

*First Presbyterian Church Donaghadee*

# *Newsletter*



*Let us go to the Lord's House (Psalm 122 v1)*

***May 2010***

# *From the Study*

**May 2010**



***“I will not fail you or abandon you.” Joshua 1: 5***

It is a pleasure, but also an immense privilege, to be able to bring my first message ‘from the study.’

These last four months have been a whirlwind journey for both Debra and myself as we sought God’s call, a call to Donaghadee that we were delighted to accept. We want to thank you as a congregation for your very warm welcome and for the wonderful evening we enjoyed on 23<sup>rd</sup> April at my Ordination and Installation.

I was listening to the radio recently and I heard a song which I have not heard for a long time; ‘The long and winding road’ by The Beatles.

It made me think of the Israelites after they had been taken out of captivity in Egypt under the leadership of Moses. It wasn’t just a straightforward journey from Egypt to the Promised Land; it was a long and winding road. It was a journey lasting forty years and Moses wasn’t even around to see the end of the journey. I would imagine for many of the Israelites they were downcast. They had left a reasonable standard of living in Egypt and here they were, forty years in the wilderness and now the man who had brought them there was gone.

I am not a big fan of statistics! I am saddened when I hear people use statistics to portray the state of the church today; the state of our denomination. The more you tell people that church is declining and that our denomination is declining the more you plant seeds of doubt in their minds. When Moses died I would imagine that the seeds of doubt among the Israelites were growing quite fast. But failure wasn’t part of God’s plan; he chose Joshua to take the Israelites into the Promised Land.

As we embark together on this next phase of the journey in the life of First Donaghadee, I want to draw on that initial communication between God and Joshua. God told Joshua that if he obeyed his instructions and meditated on his word then God would not fail him and would never abandon him.

As we journey together in First Donaghadee, let us together put God first in everything we do. For if we put God first then I am sure that He will never fail us or abandon us.

**Colin**

## ***Church Flowers***

### *Flower Rota*

**May** Judith Purdy

**June** Joan McKeag

**July** Christine Rankin

**August** Anne Johnston

Flowers have been kindly donated by:-

### **April**

4<sup>th</sup> Mrs Florence Roberts

11<sup>th</sup> The Colwell family

18<sup>th</sup> Mrs Elizabeth Burch

25<sup>th</sup> Donated for Installation Service

### **May**

2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs Faye Gibson

9<sup>th</sup> Mrs Edna Palmer

16<sup>th</sup> Mrs Christine Rankin (*Ladies Day*)

23<sup>rd</sup> Mrs Belle Matear

30<sup>th</sup> Mr Derek Patterson (*Communion*)

*Thanks for Church flowers received from* – Mrs Noreen Boyd, Mr Angus Davidson, Mrs Miamie Dickson, Mrs Doris Erskine, Mrs Maureen Stitt.

## ***Freewill Offering Rota***

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

**June** R. Black, M. Boyd, Mrs A. Wright, Mrs H. Irwin

**July** C. Adair, S. Donaldson, Mrs A. Johnston, Mrs C. Rankin

**August** J. Gibson, W. Mailey, Miss M. Curragh, Mrs J. Neville

**September** A. Dalzell, C. Kerr, Miss E. Bell, Mrs E. Dalzell

# *Financial Notes*

## **Freewill Offering 2010**

Contributions to FWO and Sunday Collections up to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010 are as follows:-

FWO & Sunday Collections	£14,997.75
Stipend	<u>£ 280.00</u>
	£15,277.75

Total for the same period in 2009 was £12,930.21 so at present we are 18.1% up on the year or £2347. We need to maintain this increase in order to cover Ministerial costs which we did not have in 2009 and also in order to meet our other commitments.

## **United Appeal and Sunday School**

Our Target of Honour contribution to United Appeal is £6169, a decrease of £354 on last year. To date our first envelope collection has reached £1451 a slight decrease on the same period in 2009.

Young People's Day on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June provides us with the second opportunity to contribute to United Appeal as well as to the funds of the Sunday School. Envelopes accompanying this *Newsletter* invite everyone to show their appreciation for the work of our Sunday School as well as helping the wider Church further afield.

*Robin Black*

## **Property Account**

This report contains some items of good news – the Property Account is still in the **black** (by almost £2000); the debit balance in the Loan Account is being steadily reduced (to a mere £70,000 now!); the support and generosity of the congregation is ensuring that the envelope and other donations are on the increase (by £350 so far this year); 'gift aid' on the property resides temporarily, but safely, in the General Account with £1400 there and another £400 still to be claimed from the 'taxman'; and hopefully the Church property is in a state of good health, enough to avoid 'big spending' for a while!

A full report of income and expenditure will appear in the next *Newsletter* (September); meanwhile, I wish you all 'Happy Holidays' – and special good wishes to Colin and Debra for many happy years in the manse.

*Ken Lennox*

### **5p Collection**

To date £29.25 has been received in 5p's. A big 'thank you' to all the collectors. All silver coins are most welcome – we can convert them to 5p's!

*Margaret Curragh*

### ***Ladies Day 2010***

We have just held Ladies Day Number 7 in the Church and Halls, (a realised dream of Lyndsey Standerwick, a member of our Y1 Team in 2004) - a day where the ladies come to take time out to rewind, relax and renew! It is now a combined Churches event which has always been a very enjoyable and inspirational occasion for all those attending and this year was no exception. Over 60 ladies attended the various workshops and ended the day with our guest speaker Lady Christine Eames, whose very inspiring talk was entitled 'Women in diverse situations around the world.' Heartablaze, the praise band won the hearts of many with their selection of music and words. The delicious lunch served by the men folk is always a treat and again stirred the tastebuds.

Ladies Day brings ladies from as far as Lisburn, Carrickfergus, Ballygowan and Belfast as well as those from the locality. If you haven't made it to a Ladies Day yet, for whatever reason, why not try and experience it for yourself next year!

*Christine Rankin*

### ***Christian Aid***

Thanks are extended to all who helped with this year's Christian Aid collection in the districts allocated to our church. The count on 18<sup>th</sup> May resulted in a total of £2658 which is just about £40 below last year's figure. Given the current financial climate and an apparent increase in the number of curt doorstep 'Noes' this is an excellent result so well done to all – collectors and counters alike.

*Tom Johnston*

## ***The Scout Group***

It's 'outdoor season' for the Scout Group, where Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts are very involved in their open-air activities.

***Squirrels*** have had an enjoyable year and have now finished for the summer break.

***Beavers*** were busy finishing their crafts and badge work. Squirrels and Beavers enjoyed a trip to Exploris in Portaferry and had a wonderful experience handling the starfish and flatfish. Although 'chilly' they had a picnic with fun and games in the nearby park. Beavers finished for the summer with a fun night and party where prizes of encouragement were presented. Christine Cromie, the Assistant Beaver Leader was presented with her Certificate on completing her training.

***Cubs*** went to the sixers and seconders Cub District Fun weekend recently. Being 'mixed up' with other sixers and seconders for the weekend they river walked, went canoeing, orienteering and played games. Daniella from 3<sup>rd</sup> Ards Cubs kept them active with an energetic Camp Fire. Our Cub pack was awarded the Harry Scott Award and we congratulate them on this achievement. Cubs 'good turn' for this year was partnering with Christian Aid when they bought a water tap, toilet, sink, 3 pigs, 16 ducks, tree nursery and 80 meals. On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May they took part in the District Tag Rugby/5 Aside Football competition. Summer camp will be held in Crawfordsburn during June when they will be out and about with their activities.

***The Scouts*** have also been busy camping – they have been to County Flag in Crawfordsburn and District Camp at Greyabbey. They will be looking after the 'Plant Crèche' at Mount Stewart during the Craft and Garden Fair. The District Hike takes place in early June and the District Raft Race, also in June is an eagerly awaited competition. The final regular meeting of their session is an activity night in Crawfordsburn. Summer camp this year is to Peak 2010 in Derbyshire which takes place from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July.

### ***Explorer Scouts***

Congratulations to Matthew McIlveen and Stuart Robinson who have been awarded their Chief Scout Award, Diamond. Both have now started on their journey to become Queen's Scouts. Andrew Crofts, Phillip Donaldson, Ben Ireland, Kendal Hinds and Jordan McIlveen were awarded their Chief Scout Award, Platinum.

Phillip Donaldson, Andrew Crofts and Jordan McIlveen will be attending The Scottish Jamborette at Blair Athol in Scotland during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in July. After camp they will give home hospitality to Scouts from Arizona in the USA.

The Scouts preparing for the World Jamboree are holding fundraising events in the coming months so keep an eye for the dates.

Our Scout Group along with 1<sup>st</sup> Donaghadee Scout Group hosted the Annual St George's Day Parade in Donaghadee. We had a good turn out from the District and we were delighted to have Rev Colin Anderson, our newly installed minister, conduct the service in First Presbyterian Church. A Coffee Morning is planned to raise funds for the minibus and the Group – see ad in this magazine and an 'Open Day' in September.

After the summer break we will return on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September.

*Christine Rankin* Group Scout Leader

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## **2<sup>nd</sup> Donaghadee Scout Group**

'OPEN DAY'

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2010

Starting at 10.30am

Light Refreshments will be served.

## **Coffee Morning**

**Sat. 21<sup>st</sup> August 2010**

**10.30am - 12noon**

**Church Halls**

**Proceeds in aid of  
2<sup>nd</sup> D'Dee Scout Group**

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## ***Cash for Clobber***

Doing a Spring Clean or a General Clear Out?

The Scout Group are again collecting 'Cash for Clobber.'

**YES, PLEASE**

Good Quality Clothing, Sheets, Towels, Curtains, Shoes and Handbags.

**NO, THANK YOU**

Soiled Items

Duvets

Pillows

Please put your items in black bin bags and either leave in the Church Halls or I will collect from you. This recycling initiative helps you get rid of unwanted items, the environment, those in the developing world and the Scout Group.

You can contact me on 91862923 to have your items collected.

*Christine Rankin*

## ***Girls' Brigade***

G.B. Parents' Night was held on Friday evening 30<sup>th</sup> April. We were delighted to have our newly appointed minister Rev Colin Anderson and his wife Debra with us at their first G.B. Parents' Night in Donaghadee. This was the highlight of the year in our G.B. company and we had an excellent turn-out of parents and friends supporting the girls. (Great to see Jim having to bring in more chairs – that's a first for a long time!)

Parents' Night is a very informal evening, just showing you what the girls get up to on Thursday evenings, and they certainly showed off their talents and skills on that evening. Now they can have a well-earned rest until September. Well done girls!

This was a very sad and emotional evening for me, as I have resigned from my post of Captaincy, which I held for the past eight years, though have had my ties with this company for 48 years. I had thought about this long and hard before resigning, but I have achieved everything I could for this company, so saw it was time to go and let the young leadership take over. Jennifer will be Officer-in-Charge and I wish her and the Company every success for the years ahead.

Girls – I will miss you, but I certainly will not forget about you, as I have wonderful memories of Girls' Brigade in First Donaghadee.

***Hannah Irwin***

## ***Children's Church – July and August***

During the two summer months when the Sunday School teachers are having a well-earned break we would like to encourage families to bring their children to church whenever they can. We would also wish to have some form of very informal Children's Church available for the children and would be grateful to hear from any members – ladies or gentlemen – who would be able to help out as leaders for a few Sundays in the event that there are a number of children in attendance. Anyone who is prepared to help is asked to contact Emma Bell at 9188 8506.



***Tom Johnston***

## *A Memorable Occasion*

As a congregation, we were delighted to welcome our new Minister on Friday evening, 23<sup>rd</sup> April, when Mr Colin G. Anderson was Ordained and Installed by the Ards Presbytery as Minister of First Donaghadee.

The Ordination and Installation was a truly memorable and inspiring occasion with some 350 members of the congregation and visitors packed into the church. The service was conducted by the Moderator of the Ards Presbytery, Rev Jim Campbell; the preacher was Rev Bobbie Stevenson; and the Charge to Minister and Congregation was given by Rev Dr Mark Welsh who had been the Pulpit Vacancy Convenor for the previous 15 months. The overarching theme for the evening was one of encouragement and building for the future not just within the church premises but also out in the community of Donaghadee. The moving ceremony of Ordination was conducted by the Moderator with the assistance of the Presbytery Clerk, Rev Dr Alan Russell, and members of the Presbytery Commission who had been appointed to oversee the vacancy arrangements and procedures.

Following the service there was a time for greetings and good wishes offered to Colin and Debra as they begin their service for Christ's Kingdom in Donaghadee. The Moderator extended a warm welcome from the Ards Presbytery; the Rev Colin Megaw spoke on behalf of Colin's home congregation of Helen's Bay and the Rev Wilfred Orr brought greetings and good wishes from St. John's Newtownbreda where Rev Anderson has been Assistant Minister for the past year and a half. The Rev Bob Cobain spoke on behalf of Colin's many friends who were attending the service and wished Mr and Mrs Anderson every blessing in the years ahead.

Speaking on behalf of the congregation of First Donaghadee, Clerk of Session, Tom Johnston, expressed pleasure at the arrival of the new Minister and extended a warm invitation to Colin and Debra to be '...two of us as we seek, together, to serve God in First Donaghadee'. The Clerk also expressed the sincere thanks of the congregation to the Rev Dr Mark Welsh, Minister of Trinity, Greyabbey, for his outstanding and inspirational leadership during the 15 months of pulpit vacancy and gifts were presented to Mark and his wife, Caroline, by Sandy and Elizabeth

Dalzell. In celebration of the Rev Anderson's Ordination, gifts were also presented to him and Debra by the Clerk and Mrs Elizabeth Burch respectively.

Having taken the pulpit to a lengthy standing ovation, Rev Anderson expressed his thanks to all present and to all who had been involved in the arrangements for the service and reception. Looking back on his career to date Colin referred to his 18 years as a police officer and spoke with fond memories of his work as student and Assistant Minister in Cootehill and Drum, in Australia and for the past 18 months in St John's Newtownbreda. He also referred to his home congregation of Helen's Bay and expressed thanks to the Rev Colin Megaw and others for their positive influence on his decision to take up his studies for Christian Ministry. On a personal note he expressed his gratitude for the support that he had received from his own and Debra's parents and had a very special 'thank you' for all the support given by Debra herself.

In conclusion, the Rev Anderson expressed pleasure at having received the call to First Donaghadee and assured the congregation that both he and Debra were looking forward to becoming involved in the work of the Church and wider community of Donaghadee.

A memorable occasion was fittingly concluded with an excellent supper provided by the ladies of the congregation and sincere thanks are due to Eleanor Leighton and her team of helpers for all the hard work and detailed arrangements necessary in catering for such a huge turn-out. Well done to all concerned.

*Tom Johnston*

### ***Presbyterian Women***

Some members of the PW attended the PW Rally in Church House on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May. The rally was very well supported and the speaker was Helen Kennedy who gave a very inspirational talk on the work that she and her husband do in Malawi in Blantyre Mission.

PW has now finished for the summer and will recommence in October. Our theme for 2010/11 is 'Stir us to Action.'

*Elizabeth Burch*

## ***Communion***

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed at both services on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May. Invitations to communicant members accompany this copy of the *Newsletter*. As on previous occasions your Token will be available for collection in the vestibule as you arrive at church. If you are a visitor or a new member and wish to share in communion please ask in the vestibule for a blank Token and enter your details as indicated. Please be assured of a warm welcome to our Communion Services.

***Tom Johnston***

## ***Events Committee***

**Ladies Day** on 15<sup>th</sup> May was once again a great success – please see the report elsewhere in this *Newsletter*. Congratulations and sincere thanks are extended to the hard-working committee who organised this event and to all who were involved in an inspirational day for the 60+ ladies who attended.

**Coffee Morning:** The Annual Summer Coffee Morning has been arranged for Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> July. Details of stalls, etc., will be publicised nearer the date but please note diaries at this stage and plan to attend.

***Tom Johnston***

## ***Young People's Service***

The Young People's Service and Prize Giving will be held on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 11.00am. Practices will continue on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May – the theme this year is 'What does Sunday School mean to us?' All young people are asked to make a special effort to attend. A final rehearsal will take place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30am until 12noon when all children are asked to be present. Sunday School ends for the summer on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June and recommences on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September.

***The Sunday School Teachers***

## ***Calling all Football Fans!***

Our new Minister, Colin, is a keen follower of football and is arranging to show the England World Cup matches on a big screen in the Curragh Room during June and July. Please come along, enjoy the football and join in the general banter of these occasions – and bring your mates. We are assured that refreshments will be available at the coffee bar at half time and for post match inquests.

Tom Johnston