

First Larne Presbyterian Church The Bridge News



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



A new car for the
Toddler's



The big breakfast haircut



Thank you Eileen

"For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what is His thought, who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth— the LORD, the God of hosts, is His name!"

Amos 4 v 13



**Summer Edition
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COLIN'S COLUMN

The Servant Queen and the King she serves

Later this year the election of the 45th President of the United States will be confirmed. Just over fifty-five years ago the incumbent against all others have been judged by since gave his inaugural address. In front of the Capitol building John Fitzgerald Kennedy delivered one of the shortest such speeches that concluded with the memorable call to service: "And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country..."

I wonder if, almost 3000 miles across the Atlantic, that speech was heard by the lady who by then had been crowned our Queen for eight years, and is now celebrating her 90th birthday, after over sixty-seven years of royal duties. In the wide-ranging tributes paid to the Queen the constant theme is acknowledgement of her service. Even convinced republicans such as Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour leader, cite her remarkable example of selfless service.



From the commencement of her reign the Queen has pledged her life to serve. Her Coronation vows may have been the formal expression but in her 21st birthday radio broadcast she took the opportunity to personalise the pledge:

"I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.

But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given.

God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it."

It seems clear that this sense of duty was imbibed from her parents, King George VI and the then Queen Elizabeth. Their sudden elevation to such a high profile royal role came after the trauma of the abdication crisis. The intense challenges that brought to the Queen's parents have been so vividly portrayed in the film, *The King's Speech*. The film focuses on the personal struggles of a stammering King charged with making a morale-boosting speech to a nation and Commonwealth on the outbreak of war.

However, King George was to make another speech just a few months later, on Christmas Day, which would have an even greater significance than the previous broadcast. At that time Princess Elizabeth was 13 years old, living with her parents in Buckingham Palace. Sometime before he was to give the Christmas address Elizabeth gave her father a copy of a poem she thought might be helpful to him. Written by Minnie Louise Haskins, at the time of broadcast in the King's Christmas message, this poem stirred and strengthened the hearts of millions and has become engrained in our national identity. It is only in very recent times that I discovered the Queen's part in bringing this to prominence.

***I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'***

And he replied,

'Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.'

Coming from such a young girl this surely indicates what has become so apparent in the years of service that followed. Here was a woman for whom faith was foundational, not merely a formality.

A single diamond in one of her royal sceptres used at the Coronation is estimated to be worth £400 million, but at a sacred moment in the Coronation service the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, the

Rt. Rev. Dr. James Pitt-Watson from Glasgow, presented her with a book described in the service as “the most valuable thing this world affords.” It was the Bible.

Whatever else will be written and said about this remarkable woman there can be no doubt that her faith runs deep. Indeed, whilst many commentators have noted the depth of her trust in God few have explored it. Even though she gives many formal speeches, which have undoubtedly been carefully scripted for her, there are moments when she is truly speaking for herself. In 2002 she said: *“I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad.... I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel.”*

It is however in her Christmas broadcasts that she has become much more explicit in expressing her faith. For instance, in 2008 she said: *“I hope that, like me, you will be comforted by the example of Jesus of Nazareth who, often in circumstances of great adversity, managed to live an outgoing, unselfish and sacrificial life.”*

More recently, in 2014, she could hardly have been clearer: *“For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life.”*

The Queen’s consistency in service and faith so clearly demonstrates her understanding of what lies at the very heart of Jesus’ life and message.

How easy it is to miss the point of Jesus’ life and message!

Rick Warren, who has written extensively on how we function as Christians and as Church in the present era, challenges us about how we live lives of service: *“Thousands of books have been written on leadership, but few on servanthood. Everyone wants to lead; no one wants to be a servant. We would rather be generals than privates. Even Christians want to be ‘servant-leaders’, not just plain servants. But to be like Jesus is to be a servant. That’s what He called Himself.”*

For me the Biblical character who so often misses the point is also one of my heroes – Peter. Peter consistently gets top marks for missing the point! Consequently we can be quick to judge Peter, even though we may be more like Peter than we recognise. However, take note how Jesus responds to Peter’s blunders and the other disciples’ shortcomings.

Where we like to put ourselves first, Jesus stoops to serve and wash our feet. Where we like to favour power and money, Jesus favours weakness and suffering. Where we look for what we can gain, Jesus looks for what He can sacrifice.

At this time when we are celebrating the Queen’s 90th birthday, and her service and faith, let us commit to relearning humility in serving, no matter what our role in this congregation, recognising that it is vital for unity and flourishing AND for Christ to be honoured.

Colin D. McClure

“The Servant Queen and the King she serves” – a specially commissioned book with a foreword by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will be available at a civic and community Service of Thanksgiving on **Sunday 12th June at 7pm** in First Larne with guest preacher the Rev. Dr. Gordon Gray. Special guests will include Her Majesty’s Lord Lieutenant for Co. Antrim, representatives of emergency services, voluntary and service agencies, youth and community organisations, as well as those who share this birthday year with Her Majesty.

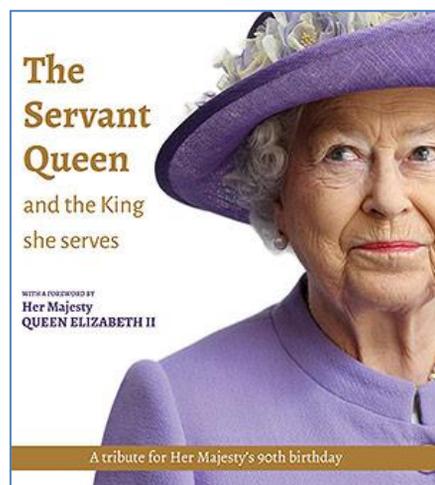
A choir formed from local churches will lead the praise.

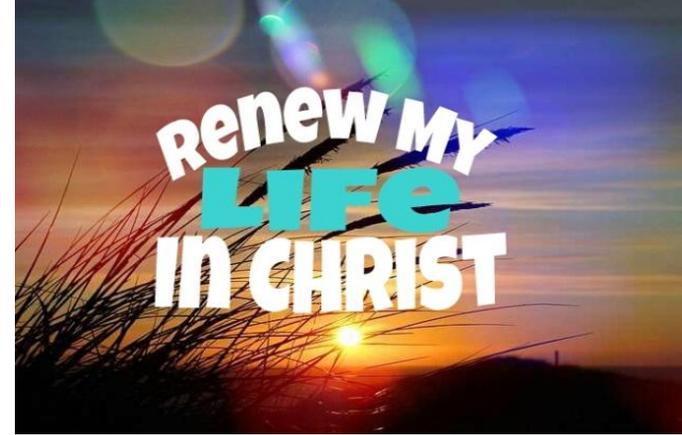
Refreshments will be served following the service.

There will also be a “Come and Sing” performance of Handel’s “Zadok the Priest” – a Coronation anthem used in each such ceremony since that of King George II in 1727.

It is sung during the anointing of the Sovereign – a moment considered so sacred as not to be broadcast during the live television coverage in 1953.

We are forming a community choir especially for the occasion – directed by one of Northern Ireland’s leading conductors and choral directors, Mr. Nigel McClintock.





Renew My LIFE IN CHRIST

In our modern world today we are always running around trying to get everything done, always out of breath with high stress levels and overwhelming pressures, there just never seems like enough time to get everything done. With such busy lifestyles we need to find that time of renewal to take a break and stop and take a rest so that we are strengthened mentally and physically to enable us to keep going. Isaiah 40:30-31 gives us a great source of renewal.

30, "Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; 31 but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint"

Isaiah here tells us very clearly that there is a limit to our human strength, there are only so many hours we can put in before we burn out, and after all we are not robots. Compared to the constant demands we face in life we are no match. So what do we do? Well, aside from managing our time better there is a power that is beyond us that we can experience in our daily lives what is this power? Verse 31 explains more.

31 "but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint".

'Isaiah is not merely saying, "God enables those who draw strength from his promise." He is saying, "God enables those who draw strength from his promise to do the impossible." The weak soar like eagles and run without tiring and walk without quitting. Their confidence in God will not let them lie down and give up. It's not a matter of willpower but of expectancy.' (Kent Hughes)

You see some weeks we face challenges that are just too much for us we feel that they are impossible for us to get through and overcome due to exhaustion, health problems or financial issues. Isaiah tells us that when we draw on the power of God by faith that He enables us to do the impossible, what a promise!

What is the key to all this? Well, the beginning of verse 31 tells us "but they who **WAIT**". What does this mean? It means to wait for the Lord in our daily lives with confidence, and be eager for him to respond.

'Waiting is what faith does before God's answer shows up' (Kent Hughes)

The big question for us is are we willing to wait on God's answer? Because in a world where everything moves at such a fast pace we don't like having to wait. But if your heart thinks He is worth the wait then you will.

There are so many options out there which offer great promises by a quick fix but as Christians we don't need quick fixes because we have a God who has provided us with an eternal fix through his Son Jesus. What we need instead is to have a clearer view of God in our lives to know his love, blessing and strength and for us to have a stronger passion for his glory.

So ask yourself the question do you believe that God can take you in your weakness and make you a champion? He can.

Also ask yourself where does your heart and passion lie in the false glory of this world or the coming glory of the Lord? The Apostle Paul wrote,

7 "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing." (2 Timothy 4:7-8)

You see Paul drew near to God by faith and waited on him, his heart was on the coming glory of Christ and so he was given the strength to endure to finish the race and overcome the challenges he faced on this earth through the power of God.

Yes we all might be weak in some way. We aren't all meant to be superheroes despite how much we see them on our television screens now. God calls us to believe in Him, to trust and wait on Him and set our hearts on His kingdom and coming glory. If we do that then that longing for God will provide the way to His almighty power that will lift us in our weakness and renew us giving us the strength to face each day until we like Paul can say in joy I have finished the race. So come to God, wait on Him and receive His power of renewal.

David Kelly

Promiseland News

It's hard to believe that it's that time of year again when we're in the process of getting Holiday Bible Club organised. This year's theme is "Guardians of Ancora," where each day the Guardians (the children) have to find a lost story-treasure and return it to the Hall of Memory in the city of Ancora and explore what the story represents.

However, the club isn't just for children developing in their faith, but it is also for the adults and young helpers to grow and develop in their own faith and service.

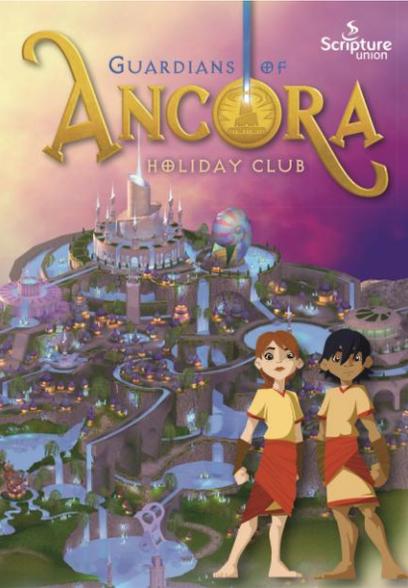
"Guardians of Ancora" will begin on **Sunday 31st July at 11am**, when it will be introduced during the morning service. It will then run from **Monday 1st August – Friday 5th August from 10 -12:15**, before concluding on with a special service on **Sunday 7th August at 11am**.

To help us with registration on the first morning, there will be a pre-registration night on **Monday 25th July at 6-7:30pm**, a box for registration forms in the church vestibule on Sunday 31st July, or completed forms can be left into the church office from Monday 25th July. Of course, registration forms can also be completed on the child(ren)'s first day at the club.

We are very grateful and thankful for all the help we receive during the organisation process and during the week itself, and if you feel you can/want to help in anyway, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself as we will gladly welcome anyone who can help us out in any way.

We look forward to another successful year at Holiday Bible Club and I leave you all with a prayer request for all of us involved in some way with "Guardians of Ancora."

Natalie Norris



Scripture Union have said this about the aims of this year's programme :

"Through 7 stories from the New Testament the Guardians of Ancora programme looks at who Jesus is. It reveals that God had a plan in sending Jesus to earth – to restore humanity to a relationship with him. It builds, day on day, helping children form an overview of the things that Jesus did and demonstrating the power of faith in Christ. It gives children the option to consider their own relationship with God and how this might impact their lives. Children are invited to consider the stories they hear about Jesus as treasure – stories that are of immense value and importance. As they seek the treasure of these stories, they will be encouraged to seek and find their own place in God's big, ongoing, forever story."

Future Promiseland Events



All of Promiseland will be going to the Larne Omniplex on Saturday 18th June. Further details will be passed on through Promiseland, but if you require any information please contact Natalie.

On Sunday 19th June, there will be a **Promiseland breakfast** in the church from 10-10:45 am



This year's **Children's Service** will take place on 26th June @ 11am where the children of Promiseland and Bible Class will be leading the service, teaching everyone about God's Promises. There will be a rehearsal for this on Saturday 25th June from 10-11am.

Toddler's Group

Toddler group continues to see babies and toddlers along with their "big person" come along every Wednesday morning from 10-12. Just before Easter, we had the great excitement where we had the grand unveiling of a brand new little tyke's car. Many of the children loved having a new toy to play with and it has been a welcome addition to our collection of ride-on toys.



On Wednesday 13th April we had a small excursion out to Larne and Inver Primary School who had invited us along to a "Come and Play" event. This was enjoyed by all who attended, especially the children who enjoyed having different toys and even a sand box to play with! The children were treated to their usual toast, fruit and juice, and the adults were also treated with our usual tea/coffee and lovely tray

bakes. To end the session, the school had organised for "Jo Jingles" to come along and entertain the children for the last half hour, and despite some unsure looks at the beginning, in the end all the children were happily joining in the singing and playing the different instruments.

At the time of writing, Toddler Group is happening as normal, with a slight move in location to the Memorial Hall during the exam season, and we are looking forward to welcoming "Jo Jingles" back again at the beginning of June to finish off our year.

Although we finish at the beginning of June, we'll be back again in September, and we're already looking forward to meeting new faces and welcoming back returning faces, as well as missing those who leave us to start attending nursery school.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you: to all who help out at Toddler Group, Janet, who looks after the craft table, Bertie, who comes in early and helps to set out the toys and pack them away again with his system, to Marbeth and Sarah, who make sure all the food and juice is purchased each week for the children and adults, to all the ladies who help out when they can in the kitchen, preparing the food and to anyone who has been praying for us throughout the year - without you all, Toddler Group wouldn't run as it does.

Natalie

The Lord's Prayer – Promiseland version

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

AMEN

We are God's children. God you are holy.

Let there not be sin on earth, let people come to God.

Give us what we really need every day.

Forgive us our sins and help us to forgive others.

Help us not to want to get even and not to do bad things to others.

The Kingdom, the power and the glory are God's. Forever – no end.

LET THIS BE SO

We held our 38th Annual Display on Tuesday 19th April in the Memorial Hall with 73 girls, 8 helpers, 4 Sub-Officers and 9 Officers on the floor.

We had a varied and enjoyable programme with our wee Ladybirds and Explorers turning into little jellybeans and using this theme with marching, playing the Jellybean game and explaining God's Love through jellybean colours. Our Junior and Senior sections performed a 'Dance Off' with a routine choreographed by 2 of the Senior girls, and our Brigaders turned into Modern Country Girlz for the evening with a twist on a line dance which they had learnt and performed.

The Duke of Edinburgh team have been busy again this year, with 5 girls being awarded their silver award and 2 former members' badges being processed at present and we presented the same 5 Brigaders with their Brigader Brooches.

This year, we attended as many District events as possible. We attended the District Parade in Carrickfergus, the swimming gala with great results from our girls, and also took part in Junior Duster Hockey and the Scripture Table Quiz. Although we didn't win these, we had great fun taking part. In January, we entered another couple of competitions set by GBNI. The first was for Explorers who had to design and decorate a cardboard hand which was to demonstrate Friendship in GB. The best are hung up in the Children's Hospital outside the new MRI scanner. The second competition was for the Seniors who had to make a story board about "Being a GB girl in a modern world". We were very impressed with their ideas and enthusiasm and both Explorers and Seniors received a certificate back from HQ for their entries.

Any girls who are 3 years and above on 1st July 2016 are very welcome to come and join with us on a Tuesday evening. We would also welcome any new helpers..... please come and speak to me as soon as possible so that all paperwork can be completed prior to us starting back in September.

The aim of the Girls' Brigade is to help girls become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ and through self-control, reverence and a sense of responsibility to find true enrichment of life. We pray that our girls will continue to achieve the best through Girls' Brigade and will Seek, Serve and Follow Christ in their lives.



THE BOYS' BRIGADE

> the adventure begins here



The Company started back in September with a shared pizza and games night with The Girl Guides. Our numbers have decreased a little but this is in common with numbers in general and our Company Section still remains strong within the Battalion. During September our Captain, Billy Swann, stepped down from his role and William Hollinger transferred to his new church in Raloo, so a little rebuilding was required.

During the months of October - February the bible class got into full swing following the Christian Education programme "Jesus is better than" set out by BBNI. I would like to thank Rev McClure, Rev Forde, Rev Stevenson and assistant David Kelly for all their support in the build up to the exam.

A joint BB/GB & Girl Guides group successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expeditions in early June & August. In September, an all BB group of 5 boys successfully completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition. Due to personnel reasons no Gold Expeditions were completed but this will be rectified in July 2016. Many thanks to Kathryn Swann, Heather Murray, Linzie Magill, Philip Ross and Florence Bones for all their support.

Our Parents Night was held on 14th March with our Chaplain, Rev McClure, David Kelly and Lauren Bittles as our special guests. Three boys were presented with their Queen's badges and a further six were awarded the President's badge.



May I take this opportunity to thank all officers, Billy, Andrew, Jeff, David and Joseph, and helpers, Matthew, Jack & Alex, for all their support throughout the year. I would like to wish all those helpers who are heading to University every success in the future.

Finally, a big thank you to the parents who have supported us during this session. And very special congratulations from all the Company Section to Andrew & Claire on the birth of their son Daniel on Friday 11th March. We wish them every happiness.

Greg Lorimer, Officer in Charge



Queens Badge awards (L to R)
Alex McVeigh, Matthew McGarel
and Jack Campbell



Presidents Badge awards (L to R)
Jamie Ross, Mark Bissett, Luke McKay, Craig
Brown, Aaron McVeigh & Robert Boyle

Duke of Edinburgh Awards



Duke of Ed Bronze:- Jamie Ross, Mark Bissett, Luke McKay, Craig Brown & Adam Henry



Duke of Ed Silver:- Toshko Bletsov, David Stewart, Robert Boyle & Morgan Wharry

THE BIG BREAKFAST HAIRCUT

Many of our congregation will be aware that Gregory Murray, brother of Neill Murray, died of cancer in March. One of Gregory's last wishes was that Neill would raise £1000 for Friends of the Cancer Centre by getting his long, flowing locks of hair chopped. Gregory had been looked after very well by staff in Ward 3B of the Cancer Centre at Belfast City Hospital.

It was suggested that the haircut could happen some evening at Men's Fellowship, but after discussion someone had the idea of having a fundraising breakfast where everyone could see the job done! Hairdresser Marianne Allen kindly offered to ensure that the finished job would look respectable, and Lorna Swann organised a team of helpers to cook the food and serve everyone. To boost the fundraising total further, Heather decided to have her hair cut as well.

So on Saturday 9th April 2016 at 9:30am over 80 people arrived for a rather tasty Ulster Fry and to witness a Samson-esque loss of hair!

On the day breakfast-eaters contributed **£867** plus Gift Aid of more than **£190**. Before and after the event many people donated via a page set up on the JustGiving website, with the total raised online standing at **£2320** plus **£416.25** Gift Aid by the end of April.

In addition to this, during Holy Week the church had had a series of lunchtime reflections and after each of these members of the congregation enjoyed a delicious soup lunch. Donations from this week

raised a further **£200**, giving a total raised (including Gift Aid) of **£4000** for Friends of the Cancer Centre.

Neill and Kathleen would like to thank all those who donated so generously or who helped in any way. They also especially thank Marianne Allen and Lorna Swann without whom the breakfast event would have not been so successful.

Before.....



And after.....



Sandy Lindsay and Neill Murray

Iona Wild Goose Resource Group

visit First Larne



Well-known writer of praise songs, Graham Maule, and co-worker at the Iona Community Jo Love visited First Larne on Saturday 7th May for a fascinating worship and singing workshop. Graham and Jo encouraged more than 70 participants at the workshop to raise their voices and try a wide range of vocal tasks which weren't difficult but were very enjoyable.

In the evening praise service they helped more than 80 people to raise their praise to new levels with their innovative approach and thought provoking material.

Both Graham and Jo were involved in the service on Sunday morning which allowed a much larger number of people to participate in their style of worship. Opposite is the children's story told by Jo on Sunday – a simple story with a simple truth.

First Larne is very grateful to Graham and Jo for coming to work with us during the weekend and showing us ways to enhance our praise. Thanks also go to our Musical Director, Sylvia Gourley, who put so much time and effort into arranging this event.



Wee Hughies' Tears

Mr McKay was a teacher in a small country school. One day he asked the children to bring into school something from their home that was very precious. One child thought "I'll bring my mum's gold ear-rings", another "I'll ask Auntie if I can bring her diamond brooch that she always wears to church" and another "I'll bring granda's gold pocket watch that he showed me". But one wee boy called Hughie didn't know what to bring because his family were poor and no-one he knew had any expensive jewellery.

The next day Hughie was on his way to school when he heard a rustling in the hedge. Curiously he looked into the hedge and found a wee bird with a broken wing. He thought to himself "What can I do, what can I do" and then "I know, I'll take it along to Mr McKay and he'll be able to fix it's wing". So very carefully he picked up the bird, cradling it gently in his cupped hands and brought it to school.

He was a bit late getting there and all the children had laid their precious things out on Mr McKay's desk. But wee Hughie didn't care about all that. He ran straight up to the desk and, standing on tip toe because he was very wee, to show Mr McKay what he had brought, he burst out all in a rush "Mr McKay, please, I've found this wee bird, I think it's wing's broken, can you fix it".

Mr McKay looked down as wee Hughie opened his hands and saw that the bird had died. Gently he said "I'm sorry Hughie, there's nothing I can do, the wee bird has died". Hughie hadn't noticed, but now looking down he saw the limp body on the desk. His face quivered and big tears rolled down from his eyes and fell on the desk. Sadly he turned away and went to his seat.

Mr McKay sat thinking for a minute and then started his lessons. Looking at the ear-rings and the brooch and the pocket watch and all the other wonderful things on his desk he said "Thank you everyone, you have certainly brought some very precious things today. Each one is valuable in it's own way, but the most precious thing that I can see are the tear drops that wee Hughie left. Yes, they are the most precious thing..... because they show he cared"

BORING, BORING.....well no actually

A good crowd turned up for First Larne's first ever pre election hustings on 18th April. Rev McClure took the role of Question Time presenter David Dimbleby, or, for those with a longer memory, Sir Robin Day. The members of the panel included in alphabetical order, Roy Beggs (UUP), Stewart Dickson (Alliance), Gordon Lyons (DUP), Dawn Patterson (Green party) and Conor Sheridan (Cross Community Labour Alternative), three of whom confessed to being Presbyterians.



Was it boring?.....well no actually. Many important questions were raised by the audience including as expected, jobs, policing, education, austerity policies, moral issues such as abortion and same sex marriage, but also social problems such as binge drinking and the environmental issues of climate change, energy and the drilling at Woodburn Forest. The debate was polite and good natured with, encouragingly, wide areas of agreement. But perhaps this was because there was no presence of the SDLP or Sinn Fein and no discussion on controversial issues surrounding our past.

The sitting MLA's were clearly the more polished performers, but the others, whilst not as eloquent, certainly put across sincere views on environmental issues, the cost of student fees and taxing the better off. There were one or two brave members of the audience who took a stand. Perhaps surprisingly, one Roman Catholic man stated that he, and others he knew, would be supporting the DUP because of their stance on abortion. The frustrations of the young were evident. One self confessed 28 year old woman argued (perhaps tongue in cheek) that Stormont was full of old men and that anyone over 50 should be compulsorily retired on a generous pension. Now there's a policy that the editor could fully support.....if only.

Mountain Ministry in the Mournes

The Walking Group enjoyed a gentle dander in the Mournes on the May Day bank holiday.

As the day was a wee bit windy up on the top of the mountains, we took the more sheltered route up the Annalong valley to the Ben Crom reservoir, a distance of about 6.5 miles with a gentle climb.

Don't be fooled by all the coats and hats in the photo, it actually turned out to be a lovely day with only one 5 minute long shower!



Bobby Torbitt was a first timer with the group on this walk and coped very well.....apart from one slight incident with a puddle. But by the time we were on the way back, although not quite walking on water, he had mastered the tricky art of dealing with wet mountain tracks and assured us he would be back for more.

Further walks are planned for the summer months so please keep an eye on the announcements and give it a go. It's always good fun and exercise and we will tell you the route and warn you if it is likely to be demanding. If you are not sure about whether you are up to walking with us, ask one of the regulars.

Some of the Walking Group are thinking about taking up the Mourne Wall Challenge. This is a 22 mile walk taking in most of the Mourne mountain peaks and will be demanding..... but if you are up for it let yourself be known.

First Larne Indoor Bowling Club

First Larne Indoor Bowling Club has completed another successful years bowling, the 56th year in our history. Wednesday and Thursday evenings in the sports hall at First Larne during September through to March finds members busy either playing in a match or honing their skills (or at least trying to hone their skills) on the green mat.

Engravers Shield Final.

In February we battled to get through to the final of the Engravers Shield competition, which this year was played at the neutral venue of Raloo, against our neighbours and Friends, Gardenmore Indoor Bowling Club.

Déjà vu

For some of our members this conjured up memories of the 2009/2010 season when in the same competition final at Kilwaughter we played against Gardenmore and lost by just 1 shot. On this occasion it was, as then, a very hotly contested game which we unfortunately lost by only 2 shots. But there's always next year



First Larne – Engravers Shield Final Team 2016

Back row: left to right: John McColm, Steve McCullough, John Magill, Andrew Kincaid, Duncan Gallagher, Tommy Close, Derick Jenkins, Jonathan Millar

Front row: left to right: Rodney Moore, Derek Craig, Ida Woodside, Beryl Stevenson, Rene Gallagher, June Moore, Margaret Nelson, Tommy Porter

Stinson Shield

A commemorative competition Shield was presented by Ivor and Jean Stinson of Gardenmore Presbyterian Church for an annual bowling competition to be played between Gardenmore Indoor Bowling Club and First Larne Indoor Bowling Club. This was first played for in the 1976/1977 season and to date the Shield has been won by Gardenmore on 22 occasions and by First Larne on 18 occasions.

This is always a very enjoyable end of year competition played in a friendly atmosphere amongst friends of long standing.

This year we came out victorious winning the annual encounter at home for the first time in 5 years.



Stinson Shield Team 2016

Back row: left to right: Andrew Kincaid, Duncan Gallagher, Rene Gallagher, Derek Craig Jnr, Roy Craig, Steve McCullough, Derek Craig Snr, Rodney Moore.

Front row: left to right: John Magill, Tommy Porter, Margaret Carter, Evelyn Andrews, Margaret Nelson, Ida Woodside, Beryl Stevenson, June Moore.



The Larne & District Indoor Bowling League Birthday Greetings 2015-16

We'll not bore you with all the details, suffice to say we finished in 11th place behind champions Kilwaughter - it's not all about winning, but participating and enjoying ourselves.

And there's more You would be forgiven for thinking that all our bowling is only of a competitive nature, and up to a point it is. But not always. We try to foster community relations with other Clubs, some of whom do not play competitive bowls. Over the last few years we have arranged games with Carnlough Indoor Bowling Club, Raloo Non-subscribing Presbyterian Church and Ballycarry Indoor Bowling Club.

We were delighted when our Assistant Minister David Kelly joined us on 2nd December for the friendly game at Home against Raloo Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church. We intend to maintain links and where possible forge new friendships.



Club Competitions

But, when we're not playing league or cup or friendly matches the Club organises competitions which are played amongst ourselves. These take the form of singles, pairs and triples.

As March each year approaches this heralds the end of the indoor bowling season and to mark this Club members go out for a meal together. This year we visited the Curran Court Hotel for an end of season dinner and prize-giving. The winner of this year's singles competition was Tommy Close, seen below receiving his trophy from Chairperson Roy Craig.



This year one of our senior members, Margaret Nelson, celebrated a birthday in August. To mark this occasion the Club made a special presentation of flowers to her arranged by club member Ida Woodside.



Margaret has been bowling with First Larne since 1997 and has made an outstanding contribution to the success of the Club during that time.

She first took up bowling in 1970 when the Headmaster of Glynn primary school, Robert Wilson, formed a club there. It appears that the original Glynn village hall wasn't long enough to accommodate a full length bowling mat, so matches had to be played in what was then the old McNeill Hall, in the period before the leisure centre was built. When it closed, Margaret joined First Larne Indoor Bowling Club. Margaret has won (on numerous occasions) every club competition trophy at First Larne. In addition her name adorns many of the competition trophies of the Larne & District Indoor Bowling League. And as they say, *the rest is history*.

Our 2015 / 2016 season was brought to a very fitting close with everyone joining in to sing "Happy Birthday".

Rodney Moore

Summertime bowls anyone ??

Whilst the indoor bowling season is officially finished, we thought we would try something different this year, and have **a fun bowls evening on some Wednesday nights during the summer months**. If you feel this is something you would like to try, then please come along, you'll be pleasantly surprised at how enjoyable it really is. You don't need to have any bowls of your own, just bring yourself along and enjoy the *craic*.

For further details speak to Rodney.

T. 28583866
M. 07843 118362

Having a barbecue?

We all know the story of how Jesus fed the 5,000 when they were hungry at the end of a long day-showing us that he loves us and cares for our needs. Having a BBQ this summer is the perfect way for us to show our friends and family that we love them, so have a go - make these tasty kebabs and enjoy having a crowd at your house!

Barbecued Middle Eastern Chicken Kebabs

Servings: 6-8

280g Greek yogurt
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 teaspoons paprika
1/2 teaspoon cumin
1/8 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon chilli flakes
Zest 1 lemon and 2 tablespoons lemon juice
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
5 garlic cloves, minced
1kg boneless skinless chicken thighs (or 750g boneless skinless chicken breasts), trimmed of any excess fat and cut into large bite-sized pieces
1 large red onion, cut into wedges
Vegetable oil, for greasing the grill



In a medium bowl, combine the yogurt, olive oil, paprika, cumin, cinnamon, chilli flakes, lemon zest, lemon juice, salt, pepper and garlic.

Thread the chicken onto metal skewers, folding if the pieces are long and thin, alternating occasionally with the red onions. Be sure not to cram the skewers. (Note: You'll need between 6-8 skewers.)

Place the kebabs on a baking sheet lined with aluminum foil. Spoon or brush the marinade all over the meat, coating well. Cover and refrigerate at least eight hours or overnight.

Preheat the grill or BBQ to medium-high heat. Grease the grill, with vegetable oil and grill the chicken kebabs until golden brown and cooked through, turning skewers occasionally, for 10 to 15 minutes. Delicious served on a bed of fruity rice or couscous.

THANK YOU EILEEN

Eileen Lorimer quietly retired a couple of years ago, not wanting any fuss. Recently she was presented with a cheque in recognition of more than 16 years service as church caretaker. She intends to use the money to purchase some equipment for the caravan in which she and her late husband Ernie spent many happy days. We all wish Eileen many happy years to enjoy her retirement.



CHURCH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

Harry William McLean	21 Graham Road	6 th March 2016
Darcy Charlotte Averell Brown	St Clement, Jersey	13 th March 2016
Skye Lilly McTernaghan,	40 Regents Park	24 th April 2016
Thomas Samuel McCluggage	9 Ballyvernstown Road	1 st May 2016

DEATHS

Mary ("Maureen") Apsley	"Algrove" 10 Gloucester Avenue	28 th February 2016
Greggory Samuel Thomas Murray	54 Churchill Road	1 st March 2016
Kenneth McConnell	88 Coast Road	6 th March 2016
William Mundell Johnston	4 Arran Gardens	7 th March 2016
Alice Hoey	22 Mill Brae	7 th March 2016
Charles Robert ("Roy") McCartney	25 Curran Fold	1 st April 2016
William Thomas Raymond Wright	4 Hawthorne Grove	9 th April 2016
Thomas Hillen Mathers Wilson	20 Pound Green Court	26 th April 2016
John Ross	18 Fleet Street	12 th May 2016

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June Services

Sun. 5th June
11am & 7pm COMMUNION

Mon. 6th June "Zadok" Rehearsal in First Larne
7-9pm

Sun. 12th June Civic Service on the occasion of the
7pm Queen's 90th birthday celebrations

"The Servant Queen and the King she serves"
Guest Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Gordon Gray
Following the service there will be a "Come and Sing" performance of the Coronation anthem "Zadok the Priest" directed by Nigel McClintock, one of Northern Ireland's leading choir directors.

Sun 19th June Fathers' Day
10am Breakfast (prior to morning service – hosted by Promiseland)

Sat 25th June Rehearsal for Children's Service
10-11am

Sun 26th June Children's Service
Promiseland lead morning worship

OTHER EVENTS

6th - 10th June PCI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mon. 13th June 7.30pm Congregational Committee

July/August summer services

Morning Worship 11am in First Larne

Joint Evening Services

3rd, 10th, 17th July 6.30pm Gardenmore
24th 31st July, 7th August 6.30pm Craigyhill
14th, 21st, 28th August 7pm First Larne

Sun. 31st July Holiday Bible Club Service

1st - 5th August Holiday Bible Club
"Guardian's of Ancora"

Fri. 5th August Community Fun Night

September Services

Sun. 11th September
11am & 7pm COMMUNION

Sun 18th Sept. Craigyhill 60th Anniversary Service
6:30pm (No evening service in First Larne)

Sun 25th Sept.
11am Back to School Sunday
7pm Ordination of Elders

Tue 13th September Carrickfergus Presbytery
(in Gardenmore)

First Larne Baptisms

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



Harry William McLean was baptised on 6th March and is pictured here with mum and dad Lauren and Robert.



Darcy Charlotte Averell Brown, daughter of Lesley (Averell) and Adam Brown was baptised on Sunday 13th March. Lesley Averell grew up in Larne but now lives in Jersey.



Skye Lilly McTernaghan, daughter of Andrew and Katie was baptised on 24th April. Also in the photo are Skye's brothers Reece and Tyler.



Thomas Samuel McCluggage, daughter of Andrew and Clare, was baptised on 1st May. Also in the photo is big sister, Lucy.

Thanks and apologies

We were blessed with this edition by all the material sent in by our members. A very big thank you to all contributors. If your article has not appeared, sorry, there was just no room for it in this edition. We have tried to include the articles which have a current focus, so things which are not time bounded have been carried over to future issues. They will be included next time. There was no room for a puzzle either!

Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is a daily admission of one's weaknesses. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words, than words without a heart.

Mahatma Gandhi

AND FINALLY

The children were lined up in the school dining hall for lunch. At the head of the table was a large tray of apples. One of the staff had written a note and placed it on the apple tray:

"Take only ONE. God is watching."

Moving along the lunch line, at the other end was a large tray of chocolate chip cookies. A girl wrote a note, which she put next to the tray of cookies,

"Take all you want. God is watching the apples."