from Ballycastle to Fair Head. Joining the regulars for the first time was Zach Carmichael who, despite temporarily losing a shoe to a squelchy bit early on in the walk, was leading the group enthusiastically on the return journey. On the journey to Ballycastle, over the hill past the vanishing lake we could barely see 30 yards ahead, but the wind and the sun gradually lifted the mist. Although not quite clearing the top of Fair Head, the clouds provided a meaningful background to David's reading from Exodus Ch. 19 of the Israelites at Mount Sinai, and the presence of God in the cloud. Thankfully the walkers did not experience the thunder, lightning and earthquake also mentioned!



In July we tackled four peaks in the Mourne, Loughshannagh, Meelbeg, Meelmore and Bearnagh returning along the Brandy Pad with that tired but satisfied feeling of a really good day out in God's wonderful creation. As we go to print further walks are planned – keep an eye on the Order of Service and join us.

# Irish Presbyterians & the First World War

Many of the stories of those who served during WW1 are intertwined into the history of our congregations, with their names engraved on memorials on the walls of our church buildings.

When war was declared in August many thought it would be over by Christmas. Little did they know that millions would die over the next 4 years in one of the deadliest conflicts in history. For many people, the Battle of the Somme above all symbolised the horrors of warfare. The memory of the Somme is dominated by one moment: 7.30am, or zero hour, on 1st July 1916. It was a bright summer's day, the sun well up, when the officers sounded their whistles, and their men scrambled up ladders to get out of the trenches and into No Man's Land.



**'At dawn the Padre had read to them: Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day...A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.'** (Psalm 91:5&7)

The 36th (Ulster) Division was tasked with taking a German fortification called the Schwaben Redoubt. They were among the few units to reach their objective, but reinforcements despatched into the carnage of no man's land never reached them, and eventually, isolated and surrounded, they were forced to withdraw. The 36th (Ulster) Division was relieved on 2<sup>nd</sup> July having suffered over 5,000 casualties - 2,069 of whom were killed. Of the 9 Victoria Crosses awarded on that day, 3 went to the Ulster Division, 2 posthumously, one being to Pte. William McFadzean, a Presbyterian, who on the night before the Somme attack, died, as he threw himself on a box of live grenades saving others.



Presbyterians served with distinction and gallantry from the manse, farms, villages, towns and cities across Ireland. Their names were recorded soon after the war by the Presbyterian Historical Society in a book **'The Presbyterian Church in Ireland Roll of Honour, 1914-1919'**. This carefully researched roll contains around 24,000 names but it is incomplete with an estimated 2,000 names missing. The book also contains a Manse Roll of Honour of Ministers and the sons and daughters of Ministers who served.

The PCI gave spiritual leadership to those who served through the ministry of its Chaplains led by **Right Rev. Major-General Dr. John M. Simms**. Some 41 Ministers of the Presbyterian Church served as Commissioned Army Chaplains, many of whose service was acknowledged with awards for bravery, including the Rev. James Gilbert Paton, who was awarded the Military Cross with two bars. A good number of Ministers also served with the YMCA and within the ranks of the Army. Some made the ultimate sacrifice. Rev. Alexander Stuart of Bessbrook died as a Chaplain two weeks after arriving at the front. Rev. William Wilson of Coleraine, serving with the YMCA died in a motor accident in France. Rev. James Rentoul of Rostrevor died from shell fire in France serving as a private soldier with the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). Dr. Neil Gavin was a PCI medical missionary in India who died serving with the RAMC at the Front.

After the war ended, PCI reports recognised 'after the war problems', such as integrating enlisted men back into society and church, unemployment, alcohol abuse and demands on the funds of the Orphan Society were increased. Post-Traumatic Stress was not a diagnosis back then but the symptoms were being identified and discussed by the PCI.

In a practical way of helping the 'post-war' situation it was decided to erect as a memorial to those who had fallen, The Presbyterian War Memorial Hostel, at the corner of Howard Street and Brunswick Street which was completed in 1925. Its purpose was 'to provide a Memorial to perpetuate the memory of the deeds and sacrifices of the sons and daughters of the Church in the cause of truth and freedom in the Great European War 1914-1918' and provided accommodation for young people at work or attending university. This tradition is still continued by our Church through Derryvolgie Halls of Residence at Queen's University.

Reflections on the Great War and the peace that prevailed for a time afterward were written about in the newsletter of the Central Presbyterian Association.

## In Memoriam - OUR FALLEN HEROES.

Remember what they were, with thankful heart, The bright, the brave, the tender, and the true. Remember where they are -- from sin apart, Present with God -- yet not estranged from you. But never doubt that love, and love alone, removed our loved ones from this trial scene: Nor idly dream, since they to God have gone, Of what, had they been left, they might have been. (May 17)

While the bloom of the poppy fades away, our remembering of the events one hundred years ago must never die away. Remembrance is an essential element of the human experience and remembrance is at the heart of the Christian faith. We remember the greatest sacrifice of all, as the Lord Jesus Christ hung on the cross at Calvary, dying that we might live.

## Tracing the family history through First Larne.....



One of First Larne's most famous minister's was John Lyle Donaghy who served our congregation for over 51 years between 1887 and 1938. One of his sons, Kenneth, also became a minister.

Rev. John Lyle Donaghy's grand daughter, Lesley Thornley, daughter of Kenneth, and her husband Jack, visited First Larne on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May during a holiday from their home in Scotland during which Mrs Thornley was tracing her family history. We were glad to help and the couple are pictured here beside the memorial plaque to her grandfather.

**"...give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that do not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys"**

**Luke 12 v 33**

We have received this letter of thanks from Alan Turner of Larne Foodbank

Dear Rev McClure

THANK YOU



2015/16 has been a busy year for Larne Foodbank. 458 vouchers were fulfilled. 620 adults and 236 children, a total of 856 people received three days of food. This is an increase in the total recipients of 53% on the previous year. We could not have done it without you.

In total we received 11.34 tonnes of food with 73% of that coming from the congregations of the various churches. First Larne donated 1187.35kg of food. Please pass on our grateful thanks to all in your congregation who supported Larne Foodbank

Rev. J. E. Adams wrote a short book war entitled 'The Chaplain and the War' where he wrote this:

*'Many have to face death daily. Many die daily...They stand on the edge of the battlefield with bowed uncovered head whilst the chaplain prays, and go into battle with Psalms like the 23rd, 93rd, 103rd, and the 121st thrilling them. Their fortitude is fed on the faith they have in God the Father, Jesus Christ the Saviour, the Spirit of Christ in self-sacrifice, and the assurance of the life everlasting? What more need be said?'*

This article is a precis of a publication written by Rev. Dr Victor Dobbin, a PCI minister and retired Chaplain General of the British Army, and published by the PCI Chaplains's Committee.

throughout the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015-31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. Their generosity has been a blessing to so many in our community.

Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers.

Alan Turner  
Larne Foodbank Co-ordinator

This year's Christian Aid week raised £10,275.60, Thank you to everyone who contributed to this fundraising which is so vital in helping our

neighbours all over the world. Special thanks to everyone who helped with door to door collections, the sponsored walk and the counting.





The very first Hospice Nurse started work in 1983, providing care to patients in their own homes. In 1985 Somerton House opened with a six bedded unit before a further 11 were added in the years that followed. On 25th May 2016, we opened a new state-of-the-art 18 bedroom Hospice providing world-class palliative care for people when they need it most. The new dementia-friendly Hospice is a welcoming environment, equipped with modern facilities required to care for people with a range of illnesses.

Hospice care is much more than pain and symptom control but also pays attention to the individual and helps them in a way appropriate to them. We provide over 90% of our care to patients, children and young people and their families in their own home through the work of our community teams. Our philosophy of caring remains true to the original vision of the founder of the modern hospice movement, the late Dame Cicely Saunders, who reminded us that:

**“You matter because of who you are. You matter to the last moment of your life, and we will do all we can, not only to help you die peacefully, but also to live until you die.”**



At Hospice, we see the patient and their family as one unit of care. We see the patient first and their illness second. We offer care and support to the whole family - because caring is at the heart of everything we do.

To run the Northern Ireland Adult Hospice services costs around £6 million per year. Less than 50% of this is funded by the government, therefore we need your on-going support to help us continue to deliver care to patients and families. You can, by making a donation, big or small. Organise a fundraising event, ask your friends, your company, schools or churches to help run our Hospice and support our Nursing work in the community. For more details please contact us at [fundraising@nihospice.org](mailto:fundraising@nihospice.org) or speak to us at 028 9078 1836.

The Annual Hospice Coffee Morning in conjunction with Bewley's Coffee will place on Thursday 22nd September 2016! Host your own coffee morning anytime that is convenient to you from now until Christmas and collect £2 per cup of coffee served. We'll send you everything that you will need, from fundraising materials to a complimentary supply of Bailies Coffee! Just call a member of our fundraising team on 028 90777123 or email [fundraising@nihospice.org](mailto:fundraising@nihospice.org)

Funds raised from this year's appeal will help support the work of local Hospice Community Nurses as they care for local people diagnosed with cancer and other life-limiting conditions in your community.

Thank you to everyone helped or attended coffee mornings in 1st Larne Presbyterian. To date you have raised a massive £1,949.10 and we hope this year again you will raise a cup for us!



A homemade chicken pie has to be the ultimate in comfort foods. It conjures up images of coming home after being away for a long time, sitting round the table and everyone happily chatting and tucking in - heaven! I often wonder if these special times are little glimpses of what heaven will be like? Here is my favourite chicken pie recipe for you to try.

### Chicken, leek and mushroom pie

Serves 4

3 chicken breast fillets, cut into bite size pieces  
1 medium leek, sliced  
100g smoked bacon rashers or lardons  
6 mushrooms, quartered  
Sprig of thyme, leaves picked  
¼ pint chicken stock  
1 tbspcorn flour  
2 tbsps low fat crème fraîche  
Salt and pepper to season  
Drizzle of olive oil  
250g puff pastry

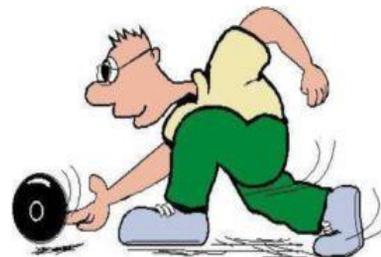


1. Fry the chicken with the bacon in a little drizzle of olive oil over a medium heat until starting to brown and then add the leek, mushrooms and thyme and cook for another 5 minutes. Add the chicken stock.
2. In a separate bowl mix the corn flour with a little water until all of the corn flour has dissolved, then add this to the chicken mixture in the pan
3. Once the sauce has begun to thicken take off the heat and add the crème fraîche
4. Place the filling into a pie dish
5. Prepare the pastry lid: Lightly flour the work surface and roll out the pastry approximately 0.5cm thick then lay the pastry over the pie filling, crimp the edges with your fingers and thumb or a fork and cut off any excess pastry. Poke a small hole in the centre of the lid to let the steam escape. Brush the pastry with a beaten egg mixed with a splash of milk and bake in a pre-heated oven at 200c for approximately 25 mins, or until pastry is golden.

## 1st Larne Indoor Bowling Club

Whilst the summer months see outdoor sporting activities in full swing First Larne Indoor Bowling club turn their thoughts towards the October start of the winter indoor bowling season.

The Club has just taken possession of two new Wygreen indoor bowling mats and two new free standing scoreboards, thanks to a 75% grant awarded by the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council. The new mats will make the playing surface more predictable and as a result more enjoyable to play on. In order to make best use of our resources in the community, the Club donated their spare bowling mat to Larne High School and has also offered to provide some coaching if required.



We return from our summer break on Wednesday 07 September at 7.30pm in the sports hall. All new members will be made most welcome.

# CHURCH REGISTER

## BAPTISMS

Grace Lily Adams	74 Bay Road Manor BT40 1FG	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2016
Chloe May McNally	19 Cumbrae Heights BT40 2HQ	29 <sup>th</sup> May 2016
Daniel John Ferrer McIlroy,	Ely House, Stockfields Place, Stokenchurch, High Wycombe	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2016

## MARRIAGES

Christopher Connor & Amy Anthony		10 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
Samuel Herbert Morrow & Lindsey Jayne McConnell		28 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
Ian Richard Thomson & Patricia Anne Kirby		3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2016
Aisling Ann Forsythe & Andrew James Toogood		19 <sup>th</sup> August 2016

## DEATHS

Norman Johnston	34 Newington Avenue	27 <sup>th</sup> May 2016
Kathleen Alexander	299 Old Glenarm Road	5 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
William Brown	4 Glenburn Road, Glynn	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
William Crone Meek	32 Sallagh Park North	27 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
Irene Tennant	Gillaroo Lodge PNH	11 <sup>th</sup> August 2016

## Organisation start dates

Tue. 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Girls' Brigade	Fri. 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Girl Guides
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> September	Indoor Bowls	Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Trefoil Guild
Tue. 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Junior BB/Anchor Boys	Thu 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Presbyterian Women
Wed. 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Toddler Group	Tue. 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Women's Circle

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### September Services

Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> am	"Jesus Knows"
pm	"So that was the summer! What now?"
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> am & pm	COMMUNION
am	ABQ1: Is Jesus still from Nazareth?
pm	ABQ2: Did Jesus get thirsty?
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> am	ABQ3: Does Jesus know you?
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> am	Back to School Sunday 2016: "Home, Hand and Hearts"
pm	Ordination for our new elders

### October Services

Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> am	ABQ4: Does Jesus really want us to smile?
pm	SONGS OF PRAISE! – Praise led by First Larne Old Boys Silver Band "God's Heart" – a brief introduction to this year's small group focus
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> am & pm	Harvest Services
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> am	ABQ5: Is it true?
pm	CC1: Wake up and smell the coffee
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> am	ABQ6: How does God speak to me?
pm	CC2: God loves you no matter what
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> am	ALL-IN SERVICE
pm	CC3: Jesus – more than a swear word

### November Services

Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> am	ABQ7: Will Jesus give up on me?
pm	God's Nations: the second insight into the small group focus
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> 11.30am	Larne's Civic Service of Remembrance
	ABQ8: Is Christianity a fighting religion?
pm	CC4: Call yourself a Christian
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> am	Girls' Brigade Enrolment
pm	CC5: Isn't the Bible boring
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> am	Bible Sunday 2016
pm	CC6: You don't go to Church!

### OTHER EVENTS

Thu 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	7.30pm Kirk Session
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct.	7.30pm Congregational Committee
Tue 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	7.30pm Presbytery meeting in Gardenmore
Tue 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	7.30pm Presbytery Communion Service in 2 <sup>nd</sup> Islandmagee (open to all)
Tue 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov.	7.30pm Presbytery meeting in Gardenmore
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	7pm Craigy Hill's 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary with guest preacher, the Rt. Rev. Frank Sellar (Moderator of the General Assembly)

**KEY to Services:** ABQ = Answering Big Questions  
CC = Coffee Chats

# Weddings, Anniversaries.....



Karen McKinley, daughter of Ken and Jacqui married Thomas Spowart in our sister church, the Church of Scotland in Pitlochry on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

Jim and Frankie Dobbin celebrated their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on 25<sup>th</sup> July. This photo was taken at their wedding conducted in the old Bridge church by Rev. McGeagh



## And Baptisms

“Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me” Mark 9 v 37



Chloe May McNally was baptised on 29<sup>th</sup> May and is pictured here with mum and dad Barbara and Richard.



Grace Lily Adams, daughter of Eddie and Karen was baptised on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Also in the photo is big brother, Charlie.



Daniel McIlroy with his father, James after Daniel's baptism on 31<sup>st</sup> July. They were on a special visit from England where James has been working for several years.

### AND FINALLY

The Sunday School teacher was describing that scene from Genesis 19 when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom and Gomorrah as they were destroyed, and was turned into a pillar of salt.

Wee Bobby eagerly interrupted with his own story.....

"My mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole".

Editor's note : You might have noticed this Bridge News has been a bumper edition – many, many thanks to all our contributors without whom it just wouldn't work.