

Summer



# Wellington Record

June 2018

## INSIDE THIS EDITION

*Pages 3-5*  
 Call to Action (Part 3)  
*Pages 6-7*  
 Petrol Head & Prayer Warrior  
*Page 8*  
 Life Groups in Action  
*Pages 9-11*  
 Church Planting in Belfast  
*Pages 12-13*  
 Addiction  
*Pages 14-16*  
 Romania with Smiles  
*Page 17*  
 Tearfund Walk  
*Page 18*  
 Our link with the Middle East  
*Pages 19-21*  
 BB Display and Awards  
*Pages 22-25*  
 GB Display and Awards  
*Page 26*  
 Youth Team for South Africa  
*Page 27*  
 Amos plans a year in Northern Kenya  
*Page 28*  
 Wycliffe/Illuminate  
*Page 29*  
 Smmr Fest & Spark/PCI Teams  
*Page 30*  
 Building Houses in Malawi  
*Page 31*  
 SUNI Team/Book Review  
*Page 32*  
 Serving God in East Belfast  
*Page 33*  
 Men's Fellowship  
*Pages 34-35*  
 Treasurer's Report  
*Page 36*  
 Session Report  
*Page 37*  
 Committee Report  
*Page 38*  
 GB P7 Designs  
*Page 39*  
 Recipe/Sudoku/Deaths  
*Page 40*  
 Marriage/Baptism/New Communicants

## Make Me A Servant

Make me a servant  
 Humble and meek  
 Lord let me lift up  
 Those who are weak  
 And may the prayer  
 Of my heart always be  
 Make me a servant  
 Make me a servant  
 Make me a servant today

## Philippians 2 vs 3-8

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mind-set as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!

## Church website



Get the message on-line at  
[www.wellingtonpc.co.uk](http://www.wellingtonpc.co.uk)  
 iTunes podcast - search for  
 'Wellington Presbyterian Church'

## Want a DVD or CD of a SERVICE?

- contact the church weekdays  
 between 10am and 12 noon  
 telephone: 2564 7185  
 - ask your District Elder  
 - ask a member of the Ministry Team

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## Welcome to the Summer edition of our church magazine.

It is increasingly easy to shop without interacting with another human being. Walk around a shop, serve yourself, go to a self service till, scan your products, pay and leave! Or go online and order whatever you need and in a day or two parcel arrives, placed in the garage or red recycling box as you have prearranged.

Is it possible to live as a Christian and not interact with others? Matthew 22 v 39, instructs us, 'Love your neighbour as yourself' and in Hebrews 10 vs 24&25 we read, 'Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another'. Do you interact with others? Are you an encourager? Do you use your life and resources serving yourself or serving others?

This magazine contains many examples of people who are or are planning to serve God. These are people not consumed with self but with helping others, locally or as far away as South Africa. Can I ask that you resolve to pray for each of them as Paul prayed in Colossians: 'We have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.'

Mervyn Orr, Editor



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# Call to Action

## Part 3 of 3

*Parts 1&2 were included in the December 2017 and March 2018 Editions*



## Rev Alistair Bates

### Discouragement

Another of the Devil's schemes is when he comes to discourage us, tempting us to lose heart. Maybe we have experienced multiple disappointments. We have become disillusioned with the Church, or those we share fellowship with. We have suffered bereavement, or financial loss. We have had family problems, or health related issues. There are so many different ways to suffer, and they all leave us vulnerable. In particular, I have found that during these battles, I am almost consumed by their intensity.

When I was boxing, there were times when I was under significant pressure. It wasn't one blow, but the accumulation of blows which was causing me distress. These are times when boxers feel the heat of battle. Their opponent can throw quicker and heavier punches. Your opponent, the Enemy, detects not only your weaknesses but suspects your durability. At this point, he may increase the speed of his attack. He knows that perhaps your physical weakness is causing emotional distress. He understands the predictable conflict in your mind, as you wrestle with the question: "Do I continue, or do I give up?" He anticipates that those are the only two thoughts that you have. Under

the rain of blows you are not capable of thinking of anything else, and you're tempted to give up. Even though you are still standing; but only just.

The Devil uses discouragement to make you lose heart. He may whisper in your ear, "Look at how I'm punishing you! Look at how weak and vulnerable you feel as you lie against the ropes!" He suspects that with every blow your defences are weakening. Doesn't the Bible tell us that he is like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour? He shows no mercy. He will trap his opponent and is ruthless in the ring of life. He has only one intention, which is your destruction. Amid the heat of spiritual conflict we may be tempted to conclude that we are incapable of continuing. We cry, "That's enough! I can't take anymore!" But God is saying, "Don't give up, keep standing, I will give you the strength and weapons to defeat your Enemy!"

When you recognize that you are no longer capable of overcoming the Devil's attacks, you will also discover the passive sense of being strong in the Lord, allowing God to engage in the actions required. Human weakness is no match for Satan's superior power; under attack we may feel exposed and vulnerable. It is at

such times that we must rely on the Lord's intervention.

The Devil has a variety of schemes he can use to weaken our defences. He does it through pride, self-sufficiency, ignorance, and discord. Often discord and disunity provides personal pain and collective heartache. The Devil can turn the church against itself, so that it stops growing stronger and stops relying on God. When the church begins to take its eyes off the Lord and lose focus, they cast aside the armour of God. They disrobe and disarm themselves. Rather than fighting with the Devil, they turn inwardly and fight among themselves. (*Ref: 1*)

If you've put on the armour of God, if you are involved in a church engaged in battle and you have stood firm against the Enemy, God will not deceive you. The occult may summons its fallen potentate, but the Devil will not have mastery over you. All of this confidence and deep inner reassurance is based on being aware of the Devil's schemes.

### Discord

When discord comes, we are left bewildered and painfully weakened. We wonder, "How could a Christian act like this?" Then the accuser of the brethren

says, "Exactly! A Christian wouldn't do that, but that's what they are doing. That's what they're saying about people inside the church." Be careful, even in the most spiritual of churches the tongue can cause almost terminal pain and heartache. If it has damaged you, then assemble the armour that is close at hand. If you are the perpetrator of careless talk, repent and renew your allegiance with God and His people.

Some who worship are enslaved by negativity, casting nets of discouragement over all who view God and His work positively. They openly dishonour God by criticizing those who seek to serve Him. They may not be perfect, but that person will delight in pointing out their imperfections. If that is what you are doing, then you may have become the unwitting tool of the Devil's deception. He has deceived you, and you may be unaware of the damage you inflict. It is wiser to spend your time edifying others, rather than seeking to justify unnecessary comments.

When you take your eyes off Christ, you're doing the Devil's work for him. Failure to be aware of his schemes means you become oblivious to the repercussions of your actions. Everyone suffers, including those who wage war against our rightful Enemy. Because of this danger, we must be aware that God has promised you will be held accountable and judged for what you've said. I, too, will have to stand before my Judge. I, too, have engaged in unnecessary battles and conflicts. I have been drained, and sadly emptied others of strength and resolve. I have waged war where no war should have existed. Don't fall into the same trap. If my years of experience tell me anything, it is not only what to embrace, but what to painstakingly avoid. Now

more than ever, I am aware of the Devil's tactics.

### **Accountability before God**

Accountability starts with taking a stand. What practical things do we do to begin this journey? First of all, if you have been involved in the occult, you must renounce it. It is only a tool, which can be picked up by the Enemy and used against you. If you have sought to communicate with the dead, been involved with fortune tellers, Ouija boards, charms, tarot cards, etc., then turn from such practices and seek God's forgiveness and help.

When it comes to being discouraged, remember this: "...greater is He that is within us than is in the world." Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power, which brings comfort during the heat of battle. In spite of what is happening around us, nothing happens outside His will. And while not everything is good, Romans 8 says 'we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.' (*Ref: 2*) Though such events may be painful, they will not overpower us. They need not deflect us from our God-ordained task. We can, and must, remain strong. God will use every painful moment to our advantage. Every harsh criticism we have received, every painful rejection, every moment of sadness is redeemable under the sovereign power of God. As Paul says in Corinthians, 'we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.' (*Ref: 3*) If the Apostle Paul suffered battle fatigue, yet stood firm in the eye of the storm, so can you. Ponder here Paul's confidence and knowledge gained by personal experience. This hope was forged in the furnace of pain, yet he remained faithful to the

end, and so must you.

If anyone comes to you sowing discord and disunity, challenge them. Many of them have gone unchecked over the years, and they need correction.

The Bible tells us to be peacemakers and where discord is happening, we must confront the individual causing it. The church must become a chorus of disapproval against those who sow discord. It is incumbent upon us all to challenge our brothers and sisters when they sow disunity. If you find yourself in the company of such a person, have the courage to intervene. With love and tenderness speak to them and say, "Please stop. That's my brother or sister in Christ. If you're going to talk, talk to them, not about them." One of the early Fathers of the Church, Theophan the Recluse, advised us to do the following: "Since the enemy watches you constantly, waiting for an opportunity to sow evil in you, be doubly watchful over yourself, lest you fall in the nets spread for you. As soon as he shows you some fault in your neighbour, hasten to repel this thought, lest it take root in you and grow. Cast it out, so that no trace is left in you, and replace it by the thought of the good qualities you know your neighbour to possess, or of those people generally should have. If you still feel the impulse to pass judgment, add to this the truth that you are given no authority for this and that the moment you assume this authority you thereby make yourself worthy of judgment and condemnation, not before powerless men, but before God, the all-powerful Judge of all. This reversal of thoughts is the strongest means, not only for repelling accidental critical thoughts, but also for completely freeing yourself of this vice." (*Ref: 4*) Clearly, this is one of the oldest

hallmarks of Christian love, to express such care for your neighbour and yourself, that we may fight spiritual battles in our daily lives.

A lady telephoned me one evening to talk to me about how another person had hurt her. My reaction was: "Have you spoken to that individual?" She hadn't. I said, "Don't talk to me about this, unless you first go to that person and raise the issue with them. And after you have discussed it together please pray together before you leave. Unless you do that please do not contact me again." I did not hear from her again. I don't know if the issue was resolved. I hope it was. This incident reminded me of how it is our responsibility to cut off any means of support for those who sow discord. When we conduct ourselves in the right manner it is easier to assemble the armour of God.

It is to our benefit to go into this battle fully equipped. I know some people live on a spiritual diet no more substantial than Rice Krispies. Yet a lack of fortification takes its toll. The best soldiers need the most training. God has

given His people gifts, 'to equip His people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up.' (Ref: 5)

Why do you think there are only 200 people in the Special Air Service in Great Britain? Because of how extreme the rigors are for soldiers who serve in the elite forces. Yet just those two hundred well-trained, well-equipped people help protect the United Kingdom as they deploy throughout the world.

Could you imagine if a whole congregation donned the full armour of God? If we resisted discord, we could sow encouragement. If we support and strengthen each other, together we could be responsible for overpowering our Enemy. Any SAS or any Navy Seal would die for their companions. They would go through hell and high water to save one of their compatriots. They possess a deep bond that no battle can break. They will take risks to guard the safety of their friends. If the church took the same pledge of honour and manifested the same loyalty, no demonic force could withstand their advances. (Ref: 6)

That's what the Bible means when it says, "and I tell you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." (Ref: 7) When the church marches with God's strength and the provision of His armour, it will push back every frontier of darkness. As God's people, we need to don our armour. Your church needs you, your country needs you. When we see how this armour works, we will grow in resolute confidence. We will stand tall, face the Enemy, and herald out our victory cry.

Until now, we haven't been as effective as God has equipped us to be. But it's time for change. The forces of God's Kingdom are amassing. The Holy Spirit is recruiting, from every tribe and nation, a people destined for His glory.

Are you ready to enlist, or will you let the season pass?

You have the opportunity to get ready for war, to make your life count. In the words of the old hymn, can you be described as a "soldier of the Cross?" (Ref: 8)

## References.

1. Consider, again, the example of a soldier in battle. We know intuitively that an army is potentially stronger than one man, provided they use their strength collectively. If they do not, then their number become clutter and chaos on the battle field. Brian Borgman addresses this issue of being in communal warfare effectively in his book, *Spiritual Warfare: A Biblical and Balanced Perspective*; "Just as we need battle support from our brothers and sisters in the Lord in spiritual warfare, they need it from us, so we should pray for them and encourage them often. Let us inquire of them frequently, asking what battles they are facing so that we can come alongside and aid them."

2. Romans 8 v 28 NIV

3. 2nd Corinthians 4 vs 8-9 ESV

4. *Unseen Warfare*, Theophan the Recluse page 57

5. Ephesians 4 v 12 NIV

6. Again it seems good to refer to Brian Borgman in *Spiritual Warfare*, when he says "In this war, we are our brother's keeper. We are to have great care and concern for one another. As Roman soldiers would often stand shoulder-to-shoulder and shield-to-shield for greater protection, so also we must take up God's armor and stand strong as one!"

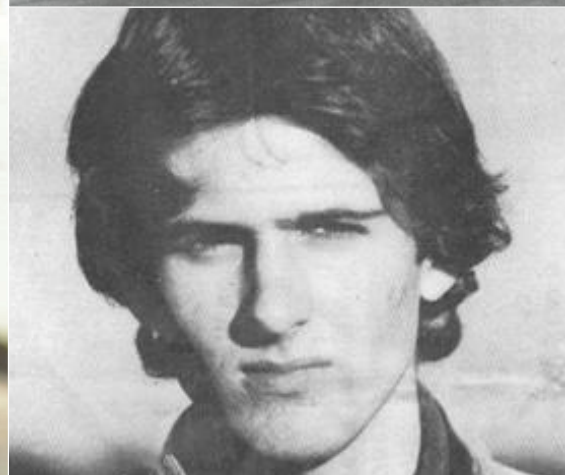
7. Matthew 16 v 18 NIV

8. "Am I A Soldier of The Lord?" Issac Watts, circa 1742: "Am I a soldier of the cross, A follow'r of the Lamb? And shall I fear to own His cause, Or blush to speak His name?"



## Victor McAfee Petrol Head and Prayer Warrior!

Jo Graham reports



### Petrol Head and Prayer Warrior!

This is an apt description of our very own Stock Car racing champion, Victor McAfee.

From early childhood, Victor has very fond memories of being surrounded by fast cars, engines and racetracks. His dad was a keen motorsport enthusiast and racer and it was hardly surprising that Victor caught the bug, eventually becoming a championship winning racer himself. Before he was even old enough to drive, Victor was already tuned into the workings of the cars and could often tell, by just listening to the whirs and purrs of the engine, when something was 'not right. As soon as he was old enough to legally jump into his first mini metro, he was unstoppable! (Personal observation - as my own first car, Mini metro's rock and should make a comeback!)

Moving on to be a fully-fledged stock-car champion, the passion kindled in his early years continues to burn to this day and there is an undeniable sparkle in his eyes and excitement in his voice at the mention of car racing. His enthusiasm is contagious (to the

rest of us petrol heads) when he chats about getting the car 'set up' just right and explaining what it takes to race at the level he does.

While, there is no doubting Victor's passion for motorsport, it is obvious to everyone who knows him that he has another love in his life, that is just as undeniable ... He loves Jesus and has a heart for Prayer and a deep desire to reach unbelievers for Christ. His relationship with Jesus is so vibrant and alive that it spills over into all other areas of his life, including His racing.

Having grown up in a "happy and fun" home, Victor was faithfully brought to Wellington church by his wonderful parents for as long as he can remember. Although Wellington has (and is) so much a part of his life, there were times, over the years, when restlessness and coldness of heart crept in, tempting him to drift away from his church family. However, looking back, Victor can so clearly see God's hand on his life and how He placed strategic people in his path at these precise times to draw him back. How faithful is our God! A few of these friends became a real influence on Victor to encourage him and Janet

in prayer with one other special young couple in particular becoming their 'prayer partners'. Praying together with his close friends, helped Victor and Janet, bit by bit, to allow God access into so many areas of their lives that perhaps they hadn't previously considered. Victor's growing relationship with God and His people was affecting his 'church life', 'work life', 'home life' and his racing!

On one particular occasion Victor's mum asked him directly, "*do you ever pray about your work?*". From that moment on Victor began to rethink how He viewed his employment and how over the years his perspective of 'work' has changed somewhat. He realised that whether at the garage or race-track, he was to be involved in far more than selling and fixing cars alone, but he was to be conducting Kingdom Work. While considering the practicalities of earning a living, Victor totally submits his business life to God, viewing each day as an opportunity to invest in 'God's Kingdom' first and not store up treasures on earth. This, he says, has given him an incredible freedom and had created so many opportunities to display and share



Christ with so many he comes into contact with on a daily basis.

Through being a 'different kind of racer' and his humble witness at the track while just 'doing life' with his competitors and teammates, Victor has seen heart changed and lives won for Christ! Indeed, intentionally building life with those he rubs shoulders with at the race-track has been a means of giving Victor one of his dearest friends, Ryan Logan (also a 'Wellier'). Together their passion for racing and Jesus has created a bond that only Christ can bring about. I have seen these two guys together and how they affect each other's lives. I have seen them pray together and how this has in turn affected the lives of others within Wellington and beyond.

This connection they have with each other in prayer, is available to every single believer, when we come together to talk our same Heavenly Father.

### **Prayer**

**- secret, fervent, believing prayer lies at the root of all personal godliness.**

*William Carey*

## **Week of Prayer at Easter**

Victor believes that prayer is just as important in 'church life' as it is in his personal Christian walk. He co-ordinates the Prayer Ministry Team in Wellington, and takes responsibility for sending out prayer requests on behalf of so many members and friends of those in church.

It is little wonder then that Victor was very excited about the time of collective prayer within the church in the run up to Easter weekend. It was so encouraging to join together with so many others to pray. Perhaps even more encouraging was the response of God's people that Victor observed during the 'week of 24 hour prayer' which culminated in a wonderful communion service on Good Friday. In the week prior, Café Aroma had been transformed into an amazing space, divided up into different stations and designed so anyone could come in at any time throughout the day or night for prayer and reflection or just to spend time with God. That whole week turned out to be an incredible time for so many and hearts and lives were indeed touched and changed.

Victor told me he was blown away with the number of people who actually came through the doors of that Prayer Room that week, not only during the day but right through the night too. He was incredibly encouraged when, one night, he turned up in the early hours of the morning, expecting only himself and Ryan to be there, but instead 9 other people showed up to pray and talk to God! His heart was stirred by not only what he witnessed but what he read, with so many written prayers stuck up around the walls, revealing the hearts of his Welly brothers and sisters. He told me that word of the 'Prayer Room' had spread out with the church walls and that others from the surrounding community of Ballymena also came to share in this amazing week with us.

The passion and fire of that week has stayed with Victor and it is the longing of his heart that as a church family, collectively and individually, we continue to grow in our prayer lives and communion with the Lord. That sinners would be saved, lives transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit and the Christians in Wellington become a wonderful witness for Jesus in the town where He has placed us.



## LIFE GROUPS *in action!*



### Helping Lee Eagleson in Centre Church in Belfast City Centre

Sam Davison

During the training for leaders it became very clear that Life Groups should be intentional, seeking to apply practically what we were learning through our study of the Bible.

Nearing the end of our first study on the Holy Spirit we felt led to ask Lee Eagleson if there was any way we could assist him with his work at Centre Church in Belfast. Lee, at the time, seemed to think that this was an answer to prayer. In hindsight, I hope he still feels the same way!

After spending an evening assisting Lee and Nancy distribute invitations to their Carol Service we were asked if we could help decorate a flat above their church. They were hoping to use this to accommodate persecuted Christians who had to flee from Iran. Over the next few weeks, with some assistance from members of Mark and Nigel's group, we cleaned and repainted the flat to enable it to be used as their home. While the work we have done is fairly insignificant, all involved have all found it a blessing just to be able to help.

We have also had the opportunity to share with Centre Church in worship and gain encouragement by the stories of God working in the lives of people they chance to meet in their Prayer Room ministry.

It has been a huge challenge for us, seeing what God can do through this small group of committed people in Centre Church who are willing to sacrifice their comfort and safety (which is so easy to fall into in a large church) and take risks so they can introduce people to Christ. We hope to journey with them as the Spirit leads us and we are excited to see what God will do through Centre Church.

Read Lee's Article on pages 9-11



## LIFE GROUPS *in action!*



### Raise funds for Romania, visited by Chris with Smiles Foundation

Jennie Hood

At the start of the our Bible Studies in Life Groups this year, we were encouraged to consider practical acts of service that we, as a group, could do to benefit our community or others. As the year progressed we prayed for direction to follow. Shortly after Christmas Pauline and Jonathan shared that their son Christopher was taking the opportunity to go with the Smiles Foundation to Romania. He needed to raise funds for this and, after some discussion, we felt that a pudding night would be a good way to help raise some funds for him. So the members of our group set about organising it.

This would allow Chris to focus on his trip and help raise awareness of Smiles within our own Church family, as well as providing an opportunity for fellowship between members of other church groups. And we would all get to eat some superb puddings!

The planning went smoothly as we all pitched in with contributions and suggestions for the puddings. As in all things God already had in place plans to make the night a huge success as lots of folk from outside our own church attended to sample the puddings and listen to Chris recall his experiences. We were also able to provide coffee and tea in the Church Hall Foyer for the NEELB Youth Orchestra Annual Spring Concert musicians and their parents. This was an added bonus and added significantly to the funds raised on the night.

We would like to thank all the Smiles supporters and Wellington members who attended and gave so generously on the night. Thanks also to all who made the puddings. The total raised came to over £800 which will go a long way to sustain projects in Romania to support those who have very little.

Read Chris's story on pages 14-16



**Life Groups** will be starting a new series of Bible Studies in September. If you are interested in joining a group please speak to Margaret McKeown, Life Group Coordinator, who will put you in touch with a suitable group.

To quote a member of one group: *"It (Life group) has allowed us to get to know each other in a way that wouldn't be possible on a Sunday. We have shared personal items, then been able to pray and encourage one another. The people in my group have been such a blessing to me. I have been challenged to be more disciplined in my study and this has helped me, personally, to grow."*

**Margaret's phone number is 07850326794**





## Church Planting in Belfast

I arrive home after another heart-filling Sunday in Berry Street, Belfast. We have worshipped Jesus. I preached from John 17 describing how, in the Gospel, we have a Holy Father who protects us. We have been visited today by Al Barth and Walter Wood of Redeemer City to City, our overseeing network. They have been encouraged by what they see and have pointed out numerous opportunities that they see in our location, confirming things we had already thought of.

I sit down with Stu whom I left in charge of the Belfast Prayer Room on Monday (while I was away on holiday). He tells me about two people coming to faith; one was a 17 year old girl and the other an 89 year old man. Approached on the street, the Lord touched their hearts and saved them. However, for Stu, it was the prayer that was offered over the two hours that struck him.

He tells me David (the guy who does much of the street evangelism) said the prayer really changed the spiritual temperature out on the street. We have a first timer, "Brian." He is a really nice guy who found us on Instagram. We hope he'll come back but we don't get our hopes up because most don't. One of our plant's two infants is playing to the room; just 2 years old she is developing words and sentences but can already name her "uncles" and "aunts" in the Launch Team along side Mummy and Daddy. This weekend we are delighted with news that another of our couples is expecting a baby. We all leave; chat about what needs doing; who needs to be contacted; what opportunity can be taken, when we are meeting for prayer. I'd like to say it was a typical night in our church plant Centre Church Belfast, but we rarely get two the same. This is Church Planting; it is both difficult and wonderful.

My name is Lee Eagleson and I am married to Nancy. I was raised in Wellington Street Presbyterian Church. I'm a Minister but stepped aside from normal parish work and salary to church plant. After a series of twists and turns, doors opening and doors closing (recounted in previous issues of the Wellington Record) we have been led (with a small team of people) to the historic former Berry Street Presbyterian Church building.

Berry Street is in a strategic location at the gateway of West Belfast. The area is undergoing great change; thousands of students will move into the area because of development by both Ulster and Queens University in the city centre. Future regeneration strategy over the next 20 years plans to move 66,000 people into the city core, and has a particular focus on this area. It has a unique character with most people we interact with coming from Republican/Nationalist West Belfast.

The people frequenting the area are open to talking about Jesus. We were surprised by this when we arrived because the statistics show they are dumping religious observance. A diocesan report for the Roman Catholic Church found that only 16% of the Catholic population across Belfast attend Mass. The Irish News reported attendance at 4% in Poleglass. Adding in the legacy of community division, we wondered how they were ever going to engage with us.

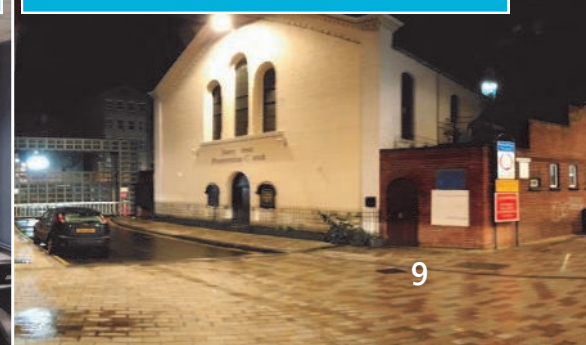
Culture Night 2017 in Bank Square  
Our building is in the background



Lee, Rachel and Stu finish painting the  
Café where we presently meet



Former Berry Street Presbyterian  
Church as seen from Castle Court



We find the location a massive opportunity. We run a Prayer Room in Berry Street one day a week in conjunction with Crown Jesus Ministries (CJM). When you lead with prayer, for some reason, it seems to open hearts. Some have expended all other options and we have many conversations with those who feel broken, lost and forgotten. We talk with those who have just had terrible news in the Royal Victoria Hospital and are wandering numb through the city centre. Such circumstances bring people to a place where they struggle with the "big questions of life." Prayer is answered. A couple returned on Good Friday, having visited 9 months earlier. They were so angry that first time; you could see them shake when God was mentioned. For 6 years they had tried to have a baby without success. With high hopes, they had scraped up the thousands required for IVF, but hopes were dashed when it failed; they wondered should they start years of saving again. We prayed for the Lord to intervene. On Good Friday she had a huge bump and massive smile. "The due date is in two weeks. Your prayers that day - I felt something - but didn't say. God answered."

We also find tremendous diversity; we talk to almost every faith you can think of. We talk to LGBTQ+ activists, militant atheists and practising Satanists. 1000's of pieces of literature and hundreds of Bibles are handed out and we have seen over 60 people make commitments of faith. We believe these are "Kingdom's signs" that the Lord wants to see us persevere, despite the challenges.

Our biggest challenge is our Launch Team numbers only 10. They are highly motivated but we need help. We need people to join the core team with different gifts, both older and younger people. Yet we try to punch beyond our size, by forming partnerships and relationships like the one with Crown Jesus. We are really encouraged by the "Wellington Guys" and the help from the small groups led by Sam Davison and Mark Rodgers over recent months. It has been tremendously helpful. They allowed us to register a presence in our local community with a "Christmas Card" drop. They swelled our Prayer & Interest Night and have done similar at the Sunday service. Their painting of the church's upstairs flat for some Iranian guys has allowed us to form stronger links with these young men, the International Meeting Point, Windsor Presbyterian Church and the South Belfast Presbytery. The generosity of the Wellington Guys has been so humbling and encouraging. It shows how actions that may seem small in a larger church can be multiplied in kingdom effect when done for a struggling work. Thanks guys! Furthermore Nancy and I are thankful for the regular financial contribution from Wellington that allows my work to continue.

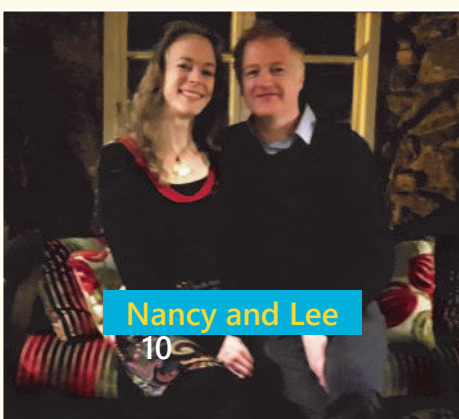
I'm going to be bold and ask for more help! Maybe you could commit to regularly praying for us or giving financially. We, however, are also looking specifically for people who may be retired and looking for a challenge. Could you travel down a day a week on a free train pass and help us? We need

people to fill several roles: a business organiser person to do a couple of days a week; people who might be able to organise the kitchen and run a student lunch; people who might join a rota to help us with children maybe a Sunday or two a month. We'd ask people to commit for just a year and see what happens. We would also like a female intern aged 18-21 for the year. Could that be you?

I started writing on a Sunday evening. I finish on a Monday - the day the Prayer Room meets. A lady stops by just as we open the door to put out the sign. A CJM intern recognises her and speaks to her. Returning he says, "Stu and I prayed with her last week about her daughter whose marriage was breaking up. She came back to say 'God answered. The split has been healed.'" We pray and thank God for answered prayer. It's a busy day talking to people; a girl from Larne comes to faith.

We think it's been an amazing day, little knowing the Father has kept something to the end; in the last 15 minutes we discover it's the birthday of a young homeless woman we know. She is 21 today. Hastily we organise the room and bring her in to a lit birthday cake. We sing "Happy Birthday". She sobs into her arm. After 18 months of relationship with the Prayer Room and Centre Church, she asks for help to get off drugs. 11 team members pray with her locking arms in a giant huddle. She prays for God to save her from her life. This is Church Planting; it's difficult but Christ is truly wonderful.

**Lee Eagleson**



**Nancy and Lee**



**Sunday at Centre Church  
6:30pm in the Café**



**Lee interviews Katie at the Prayer and  
Interest Night (April 2018) in the church  
(some Wellington folk present!)**

# Launch of Centre Church

We are planning to launch Centre Church in September 2018. Launch Sunday is when a church plant enters its full public ministry with a large impetus to let people know. We will then be working around several key points in the week, hoping to add to these as the church develops. For the Launch we will concentrate on these areas:

## Sunday Lunchtime

Family Gathering - with a family atmosphere, deliberately providing space for people. We will run children's activities and have a service that will be accessible to people from an unchurched background. Coffee, tea, and a simple lunch will be provided.

## Monday Afternoon

Belfast Prayer Room - continuing our work on the street and in the room. This will introduce people to Jesus Christ and also point people toward the Thursday night works.

## Wednesday Evening

Small Groups - fortnightly, allowing the Launch Team and Volunteers to study the Bible, be refreshed and pray together.

## Thursday Evening

Hope Café - we will open our doors so we can continue conversations with those we have met on a Monday, providing tea/ coffee and tray bakes along with some live acoustic music. There will be three slots during the evening, 10 minutes each of testimony; teaching and worship, serving as an introduction to Sunday.

## Belfast City Centre Fresh Start

We plan to run a Fresh Start course, in conjunction with Christians Against Poverty (CAP), where people with mild addiction will be able to come for support. We envisage this will end mid-way though when Café Hope is open and that those on the course will not leave but move into the Café.

We hope to add further courses alongside CAP e.g. Alpha, Life Explored, Griefshare or possibly a course looking at mental health and depression.

[www.centrechurch.co.uk](http://www.centrechurch.co.uk)

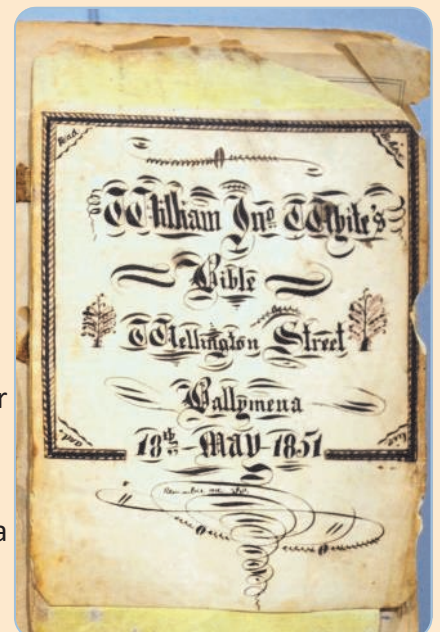
[lee@centrechurch.co.uk](mailto:lee@centrechurch.co.uk)



(l-r) Geoff Marshall, Clerk of Session, Donald King, Rev Bates, Brenda Maeder, Jimmy McIlvenna

On Sunday 13th May we were joined at morning worship by Brenda Maeder from Hyde Park, New York, accompanied by her cousin Donald King who lives in Scotland. Following the service, Brenda presented a personal Bible inscribed with the name William White and dated 18 May 1851. This piece of Wellington history can be traced back through the Lamont and McIlvenna family names. The Bible is placed in our church historical display.

Thank you Brenda!



# ADDICTION

**“I’m just one beggar,  
telling another beggar,  
where to get bread”**



introducing so many hopeless souls to Jesus. The change that Jesus brings into a person’s life is undeniable as can truly be seen in the testimony of Margaret, one of my Stauros friends.

My name is Gillian McQuillan and, over the years, God has led me to serve Him within the area of ‘addiction’, in a number of different capacities and places. One of my most memorable times of service was the 18 months I spent helping women with addictions at ‘His Mansion Ministries’ in New Hampshire, USA. I was only 22 years old but God was already moulding my heart to work in this area. ‘His Mansion’ is a Christ centred community that offers a residential programme to help people (18-35 years old) struggling with the stranglehold of addiction. By the time many of the young people arrive at the facility, they already see themselves as broken, dirty, unwanted, unacceptable, rejected, hopeless, unloved and unlovable. During their stay, we were able to offer them the only hope we have - the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ! The focus was not so much on the problem(s) or behaviour(s) but rather on the formation of a new identity in Christ.

As with many in church, I too know what it is to struggle with the ties with which the enemy would try and bind us, and during those 18 months, God really began a new work in my own heart and life. Without a doubt, I can truly say that the Lord did far more in me than through me and really birthed in me a desire to help others struggling with addictions and these chains of sin. It was there I saw, first hand, in the life of Bonnie (and others), the victory that we can have if we fully surrender our lives to Him.

## Bonnie’s story:

‘21 years ago I chose Life! I chose to run away from the certain death of drugs - death to my soul, health, family, relationships and friendships. I chose LIFE - I chose JESUS! 21 years ago, I got on a plane and went to this crazy place called ‘His Mansion Ministries’ - a working farm, a place of faith, healing and hope for the hopeless - and that is, for sure, what I was. It was a tremendously difficult decision and it ripped my family’s heart out - especially my Mama. It has been a long hard fought road, but I have been clean for 21 years and have never regretted it. I came to fall in love with Jesus and His salvation, His hope, His mercy and grace. I gained lifelong friendships from the ‘Mansion’ that are deep and meaningful. I have been reconciled back to my family and have my health back. I am by no means perfect and there are days when I’m not the most loving person. I make mistakes, I’m grumpy, I make poor choices in words and actions - but I have a better way to cope. I don’t fall into the weakness of medicating reality with a deceptive haze of drugs, I am so thankful for Jesus’ saving grace and restoration. I am so thankful for those that stuck around and trudged the hard road of recovery with me, encouraged me, prayed with me, loved me and NEVER gave up on me. Thank You JESUS!”

Since that time, much of my role in helping with addiction has been linked with the *Stauros* organisation, founded by Northern Ireland’s Arthur Williams in 1980. God has used this organisation to touch the lives of so many in this country and in Scotland,

## Margaret’s Story:

“ My name is Margaret Wallace and I live on the Cregagh Road, East Belfast. Addiction had always been part of my upbringing with so many of my family members damaged and broken by alcohol and drugs.

My parents had their own struggles with alcohol, but when I was around 10 years old, my mum gave her life to Christ. My dad continued to drink alcoholically for another 12 years before he too got saved. From the day Jesus saved my Mum, our lives changed in that she would take my brother and I to Sunday school and children’s church meetings. I grew up in a very close, very large family, with lots of cousins who are more like brothers and sisters. But at the age of 13, I had my first drink of alcohol and by the time I was in my late teens, drink and drugs had become my main priority. I thought I was just messing about with friends at the weekends and not doing any real harm, but realistically the alcohol was slowly taking over my life.

At 17, I met my husband, Ricky and by 18 we had moved in together. He was just like me ... he loved a drink and to take drugs. This became the basis for our relationship and our lives revolved around our addictions. We would work all week and drink all weekend, starting on the Friday through to Sunday evening. Even although we would suffer the consequences and hangover the rest of the week, come the weekend, the cycle would begin all over again. I truly thought that was what life was all about. All my friends and most of my family drank and to me this was just normal.

By the time Ricky & I married in 2005, we were both addicted to cocaine as well as alcohol. Again, I never thought any of this was a problem. I thought I was just enjoying myself, even though most weekends were chaotic when we fought with each other and with everyone else. We didn't trust one another and by this stage we were both drinking and taking drugs most nights.

Then we had our first daughter, Courtney. Having our first child was a huge change for me, I went from having all this freedom to having this little person who was totally dependent on me. I could no longer sleep when I wanted; go out when I wanted; drink when I wanted or do drugs when I wanted. It was so difficult for me to accept that I had responsibilities and now I was messing up not only my own life, but making a mess of Courtney's.

Two years later, our second daughter, Lauren, was born. My mum looked after the girls for me at the weekends so I could have a wee break. But as soon as the kids were gone, I used this freedom to get drunk and party. I remember my mum and her friend Janet bringing the girls home to me on a Sunday morning before she went to church. I was lying there in a mess, dying as usual with a hangover and I remember thinking how clean they were and how they seemed to have this peace about them. This made me really jealous. I had two beautiful daughters to bring up and I really wasn't fit to do it.

While I had been too young to remember my mum before she became a Christian, I do remember the change that God made in my dad's life. I remember going to see him get baptised and was so shocked at him standing up in front of a whole church full of people and telling them all about how God had changed his life. This from a man

who was so quiet he previously would hardly speak to anyone, so I could see how much he had changed. But as for me becoming a Christian, well I didn't think I was or ever could be, good enough. How could I come to God in the mess that I was in? My life was filled with drink, drugs, guilt, depression and fear. The list could go on, but the bottom line was my life was full of sin! I spoke to doctors and had counselling but nothing seemed to bring me peace. My mum and dad knew that I had been 'feeling down' but they really didn't know the half of it, and had no idea about my drug addiction.

My mum suggested I speak to her friend Janet who worked for Stauros about how I was feeling. In my heart, I knew that that I had to give my life to God because nothing else was going to work. I had tried it all and I just kept going back to my old ways. Every weekend I would have been dying and think, "I'm never drinking again" but then by the Tuesday I would have started to recover a bit and think "I'll maybe have a wee glass of wine" and that would have been me back on it again. So I met with Janet and she told me how God had healed her and that He was pursuing me now. I didn't need to have it all together. I could come to God in the mess that I was in and he would sort out the rest. That was nearly 15 years ago now, the day I gave my life over to God. From that day, I was totally healed of my addictions to alcohol and drugs and from my depression. God transformed me from the inside out.

I wish I could say all my troubles were gone, but I can't. Ricky carried on drinking and as our marriage fell apart, we separated for about 6-7 months. This was a really hard time for all of us. It was the hardest thing to do to take my girls away from their dad, but I really felt I had no choice. God really helped me

through this time and looking back I can see how he carried me during the darkest nights and was with me when I felt so lonely and overwhelmed. Then, thankfully Ricky too gave his life to Christ and with help, we started to rebuild our marriage.

Our family had changed and I'm so thankful our girls can live in a home where there is no drink or drugs and they can feel loved, wanted and accepted. I pray that now as the chain is broken, our children will choose a different path. Because of God, and Him alone, our lives have been transformed. We are filled with grace and hope. Hope in a God who loved us and sent His only son to die for us.

Our lives are far from perfect, we still have problems to deal with, but the difference is, we face them with God by our side! "

Isn't it wonderful to hear about how God restores lives? The truth is, we ALL need his healing and restorative touch. Addiction affects every level and area of society, both outside and often within our church families. But, I believe that is why God places us in a family, that can be a safe place for us to seek help and to help one another. I pray that as we journey together in Wellington, we will know what it is to help one another in this area. Each of us have our own personal struggles with sin and having known the transforming power of God in my own life and His power to set me free. My heart bursts with joy and excitement and being to tell you about the person who has done this for so many, JESUS. In the words of Arthur Williams,

***'I'm just one beggar,  
telling another beggar,  
where to get bread.'***

**Gillian McQuillan**



# Romania with Smiles

April 2018

Chris Pope

Hi, my name is Chris, I am a Crew Trainer (with a passion for the drive-through), in McDonald's, and earlier this year in April, I was boarding a plane to Romania with the Smiles Foundation, ready to help anyone and any project.

I found out about Smiles through my mother, Pauline, who had met some people who had already been out with the Smiles Foundation. There had been a lot of commotion on Facebook about outreach projects and mission trips overseas. I am neither a student nor a graduate and am working full time in McDonalds this year, trying to get my photography career started. So I had some free time! In September the previous year, I had talked to mum about my interest in travelling. Some time later she came back to me with information

regarding trips to Romania with open teams that I could easily join, that would give me a taste of travelling and a chance to help others. So that's what I did!

I emailed the Smiles contact and got in touch with Dawn, who works in England. She referred me to Barbara who is in charge of coordinating fundraising and teams in Northern Ireland. After some misunderstanding, we finally met up at my place of work, McDonald's Ballymena! What a treat it was! Over a cup of tea we had a wonderful chat about fundraising, what I could be involved in on the trip and some background on her involvement with the organisation. I was fascinated, wanting to find out as much as I could about Smiles, what it does and how I could get myself on a plane out there.

At a very cold and early 3.30am on Saturday, 14th April 2018, my girlfriend, Ruth, dropped me off at Joye & Robin Carson's house in Ballymena. Ruth waved me off as I left for the week and after 2.5 hour cruise in the Carson's lovely new Astra, we made it to Dublin Airport. Getting through security always is an experience, good or bad or anything in-between, as there is always something you forget you weren't allowed on your person! My good old bottle of water was untimely ripped from my hands and cast aside. Thankfully everything else was okay, so we made it through, almost seamlessly.

A smooth 2 hour flight to Budapest was next on the agenda, but not before a cup of coffee, a beautiful fruit salad and a bowl of granola breakfast from the Airport



Café. Very impressive! After our flight we were introduced to Denoots, our driver for the week. He picked us up from Budapest Airport and after a 4 hour drive, over the Hungarian border and into Bihoe County in North West Romania, we arrived in a town called Cihei, where the Smiles house is. The owners, employees and locals were happy to see us arrive. It's very safe to say we were ready for our beds.

After an absolutely astonishing breakfast the next morning, we were told what we would be involved in during the week. While we had been given clues as to the spectrum of activities we had no idea what the individual plan for each of us was. Kevin, the founder, took us through the different activities and locations we would be carted off to during the week. He then surprised us with a tour of Oradea, the main city we were staying close to! "All aboard the Smiles Bus!" shouted Kevin, as we scurried with our cameras and bags, eager to see the culture we would be experiencing over the week. Adi, one of Kevin's local employees, showed us some historical beauties of Oradea, including centuries old statues of the founding fathers, a beautiful Orthodox church and some fascinating architectural gems. We were ready for bed that night too!

Over the course of the nights in Romania, it became clear I would

need to improve my sleeping methods, as roommate Stuart was a snorer. Perhaps no bad thing as it allowed me to think of what I appreciated during that day and plan for the next morning. Stuart, a Lancashire man with a huge heart, was always telling stories from his past. It was a pleasure to spend the week with him and I hope I will see him again.

Monday morning came and, after breakfast, Kevin split us up into our groups, telling us where we would be. I was teamed up with Anne, a minister's wife from Aghadowey, Charlotte (one of the few others below 30 years of age), Robin and Luke (a full time Smiles volunteer). We were to paint a relaxation room for elderly residents at an assisted living facility. We painted for hours, covering the purple/pink room with off-white undercoat. Stuart, was to apply the top layer of paint later in the week.

On Tuesday, I was paired with Joye, Ruth and Robin. We were heading out to Rapa, a small community in the process of being drastically changed by the Smiles Foundation. The community has gone from shacks with tarpaulin sheets for roofs to properly built houses, changing lives forever. We visited families sponsored by Joye and Robin, helped Elaina teach her class of kids and even did some dancing with the locals, (well, I did!).

Wednesday was extremely demanding. I was in a team that visited an after school club with Shini (a Singaporean woman who has worked all over the world), and three others including Barbara who had been on 10 previous trips to Romania. We played games with the kids, sang, performed a Bible story (I had the role of Jesus, probably due to my long hair), and then played more ball games outside. I was absolutely exhausted, so much so that my sleep was unaffected by Stuart's snoring that night. During the football one little rascal, Stefan, constantly ran after me, shouting my name. I was constantly on my toes but the day was so much fun!

Thursday was an absolute joy. I was in Salonta visiting an Elderly Assisted Living Facility. We took elderly residents to the park and for an ice cream - a break for them from being indoors. We had a great time chatting to the residents about their families, their travels, their jobs and lives before they moved into assisted living. Some were quite upset at not having seen their family in such a long time but were happy that we had come to see them. Anyone who listens is like a light in a dark room to them. It was a beautiful day.

On Friday we were bussed by Denoots down to the Glasshouse where we were went through the flowers preparing them for the



next season. We removed dead leaves and flowers to allow the bulb to rest and put its energy into new flowers that will be taken to market and sold.

This was the last day of our trip. The devotions and meeting that followed were detailed and interesting. Kevin had been leading a devotional chat each evening where we talked about our day's experiences, before a Bible story and a prayer. That final day, we were able to discuss questions about returning or any complaints or queries about the experience. All in all it was an absolutely fantastic experience, well worth the time and effort and I would recommend it to anyone, of any age. It was extremely beneficial and rewarding to help the charity, as well as the locals. The feeling you get in your heart, knowing you've done something amazing and beneficial would aid anyone at any age or stage in life.

We are all students of life, and this was a huge lesson that I am glad I had the opportunity to experience.

## Poem for Romania

I strongly agree,  
For whatever the reason may be  
A smile can make a day.  
It makes a difference in the way  
A situation may unfold,  
For we may behold  
The power of mind-set  
For some are so blind yet  
To the power of help and charity  
It gives hope, strength and clarity,  
To the receiver and to the giver  
To a child and to a mother.  
No, we are not undercover  
Just a person, helping a brother  
Through thick and thin whatever  
the weather.  
So if you feel a calling  
To help a sister who is fallen  
Don't cheat yourself and  
procrastinate  
Heaven's calling, don't be late.  
Remember that we all are brothers,  
Sisters fathers and mothers  
A family indeed  
Capable of helping those in need.

*(this poem was written by Chris  
on the plane to Romania)*

Chris Pope



During the first week of May a Container arrived from Northern Ireland, having travelled on a 2 day journey across Europe. As it was unloaded there was much excitement in Cihei as yet another amazing load of aid and supplies had arrived from the UK. Hospital beds will provide more facilities at our residential centres, along with 1,600 sq. feet of high quality carpet, some beautiful furniture, a professional physiotherapy bed and wheelchairs, walkers and supplies to assist all our projects.

The people of Northern Ireland are among the most generous in the world and we are so thankful for all the support they provide to Smiles throughout each year and indeed year after year. Hundreds of boxes packed and loaded full of clothes, household supplies and much needed items for all our projects. We say a huge 'thank you' to all our supporters in Northern Ireland for their precious support, even through tough times, even when they don't agree or fully understand all the ins and outs of operational challenges in Romania - they stick with us and remain loyal. That is so valuable to us working in the midst of the challenges and we thank them for their unfailing support.

*(adapted - website article by Kevin Hoy CEO)*

**"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather in humility, value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."**  
Philippians 2:3-4

[www.thesmilesfoundation.org](http://www.thesmilesfoundation.org)

**The Smiles  
FOUNDATION**



**Our Inspiration : Galatians 6 v. 2 (N.I.V.)**

**"Carry each others burdens and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ"**

**Motivation :**

**Our love for Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and our desire to share His Love with others.**

**Our prayer is to put Smiles on faces in the Name of Christ.**

**We aim to help people, especially children, to know they are loved and not forgotten whatever their circumstances.**

**We share, from the bounty God has blessed us with, with those in need of basic shelter, food and love.**

# tearfund

Where will the money from this year's walk go?



Sabal is 37 and lives in the remote region of Nepal. There are just 32 houses in his village. The roads that link the village to the rest of the district are so bad, cars cannot use them. In other words, Sabal's village is very isolated. As a result, most of the villagers, like Sabal, depend on agriculture. Sabal, has been rearing livestock since he was a seven-year old. He owns 17 goats, four cows and two oxen. These animals are his lifeline - the difference between eating and going hungry.

When nine of his goats died due to an unknown disease, Sabal lost the equivalent of about £520. This was a huge amount of money for him. He was afraid of losing more goats to disease, and so immediately sold six, even though they were less valuable than they could be as they were not mature. Sabal was becoming desperate.

With Tearfund's help an animal health programme began. Door to door visits were made by a vet for animal health checks and treatment. 326 animals in the area were checked, providing them with treatment for a variety of parasites and disease, as well as vitamin supplements. With healthy livestock, Sabal could plan for the future again, and have more confidence in his animals being resilient to disease.

Sabal's story shows just how vulnerable some communities can be, and how a little support can make a huge difference. The funds from this year's walk will help about 7,000 people over 5 years to become more resilient when disasters happen, by being better prepared and having sustainable livelihoods. We have an opportunity to help people like Sabal thrive and break away from poverty.

June 2018



Photos from the Tearfund Walk at Shane's Castle on Friday 18 May





## Veronica - Our link with the Middle East

About 15 years ago a young Venezuelan woman came to live with us. She won her way into our hearts and family - soon she did the same with our church family.

Veronica had come to Belfast Bible College to study and was sponsored by Wellington. She spent the weekends and holidays in our home and immediately got 'stuck into' life in Wellington. Boundless enthusiasm to share her faith and her bubbly personality and determination to serve God wherever she was gained her many friends and influenced many lives.

After graduating from Bible College she went to work in student outreach in Lebanon. It was here she met Ghassan, a local Christian, her future husband.

They continue to work and serve God in this volatile country in the Middle East. Ghassan runs a car accessory business, while being

committed to the worship ministry and leadership in their church, Resurrection Church in Beirut (check it out on YouTube!) As their 3 children have come along Veronica's role in church has evolved - from working with students to being involved with other South American ex-pat mums, helping in the children's ministry and teaching Syrian refugee children. Their church has grown, now running 5 weekend services, 2 of which are on other sites, enabling them to reach out to the huge refugee community. One of their church services is broadcast live on the internet (Sat7) reaching widely across the Arab world. Along with this message of the Good News their church is deeply committed to relieving the physical and emotional needs of the refugees.

Eighteen months ago Toni Bassett, Gareth and I went to visit, representing Wellington. Our

church, as well as helping facilitate Veronica's ministry, has supported their church's work on the frontline with refugees. We saw first hand what their church is doing and continues to do as the awful situation in Syria continues.

**Please pray for this lovely family!**

They are like many of us in Wellington, serving God where He has placed us in family, church and community. But they live in the small country of Lebanon, surrounded by wars and political tension (Syria, Jordan, Israel) and dangerously close to being caught up in conflict. They appreciate our church's financial support but especially ask that you pray for them and the work to which God has called them.

**Carol Williams**

### Anchor Boys

Jim McKeown Shield	Best P1 boy	<a href="#">James Goodrich</a>	Runner-Up	<a href="#">Alfie Elliot</a>
Sam McDowell Shield	Best P2 boy	<a href="#">Noel Kenna</a>	Runner-Up	<a href="#">Jonah Weir-Rogers</a>
Robin Lindsay Shield	Best P3 Boy	<a href="#">Joel McKean</a>	Runner-Up	<a href="#">Harry McAuley</a>
McFarland Shield	Best P4 boy	<a href="#">Tom McKeown</a>	Runners-Up	<a href="#">Ben Russell &amp; Henry Montgomery</a>

### Junior Section

Alderdice Cup	1st Year Attendance/Uniform	<a href="#">Daniel Berry</a>
2nd Year Cup	Attendance/Uniform	<a href="#">Jack McGugan</a>
3rd Year Shield	Attendance/Uniform	<a href="#">Adam Black</a>
Steele Family Cup	Best All Round Squad	<a href="#">Harry Young, Adam Black, Zack McAtamney, Caiden McMaster, Matthew McKean, Ben Johnston, Rhys Hunter, Jamie Black</a>
Kilpatrick Cup	Most Promising 1st Year	<a href="#">Winner: Isaac Close</a> <a href="#">Runner-Up: Jamie Black</a>
Jackson Shield	1st Year Scripture	<a href="#">Matthew McKean</a>
Waddell Cup	2nd Year Scripture	<a href="#">Daniel Hickey</a>
Hunter Johnston Cup	3rd Year Scripture	<a href="#">Justin Mark</a>
Dennis Logan Memorial Cup	Sportsman of the Year	<a href="#">James Andrews</a>
Logan Perpetual Cup	Best All Round Boy	<a href="#">Winner: Scott Johnston</a> <a href="#">Runner-Up: Isaac McClintock</a>

### Company Section

Kyle Recruit Shield	Most proficient recruit	<a href="#">Carter Eagleson</a>
Clarke Cup	Most proficient private (<16)	<a href="#">Jack Keys</a>
NCO & Senior Challenge Cup	Most proficient Senior	<a href="#">Andrew McDonald</a>
Philips Perpetual Cup	Most proficient boy in Company	<a href="#">Jacob Penny</a>
Burnett Trophy	Attendance/PE contribution	<a href="#">Joshua Shaw</a>
Nigel Picken Memorial Shield	Community Award	<a href="#">Adam McKendry</a>
Harry Spiers Sports Trophy	Greatest contribution in sport	<a href="#">Josh Mark</a>
Weir Carson Trophy	Junior Footballer of the Year	<a href="#">Noah Scullion</a>
Senior Footballer of the Year	Senior Footballer of the Year	<a href="#">Jacob Penny</a>
Desmond Reid Challenge Cup	Junior Drill Down	<a href="#">Callum Lorimer</a>
Harry McCullough Mem. Cup	Senior Drill Down	<a href="#">Andrew McDonald</a>
Gordon Shield	Most progress during session	<a href="#">Callum McAleese</a>
William Holden Trophy	Most proficient squad	<a href="#">Squad 4 - Andrew McDonald, Joshua Shaw, Scott Mitchell, Matthew McKendry, Scott Kennedy, Carter Eagleson</a>



Anchor Boys Parents' Evening  
16 March 2018





Above: BB Junior Section Parents' Evening  
16 March 2018

Below: BB Company Section Awards Dinner  
13 April 2018



June 2018

## Explorer Awards

		Winner(s)	Runner(s)-Up
Kenneway Perpetual Shield	Best Junior Tiny Tot	Caitlin Bell	Caia Millar & Emily Reid
McAfee Cup	Best Senior Tiny Tot	Ellie Hood & Hannah Patterson	Chloe Charleton
Montgomery Cup	Best 5 year old (Bronze)	Lucy Steenson & Emily Hill	Mollie McBride
Crooks Cup	Endeavour (Bronze)	Charlotte Bailie & Isla Shields	Pippa Gamble
Millar Shield	Scripture (Bronze)	Lucy Steenson	Eva Hanbridge
McKeown Cup	Best 6 year old (Silver)	Isla Lorimer	Isla McCullough & Anna Murray
Russell Shield	Endeavour (Silver)	Evie McWhirter	Erin Charleton
Dickson Shield	Scripture (Silver)	Isla McCullough	Anna Hickey
Stuart & Giffen Cup	Best 7 year old (Gold)	Ellen Patterson	Cindy Paul
Clarke Endeavour Cup	Endeavour (Gold)	Alice Gaston	Nicole Wisner
Law Cup	Scripture (Gold)	Lily Thompson & Faith Moore	Faith McFarlane
Elizabeth Caves Mem. Cup	PE	Aimee Rodgers	Lucy Cubitt
GB Week	Highest Collectors	Alannah-May & Billie-Jo Keohe	
Craft Prize		Emma Carroll	
Bibles	Explorers moving up to Juniors	Erin Campbell, Grace Campbell, Emma Carroll, Jane Clarke, Emily Coffey, Caitlyn Crabbe, Lucy Cubitt, Brooke Donnelly, Aoife Fenton, Alice Gaston, Kaitlyn McDowell, Faith McFarlane, Faith Moore, Evie Niblock, Ellen Patterson, Cindy Paul, Aimee Rodgers, Mya Stewart, Lily Thompson, Evie Wilkins, Alayna Wilson, Nicole Wisner	

## Junior Awards

		Winner	Runner(s)-Up
Kirkwood Cup	Best all round 1 <sup>st</sup> year	Abbie Hill	Mya Kennedy
Clarke Shield	Most promising 1 <sup>st</sup> year	Grace Davison	Amy Irwin & Ellie-Mae Purcell
Wilson Perpetual Cup	Best all round 2 <sup>nd</sup> year	Sophie Charleton	Grace McClintock
Vogan Cup	Best all round 3 <sup>rd</sup> year	Katie Mairs	Alex Suitters
McDowell Perpetual Shield	Endeavour (all years)	Rachel Graham	Evie McKeown & Polly Gaston
Stuart Rose Bowl	Scripture	Autumn Egelson	Beth Cruickshank
Gillen Cup	Drill	Alex Suitters	Olivia Moody
McClure Shield	PE	Katie Mairs	Mollie Brown, Rachel Graham, Hannah Spence, Sophie Charleton, Erin Armstrong

## Senior Awards

		Winner	Runner(s)-Up
Stevenson Perpetual Cup	Best Senior	Leah Carson	Katie Shaw
W Smyth Cup	Drill	Jenna Semple	Abi Montgomery
Telford Cup	PE	Joanna Wylie	Emily Russell
Moore Endeavour Cup	Endeavour	Sarah Jackson	Abi Montgomery & Taylor Nutt
K Greer Shield	Scripture	Lousie McMullan	Sarah Jackson
Heather Law Perpetual Shield	Best Squad	Priscilla Kirk, Jessica Mark, Alesha Logan, Sarah Jackson, Abi Montgomery & Taylor Nutt	
Bobby Stewart Memorial Shield	Sport: Senior Dodgeball	Ella Dunlop, Joanna Wylie, Anya Bishop, Kara Penny, Emily Russell, Katie Young, Abi Montgomery, Taylor Nutt, Katie Shaw	

## Brigader Awards

		Winner	Runner(s)-Up
Giffen Cup	Best Brigader	Nicole Erwin	Rachelle Mitchell & Rebecca Macfarlane
Hunter Johnston Mem. Award	Scripture	Sophie Kennedy	Charlotte Gourley
Rae Logan Perpetual Shield	Endeavour	Katie Alexander	Emma Hunter
Knox Cup	PE	Laura Graham	Sarah Carroll
McKay Shield	Drill	Katie Surgenor	Rachelle Mitchell & Emma Hunter
Duke of Edinburgh's Award	Bronze	Katie Alexander, Katherine Stronge, Lana Connolly	
Brigader Brooch		Rebecca Macfarlane	



## GB Display - 23 March 2018

June 2018

23



## GB Display 23 March 2018



Rebecca Macfarlane received her Brigadier Brooch at the Display and is pictured here with her mum, Clare McClintock, Captain, and special guest Carol Dickey

Special guest Carol Dickey presented Katherine Stronge and Katie Alexander with their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Katherine is pictured with her dad and Katie with her mum. (Lana Connolly also attained her Bronze Award)



# Clare Neeson Seek, Serve and Follow Christ



The leaders and girls of Wellington Girls' Brigade said a sad farewell to their devoted Captain, Clare Neeson, at their Annual Display on Friday 23 March 2018

Clare [nee McClintock] grew up in Wellington Girls' Brigade, served as a sub officer, officer and then as Captain from 2007. She dedicated her life to the Company, serving the girls, their families, her church, and, ultimately, her Lord.

Clare showed love, wisdom and a selfless dedication to the company, arriving every Monday night before the 170 girls and she was often the last to leave. Without fail Clare displayed her 'can do' and 'no fuss' work ethic, offering support and guidance to her leaders, girls and parents.

At a special leader's night in April, the leaders were able to say a special goodbye to Clare,

as they enjoyed a Chinese meal together, celebrating with a special cake and a little keepsake inscribed,

Clare  
Dedicated Captain  
WELLINGTON GIRLS BRIGADE  
2007-2018  
*Seek Serve & Follow Christ*

The GB motto is *Seek, Serve & Follow Christ* and Clare has been a shining example of living this out with her dedicated service, servant attitude and unwavering faith.

The GB Officers and members send their best wishes to Clare as she moves on to the next chapter in her life, and spends a little more time with husband Geoff! They thank Clare for everything she has done and will miss her. But we know she has placed the GB in good hands with another Clare!

Love from all your friends at Girls' Brigade



March 2018 - Clare McClintock hands over the Captain's Lanyard to Clare Crabbe.





# Youth Team for South Africa

Peter McClelland

This Summer Matthew McKeown, Hannah Bates and I are taking a team of 11 young people to East London, South Africa to work with Steven Lamont in his new Church, Stirling Presbyterian. We are really excited about going in July to work alongside the church and the community. A number of the activities we will be involved in include, Kids' Clubs, community outreach, practical community work and taking part in a number of church services. We would like to thank everyone who has supported us as a team both prayerfully and financially. Every day we hope to upload a blog detailing some of our daily activities and prayer points. Below are some points for prayer that we appreciate you to pray for in the weeks leading up to the team going and while we are away.

## Prayer Points:

Pray that all of the final preparations would go smoothly.

Pray that our last number of team meetings would be a great time to grow together as a team.

Pray for Steven and the church as they prepare for our arrival.

Pray that those who have never been away on a team before will not feel home sick.

Pray for safety during travel and during our time in South Africa.

Pray we will have a time when the team boldly steps out and shares the Gospel with others.



Packed Church Hall for South Africa Team Quiz and Curry Night!

Below: Under 30's v. Over 30's football match at Showgrounds - in aid of South Africa Team funds





# Amos aims to spend a year in Northern Kenya

You may aware that I've been prayerfully considering going to Kenya in late August of this year. God willing, I will serve with AIM (Africa Inland Missions) for 12 months, in an area of Northern Kenya called Marsabit County, close to the Ethiopian border. I will live and work alongside AIM missionary families as they proclaim the Gospel to the semi-nomadic Gabraa and Borana people groups, in two different areas of Marsabit.

I will spend the first month in the village of Dukana with an American missionary family, learning the language. I hope to spend the next 11 months with a Brazilian couple called Eddie and Solange Da Silva in an area called the Huri Hills not far from Dukana. The Da Silva's have served in Huri Hills with AIM since 2011.

I have a deep desire to see the gospel spread among the semi-nomadic peoples of Northern Kenya that comes from how clearly scripture displays our purpose to declare the glory of God to the nations. Two verses that constantly in my mind and heart are;

**"How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?" *Romans 10 v 14***

**"Declare His glory among the nations,  
His marvelous works among all the peoples!"  
*1 Chronicles 16 v 24***

The Da Silva's started their ministry to the Borana people in 2011. After 3 years they went home to Brazil for 10 months, returning to find that the Borana had moved further north. They prayed about whether or not to move and follow the Borana into Ethiopia, or remain at Huri Hills. The Gabraa people moved into Huri Hills soon afterwards and were given audio bibles. It became clear to the Da Silva's that they should stay and begin a new ministry among the Gabraam, where they continue to work today.

I'm aware that during the next year it will be lonely and potentially dangerous at times so please pray that I wouldn't shrink back in fear but know who

carries me and whom I serve, enabling me to proclaim Him, whatever the cost.

I'm extremely thankful to God for this opportunity to live and work in Northern Kenya among these unreached people groups and to learn from the AIM missionaries .

If you would like to know more, or are interested in supporting me financially, you can contact me on [amos\\_kennedy@hotmail.com](mailto:amos_kennedy@hotmail.com) or on +44 7892882741.

**Amos Kennedy**

## Prayer Points for Amos

Pray that the work of AIM in Marsabit and throughout Kenya is God's work and that people will trust in Christ through it.

Pray specifically for the two AIM families, in Dukana and Huri Hills who live in an extremely remote and hot part of Kenya that can be extremely difficult to endure.

Pray that, in their work, they will be encouraged and always keep Jesus in their hearts and minds.

Pray that I remain focused on the great sacrifice Christ made for my sins, even though anything I do here on earth will never be enough to repay him.

Pray that I would be reminded of my own unimportance in the process, that I am merely a vessel to be used in whatever way God sees fit for the extension of His kingdom and the spread of the gospel.

Pray for spiritual discipline - now and during my time away - so daily I may come to God in prayer and in the reading of His Word. Pray that these times will remind me of the great need these unreached people have for the truth of God's Word and that I will be able to disciple them in a way that honours Him.

# Wycliffe Bible Translators

1.5 billion people still waiting! That's 1 in 5 people in the world who do not have the Bible in their language. 160 million don't even have a single verse of Scripture in the language that means most to them.

Can you imagine that? I have several versions of the Bible at home. Even on my phone, the Bible app offers me 53 English translations! It is unthinkable to simply not be able to read God's Word for ourselves or be able to hear about God's great salvation.

Wycliffe Bible Translators work all across the world to translate the Bible into the heart language of many different communities. There are many dedicated workers who are coming alongside local people to help them translate the Bible, but also encouraging the people to engage with the Bible effectively.

I will have the wonderful privilege of volunteering with this organisation over the next year. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Gillian and I'm a primary school teacher here in Ballymena. I am taking a career break in order to serve with Wycliffe. It will be very strange not to be returning to the classroom in September, but I am very excited to take on this new role.

I will be working with the team in the Belfast office. A vital part of any mission is prayer, and I will be seeking to develop resources and opportunities for people to engage in prayerful support of this global work.



"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective" (James 5:16 NIV). As James Poole, director of Wycliffe UK says, "The work of Bible translation is rooted in prayer. People can play a significant part by praying for the work - for prayer is what drives the work forward."

I would really value your prayers for me as I take this step. Here are some points for prayer:

*- I hope to visit one of the translation projects and see the work in action. Please pray for the practicalities of this trip and for safe travel.*

*- It is a little daunting to step out of a job I know inside out to do something quite different. Pray that I would adapt quickly to my new role so that I can make the most of my time with Wycliffe*

*- Please pray for the work that Wycliffe is doing, that more people would be able to receive God's Word in their own language and be transformed by it.*

**Gillian Andrews**

**'If it were necessary to find a single turning point symbolising the movement of Christianity from the North to the South, a good candidate might be the founding of Wycliffe Bible Translators... This organisation has been the most visible promoter of Bible translation in the twentieth century. The translation of the Scriptures, in turn, may be the most enduringly significant feature of the global expansion of Christianity...'**

*(Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity, Mark A. Noll, Baker Academic, 2000)*



## Illuminate

Royal School, Armagh  
15-20 July

**Julie Kernohan and  
Lyndsey Simpson**

This summer from the 15th to the 20th of July we will be off to Royal School Armagh to help lead a camp called Illuminate. The lasts for a week and is run by Baptist Youth.

Young people aged 14 to 18 will have the opportunity to come together in an informal environment to study God's Word in a practical and accessible way. This will be achieved through talks and seminars, as well as small groups, to further discuss the topics at hand. Our focus will be on working through relevant issues that face young people at this critical age and teaching them how to read and apply the Bible for themselves. This will prove extremely important as they transition to the next stages of their lives. The week will also bring opportunities to build relationships and enjoy fun activities such as volleyball tournaments, a colour run and water fights!

Please pray:

*- for the logistics of the week such as food, weather and supplies.*

*- for numbers as this is a relatively new camp and it needs a push to get folks to sign-up.*

*- that God will move through Illuminate, speaking through the leaders and into the hearts of young people so that they might go into their schools and situations with a desire to glorify Him in all that they do.*



## Smmr Fest & Spark

Ben McKendry  
looks forward!



Ballymena and more specifically Wellington, will be home to **Spark** and **SMMR FEST** this year, two weeks with different goals.

**Spark** has been running for many years, and I have been involved in five of these. I have witnessed at first-hand how Spark touches the lives of those living in our town. Running from 30 July-3 August, Spark gives an amazing platform to reach out to people of all ages and share the love of God. That may be through a Kid's Club during the week or by carrying out manual labour in or around the homes of residents. We would ask that the congregation pray for the following things, in particular, regarding our home team in Tullygarley:

- we are currently short three or four leaders over 18 and we need to trust God will provide the right people at the right time

- the logistics of the week; that everything we have planned will run on schedule and we will be reasonably well organised

- ultimately that God's will transcends all human will and that we seek that when planning

- that God will give us opportunities to preach the gospel, and that he will remind us that this is the most important thing

- that, as we come to plan the theme for the kid's club that runs during the week, the theme we take will be the theme God has placed on our hearts through his Spirit

**SMMR FEST** runs from 13-17 August and is a rather different mission. This is only the second year the event has been organised and the focus will be on reaching out, predominantly to youth aged 12-18. We hope to share the characteristics of our loving Father, and why we love Him the way we do as we share the Gospel, the Good News of the Bible, that we have a duty to share. Many of the young people that attend may not normally attend a church. This widens our mission field out into the community and we ask that you pray earnestly for these opportunities. Please also pray:

- that we will use this amazing opportunity to witness to youth who may not regularly attend church and to share the gospel faithfully with them

- that we will, through God's Word, encourage those who are already children of God and help them grow deeper in their walk with God

- as Jack Fleming and I lead the praise during the week, pray we would earnestly seek God's will when choosing the songs and that they will reflect the Gospel and the God of the Bible

- and finally, that God's will be done in all that we do.

It is our prayer that as stewards of Christ we would follow His will in all aspects of these events and that people will be blessed by his work through us as vessels of the Spirit. We pray that you too, may be touched by the work that will go on over the summer.



Each summer PCI's Youth and Children's Ministry partner with congregations across Ireland, to support them in mission among their local community. This provides a wonderful opportunity for those aged 16 and over to be involved in serving outside their own church, grow in their own walk with Jesus and gain valuable experience in personal evangelism.

Rachelle Mitchell is joining one of these teams this year. "I will be away with a PCI team at Whitehouse Presbyterian Church in Newtownabbey. The team, of 15 members and 2 leaders, will be working with children, teens and adults in the community, showing and sharing the Good News of Jesus with a needy world. "

Rachelle's Prayer Points:

Give thanks for all the young people and families that were reached last year, especially the 4 young girls who came to faith.

For relationships to be built and for God to bring people into His Kingdom, strengthening their faith.

That each team member would be bold in their faith, the new team would unite together and God would use each of them to reach others and that His name would be glorified.

Rachelle concludes, "Thanks to each member of Wellington for their prayer support, it is much appreciated."

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations,

I will be exalted in the earth."

Psalms 46 v. 10



# Lindsay Murray

## Building houses in Malawi



Habitat's Vision: "A world where everyone has a decent place to live."

This summer I will be going to Malawi to build houses with Habitat for Humanity Northern Ireland. The charity is working with young and vulnerable people who have been affected by HIV and AIDS to provide decent shelter. 80% of the population of Malawi live in poor houses, which generally means the house is made from mud and straw. This can be particularly challenging during the wet season as these homes are in no way waterproof. It also makes things very difficult for young people trying to attend school as during monsoon season they can struggle to keep their books clean and dry and struggle to get a decent night's sleep and for parents who very often will stay awake during the night so that their children are safe. These homes are not only in danger of becoming flooded but they also have little security. Habitat for Humanity is a global organisation and the work they do in Malawi, and around the world, is so important.

The team, which includes myself and 8 others, will fly from Dublin on Saturday 30th June travelling to Lilongwe (Malawi's capital) before journeying on to Blantyre (about a 40-minute flight from Lilongwe). We then travel on to our base for the duration of our stay. We will begin work on the Monday morning and this will involve days of building which can entail making bricks, mixing concrete, digging foundations and helping the local skilled workers to build. I worked with Habitat previously (in 2012) on a build in Cambodia and I find the work they do incredible. To see families blessed with a safe shelter when all they've known is poor living conditions is a way of showing a little of God's love in practice. Sometimes we can forget how fortunate we are and experiences like this certainly help me appreciate how gracious God has been in my life.

### Prayer Points

In terms of prayer for the trip there are a few areas that people can be praying for:

**Health:** as we head into a country which has a high rate of malaria and disease I would ask for prayer for the team, that we would have good health during our time there which will enable us to carry out the work we are there to do.

**Safe travels:** as we embark on a number of journeys, both flights and bus journeys, pray that we would arrive safe and sound and that all internal travel would go smoothly.

**Work:** we would appreciate prayer that we achieve the goals set by Habitat in terms of building and that we would have the strength and stamina to get through long days of building.

**Those we meet:** pray for the families and young people that we will meet, that we might be a blessing to them and bring a sense of joy and enthusiasm to them during our time there.

**If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has not pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love, in word or speech, but in truth and action.**  
**1 John 3 vs 16-18**

Top left: Lindsay pictured with family and friends at the Coffee Morning in Café Aroma on Saturday 28 April.  
Below: Enjoying the coffee & goodies in Café Aroma.





SU Missions, which you might know better as CSSM, bring together children and young people from all over the country to celebrate God's Good News through games, studying the Bible, drama, chats, craft and just getting to know each other.

Moses Kirk is joining the team in Millisle and Carrowdore from 6-10 August. Moses commented, "This will be the first CSSM Team I have been on and I am really looking forward to it. I will be working with Primary 5 children leading games, kids' worship, telling them Bible stories and helping them learn memory verses. I will be joining with my cousin David who has been on the CSSM team in Millisle for the past few years."

Moses has some Prayer Points:

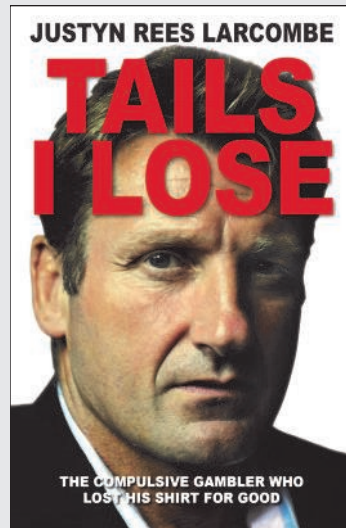
Pray for me as I am going to a new place along with people I don't really know.

Pray for a week of good weather for the outdoor activities.

Pray for the kids attending that they will be attentive and learn more about the Good News of Jesus Christ.

## BOOK REVIEW

by Hazel Bates



### TAILS I LOOSE

By Justyn Rees-Larcombe

Published by Lion Hudson Plc

ISBN 9780745956473

I tuned into UCB (United Christian Broadcasters) to help relieve the boredom of ironing! Justyn was part way through his interview and I was sorry I missed the start. A short time later I discovered the book in the Church Library. I found it gripping and on many occasions found myself wanting to say "don't do it!"

'Tails I Loose' is an honest and frank account of how Justyn scaled the dizzy heights of success and rapidly plummeted to rock bottom. After a highly successful career in the British Army, having been presented with the sword of honour by the Queen on leaving Sandhurst, he had an equally successful career in the insurance world. By the time he proposed to his wife, Emma, he had walked into a 6 figure job in the city. In addition to his increasing wealth he had a beautiful wife and two sons.

One Sunday, aged 40, having never gambled in his life, he placed a £5 bet on a rugby match. Within 2 years he had lost £750,000, his wife and his children. Amongst his losses were some of his most treasured possessions, including the sword of honour that he sold for a pittance in order to place a bet.

Justyn struggles to explain why he took up gambling as he had always been successful, both at school and in his career.

With nowhere left to go, his mum persuaded him to live with her. With her support and that of friends and Gamblers' Anonymous he began the process of healing and reconciliation.

He later said of his lowest time, "instead of taking my own life I gave it back to the God I had known much of my life.

Now, amongst other things, Justyn leads training events on addiction and recovery using a Bible based 12 step course entitled RecoveryTwo.

The book proved to be a challenging read and an encouraging reminder that no-one is beyond the reach of God, whatever the circumstances that lead us there, and what God can do with a life that is totally surrendered to Him. A timely reminder that status or possessions cannot satisfy what only God can!



## Serving God in East Belfast



The work of the Belfast City Mission continues, as does my part in that work having now completed 8 years in the Canton Street Hall, situated between the Woodstock and Castlereagh Roads in East Belfast. During this past 8 years the work has been generally encouraging but there have also been challenging times. Sometimes it is good to reflect on these past experiences and see how our work has continued under God's help and protection. Only He knows what work has really been done to extend His Kingdom.

We are called, as His people, to be servants to God first and then to others. That is what we seek to do in the Belfast City Mission. The work and needs are varied. One day I might take a lady out to see a friend in a Nursing Home, and afterwards take her to get some groceries. The next day I might be studying God's Word, preparing for my next sermon or visiting some members that attend Canton Street Hall, either in their homes or in hospital. Whatever I am I doing, I am serving God and the people of this area. This is the example that Jesus came to give and we must continue to be His servants each and every day.

In Mark 10 v 45 Jesus said:

**"For even the Son of man came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many."**

Christ's example was one of faithful service to His Father and to those around Him, including His willingness to die on the cross for sinners. We must keep following Christ's example of service.

Our day to day work has changed a little in the last 2 years with a change to the time of the Bible Club and, a new venture, the start of a Mums and Tots group. Both are developing well and we have been encouraged as we get to know some of the mothers and their little ones. Two mothers shared with me about their troubled lives and why they experienced such things. I simply explained to them that we all are sinners and we are under the curse of sin including sickness and death. I also spoke of God's deep desire to help and to save us from our sinful state. I understand that one of those ladies now attends a Salvation Army Hall, with some of her family, and the other has started to attend a local church. People are still thinking, searching for meaning and asking questions about life. I pray that there may be many more opportunities to speak to folks like this.

As I consider the future, it is my hope to remain in East Belfast for a few more years. In 2019 we will celebrate 120 years of witness in this area of Belfast. It started in a single house when a lady set up a Sunday School class. We hope to have a number of special events during 2019 by way of celebration, including a Mission in May. Do pray for the work of the Belfast City Mission and in Canton Street Mission Hall especially. Pray also for the future as God leads and guides us.

Once again thank you for your prayer and financial support over the years.

May God bless you all.

**Michael Waddell**

*The formation of the Belfast City Mission extends back to the year 1827. The Rev Reuben John Bryce had a deep concern for the spiritual welfare of the unchurched and the indifferent in the then town of Belfast. Subsequently, alongside a number of other clerical and lay members of the community, the Mission was formed to be then known as "Belfast Town Mission".*

*Michael was a member of Wellington, entering full time missionary work with BCM in 2005.*

# Men's FELLOWSHIP

## Men take Annual Trek to bowl at the Jim Baker Stadium

The Men's Fellowship members finished their season with the customary trip to the Jim Baker Stadium near Parkgate on Tuesday evening, 24 April.

After some time, or more accurately a long time, becoming accustomed to the much longer mats than those used in the Church Hall, members settled down and enjoyed the evening. The standard of bowling was, at best, mixed but no one took it too seriously, as evidenced by the amount of laughter and banter that echoed around the stadium. Fortunately we were the only ones bowling, so there was no one else to be annoyed by our antics.

The evening concluded with a meal and the award of the trophies that had been keenly contested in the Church Hall over several weeks.

Well done to Cecil McAleese who won the Singles Competition. Cecil, along with his doubles playing partner, Andy Lamont, also notched up a win in the Doubles.

*Photos right and below:*  
Members of the Men's Fellowship  
pictured at the Jim Baker Stadium.



Cecil (left) with the Singles Trophy  
pictured with Tom White, Runner-Up



Cecil and Andy with the Doubles Trophy. Ronnie Crooks (left) was Runner-Up along with partner Jonny Kennedy (who was not in attendance). Also included is Harold Patterson, Men's Fellowship Chairman



June 2018



33



# Treasurer's Report 2017

John Marshall, Honorary Treasurer

At the conclusion of another year it is wonderful to report that our God did not fail us or even just let us 'scrape through' financially but, as is so often the case, He provided more than enough to meet our needs and commitments. So from our hearts we can rejoice and say "All praise and thanks to Him for his mercies".

Consolidated Income rose by over 7 per cent (Table 1) overall with:

Freewill Offering up by 7.6%  
Mission Offering up by 15.2%  
Building Fund giving up by 5.04% and  
Loose offering up by 14.7%

In relation to expenditure (Table 2) the total costs amounted to nearly £350,000 with a percentage breakdown by category of:

49% on payroll and related expenditure  
18% on Church House assessments  
12% on general overhead  
21% on property repairs and upkeep.

The foregoing has resulted in healthy bank balances at the year end. The general account balance at 31/12/2017 topped a quarter of a million pounds. However, at that date a number of bills for work carried out prior to the year-end had not been presented. These included structural repairs at the Manse, infrastructure work at the two sites behind the manse and the ongoing Church sound project. (Table 3)

The Building Account balance of £816,000 requires some explanation. As alluded to last year the loan set off arrangement with the Ulster Bank was completed and has now been operational for a full year. All our spare funds, including all our restricted and endowment funds have been transferred into a temporary set off account with the Ulster Bank, saving the Church interest. There is currently £212,000 of advance deposits plus approximately £450,000 of endowment funds in this account.

Diagram 4 shows the building fund contributions since inception, seventeen years ago. In terms of amount contributed 2017 ranks the 7<sup>th</sup> highest and has reversed the downward trend that had been becoming apparent in recent

## Consolidated Income - Table 1

Details / Year	2017	% change	2016	2015
FWO	£274,444	+7.6%	£254,917	£261,634
Manse/Property Renovations	£544		£544	£544
Mission Fund	£46,630	+15.2%	£40,447	£46,046
New Building Fund	£231,010	+5.04%	£219,917	£233,012
Gift Aid	£107,438		£107,348	£72,978
Loose Offering	£39,478	+14.7%	£34,408	£41,545
Rent	£371		£3,414	£2,760
Catering/Room Hire	£13,653		£12,765	£13,223
Sports Hall	£13,002		£4,661	£9,737
<b>Total</b>	<b>£726,570</b>	<b>+7.09%</b>	<b>£678,421</b>	<b>£681,479</b>

## Church Expenses - Table 2

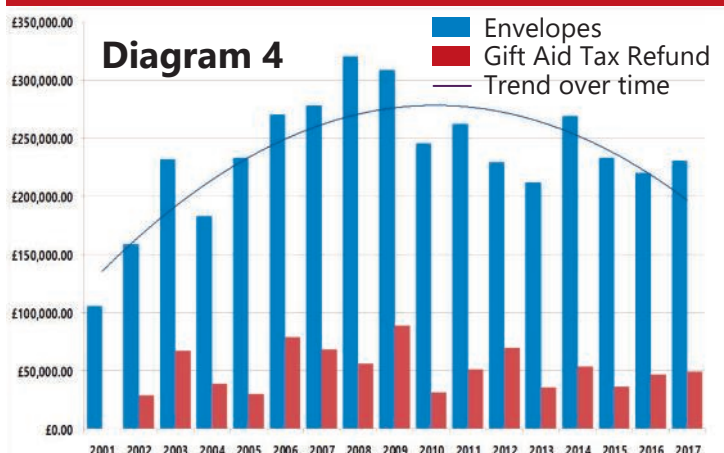
Details	2017	% change	2016	2015
Salary & Related	£168,172	-4.7%	£153,821	£121,403
Church House Assessments	£63,725	+10.24%	£59,619	£58,843
Property Costs	£72,892	-16.67%	£84,374	£80,186
General O'head	£41,811	+11.58%	£48,295	£51,946
<b>Total</b>	<b>£346,600</b>		<b>£346,109</b>	<b>£312,378</b>

## Bank and Cash Accounts - Table 3

Details	2017	2016	2015
General Account	£265,797	£156,672	£101,810
Building Fund	£816,549	£533,945	£318,157
Property Repair	£23,132	22,588	£22,045
Mission Account	£69,307	£74,472	£69,307
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,174,785</b>	<b>£787,677</b>	<b>£511,319</b>

Increase of £387,108 over 2016 = +49%

## New Building Fund Contributions since Inception



years. Hopefully this marks the beginning of a new trend and will enable us to clear our debt more quickly. There is approximately 9 years worth of contributions still owed to the Ulster Bank.

On the liabilities side we still owe £410,000 to the trustees of the Elsie Steel Estate (Table 5). There is a term of 17 years left on this loan and we do not envisage any in roads being made on it until the Ulster Bank loan is repaid. We are currently paying interest on these funds of 4% which amounts to £16,400 annually. At 31/12/2017 the Ulster Bank loan (Table 6) stood at £1,580,825 and, as has already been mentioned, we are carrying a year's advance contributions in the set off account.

As usual I would like to pay tribute to the dedicated band of voluntary workers who labour hard behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the financial function in the Church. In particular, I would like to mention the late Mrs Anna Reid, a stalwart of the counting teams for more years than I can remember. Anna did a double stint, eight weeks on and four off and was always willing to assist in whatever way she could.

On behalf of the committee I would I would like to express our sincere gratitude to our loyal members who give so generously to Church funds.

Finally in a world characterized by so much uncertainty, financial and other, it is reassuring to know that we can depend on the One who possess all power and authority and is certain, unshakeable, loving and faithful to all those who call on His Name.

To Him be all praise, glory and honour.

### Non Bank Loans - Table 5

	PMS Loan	E STEELE Trust	Total
<b>Opening Balance at 1 Jan 2017</b>	-	(£410,000)	(£410,000)
<b>DISCOUNT</b>	-		-
<b>Capital Repaid</b>	-	-	-
<b>Closing balance at 31 Dec 2017</b>	-	(£410,000)	(£410,000)

### Bank Loans - Table 6

	Ulster Bank Loan
<b>Opening Balance at 1 Jan 2017</b>	(£1,739,506)
<b>New Capital</b>	-
<b>Capital Repaid</b>	£158,681
<b>Closing balance at 31 Dec 2017</b>	(£1580,825)

### Balance Sheet at 31/12/17

<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		<b>£6,812,162</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Bank & Cash Balances	£1,174,835	
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>£1,174,835</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>		
Loans	(£1,580,825)	
E STEELE Loan	(£410,000)	
PMS Loan	-	
Liabilities	(£6,169)	
<b>TOTAL CREDITORS</b>		<b>(£1,996,994)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>£5,990,003</b>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>		
Unrestricted Funds	£263,177	
Restricted Funds	£5,711,644	
Endowment Funds	£15,182	
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES</b>		<b>£5,990,003</b>

Erin McBride and Ben McKendry led the worship

AGM - 16 May 2018

Victor McAfee interviewed Geoff Eagleson about the new Children's ASK Group and Ashley Shaw about the The Net Youth Club



# Session Report 2017

Geoff Marshall, Clerk of Session

Recently I have been reading 'Church Together' about how God established His church - a forgiven people - to share and care together, study together, sacrifice together and pray together. In the past year (2017) people in Wellington have been involved in 'Togetherness'.

As a leadership, Session was delighted to receive and welcome 44 new members who by affirmation of faith decided to put down spiritual roots in Wellington. We thank God for each new member and pray they settle into worship and service for Him. Six people, for their own personal reasons, made the decision to leave Wellington and we wish them every blessing as they serve God in other fellowships. We experienced the joy and happiness of baptisms (4) and marriage ceremony (4). And then we endured days of sorrow and grief when during the year twenty nine families lost a loved one through bereavement. We must continue to uphold each family in prayer.

Within our congregation, Pastoral Care involves a huge amount of work, commitment and time. As the body of Christ, we are privileged and responsible to care for one another. This takes various forms from member to member, within groups/organisations, in elder's districts or in the more structured work of the Pastoral Care Team (staff and volunteers). The team carried out some 2,700 visits in 2017, equating to 52 per week. These ranged from urgent, hospital, illness or nursing homes visits through to our senior members (those over 75 years of age). We acknowledge the sterling work done by our Pastoral Care Team along with detailed record keeping and administration.

Session is delighted to report that our organisations continue to flourish with a very dedicated group of leaders and helpers although there have been some changes along the way. The latter part of 2016 and into 2017 brought about a 'new start' in the Net youth club. We are indebted to James and Siobhan Millar and Sam and Judith McCullough, along with their team of leaders, as they reset the vision for the youth club and implemented new structures. As James, Siobhan, Sam and Judith step aside from youth work we are very thankful that Ashley Shaw, supported by his wife Barbara, has taken over leadership of the Net.

After sixteen years' service in Girls Brigade Mrs Carole Dickey retired from GB work. In Carole's retirement letter to Session it was so refreshing to read these words, 'I have got back much more than I ever put in.' A fitting tribute not only to the organisation but also a display of great personal humility. In Men Aloud Sammy Davison stepped down from his leadership role. This too was a very significant change as Sammy back in Wellington Street days was a founder member of Men Aloud. Session approved Sam Kirk as the new leader for this ministry and were encouraged to note that the new leadership emerged from within the group.

After a review Session approved a change to Bible Study Groups with a change of name to 'Life Groups.' Specific training for leaders and an overall injection of renewed energy and momentum has proved very worthwhile as we now have twenty one Life Groups, a strong core at the midweek Bible Study along with Mums and Women's Bible Study Groups. It is most encouraging that such a

significant number of people have the desire to meet and study the scriptures.

During 2017 it became very apparent that, as a church, we were lacking in our understanding of the challenges and needs of families who have children with additional needs. Indeed, we had little set in place to care for and enable the children to participate in our organisations. Steps have been taken to address this issue and a new group has been formed known as ASK – Additional Special Kids. Meetings have taken place with parents, enabling us to listen and gain greater awareness of their needs. This, in turn, led to a specific training course provided by Care for the Family. We still have much to learn and implement but by embracing this work we hope to provide a safe and inclusive environment for all.

The above represents some of the business which Session has managed during 2017, but it is by no means the entirety of the work. Many other matters are considered and much time is sought seeking God's will and direction for His church in Wellington. But while no man can do everything, every man can do something and when we place that in the context of 'Church Together' then God gets all the honour, glory and praise.

*"Only one life 'twill  
soon be past  
Only what's done  
for Christ will last."*

C T Studd



# Committee Report 2017

David Keys, Church Secretary

This is my third report as Secretary of the Congregational Committee.

The Committee met on five scheduled dates during 2017, namely on 23 January, 27 March, 29 May, 18 September and 27 November. There were also two additional meetings on 26 June and 23 October 2017, primarily aimed at updating the committee on the ongoing issues with sound in the main church.

The sound proved to be the main area the committee focussed on during the year. By way background some problems with the quality of the sound had been experienced in the main church. This caused significant frustration and annoyance for members of the congregation, despite the best efforts of the team who operate the sound desk.

In order to understand the source of the problems and how best to rectify them, committee appointed a company to investigate the cause of the problems and provide recommendations as to how the listening experience might be improved for the congregation.

Significant improvements were carried out in line with the recommendations received, including the replacement, repair and upgrade of some of the sound equipment and ongoing training for members of the sound team. This has resulted in very significant improvements to the listening experience and further monitoring will be carried out over the coming months. I would like to thank the members of the congregation for their continued patience as we worked through these difficult issues. We are very grateful to God

for His guiding in this area as we have sought to enhance the worship experience in Wellington.

Repainting and redecoration has been carried out in Café Aroma and some equipment, for our children's ministry, purchased. A new kitchen was installed in the manse along with some other refurbishment work.

Mr Sam Caves stepped down as leader of the sound team after more than 50 years service. Sam's love for his Lord and Master, whom he desired to serve, led to this dedicated and very valuable service and we, as a congregation, are very grateful to Sam for his tireless work over many years in this important area of ministry. Mr George Backus tragically passed away in May 2017. We recognise not only the huge amount of work George carried out, particularly around the church grounds, but more importantly how he will be remembered for his legacy and attitude to those he met and to his work as he served his Lord.

Then there was the normal maintenance type work carried out around the church complex as well as some unexpected expenditure. All of this, coupled with the work associated with the Christian Copyright Licence renewal, servicing of equipment, renewal of Church Insurances, servicing and inspection of Fire Alarm and Fire Extinguishers, compliance with Health and Safety requirements, to mention a few, are some of the issues that have to be dealt with to keep our church ticking over.

As in previous years, I would acknowledge the vast amount of voluntary work carried out on a regular basis to keep our premises in ship-shape condition. Many of

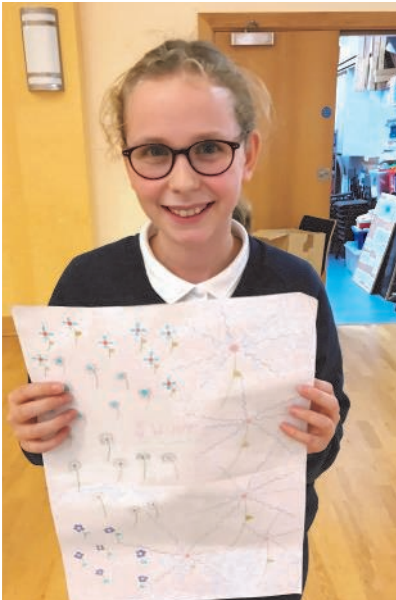
the tasks, while appearing menial or mundane and not 'up front', are nonetheless important ministries. I want to say a sincere thank you to those involved in cleaning teams, car park duties, heating, opening and closing the buildings, weekly security, general maintenance, staffing the office, weeding the flower and shrub beds, setting up rooms for meetings, moving chairs, lighting the Christmas tree, meeting and greeting, first aid, updating our website, helping with sound and recording, emptying the bins, baking, catering, cleaning the kitchen, washing and ironing table cloths or simply making a cup of tea.

Thanks also to Anne and George Eagleson, our full time caretakers, members of Property and Finance Committees and Iris McDowell, assistant secretary. Particular thanks to Geoff Marshall, Session Clerk, and David Compton, Property Committee Convenor, for their on-going encouragement, advice and support.

When we consider serving God, we might ask the question, 'what does that mean or look like?'

In Matthew 25 vs 37-40 we read these words: 'Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me'.

God can use us and God wants to use us to make a difference and to be His hands and feet on earth.



## Thanks to the P7 GB girls!

The GB Junior Section P7 girls designed front covers with a Summer theme for this edition of our magazine. The entries were judged by Derek McKinstry and Honor Hall, from the Paint Pot, and they picked Katie Mairs' design!

The main picture above shows Katie with her design.

The other P7 girls are also pictured with their designs.

Thanks girls for all your efforts and for adding a splash of colour to the cover pages of our last 3 magazines.



# Recipe!

How about this as refreshing idea for a summer salad!

If you have a favourite recipe that is a 'bit different', please send it to the Editor!

## American Summer Broccoli Salad

### Salad Ingredients:

- 8 cups Broccoli (raw or blanched), chopped small
- 1 cup (8 oz) Raisins (or dried cranberries!)
- 1 cup (8 oz) Sunflower Seeds (raw or roasted)
- 450 g Streaky bacon, cooked crisp and crumbled
- 1/2 cup (4 oz) Red Onion, chopped small

### Salad dressing:

- 1 1/2 cup (12 oz) mayonnaise
- 3/4 (6 oz) cup sugar
- 6 Tablespoons Apple Cider Vinegar

Place ingredients in a large bowl and mix together  
 Prepare salad dressing by mixing ingredients together  
 Add salad dressing to other ingredients in the large bowl.  
 Mix well until ingredients are evenly coated with the dressing.  
 Cover and refrigerate until chilled, allowing the flavours time to blend together.



Enjoy!!

E			
			V
L			
			O

Using the letters LOVE  
 place them so they appear  
 in every row, column,  
 diagonal and small 2x2 square

### BIBLE SUDOKU

Used to ordinary Sudoku?  
 Here's a twist - use letters  
 instead of numbers!  
 One for the kids on the left  
 and something more  
 complicated on the right!  
 Email the editor if you  
 want the solution!

Using the letters  
**MARVELOUS** (Amer. spelling)  
 place them in the grid so  
 they appear in every row,  
 column and coloured  
 3x3 square

S		L		O		V		R
			V			A		
	O			A	R		M	
E						M		
	V		A		U		L	
		R						E
	R		O				E	
		O			E			
V		E		M		O		U

May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's **marvellous love**; and may you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high his love really is.

*Ephesians 3:17-19 Living Bible (TLB)*

## Deaths 2018

28 Feb	Yvonne Jamison	Sentry Hill	Cremated at Roselawn Crematorium
14 Mar	William (Billy) Moore	Glenravel Fold	Interred in Ballee Cemetery
8 Mar	Archie Burns	Parkmore Drive	Interred in Kirkinriola Burying Ground
2 April	Anna Maria Reid	The Grange	Private family interment
16 April	Robert Carson	Prospect Nursing Home	Private funeral
13 May	Hugh Hillis	Moat Road	Interred in Ballymena Cemetery

## Marriage



**Julie Whann and Gareth Hewitt**  
24 May 2018

*If you would like a photograph of a wedding included in the magazine please forward to the Editor*

## Baptism



**Charlotte Lilia**, daughter of  
Richard and Kathryn Reid, Old Grange Avenue  
Included is sister Emily  
6 May 2018

## New Communicant Members



Alan & Julie Gourley, Leighinmohr Avenue;  
Andrew & Leanne McCaughan, Killane Manor, Ahoghill;  
Gareth & Karen McGregor, Crea Road, Randalstown



Back: Heather Smyth, Willendale Gardens, Ballyclare;  
Ian Montgomery, Braid Carry, Broughshane;  
Thomaz Kalzmarek Hilton Park, Portglenone;  
Front: Lauren Young, Brookfield Gardens, Ahoghill;  
Vera Fleck, Slatt Road

Stephen, Elaine and Matthew Armstrong,  
Eden Road, Maghera

Geoffrey Lynn,  
Cardonaghy Road,  
Cullybackey



**We welcome these new members to our Church Fellowship. Each attended our New Members Course and affirmed their faith at the Communion Service on 30 March 2018**

