

First Presbyterian Church Donaghadee

Newsletter



*'..... if anyone hears my voice and opens
the door, I will come in....'*

Revelations 3 v.20

February 2011

From the Study



Luke 6: 12-13

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles.

We make decisions day in and day out; What will we have for lunch? Who's doing the school run? What will I watch on TV tonight?

Every now and then the decisions become a bit more important; Which school will we choose? What course should I study at Uni? Will I change the car or keep it for another year?

Sometimes the decisions are vital: Will I accept this job and move the family to a new area?

The more important the decision, the more we take time with it, ponder over it, discuss it with family and friends.

Jesus had a very important decision to make. He knew his time on earth would be short, he knew he had to pick some people to carry on the work he had started. It was a big decision and he needed to discuss it with someone; his Father. And so he went up onto the mountainside and stayed all night praying about this big decision he had to make. When he finished praying he came down and picked his twelve apostles.

In First Donaghadee we too have a very important decision to make. We are in the process of seeking new elders for our Kirk Session and you may have received a voting paper. As a Kirk Session we are asking for you to consider putting six names on that voting paper, but before you do anything, I would really like you to do one thing; PRAY!

I don't expect you to go up on a mountainside for a whole night, but I would like you to pray about the names you are considering. When Jesus went up to that mountainside and spent the night in prayer, he was bringing everything before God. We should do the same and look upon Jesus' example as a reminder of how much we need God's guidance in this very important aspect of our church life.

Colin

Death 'At rest with the Lord'

Mr John Wilson, 11 The Links, Donaghadee - 8th November, 2010

*As a Congregation, we express our sincere sympathy to
the Wilson family circle.*

Church Flowers

Flower Rota

March – Elizabeth Burch

April - Mary Bell



Flowers have been kindly donated by: -

December

5th Mrs Maureen Freeman

12th Mrs Alison Donaldson

19th Mrs Elizabeth Dalzell

26th Miss Margaret Curragh

January

2nd Mrs Joan McKeag

9th Mrs Eva Browne

16th Mrs Lily Taggart

23rd Mrs Iris Ferguson

30th Mrs Adeline Carter

February

6th Mr Jimmy Bell

13th Mrs Anne Johnston

20th Rev Dr G. Eagleson

27th Mrs Maureen Donaldson

March

6th *vacant*

13th Mrs Christine Rankin (Scouts)

20th Mrs Eleanor Leighton

27th Mrs Kay Malcolm

Donations to the Flower Fund were received with thanks from -

Mr Jimmy Bell, Rev Dr George Eagleson, Mr George McLellan, Mrs Elizabeth Dalzell, Mrs Frances Bowles

Letter of thanks for Church flowers received from –

Mrs Effie Hansen, Mrs Margaret McQuiston, Mrs Frances Bowles

Debra Anderson / Judith Purdy

Thanks . . .

May we through the church Newsletter express our thanks to Colin who, in spite of the terrible weather prior to Christmas, visited our home with a gift of shortbread. We also appreciated very much the lovely prayer he shared with us. It is wonderful that First Donaghadee has been blessed with such sincere and hard-working leaders as Debra and Colin.

Maureen & Billy Stitt

*To Rev Colin Anderson & members of the Congregation:
Just a note to say thank you very much on behalf of Lynda and myself for
your prayers, get-well cards and good wishes during my recent illness.
They were very much appreciated.*

Angus Davidson

Election of New Elders

As members of the congregation will be aware, our congregation is having an election for new elders and Voting Papers are being delivered to voting members with this copy of the *Newsletter*. A covering guidance note with the Voting Paper defines 'voting member', explains that voters are invited to nominate up to six new elders and asks that completed Voting Papers be returned by Monday, 7th March at the latest, either in the ballot box in the church vestibule or by post to the under-signed at 155 Millisle Road. Voting members are also reminded that it is not necessary to vote for those members who are already on Session.

In accordance with the rules of our church, the Voters' List has been on display in the vestibule of the church on Sundays, 13th and 20th February, and, unless there are formal objections received by Sunday 20th, the list as displayed, will be accepted as the official Voters' List and voting papers issued in accordance therewith.

As emphasised by our Minister in his Message earlier in this *Newsletter*, this is a very important time in the life of our congregation and **ALL VOTING MEMBERS** are encouraged to give careful and prayerful consideration to the nomination of names for the Eldership. In emphasising that importance I would urge voters to make sure that they do accept their responsibility by returning the completed Voting Paper. Even if you feel able to vote for only one new elder, your vote will be counted! So, like Colin, I urge you to seek God's guidance in your selection and, having done so, **do please** complete and return your Voting Paper.

Tom Johnston, Clerk of Session

Water Aid

As you will recall, for the six weeks of Lent leading up to Easter last year, we had available in the vestibule of the Church buckets into which members of the Congregation could place their small change in support of Water Aid. These donations helped some of the world's poorest people to gain access to clean, safe water and sanitation. This year the Committee has agreed that we should again support this worthy cause and from Sunday 13th March there will be an opportunity to donate loose change to help stop the spread of diarrhoeal disease, spread the message of good sanitation and give to communities clean safe water. So, look out for the bucket from 13th March!

Sandy Dalzell

Indoor Bowling Club

Bowling commenced during October and we were delighted to welcome a few new members including our new Minister, Colin, who enjoys a game of bowls whenever his work load permits. Club competitions are well under way and friendly games have been arranged with our Methodist and Parish neighbours; later in the month we have been invited to visit Millisle Presbyterian. Finally congratulations to Lenny Bennett who won our Turkey Competition.

William Stitt

Thursday Club

The Thursday Club for seniors meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month for lunch and fellowship in the Curragh Room at 12.15 – 1.30pm.

We enjoy a short varied programme following the lunch – sometimes a fun quiz with Colin & Debra or a short talk on matters of interest; recently we had information on grants from Citizens' Advice and on another day a talk on personal safety from the local police.

With a suggested donation of £2 a head at each meeting, it's good value for money and appreciated by our faithful group of around 30 regular members. I'm pleased to report that our club donated £100 in January towards the purchase of a new white china tea service for use at church functions.

So – if you fancy a good hot bowl of vegetable soup and a slice of apple tart some Thursday, please drop in as new members are always welcome!

Anne Johnston

Financial Notes

Freewill Offering 2011

Contributions to FWO and Sunday Collections up to 31 January 2011 are as follows:-

FWO & Sunday Collections: £ 4,678.35

Stipend: £ 70.00

Total: £ 4,748.35

Total for the same period in 2010 was £3,727.60 so at present we are £1,020.75 (or 27.4%) up on the year.

World Development Appeal

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, contributions under this appeal during December 2010 and January 2011 amounted to £1,109.50. The corresponding figure for January 2010 was £396.55.

Presbyterian Orphan & Children's Society

A total of £436 was raised for the Society compared to £405 in January 2010.

Rob McQuiston (Hon. Treasurer)

Property Fund 2011

Property Fund income from contributions and events up to 31 January 2011 are as follows:-

Property Fund envelopes: £ 565.50

Table Quiz: £ 210.00

Total: £ 775.50

Total for Property Fund envelopes for the same period in 2010 was £336.50 so at present we are £229.00 (or 68%) up on the year. Sincere thanks.

Keith Morrison

5p Collection

The total collected for 2010 was £142.75 which Ken has been very appreciative of for the Property Fund. This takes us 56 yards forward in our 2nd mile and makes the total 'travelled' 317 yards. The 2010 total is about 50% down on the previous year as we lost a number of 'big collectors' and other groups who also collect 5p's for their funds.

Of course some bags of money arrived after the closing date so they will be recorded in the 2011 collections. Can I encourage you to save any silver coins as this is an excellent way to boost our Property Fund.

When Gift-Aid figures are worked out I will place a final total amount on the notice board in the Vestibule. Thank you to all for your small coins.

Margaret Curragh

Freewill Offering Rota

February: C. Adair, S. Donaldson, Mrs C. Rankin, Mrs A. Johnston

March: J. Gibson, W. Mailey, Miss M. Curragh, Mrs J. Neville

April: A. Dalzell, C. Kerr, Miss E. Bell, Mrs E. Dalzell

Committee Corner

We are delighted that we now have a state of the art data projection and sound system which will allow praise items, video clips and DVDs to be shown on a retractable screen suspended above the pulpit, with a second screen mounted on the balcony rail to permit the choir to view in comfort. With the addition of a camera mounted under the gallery this facility will let those seated in the balcony see what is going on at the front of the Church. In addition the system will be relayed into the McCaw, Taylor and Curragh Rooms to allow for expansion of the work and witness of the Church. Consideration is also being given to the provision of improved egress from the Church for those with a disability and this will result in the removal of several pews and the provision of a ramp for wheelchair users.

Sandy Dalzell

Presbyterian Women (Afternoon)

The PW hosted their Hospitality Day on 2nd February when 55 ladies attended from the Ards, Link and the local churches. The speaker, Gavin McCullough gave a very interesting talk on his visit to Zimbabwe. Each year he and a group of other gentlemen visit a mission and a hospital doing voluntary work helping with plumbing and electricity.

Elizabeth Burch

A thought . . .

By being negative you become negative –

By being positive you become positive.

Peacemaking Conference

'Engaged for the Future'

I attended the conference in Lowe Memorial Presbyterian Church on 27th November when the theme was 'Engaged for the Future'. This cartoon connects future vision with practical action in the present. What is our vision of the future – in



terms of community relations on this island and in our wider world – and how are we living towards it in the present?

Is the vision for this society being presented to us by government adequate? What vision is provided by our Biblical faith? Does it offer a challenge to that being set before us by government? How can we live towards this Biblical vision? Are we engaged in the present for God's future? This is the challenge to the churches!

Emma Bell (Peace Agent)

Girls' Brigade

We held our annual enrolment service on Sunday 21st November 2010 and the theme was the Miracles of Jesus. All the girls of the Company took part through drama, songs, poems and readings. We would like to thank all those who helped in any way with our Service. In particular we are grateful to Rev. Jane Nelson, Colin, Debra, Hannah, Eleanor, George, Jim and Simon.



We had our Christmas party on 16th December and we are grateful to Santa for taking time out to visit us. GB week was held from Monday 7th February to Saturday 12th February and we are grateful for all the support we had for this, our major fundraising event of the year.

The girls are currently working hard to complete their badgework before we begin preparing for Parents Night which will be held on **6th May 2011** – a date for your diary!

Jennifer MacDougall Officer in Charge

Love-in-a-Box Appeal 2010

I have received a 'thank-you' letter from Blytheswood Care for the 121 filled boxes, 50 anoraks and warm hooded tops, 20 knitted or crocheted rugs and other clothes and £360 donated towards the cost of the transporting of the boxes. The letter is on the notice board in the main hall.



Thank you for the donations in the jar which go towards the cost of covering the shoe boxes; I have been able to purchase 24 rolls of gift wrap and 3 buckets of paste. This is very much appreciated by the lady who covers the boxes.

Full or part rolls of unwanted gift wrap and empty shoe boxes can be left in the Vestibule and thank you to those who have already donated such items. Thank you all for your support for '**Love-in-a-box**'.

Margaret Curragh

PW Fellowship

P.W. Fellowship has a membership of fourteen which is encouraging.

At our January meeting we were delighted to have as our speakers Reverend Colin Anderson and his wife Debra who gave an interesting talk on their experiences in Africa and Australia.

We invited Dawn Petrie, a member of Donaghadee Parish Church, to the February meeting and she demonstrated vital first aid. Dawn will be a workshop leader at this year's Ladies Day event in May. Our P.W. Fellowship will then have another chance to brush up their skills in lifesaving techniques.

The speaker for our last meeting in March is Joanne Skeats, whom we all know as one of the helpful team employed at our library here in Donaghadee. Joanne will tell us the problems facing our library services in this time of economic recession.

Elizabeth Dalzell Hon. Secretary

Presbyterian Orphan and Children's Society

I wish to thank all who contributed and those who collected for the Presbyterian Orphan and Children's Society during 2010.

The total amount raised was **£487.05** (of which £51.05 was Gift-Aid).

My grateful thanks to you all.

Emma Bell

Sunday School Update

Since the last update the numbers of children out on a Sunday morning has increased again!! Can you believe it? If it continues like this there will be two pews filled at the front of the church during the children's address.

This was one of the reasons why it was decided that from the beginning of January, the Sunday School would be split into two groups. Those attending Primary School would continue to meet in the Curragh Room. This group is now known as "**JAM**" (Jesus and Me). The name was chosen by the children themselves (after weeks of discussion.....). This exercise threw up lots of interesting names as I'm sure you can imagine.

The older group, consisting of post primary children, is known as "**Deeciples**". There is a bit of a debate raging as to who came up with this name but all agreed that it was the name we were looking for. This group meets in the Taylor room and is currently attended by roughly 6 children, who enjoy a hot chocolate and a biscuit as we discuss the topics raised during the morning. We are using a range of Scripture Union books which are extremely topical for this age of children.

We would like to welcome Justin and Sarah, Everine, Debra and Hannah, who have been assisting with the children on a Sunday. Thanks also to Simon who is helping with children and keeping us right when using the TV/DVD and computer equipment. He has been invaluable over the last few months.

Thank you for all your encouragement and prayers. Please continue to remember us as we work amongst the children each week, that they not only enjoy each Sunday morning, but that they will learn valuable lessons for everyday life.

Rhonda Morrison



FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN YEARS 8 - 10

Ignite meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 7.00 – 8.00pm in the Taylor Room.

We have been looking at the book of Mark through the 'CY Nano' Programme.

If you know of any young people who are not members of the church but would be interested in coming along, please invite them along as they will be made most welcome.

Colin Anderson / Justin McConnell

Events Committee

Successful Quiz Thanks are recorded to all who supported the table quiz on 31st January when some 60 quizzers packed into the Curragh Room, enjoyed a great night's fun, an excellent supper and a huge number of prizes. Thanks are also due to the members of the Events Committee who made the arrangements which resulted in £210 being passed to the Church Property Fund.

Looking further back I wish to record appreciation for all the efforts that contributed to a bumper **Christmas Fair** on 3rd December when we raised some £2,000 for Church funds – an all time record! Well done everybody.

Coming Events

The next event is our annual **Men's Breakfast** which will be on Saturday, 5th March, at 9am. Tickets (£6) are on sale from members of the Events Committee or by contacting the under-signed at 91883509.

On Monday, 28th March, Kate Boyd and Wendy Currie, Copeland Antiques will be giving their, now annual, **Shoe and Jewellery Show** in the Church Hall at 7.45pm. This is always a popular event for the ladies although men will also be made very welcome so, please note the date and bring a friend, or two!

As Easter is late this year we have decided to fit in another **Quiz Night** in April and have booked the main hall for **Monday, 11th**. Once again we would encourage church organisations to put up teams but will be delighted to see as many teams of individuals as possible.

Arrangements for **Ladies Day on Saturday 14th May** are well advanced and we are looking forward to a good turn-out of ladies on that occasion and are also keeping an eye out for men-folk willing to give a hand with the catering arrangements. Full details and booking forms will be available towards the end of March.

On a personal note I take this opportunity to express my thanks to the great group of people who make up the Events Committee. They are enthusiastic, willing and helpful in so many ways that contribute to the continuing success of our various efforts to maintain good fellowship and, at the same time, raise valuable income for church funds. Thank you one and all.

Tom Johnston

Mad Mondays

The Mad Mondays after school club continues to be enjoyed by both children and helpers alike!

Since it started in September, the team has been getting to know both the children and parents better and it is great to have many parents staying for a chat and not rushing away with their children at the close of the club each week. As well as this, it is also very encouraging that some parents have volunteered to help with Mad Mondays.



We are currently following the story of David with a DVD series and teaching a Bible Verse each week. The David story has been very successful with hardly a sound made when the DVD is playing! Although it is a different story when they are asked questions about the story, as they are all very keen to shout out the answers to the questions all at once! Please continue to remember the children of Mad Mondays in your prayers.

The Mad Mondays Team

Annual General Meeting and Lunch

Following recent discussion by Session it has been decided to hold the Congregation's Annual General Meeting after church on Sunday 20th March and link it with a Church Lunch.

In addition to the routine business of the Annual General Meeting, the occasion will provide the opportunity for the formal presentation of the names of new Elders for approval by the congregation as required by the PCI Code. It is also planned to recognise the services of a number of people who have served in various capacities over past years.

The lunch will be free and the menu is likely to be soup or stew with some pizzas available for the younger folk followed by apple tart and a cup of tea. However, final details will be announced nearer the date. It is hoped that members of the congregation will remain for lunch and the following meeting and join in the fellowship that such an occasion provides so please note your diaries and calendars.

Tom Johnston

The Scout Group

The Group is back into action after the Christmas break. It is good to welcome new members in the Scout Troop.

The **Squirrels** and Beavers had great fun on their trip to 'Christmas at Crawfordsburn' when they each received a gift from Santa. The kind weather made the evening all that more enjoyable for both the young people and parents. Squirrels have also had a visit from Guide Dogs for the Blind and a trip to the library for 'Storytime'.

Beavers are busy completing badge work. They are also looking forward to 'Storytime' in the library and some are taking part in a sleep over at the end of the month in Ards.

Cubs continue to be busy completing their organised programme and will take part in the various activities organised in the District during the coming months.

Scouts had an evening at the swimming pool as part of their health and fitness and are also completing their badge work before the better weather arrives as then they will be out and about with outdoor activities.

Thank you to all who contributed to the Christmas Hampers – around a dozen hampers were delivered in Donaghadee. The Scouts delivered some 700 leaflets to households before Christmas, advertising the Christmas activities within the Church and the leaders and senior scouts were helping with the BBQ at the Christmas Fayre and served punch at the Community Carol Service.

In January the Group was represented by Scouts/Cubs and their leaders, along with George Purdy (Ards District Chairman) and Stephen Donaldson (County Commissioner), at a Civic Reception in the Somme Centre, Newtownards to start the centenary celebrations of the Ards District. Plans for our Annual Scout Service are well under way for Sunday March 13th.

Christine Rankin Group Scout Leader

A thought . . .

*Do others know from how we act - at home, at work, at play -
That we have Jesus in our heart and live for Him each day?*

We please God when our walk matches our talk.



Friday Crafts Group

The ladies have just finished stitching a gift to the Church of 10 attractive gingham cloths, embellished with 'chicken scratching' (or Australian embroidery). The cloths have been made to fit the small tables used at coffee mornings etc. So – no more paper cloths! *Anne Johnston*

Annual Scout Group Service

***Sun 13th March 2011
at 11.30am***

**All members and Friends of the Group
are warmly invited to join us.**

Address: Rev Colin Anderson

Events Committee

MEN'S BREAKFAST

***Saturday 5th March 2011 at
9am
Church Hall, High Street
Donation: £6***

Events Committee

SHOE & JEWELLERY SHOW

***Monday, 28th March
at 7.45pm
Church Hall
Donation: £5***

A thought . . .

***I do not ask for many friends – but give me Lord the few
Whose loyalty and faithfulness are first of all to You.***

True friends are like diamonds – precious and rare.

The Church Garden

First plant your rows of Peas –

Presence

Promptness

Preparation

Purity

Perseverance

Next, plant three rows of Squash –

Squash Gossip

Squash Criticism

Squash Indifference

Then plant five rows of Lettuce -

Let us be faithful to duty

Let us be loyal and unselfish

Let us be true to our obligations

Let us obey rules and regulations

Let us love one another

No garden is complete without Turnips –

Turn up with a smile

Turn up with new ideas

Turn up with the determination to make everything count for something good and worthwhile.

You have to laugh –

The world's strongest man was touring with his show, and for his finale he would take an orange, squeeze all the juice out of it and offer £1000 to anyone in the audience who could get another drop of juice from it.

Time after time, people came forward but, squeeze as they might, none could do it.

Then, one evening, a skinny old man came forward to meet the challenge. The crowd laughed at the idea that he could squeeze more juice than the strongest man, but - he calmly took the orange, put it between his palms – and to the crowd's amazement, out came a single drop of juice.

Handing over the £1000, the stunned strong man couldn't resist asking the old man what he did to keep fit in his retirement.

“I'm the treasurer for my local church,” he replied.

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