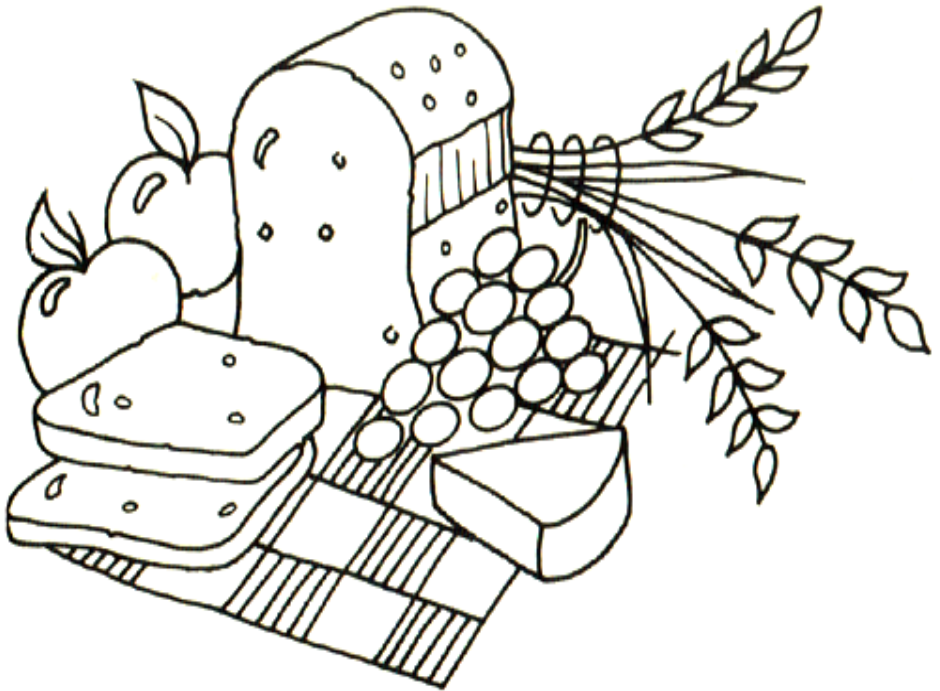


First Presbyterian Church Donaghadee

Newsletter



Come, let us give Thanks

September 2010

From the Study



On the evening of Sunday 11th July 40, or so people packed into the Curragh Room to watch one of the highlights of the summer sporting calendar; The World Cup Final. This was the culmination of over four weeks of football, where all the England matches were shown in the Curragh Room. The craic was great, but the football not so great. People expected so much of England and they failed to deliver.

At around that time, across in America a young man from Portrush hit the heights in his own sport. Graeme McDowell won Golf's US Open Championship. This was comparable to England winning the world cup. A fantastic achievement!

What will be interesting for me is when December comes and we have the Sports Personality of the Year awards. In all likelihood Graeme won't win. Even though he is the first Brit to win that competition since Tony Jacklin in 1970 I think he will be overlooked. I hope I am proved wrong!

When God came to earth in Jesus Christ he was overlooked and disregarded. He was a threat to the Jewish leaders of the day. They knew that a promised messiah had been prophesised in the Old Testament, but I'm not actually too sure they wanted this new messiah. They were zealous to uphold the structures and systems that had been set in place by their predecessors. Any threat to their system was a threat to them personally. If only they had opened their minds!

What about us? Do we feel that our traditions and values are being threatened? Today's society would tell us, "Yes". The morals and ethics of society have severely diminished over the past ten to twenty years.

But what about our traditions and values in church?

I have had the opportunity in the last few years to visit some churches around the world and two in particular come to mind. One is a new modern church in Australia. When we left we wondered if we had actually been to church, such was the contemporary nature of the service. At the other

service we came away with exactly the same thought and yet it was a very traditional service in a cathedral.

When it comes to worship services there will always be disagreement: Some will prefer one style over another and vice versa. Sadly, there are too many occasions when churches split because of these differences. I wonder when that happens do the people realise that God is being well and truly overlooked.

As we travel together on this journey in First Donaghadee we must keep our focus at all times on God.

Psalm 128 is accredited as a song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem. The word ascending gives the connotation that it was a steep severe climb. The pilgrims would have been tired and weary; spiritually they would have been low. Thus the psalmist writes

“How joyful are those who fear the Lord, all who follow his ways. You will enjoy the fruit of your labour. How joyful and prosperous you will be. That is the Lord’s blessing for those who fear him.”

My prayer is that as a congregation we will put God first in all we do, all we say, all we think. If we follow God’s ways then we will be prosperous as a family under Christ’s love and grace.

Colin

Deaths *‘At rest with the Lord’*

22nd June Mr James Beattie, 6 Mount Royal Apartments, D’dee

28th June Mrs Evelyn Bresland, Movilla Nursing Home, N’ards

6th August Mr William Graham, Joymount Nursing Home, Carrick.

6th September Mrs Jean Martin, Baramblewood Nursing Home, Bangor

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

Church Flowers

Flower Rota

September *shared* **October** Cathy Hamilton

November Christine Rankin **December** *shared*

Flowers have been kindly donated by:-

June

6th Sunday School 13th Mr Ken Lennox

20th Mrs Gina Weston 27th Mrs Judy Neville

July

4th Miss Doreen Spencer 11th *Flower Fund*

18th Miss Elvera Withers 25th Mrs Kathleen Jamieson

August

1st Mrs Judith Purdy 15th Miss Sarah Bunting

22nd Mr Bob Barr 29th Mrs Doris Erskine

September

5th Mrs Sandra McClure 12th Mrs Hannah Irwin

Donations to the Flower Fund are recorded with thanks from:-

Miss Emma Bell, The Colwell Family, Mrs Doris Erskine, Mrs Sandra McClure, Mrs Kay Malcolm, Mrs Belle Matear, Mrs Judy Neville, Mrs Edna Palmer, Mrs Lily Taggart, Mrs Gina Weston and Miss Elvera Withers.

Thanks for Church flowers received from – Mrs Maureen Black (Bangor), Rev Eddie Conn, Mrs Doris Erskine, Mrs Reba Myers, Mrs Sadie Porter, Mrs Sharon Watts and Mrs Joan Waugh.

Thanks – to The Catering Team of First Donaghadee

Lynda, Mark and I appreciate all your work, support and prayers these last number of days. Thank you so much. Richard Graham

Many thanks for the Church flowers I received after my stay in hospital; also thanks to Rev Colin Anderson for his visits to hospital and at home. These were very much appreciated. David Donaldson

Flower Committee

At the Flower Committee meeting, held in the Taylor Room on Monday 6th September, Anne Johnston tendered her resignation as Hon Secretary after a twelve year term of office. Mrs Debra Anderson and Mrs Judith Purdy agreed to take on the organising of the Flower Committee.

Freewill Offering Rota

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

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

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

Christianity Explored

Our Christianity Explored Course will run on Monday evenings from 7.30pm beginning on 4th October and ending on 6th December.



You don't need to know anything about the bible.

You won't be asked to read aloud, pray or sing.

You can ask any question you want

If you require more information please contact our minister,
Rev Colin Anderson on 91883990 or
email [***minister@firstdonaghadee.org***](mailto:minister@firstdonaghadee.org)

Non-church members are very welcome.

Billy Graham

Members of the congregation were greatly saddened by the passing of Mr Billy Graham on 6th August. Billy gave loyal service to our church as an elder for over 30 years and continued to attend church and session meetings up until failing health prevented him from doing so earlier this year. A loyal supporter of the many activities in the church and a generous contributor to cake sales, coffee mornings and the like, Billy was a friend to everyone and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. As a congregation we record our thanks for all Billy's service to God's Kingdom and extend our sympathies to his son, Richard, daughter-in-law, Lynda, grandson, Mark, and the wider family circle.

Thursday Club – for Seniors

Our first meeting of the new session was on Thursday 9th September at 12.15pm when we were delighted to welcome a good turn out (with some new members) on a bright, sunny day – 27 sat down to enjoy the soup & tart lunch followed by a picture quiz organised by Rev Clifford Wright in the Curragh Room. Our next meeting will be on 23rd September 12.15 – 1.30pm. We meet on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month and new members are always welcome to join us for food, fun & fellowship.

Thank You, Emma

After many years as teacher and leader of our Sunday School, Miss Emma Bell has decided to step aside and hand over the reins to Anne, Rhonda and Mary. Whilst there will be other opportunities to express our thanks as a congregation, we wish to join with Kirk Session in recording our sincere appreciation to Emma for all her dedication and loyalty over the years. In doing so we also take the opportunity to offer our thanks and good wishes to the new leadership team and trust and pray that the School will develop and witness an increase in membership in the coming months and years.

Tom Johnston

Harvest Thanksgiving

The Church will be decorated for Harvest on Friday 1st October from 7pm. The Flower Committee would be grateful to receive gifts of flowers, greenery, fruit, jams and vegetables between 7pm and 8pm. We would also appreciate help as our numbers are small – even just as a sweeper-up or tea-maker!

We plan to have the Harvest gifts ready for distribution to the Church Districts by the Elders and Church Committee members from 10.30am on Monday morning, 4th October.

Tearfund

The 2010 catalogue '*Created*' is now available. You can pick one up from the church vestibule or give me a ring on 9188 3509 and I'll be pleased to leave one in for you. Please leave your order forms in the box provided in the vestibule – no need for payment at this stage! I will order on line at the end of September and at the end of October so the goods will arrive in good time for Christmas. We find it's a good idea to order early as some of the more popular handcrafted items sell out quickly.

Tearfund exists to benefit skilled craftspeople from some of the world's poorest countries and in the catalogue you will find a collection of Christmas cards and beautifully handcrafted gifts from around the world. Every order can make a difference as it will bring dignity of employment, fair wages and the hope for a brighter future to the craftspeople and their families.

Anne Johnston

Congratulations!

As a congregation we are delighted to extend our warm congratulations to Billy and Maureen Stitt who celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 4th October. We wish them well on their special day and many more anniversaries to follow.

Tom Johnston

Financial Notes

Freewill Offering 2010

Contributions to FWO and Sunday Collections up to 31 August 2010 are as follows:-

FWO & Sunday Collections: £30, 638.10

Stipend: £ 560.00

Total: £31, 198.10

Total for the same period in 2009 was £26,236.31 so at present we are £4,961 up on the year or 18.9%. We need to maintain this increase in order to cover Ministerial costs which we did not have in 2009 and to meet our other commitments.

United Appeal

Our Target of Honour contribution to United Appeal is £6,169, a decrease of £354 on last year. To date (ie to 31 August) we have reached £ 2,683, a decrease of 7.2% on the same period in 2009. The next envelopes for United Appeal will be issued in November.

Harvest Thanksgiving

As in previous years our special offering at Harvest will be for the benefit of the Property Fund which, as you will see from Ken's notes below, is currently under considerable pressure. Your Harvest envelope accompanies this *Newsletter*.

Moderator's Pakistan Flood Victims Appeal

Thanks to the generosity of the Congregation, £3 060 has been donated to date through the envelope collection.

Rob McQuiston

Property Fund

This year's income to date is £15,938 which includes the following: personal giving of £4,575 in envelopes, donations and 5p collections, £1,160 from 'Events', £3,500 rent from Ballyvester School, £1,700 Gift Aid and a temporary loan of £5,000 from our Investment Account. For all

of this I say a big ‘thank you’ to those who contribute so generously, to Tom and the Events Committee and to our marvellous ‘catering ladies’. Expenditure has been exceptionally high this year, being £17,113 so far. This includes £8,000 repayment to Loan Account, £8,968 manse expenses for replacement kitchen equipment, new fireplace, double glazing repairs, new wood and tile flooring, painting and general upkeep, £110 for new TV aerial in Church Coffee Bar and £134 bank charges.

The resulting balance at the bank on 31/8/2010 was £4,666, although a return of the £5,000 borrowed from our Investment Account has to be made pronto! Hopefully a bumper Harvest Collection will keep us out of the red!

Loan Account

Debit Balance at 1/1/10	-£75,295
8 mths payment from Property A/C	<u>8,000</u>
	-£67,295
Interest paid to date	<u>549</u>
Debit Balance @ 31/8/10	-£67,844

Ken Lennox

5p Collection

Since the May *Newsletter* £40.70 has been collected in 5ps.

Thanks again to those who are collecting and welcome to anyone who is starting. All silver coins are acceptable – and all go to the Church Property Fund.

Margaret Curragh

101 Not Out!

Members of the congregation will be pleased to know that our oldest member, Algie Laverty, is keeping well and looking forward to his 102nd birthday at the beginning of next year. Algie is a resident in York House, Portrush, where he has the



company of his wee sister, Edna, who is only in her upper 90's! He was looking his usual dapper self when he entertained his former neighbour, Lotte Scott and friends Anne and Tom Johnston, on 14th September.

The Scout Group

It's all hands on deck as the Scout Group has welcomed back its young people and new members to each of its sections. While many of the young people enjoyed a rest during the summer many others were busy.

Summer Camps

Phillip Donaldson, Andrew Crofts and Jordan McIlveen hosted Scouts from Phoenix, Arizona for home hospitality after which they all travelled to Blair Atholl in Scotland for the International Camp – an experience they all thoroughly enjoyed. The Scout Troop linked up with 2nd Ards Scout Troop for summer camp at Peak 2010 in Derbyshire. They also enjoyed the many activities on offer and had a great time.



Raft Race

Our Scout Troop enjoyed the Annual Raft Race at the Lagoon in Millisle and came a credible 3rd after a few minor repairs before the start whistle. It was good to see parents and friends come to watch on a cold blustery evening.

Coffee Morning

We held our Coffee Morning in August raising £330 for funds. Thank you to all supported us. The jar of sweets was won by Mrs Joan McKeag – good guess Joan.

Open Day

The Open Day attracted a number of families and this has certainly boosted our numbers particularly across the younger sections.

Leadership

It was with much regret that I accepted the retirement of our Squirrel Leader Mrs Lynda Davidson and Helper June Pollock. Lynda has given 42 years service to Scouting and for that we are very grateful. June has helped Lynda with Squirrels for the past 17 years and we are sorry to say goodbye to them both. We are now on the lookout for new Leaders and if you are interested or know someone who would be interested in helping with the little ones I would be delighted to hear from you. Teegan Greer has kindly

agreed to help with Squirrels and we welcome her. Teegan is no stranger to Scouting having been a Squirrel herself.

We extend our *good wishes* to Asst. Group Scout Leader, George Purdy who is making a good recovery after a hip replacement; we look forward to seeing him out and about again.

Congratulations to Julie and Ivan Currie who recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

The Explorer Scouts going to Sweden have been fundraising and held a very successful Golf Day at Donaghadee Golf Club raising the sum of £700. We are continuing with 'Cash for Clobber' this year – see ad below. As we look forward to a new and busy season it is good to see that our Scout Group continues to grow and we hope all our young people will enjoy the activities planned for them.

'Cash for Clobber'

The Scout Group are again collecting 'Cash for Clobber' so if you are getting rid of the summer wear or other materials we would like to have them.

YES PLEASE

Good Quality Clothing, Bed Linen, 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 benefiting the environment and the developing world and our Scout Group.

You can contact me on 9186 2932 to have your items collected.

Christine Rankin GSL

Love in a Box

A few covered boxes are still available for collection in the Church vestibule. Full details of the scheme will be found inside each box. If you haven't filled a box previously why not consider lifting one and joining in the fun of filling it? A donation placed in the jar would be much appreciated as this goes towards the purchase of gift-wrap & paste used to decorate the boxes.

Margaret Curragh

Taking Care

'Taking Care' is the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's area of responsibility for the safeguarding and protection of children and vulnerable adults and comes under the umbrella of The Board of Social Witness.

In our congregation there are two 'Designated Persons'- Stephen Donaldson and myself. We are responsible for advising on 'Child Protection' related matters and making sure that all our volunteers have attended the Taking Care Training Programme (working alongside our Minister and Clerk of Session). In October 2007 I was appointed by PCI as one of two Volunteer Trainers for the Ards Presbytery. My role as a Trainer is to help volunteers working with children and young people understand the guidelines in the area of Child Protection and to ensure that the children and young people in their care enjoy their activities in a safe and secure environment as well as promoting safe practices in groups and organisations within the Church.

On Sat 11th September I attended the Trainers Taking Care Conference at Wellington Street Presbyterian Church in Ballymena. The day was very informative with a talk from Constable Sid Henry from the PSNI Education Team on Transport and Vehicle Issues – this provoked a lively discussion but the serious side was definitely food for thought. Denise Keegan spoke to us on Care for Children with Special Needs and how within our organisations we can help provide an enjoyable atmosphere for those not as well off as ourselves.

Since July we now must use the new style Access NI Forms for vetting following the procedures for recruitment. We are waiting for the Government to make a decision on the Vetting and Barring Scheme which has been put on hold. The Taking Office in Church House work very hard to make sure that our volunteers, children and young people all enjoy their activities in a safe and secure environment. While the responsibility of 'Taking Care' of our children and young people in our organisations remains primarily with the leaders it is the responsibility of everyone to ensure that our children are safe from harm.

The Taking Care bi-annual Conference will be held on Saturday October 8th 2011.

Christine Rankin D/P, Volunteer Trainer

A Thought . . .

Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday - and all is well.

Accident/Incident Forms

Sometimes when an accident or incident occurs there is so much going on it can be difficult to remember what happened when the time comes to start form filling at a later stage. Accident/Incident forms have been placed on the notice board on the left in the corridor in two poly pockets – these are for the use of all the organisations that meet in the Church if needed.

Christine Rankin

PW Fellowship

Arrangements are well underway for the new programme. P.W.F. meet on six nights commencing in October through to March, usually on the second Monday of each month in the Curragh Room. However as the Christianity Explored meetings will be held on Mondays during October and November PWF will be meet instead on the second Tuesday evening at 8pm.

The Deaconess of Shore Street, Sonya McCullagh has agreed to speak to us about her work on Tuesday 12th October.

In December we plan to have our annual visit to the Christmas market in Belfast. A programme will be available to pick up from the church vestibule by the end of September giving you full details. Please come and join our fellowship at any of these meetings.

Elizabeth Dalzell Hon. Secretary

PW Afternoon

The PW will recommence on Wednesday 6th October at 2.30pm in the Curragh Room. Our guest speaker will be Rev Colin Anderson. New members will be very welcome.

Elizabeth Burch

Ladies Craft Group meets every Friday in the Curragh Room, 2 – 4pm New members are always very welcome. Please bring a piece of your current craft work with you.

Indoor Bowling Club

The Indoor Bowling Club will commence on Tuesday 5th October at 7.30pm. New members will be made most welcome. Please come along and give it a try (bowls can be supplied). Think of it as a good night's fun

and fellowship while participating in a renewed enthusiasm surrounding our church's activities.

William Stitt (Secretary)

Girls' Brigade

Girls' Brigade has started again and we were delighted to welcome several new under 5s and Explorers on our first night. We would love to see some more girls join us on a Thursday night and you will be made very welcome.

Explorers : Age 3 – 8 from 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Senior Company: Ages 9+ from 7.15pm to 9.00pm

Jennifer Macdougall

Events Committee

Coffee Morning: The annual coffee morning was well supported – albeit by largely non church members - and raised some £800 for the benefit of the Property Fund. Sincere thanks to all concerned and, in particular, the hard-working members of the Committee.

Connect Christian Counselling Service: On Saturday, 18th September, members of the Committee and friends assisted at the Manor Gardens Coffee Morning in aid of the counselling service. As we go to press we trust that this joint effort by the five churches in the town will receive the wholehearted support of the local community.

Forthcoming Events:

A number of events are planned for the autumn and winter months including '**Deal or no Deal**' which will be a Family Fun Night on Friday, 8th October; **Table Quiz** on Friday 22nd October; '**I'm a Celebrity get me out of here**' Family Fun night on Friday 26th November; and the annual **Christmas Fair** on Friday 3rd December. Please note these dates and plan to support the various events – further details will be published nearer the dates.

Tom Johnston

Welcome

It has been very encouraging to see some new faces at church on recent Sundays and to hear of a couple of new families who have joined our

congregation. We warmly welcome you to our fellowship and trust that you will find blessing in our worship and witness.

Back to Church Sunday

Sunday, 26th September has been designated by the four main churches in Donaghadee as a special 'Back to Church' Sunday. With this copy of the Newsletter you will receive a little card which you are asked to pass on to someone that you would like to invite back to church on that particular day. Please don't miss this opportunity to encourage someone whom you would love to see back at church on Sundays.

Tom Johnston

Ulster Rugby Outing

Plans are in hand for a church group to go to Ravenhill on Friday 29th October to see the Ulster/Munster match. Stand tickets will be about £25 (children £18) and terrace standing £18 and £10. This is not an exclusively male outing – everyone will be very welcome so why not put your name on the list in the church vestibule or contact Colin at 91883990. If we get enough interest we might take a bus!

Tom Johnston

Presbyterian Children's & Orphan Society

Once again I ask for the generous support of the congregation for the Presbyterian Children's and Orphan Society. I would be grateful to hear from anyone who could spare some time to help with the collection for this worthy cause. If you can help, please get in touch with me on 9188 8506. Many thanks!

Emma Bell

A Thought . . .

*'On bringing up children' You give your children two things –
You give them roots – and you give them wings.*

Mad Mondays for P4 – P7 age group, 3.15pm – 4.45pm in our Church halls. Games, DVDs, Xbox, Wii, Tuck shopand lots more. Contact Colin or Debra for details. Tel. 028 9188 3990

STOP THE PRESS!!!

Year 8 to Year 10 are invited to 'IGNITE' and Year 11 upwards are invited to 'CHILL' with a chance to meet with friends, listen to music

and watch a DVD or two, and learn more about Jesus. Dates and times will be published soon.

Keep checking the website, [**www.firstdonaghadee**](http://www.firstdonaghadee), for more info.

MAD MONDAYS



SOME ALONG AND HAVE SOME FUN!

WHEN: Mondays 3.15pm – 4.45pm

WHERE: First Presbyterian Church, Donaghadee

WHO: P4-P7

Games, DVD's, Xbox, Wii, Tuck Shop

...and loads more!

COME ALONG AND HAVE SOME FUN!!

Contact: Colin or Debra on 02891883990

Email: enquiries@firstdonaghadee.org

www.firstdonaghadee.org

Sunday School has started!



Join us on Sunday mornings for
Crafts, Bible Stories, Games Drama, Fellowship and
Quizzes

***Harvest Thanksgiving Services
Sunday 3rd October 2010***

Morning Worship 11.30am
Rev. Colin Anderson

Evening Worship 7.00pm
Rev. Sam Anketell, Bailieborough

***Harvest Music by Church Choir
'Come ye thankful people, come'***