

Message from the Manse

Easter 2010



Dear Friend,

For all the right reasons, it is with great pleasure and delight that I write for one last time as convenor of the vacancy in First Presbyterian Church, Donaghadee since, in just a few short weeks, a new minister and a new phase of ministry will begin within the congregation. It has been both my pleasure and privilege to have shared this part of your congregation's journey with you. Thank you to all, and especially to the elders and members of Congregational Committee, for the support, encouragement and assistance given to me over the course of this past year.

As we approach both Easter and then, shortly afterwards, a Service of Ordination and Installation, I'd like to take this opportunity to encourage you to reflect on 'new beginnings', for the Easter Message, at its very heart, is one of new life and transformation.

In the Easter story we read, not only of the events surrounding Christ's arrival in Jerusalem, his arrest, his crucifixion and resurrection but also of the impact these events had on those who witnessed them and, as we look closely at the events, we find that Christ's disciples ...

➤ Hailed Jesus as King (Matthew 21: 1 - 11)

The disciples who travelled into Jerusalem with Jesus on that first Palm Sunday weren't at all backward about declaring who Jesus was. What a wonderful sight that must have been as the disciples gathered around Christ and shouted praises to their King

As you begin a new phase of congregational life and witness, remember to keep Christ at the centre of all the activity and hustle and bustle that so often accompanies church 'programmes' and remember that, while your new minister, Colin Anderson, will give you direction, guidance and teaching, it is Christ who is the King over His Church.

➤ Were transformed from being fearful to fearless (Matthew 28: 1 - 10)

When Christ was arrested and crucified, his disciples thought the end had come. The future looked bleak and we read again and again of the disciples being afraid. After Christ's resurrection, however, the

disciples experience a wonderful time of transformation. Instead of being fearful for the future, suddenly they are filled with joy and anticipation because they knew that God had power to bring new life.

No-one can deny that, in the early stages of this vacancy, there were those who were afraid as to what the future might hold for this congregation. Fear has, however, given way to joy in recent weeks and months and so, like those first disciples, look forward to the future because God can, and I believe will, bring new life and vigour to this congregation through Colin's ministry.

➤ Were eager to share the good news (Matthew 28: 8)

The good news that Jesus was alive was too good not to share and, in this verse from Matthew's Gospel, we read of the women hurrying to tell the other disciples about what they had seen and heard. As we read on beyond the Gospel accounts and into the Book of Acts, we find that Christ's disciples cannot contain their excitement about Christ's victory over death itself and the invitation that Christ extended that whoever believed in him would, like Christ, know eternal life. As they faithfully share this message the Church grows as many come to faith and enter into a new relationship with God.

Over the next few years, as congregational life develops in line with your 2020 Vision document, be eager to share the good news of the Gospel with the community of Donaghadee. It can be tempting for a church to look at building itself up before it reaches out to others but the reality of the Easter and Pentecost accounts is that it is as we reach out to others that the church is, in turn, built up.

And finally ... one last word of encouragement. Please pray for Colin and Debra as they come to serve within this congregation. Pray that they will settle in quickly, pray that Colin will know God's leading as he seeks, with the Session and Committee, to develop the life and ministry of this church and pray that God's Spirit would work in mighty ways both in and through every member of First Presbyterian Church, Donaghadee!

Wishing you every blessing for the future,

Yours in Christ,

Mark Webb

Welcome to our new Manse family



It is with great pleasure that, on behalf of the congregation of First Donaghadee, I extend a warm welcome to our new minister, Mr Colin Anderson and his wife, Debra. Colin graciously accepted our Call at a meeting of the South Belfast Presbytery on Tuesday, 2nd March and will be Ordained and Installed at a very special service in our church on Friday, 23rd April.

Colin's home congregation is Helen's Bay and he received his early education in Bangor before studying at Portsmouth and Queen's Universities and finally at Union Theological College from 2005 until 2008. He served in the RUC and PSNI from 1984 until 2002 before embarking on a career in teaching computer and information technology skills. His work as student assistant and assistant minister has taken him to a wide variety of places such as Strand in Belfast; Counties Cavan and Monaghan; Bangor; various churches in Australia; and, since October 2007, he has been the Assistant Minister in St. John's, Newtownbreda.

Debra, also from the North Down area, has been involved in a variety of church activities over many years. She has also studied theology and graduated with Colin in 2008.

A keen golfer, Colin also enjoys a variety of sports and is an enthusiastic supporter of Tottenham Hotspur Football Club! He likes reading and walking and he and Debra enjoy touring and seeing new places in their motorhome.

As a congregation, we are looking forward with growing excitement to the special occasion on 23rd April and to welcoming the – by then - Rev. Anderson and Debra into the family and fellowship of First Donaghadee.

Tom Johnston

Deaths *'At rest with the Lord'*

18th December 2009 Mrs Jean Dalzell, 8 Hawthorn Rise, Ballywalter

3rd January 2010 Mrs Isobel Boyd, 30 Stockbridge Road, Donaghadee

As a Congregation, we send our sincere sympathy to their bereaved family circles.

Church Flowers

Flower Rota

March Elizabeth Burch

April Cathy Hamilton

Flowers have been kindly donated by:-

December

6th Mrs Sadie Porter

13th Mrs Alison Donaldson

20th Mrs Elizabeth Dalzell

27th Miss Margaret Curragh

January

3rd Mrs Joan McKeag

10th Mrs Eva Browne

17th Mrs Lily Taggart

24th Mrs Iris Ferguson

31st Mrs Adeline Carter

February

7th Mr Jimmy Bell

14th Mrs Anne Johnston

21st Mrs Anne Donaldson

28th Mrs Maureen Donaldson

March

7th The Scout Group

14th Presbyterian Women

21st Mrs Eleanor Leighton

28th Mrs Kay Malcolm

Donations to the Flower Fund were received with thanks from:-

Mrs Iris Ferguson, Mr George McLellan, Mrs Sadie Porter, Mrs Lily Taggart and Mrs Maureen Donaldson.

Thanks for Church flowers received from –

Mrs Maureen Black (Ballyholme), Miss Sarah Bunting, Mrs Joan Cleland & Miss Ann Mahood, Mrs Isobel Close, Mrs M. Fisher, Mrs Maureen Freeman and Mr & Mrs Campbell Patton.

Freewill Offering Rota

March T. Johnston, W. McCausland, W. Leighton, Mrs E. Burch

April G. Purdy, K. Lennox, R. Barr, W. Welsh

May J. McClure, W. Vance, Mrs E. Leighton, Mrs R. Martin

Financial Notes

Freewill Offering 2010

Contributions to FWO and Sunday Collections up to 28th February 2010 were as follows:-

FWO & Sunday Collections	£6396.35
Stipend	<u>£ 130.00</u>
	£6526.35

The total for the same period in 2009 was £5280.25 so at present we are 19.1% up on the year. We need to maintain this increase in order to cover Ministerial costs with effect from May as last year we had a pulpit vacancy for 11 months and were adequately funded to meet our reduced commitments.

United Appeal

With the approach of Easter comes the first envelope appeal for contributions towards our Target of Honour for 2010. I have not yet received the amount of our Target for 2010 but I would anticipate it to be in the region of £6500. We fell short in 2009 by some £800 so perhaps we can do better this time.

This fund supports the work of the Church both at home and overseas and is vital to the survival of the Christian church in many parts of the world. Please take time to read the enclosed news leaflet about the many projects supported by the United Appeal and respond as generously as possible to this important aspect of our Christian responsibility.

Annual Reports

The Annual Church Reports for 2009 accompany this *Newsletter* for those who have not already received their copy at the AGM. Should there be any inaccuracies in details of any kind, either financial or personal, please do not hesitate to contact myself, John McClure (FWO Secretary) or Ken Lennox (Property Fund Treasurer and Gift Aid) as appropriate – telephone numbers and addresses are at the front of the Report.

Since this is more than likely my final Financial Note before "*handing over the reins*" could I take this opportunity of thanking you all for your support and more importantly your loyalty to the Congregation during my tenure as Treasurer.

Robin Black Hon. Treasurer

Thank You, Robin

As many members of the congregation will already know, Mr Robin Black has decided to stand down from the position of Congregational Treasurer after nine years in the post. While we were extremely sorry to hear of his decision some nine or ten months ago, we do respect Robin's feelings and, having given outstanding service over the past nine years, we assure him of our sincere gratitude for all that he has done in an increasingly complicated and time consuming aspect of church administration. While there will be other opportunities to express thanks we wish to take this early opportunity through the *Newsletter* to convey appreciation to Robin for all his excellent service.

Although keen to 'hand over the reins', Robin has kindly agreed to assist his successor over the coming months to facilitate a smooth transition and we are also grateful to him for that kind offer.

Sandy Dalzell and Tom Johnston

Welcome to Our Finance Team

Following Mr Robin Black's announcement of his retirement from the position of Church Treasurer, a number of people have been approached as successors and I am pleased to say that Dr Rob McQuiston, Barn Hill, and Mr Keith Morrison, Millisle Road, have agreed to share the work in liaison with our current FWO Treasurer, John McClure and Property Fund Treasurer, Ken Lennox.

We are most grateful to Rob and Keith for agreeing to accept this responsibility and would ask the congregation to assist them in their work by co-operating in the return of contributions and other documents at the dates and times requested.

Tom Johnston

5ps for 2009

The total amount for 2009 was £343.85 including Gift Aid (details on the Church Notice Board). Thank you to all the savers and if you haven't been collecting those little 5p coins why not start, in fact any silver coin will be acceptable and all monies go to the Repair Fund. Since starting our second mile last year we have travelled 261 yards or approximately 238 metres which is slightly more than one-seventh of the way.

During the year I received £30.90 in un-named donations. If you pay income tax please do think of allowing us to claim Gift Aid as this will add to our total!

Margaret Curragh

Property Fund

The balance in the Property Fund was greatly reduced during 2009 due to heavy expenditure on repairs and improvements, the final balance being £5841. This has now fallen to £4288 after deductions of three monthly payments to the Loan Fund (£3000) and a charge of £69 for the manse alarm servicing – cushioned by the income of £1516 during the same time. This income was made up of £1006 envelope collections, £110 for the Beetle Drive, £200 for the Men's Breakfast and £200 for donations. Thankfully, the Ballyvester School rent and Gift Aid should materialise fairly soon!

Meanwhile, many thanks to the congregation for their generous envelope giving, to Tom and the Events' Committee, to Eleanor and ladies of the Catering Committee and to Sandy and Elizabeth on the sad occasion of their mother's funeral; Jean was a lovely lady. Also, I would like to thank Robin, our highly esteemed and very efficient Treasurer, for his great help to me over many years and Keith Morrison for his patience and help in auditing the Property Account.

Ken Lennox

PW Afternoon

A few ladies from the PW attended the 'Go Deep' Rally in Church House on Saturday 27th February. The Rally, which was very well attended, gave us an insight into how we should conduct our PW meetings.



Elizabeth Burch

PW Coffee Morning

Members of the PW Afternoon Group will hold a Cake Sale and Coffee Morning in the Church Hall on Saturday, 3rd April starting at 10.30am.

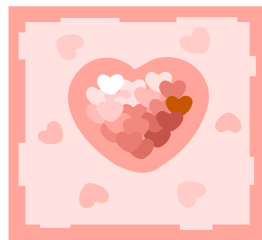
This is a special event this year as it has not been possible to arrange the usual Soup Lunch for Missions and it is hoped that members of the congregation and their friends will support the event by attending and, where possible, providing items for the Cake Stall.

The admission charge is a modest £2 which includes Tea/Coffee, etc.

Elizabeth Burch

Love in a Box Appeal

I have received a letter of thanks from Blytheswood Care (*see notice board*) for our generosity to the Love in a Box Appeal last Christmas. Northern Ireland sent almost 18,000 boxes in 2009 to different parts of Romania and India. Contributions to the money jar enabled me to purchase 61 rolls of 10 metre gift wrap for which I have also received a ‘thank you’ letter from Rosemary in Saintfield, who is working on the 2010 supply of boxes - Rosemary covers 1000 boxes each year. If you have any unwanted shoe boxes I would be delighted to get them – these can be left in the cloakroom part of the vestibule where I will collect them.



Thank you to all who helped or contributed in any way to the Shoe Box Appeal. We look forward to a similar response later this year.

Margaret Curragh

Peace and Peacemaking

King Solomon prays for Wisdom to Rule Justly – 1 Kings Ch 3 v 5,9,12

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and asked him, “What would you like me to give you?” Solomon answered, “Give me the wisdom I need to rule your people with justice and to know the difference between good and evil.” The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this and said to him “Because you have asked for the wisdom to rule justly, instead of long life for yourself or riches or the death of your enemies, I will do what you have asked.”

Let this also be our prayer for ourselves and our country.

Emma Bell Peace Agent

Presbyterian Orphan and Children’s Society

I wish to thank all who contributed to and collected for The Presbyterian Orphan and Children’s Society during 2009. The total amount raised was £474.40 including Gift Aid. My grateful thanks to you all.

Emma Bell Hon Sec

‘Unwanted Wool’ ?

Have you any ‘odd balls’ of plain double knitting wool which you no longer require? The PW would be grateful to have them as we know a very dedicated lady who knits items for the Love in a Box Appeal. Please leave any unwanted wool in the Church Porch and this will be collected for her.

Elizabeth Burch

The Scout Group

The Scout Group continues its busy programme preparing the young people to attain their relevant badges.

Congratulations to Jordan McIlveen, Kendal Hinds, Phillip Donaldson, Andrew Crofts and Luke Verner who have been selected as part of the Northern Ireland contingent to travel to the next World Jamboree in Sweden in 2011.



Congratulations also to our Assistant Scout Leader Andrew Donaldson on the announcement of his engagement to Hannah Cromie. We as a Group wish Andrew and Hannah every happiness in the future.

Explorers have been attending camps over this cold winter and many of them are helping with the junior sections as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Scouts have been out and about and enjoyed a trip to Bangor Swimming Pool recently.

Cubs took part in the uni-hoc competition and have just completed their cook's badge. The 'Sixers' are looking forward to a camping weekend at the end of March.

Beavers have said good-bye to three of their section who have moved up to Cubs but have also welcomed new members. They enjoyed making gifts for Mother's Day and are making little baskets for Easter. The Beavers were also awarded their '100 steps' certificates.

Squirrels enjoyed their trip to 'Christmas at Crawfordsburn' with the Beavers and after following the Christmas Story they met and received gifts from Santa Claus.

The Group held their Annual Church Service recently which was conducted by Rev Mark Welsh. This service is an important part of our Scouting calendar and it was very uplifting and inspiring to have such a good turnout on Sunday 7th March. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped prepare the young people for this service. We now look forward to St George's Day on Sunday 25th April which this year will be held in Donaghadee. This service will be conducted by our new minister, the (by then) Rev Colin Anderson to whom we are pleased to extend a warm welcome.

Christine Rankin Group Scout Leader

Thursday Club - for Seniors

We are nearing the end of another session of our Thursday Club as we approach the Summer break. Numbers have remained constant since September with an average of 28 to 30 lunches enjoyed by the members which is very encouraging for the organisers.

Just a reminder to all members that our Spring Outing date has been changed to **15th April**, a week later than planned. We will travel as usual by Comficoach, leaving straight after lunch, due back in Donaghadee around 5pm. There may be one or two seats available for friends but please check with Ruth first if you think someone would like to accompany you.

A beautiful new cooker has just been delivered for the coffee bar kitchen and will (I hope) be in use at our next meeting on 25th March. Thursday Club members will be pleased to hear that we contributed to the purchase from our funds.

Ruth & Anne

Events Committee

Since the beginning of the year the Committee has arranged two events – a Beetle Drive in January and the Men's Breakfast in February. About thirty people enjoyed a lot of good fun and fellowship at the Beetle Drive and a similar number of menfolk turned up for the Breakfast on 20th February.

Those attending the Breakfast, in addition to the food, enjoyed an excellent illustrated talk by Gavin McCullough on his work as part of a team working in Zimbabwe on a hospital and school improvement scheme last year. Gavin plans to return to Zimbabwe later this year and it is pleasing to note that, in addition to the £200 raised for the Property Fund, a similar amount was donated to support Gavin in continuing his work. Sincere thanks are extended to all who helped in any way with the success of this event.

In view of the special meetings and services being arranged in the context of our vacancy situation, the Events Committee decided to postpone the usual late spring activities so the next event will be our annual summer Coffee Morning in July or August. The date has yet to be finalised and details will be announced in due course.

Tom Johnston

A Thought . . .

The highest rewards for a person's work is not what they get for it but what they become by it!

Prayer Group and Bible Study

Although our numbers are small those who have attended have really appreciated the hard work done by the Rev. John Linkens in preparing our bible study programme. Since the beginning of the year we have been revisiting the stories of some of the Old Testament characters including Abraham, Joseph and Moses and it is surprising how much of the detail has become lost to our memories with the passage of time. The emphasis in the bible study is on participation with everyone taking their turns at reading a few verses.

Our time of prayer gives us the opportunity to reflect on the current issues confronting our church and country and also to pray for individuals both within the church and beyond. As always, there is no pressure on anyone to pray aloud – silent prayers are just as acceptable to God.

Anyone who would like to join us is assured of a warm welcome.

Tom Johnston

Mission Plan

As reported in the November issue of the *Newsletter* all congregations in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland have been asked to consider their future mission and prepare a Congregational Mission Plan by May 2010. This follows a similar exercise carried out at Presbytery level and completed last year.

Kirk Session invited a group of nine people to consider a plan for First Donaghadee and the group have had meetings in February and March. As members of the congregation will be aware, much work has been done during the past year in preparing our case for a new Minister and it is likely that our final Mission Plan will draw heavily on the SWOT Analysis and 20-20 Vision documents already prepared. It is hoped to have a draft plan available for the April Session meeting and, if agreed, this would be finalised and ‘fine-tuned’ in consultation with our new minister.

Tom Johnston

A Thought . . .

Ability is what you're capable of doing

Motivation determines what you do –

Attitude determines how well you do it!

Service of Ordination and Installation

The Service of Ordination and Installation of Colin Anderson as our new minister will be held in the church on Friday evening, 23rd April at 7.30pm. This is a major milestone in the history of our congregation and an even more important event in the life and Christian service of Colin and his wife, Debra.

Although the service is an Ards Presbytery one the occasion is very much a 'showcase' event for us as a congregation and I would encourage you to show your support by, where possible, your attendance and willingness to help with catering, stewarding and other arrangements on the night in question. It is anticipated that we will have of the order of 200 visitors and, with our own members, the total could be well over 300. The formal service will be followed by supper served in the church, then a Reception with speeches and various presentations with the final word being from our new minister the – by then – Rev. Colin Anderson.

It is proposed to issue the formal invitations during the last week in March but, for members of the congregation – your invitation is below. In this connection it would be helpful if you could let your District Elder or Committee Member know by 15th April if you plan to attend.



***Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Presbytery of Ards***



***The Congregation of First Presbyterian Church Donaghadee
are pleased to invite***

All Church Members

to the

**Ordination and Installation
of**

Mr Colin G. Anderson B.Sc.(Hons), B.D., Dip.Min.

in First Presbyterian Church, High Street, Donaghadee
on

Friday 23rd April 2010 at 7.30pm

RSVP to your District Elder or Committee Member by Thursday, 15th April, please

Pulpit Supply

Sunday 28 th March:	11.30am	Mrs Fiona Forbes
	7.30pm	Rev. Mark Welsh
Easter Sunday 4 th April:	11.30am	Mrs Fiona Forbes
Sunday 11 th April:	11.30am	Rev. Mark Welsh
		<i>(final service as Convenor)</i>
Sunday 18 th April:	11.30am	Mr Aaron Ditty
Sunday 25 th April:	11.30am	Rev. Colin Anderson
	7.00pm	Rev. Colin Anderson

April Communion – Change of date

Members of the congregation are asked to note that this year's April Communion will be postponed until the last Sunday in May. As indicated elsewhere in this Newsletter, the last Sunday in April – the 25th – will be our new minister's first service with us and the Kirk Session considered that Mr Anderson should be allowed a 'settling in' period before conducting his first communion service. The new date for the Spring Communion is therefore 30th May and the usual invitations will be distributed by the elders.

Boxing Day Dip!

On behalf of Heather and myself I wish to thank everybody who kindly sponsored us in our Boxing Day swim at Ballyvester beach. It was a beautiful day and, while we were not tempted to strike out for Scotland, the quick dip was most refreshing! As a result of many folk's generosity we were able to donate a total of £820 to the Lighthouse Trust. Sincere thanks to all who contributed.

Sandy Dalzell

Ladies – it's your day

at First Presbyterian Church *(a combined churches event)*

Saturday 15th May 2010 9.30am – 3pm

* Morning coffee * Buffet lunch

* Workshops (choice of two) * Lively music

Special speaker: Lady Christine Eames

Full details and booking-forms available from 1st April from

Elizabeth 4275 7698 or Anne 9188 3509

Committee Up-date

The Church Committee met in the manse for its monthly meeting on 18th March when members had the opportunity to see round the property, hear details of what had been done to date and consider proposals for the final preparations for the imminent arrival of our new manse family.

Work already completed includes the installation of a new boiler, external and basic internal decoration together with a number of repairs and improvements to plastering, plumbing and electrical aspects. Final internal decoration and carpet replacements had been left for discussion with our new minister. However in the course of recent discussions with the Property Committee Convenor, Jim Gibson, Mr and Mrs Anderson have indicated their wish to undertake the internal decoration themselves and they have also indicated their preparedness to replace the carpeting on the stairs, landing and bedrooms at their own expense. As an alternative to replacing the carpeting throughout the ground floor Jim brought forward proposals to use laminated wood flooring for the entire ground floor area and having the kitchen and utility room floors tiled at an estimated total cost of between £6,000 and £7,000. These proposals had been discussed with Mr and Mrs Anderson and, given the significant savings to church funds by the costs being borne by Colin and Debra, the Committee unanimously agreed the proposals.

Church Heating

Recent repairs to church heating should improve efficiency. Leaks had developed at several joints in the cast iron piping and essential repairs carried out two weeks ago necessitated draining the entire system. However, the draining operation had the benefit of clearing a significant amount of 'gunge' from the pipes which, hopefully, will allow for better heating in the church.

Thanks

Whilst other routine business was dealt with, the major items related to property matters and members expressed their sincere appreciation to Jim Gibson for all his efforts regarding manse and church in recent times.

Sandy Dalzell

Dates for you diary.....

Friday 2nd April at 8pm: Good Friday Combined Service – Shore Street (?)

Sunday 4th April at 11.30am: Easter Morning Service with Fionna Forbes

Friday 23rd April at 7.30pm: Service of Ordination and Installation

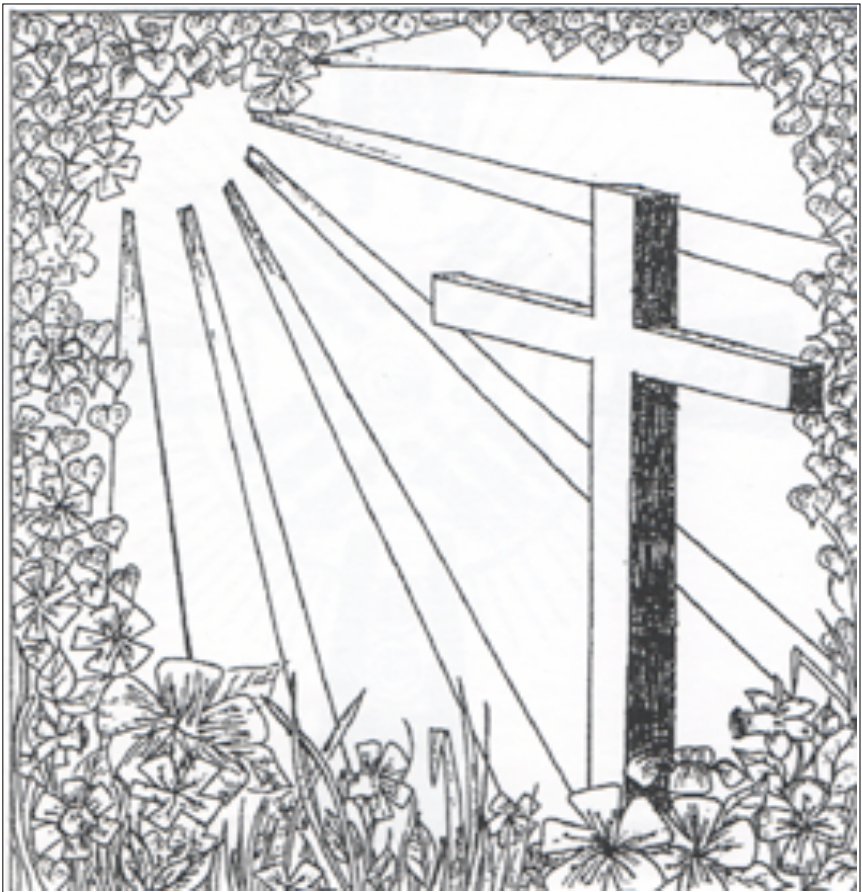
Sunday 25th April at 11.30am and 7pm – Rev Colin Anderson's first

services as our Minister

Friday 30th April: GB Parents' Night.

First Presbyterian Church Donaghadee

Newsletter



March 2010

