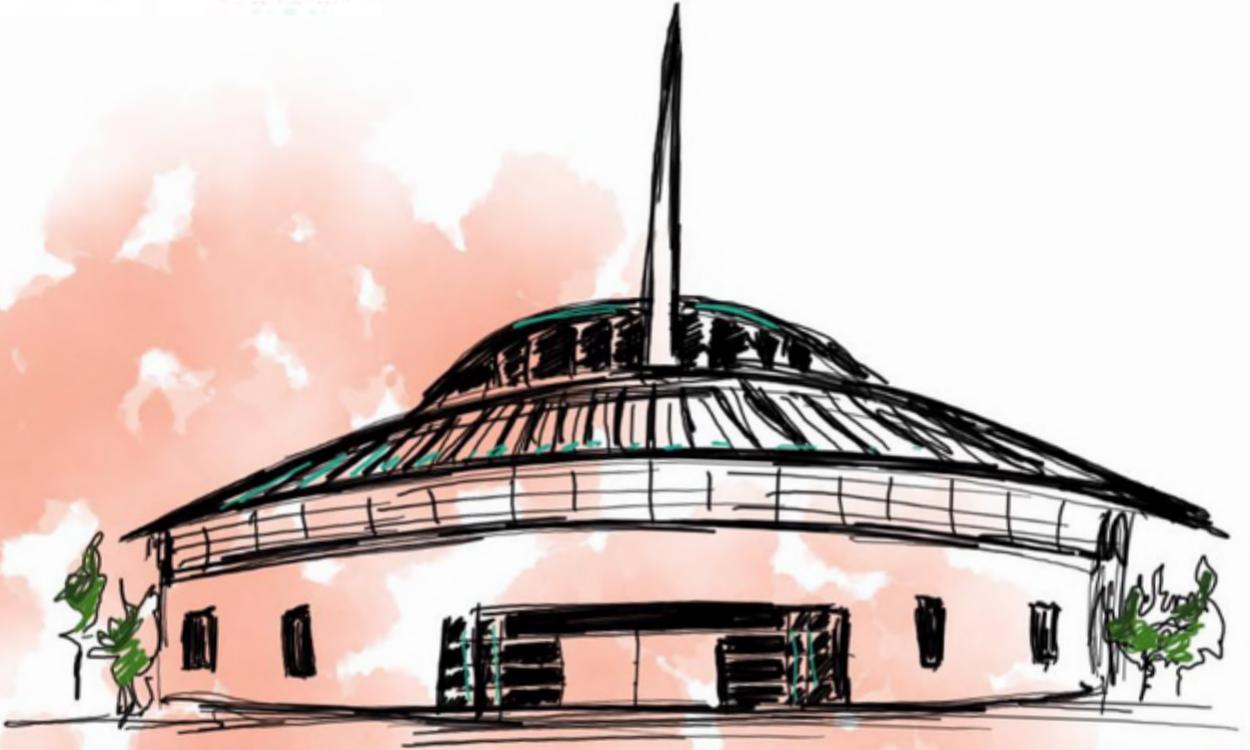


wellington
CHURCH



WELLINGTON RECORD

Editor's comments

Welcome to your new-look Wellington Record! And thank you for reading – I really hope that you enjoy the feel and content of the magazine, and that you find it to be interesting, helpful and encouraging.

Before I go any further, I have to say a big thank you to Mervyn Orr, who faithfully and tirelessly edited this magazine for over 20 years, from its early black and white days, to the glossy 40-page full-colour magazine that it became. You can read his own words on the subject on page 3-4. It's humbling for me, as a relative newcomer to the church, to be taking over such a long-standing tradition, but I hope to build on the work done by Mervyn and his predecessors, so that the magazine continues to be a faithful representation of the life and work of the people of Wellington.

While the magazine looks quite different, you'll find much is familiar: there will be photos of and information on church activities, as you would expect, and we'll be keeping in regular contact with projects that we support and members who are serving elsewhere. This edition we have some really interesting reports from Kenya, South Africa, and right here in NI.

But you'll also find some new features. For example, "People of Wellington" (page 17-18): Wellington is a big place, especially for those who haven't been here for long, so in each edition we plan to introduce you to several faces that you may have seen around the church. It could be the helper who looks after your children in the Well, or directs you in the car park each Sunday. It might be the parent who you see pacing the corridor with a baby, or simply the person who sits in the row in front of you every week. Hopefully, by putting names to faces, and finding out a little about each contributor, we will get to know each other better.



Front cover art:
myfavouritefreckle.com

Back cover photography:
Leah Mark

Printed by:
Bally Print

Design:
Conor Agnew

If you would like to include photos of your wedding in the church magazine, we'll be happy to print them. Please send via email to the editor:
alisonwoodrow1@gmail.com

Another exciting item, for our younger church attendees at least, is the kids' section – there are puzzles and a book review and even a quiz with a prize. Please encourage your children to turn to page 21-22 and have a go.

As this edition is to be published in time for Easter, Wellington's new pastoral visitor Raymond has written a thought-provoking piece to focus our minds.

Before I finish, I'd like to say a huge thanks to Conor Agnew, who very willingly agreed to help me with the layout and design of the magazine – we've worked hard on the fresh new format and I couldn't have done it without him. Also to the photographers and contributors – they've all been so willing and helpful, and I really appreciate it.

With all this said, I hope you enjoy your read. Happy Easter to you all!

Alison Woodrow

Mervyn Orr

Thoughts on his years as editor

"If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."

(1 Peter 4:11)

For over 20 years, I have been blessed to be the editor of the Wellington Record. Producing my first edition in December 1996, little did I understand that it would become a labour of love that lasted until December 2018.

Rev. Norman Brown was 18 months into his ministry when I started, and since then I have had the privilege of recording some of the life and witness of our church family. The construction of our new buildings at Sourhill was a major achievement for the congregation during this time, though moving from Wellington Street, where the congregation had been established and thrived from 1828 until 2009, was nonetheless a great wrench for many. While our old familiar surroundings held many memories, we have been blessed by God as we settled into our new location. Now we have welcomed Rev. Alistair Bates, who is continuing to

lead our congregation on the journey God has planned for us, and I am convinced that Wellington Presbyterian Church will preserve its tradition of showing the love and compassion of Christ to others, whether at home or abroad.

The job of editor continues a task started many years ago. I merely filled a gap for a few short years in our history, and I pay tribute to Gloria Cupples who held the post for 18 years before me and, of course, those that preceded her. We remain so thankful for all that happens in our large congregation, as new generations are introduced and instructed in the Word of God, and old generations pass into glory. I hope that the stories told and articles included have added something to the rich tapestry of our history, woven over many years, and that God has been glorified as pages were read and stories shared.

In 1996 the magazine was A5 in size, and was printed in the upstairs print room under the watchful eye of Andy Caves, who supervised the Risograph machine as it thumped out some 800 copies of each page. Printed pages



were stacked in order, ready for the small army of 'compilers' who ascended the steep, narrow stairs (remember the mysteriously locked door on the gallery landing!) and proceeded, in a fairly orderly fashion, to pick up pages and present them to the stapler - a job reserved for a select few 'experts', who with loud thuds inserted the staples in the spine. These evenings were enjoyable, and many stories (never recorded!) were shared among those who served God in this task.

This process was, however, somewhat limited, as only black and red print was available, and reproduction of photographs was poor. So over the intervening years the magazine evolved to A4 size, and moved to full colour about 2 years ago.

I have been so encouraged over the years by the endless stream of stories of members heeding the call of God on their lives and serving Him wherever He led them. For some, that was service within our own church, others within Northern Ireland, and others travelled to destinations across the world. All had one thing in common: a desire to serve their Lord and follow His example - "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve" (Mark 10:45). Equally encouraging are the stories of those from other lands who have visited or studied here, before returning to their own land to carry on God's work - Sergey and Julia, Veronica and Ghassan, Metka and Goran, Obadiah, and the representatives of ASHA come to mind. What a privilege it has been to share in their journey.

"His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation" (Luke 1:50). Over these past 20 years the pages of our magazine have recorded many happy moments as well as sad ones. Marriages, baptisms and new communicants have brought joy, but equally there has been sadness over

many who were called home to Glory, in many cases seemingly far too early. Only God knows the reason why and we rest in the assurance that they are now at home with the Lord.

No doubt stories of God's grace and leading, as yet hidden from us, will fill the pages of the Wellington Record over the years to come, as lives are transformed, people are challenged by God, and new generations rise up to serve wherever God calls them to.

Over the last couple of years I have felt that my time as editor of the magazine was coming to an end, but I thank God for the opportunity He gave me to record just a little of the work, life and witness of the people of Wellington Presbyterian Church. I would also like to thank all who supported and assisted me over the past 21 years, to fill so many pages and write so many words of what God was doing in your lives. Apologies for those times when my emails carried a sense of urgency as print deadlines loomed! I wonder what plans God has for me now that my involvement with the Wellington Record has ended?

By the time you read this, you will be aware that Alison Woodrow has taken over the task of editorship of the Wellington Record. I wish Alison God's richest blessing as she starts what, I am sure, will become a labour of love for her also. I would ask that you support and encourage Alison as she begins this task. It can be difficult, as one within so large a congregation, to know all that is happening, so can I urge you to ensure Alison knows of all the events, people and happenings which add to the richness and diversity of life in Wellington.

May God bless you all.

Mervyn Orr

CHURCH REPORT

GEOFF MARSHALL

"It's as far back as ever." At the end of Christmas or other special times of year, my late mother was renowned for using this phrase. Undoubtedly, time does not stand still and we move in and out of seasons with little or no fuss. The church calendar is similar. As I write we have just completed the Christmas season, and as you read this we are about to celebrate Easter. And on it goes! But whilst time flies, we often need to pause,

reflect, and give thanks to God. There are many ways to do this – outdoor walks, enjoying the beauty of God's creation, personal or organized retreats, or simply times of silence, to name a few. Whatever way we choose, we give praise, honour and thanks to Almighty God for His daily provision. Words from the Getty song The Lord is My Salvation encapsulate this – "When winter fades I know spring will come... In times of waiting, time of need... The Lord is our Salvation".

We celebrated a wonderful Christmas time in Wellington. Our Christmas carol service was overflowing, not only with people but with word and song which touched hearts and minds, bringing the real meaning of Christmas into focus. We were blessed and uplifted to see our children fully involved in worship, bringing gifts to share with others, singing their hearts out in praise to God, and gathering together as a family on Christmas morning. We were also thrilled to host two local primary schools – Camphill and Carniny – as they

held their annual school carol services in Wellington. Their school day was spent in Wellington preparing for an evening service for parents/family, which again brought the birth of Jesus to the fore.

In January, the Kirk Session instigated an election of elders, following the process laid down by PCI. By God's grace and guidance we are prayerfully seeking to add to our number in leadership, for today and on into the future. After the election of elders, we are due an election of church committee – and this is all on top of Brexit!!

2019 will bring two significant milestones in our church and we are planning to mark both in an appropriate way.

Firstly, a number of senior elders will attain 50 years of ordained eldership within PCI. I wonder how many changes they have experienced, not to mention the number of meetings they have attended? What a privilege it will be to host a special celebration for these men and their families.

Secondly, April marks 10 years since we moved from Wellington Street to our present church site. The foundation stone of the new building was laid by then-Moderator of PCI Rev Dr John Finlay on 29 September 2007 followed by a celebration at Galgorm Community Centre. Eighteen months later (22 March 2009) we held our first service in Wellington, with the official opening ceremony on Saturday 4 April. What a demonstration

of vision, boldness and trust in God. God has provided more than we could ever imagine. The original financial giving was titled Building for God. The account name may have gone but our purpose is very much alive – Building for God in Wellington.

We have approximately 700 families who claim a connection with Wellington. This presents a huge amount of pastoral care work. Recently we were delighted to welcome Rev. Raymond McLarnin who has joined the pastoral care team on a part time basis. Raymond brings years of experience in ministry and an enthusiasm to encourage people in their walk with the Lord. We wish Raymond and his wife Carol God's richest blessings in this new work and as they worship in Wellington.



To finish, I hope you are enjoying the new layout and style of Wellington Record. By now you will know that Alison Woodrow is the new editor, taking over from Mervyn Orr. Mervyn produced and edited the Wellington record for over 20 years, taking us through and recording many seasons of church life. Thank you Mervyn for the many features, photographs, and deadlines met! We welcome Alison, who will bring her own style and stamp on things, showing that time never does nor should stand still in service for Him.

EASTER IN LEVITICUS

RAYMOND MCLARNIN

The book of Leviticus is one of the most-neglected and least-read of the Bible. Yet why is this, when, as Paul said, "Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope" (Rom. 15:4), and elsewhere "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful" (2 Tim 3:16). This includes Leviticus! Jesus said that the Old Testament scriptures testified of Him: "beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself" (Luke 24:27). I wonder what he said about himself from Leviticus...

Background

- * The first four letters of Leviticus are "Levi". The officiating priests were from this tribe. This book is the instructions for their duties.
- * The New Testament interpretation of Leviticus is the book of Hebrews.
- * There are more spoken words of God in Leviticus than in any other Bible book.
- * The theme of the book is holiness. When Peter said, "Just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written 'Be holy, because I am holy'" (1 Pet. 1:15, 16), he was quoting from Leviticus (see 11:44,45; 19:2; 20:7). English commentator Derek Tidball writes: "The summons of Leviticus leaps across the yawning cultural divide and the intervening centuries to call us once again to holy living. Christian believers, no less than Israel, are called to be holy and to pursue holiness in every dimension of their lives". Simply put, holiness is defined as separation - being set apart for God.

Day of Atonement

I have entitled this article "Easter in Leviticus" because the death of Christ is foreshadowed in this book. The first five chapters are taken up with the burnt, grain, fellowship, sin and guilt offerings. Paul summarises them beautifully when he says "Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God" (Eph. 5:2).

But I want to draw your attention in particular to Chapter 16, which describes the Day of Atonement. I have no doubts that in Luke 24, when Jesus was taking those two despondent disciples through a tour of the Old Testament, he stopped off here for awhile.

What was the Day of Atonement, and how does it relate to Christ's death?

- * It was an annual holy day, in September / October. Although at that time sacrifices were performed daily, they reached a high point on this day.
- * It was a solemn day (Lev. 23:26-32). People were to deny themselves, or, as the NKJV puts it, afflict their souls. After all, it was sin that caused such a day! Just like Calvary - as Stuart Townend has penned: "It was my sin that held him there..."

How can anyone be frivolous about this?

- * It was a lonely day for the officiating high priest. Only he could enter behind the separating curtain once a year, on this day. And Jesus, our Great High Priest, experienced abject loneliness on the cross. He experienced three hours of separation from God so that

we might not experience an eternity of it! This curtain would be torn in two from top to bottom at the death of Christ.

* It was a unique day. Lev. 16 is the only chapter in the Bible that mentions the scapegoat. It was one of a pair. One goat was sacrificed for the redemption from sin (16:9), and the other, the scapegoat, was sent into the wilderness, symbolising the removal of sin (16:10). Please read 16:20-22. The goat would not come back to the Israelite camp, nor would anyone go looking for it! What a thought!

Let us think, this Easter 2019, of Jesus as our scapegoat. Through Him, what has happened to our sins? What has he done with them?

1. They are at a distance: "As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us" (Ps. 103:12). Why not north and south? If you travel north, you'll eventually travel south, and vice versa. If you travel east, you'll always be going east, and vice versa.

2. They are in the depths: "You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea" (Micah 7:19). I like what Matthew Henry says here: "He casts them into the sea, not near the short-side, where they may appear again, but into the depth of the sea, never to rise again". All sin, without exception.

"My sin - O the bliss of this glorious thought
My sin - not in part, but the whole
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord O my soul."

3. They have disappeared: "I have swept away your offences like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist..." (Is. 44:22). Our sins are covered, cannot be seen - just what the term 'atonement' suggests.

4. They have been deleted: "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. (Jer. 31:34).

What a thought - the omniscient mind of God forgets! Our sins are both forgiven and forgotten.

Leviticus 16 is an Old Testament picture of what Christ accomplished for us on Calvary's cross.

So, this Easter, your sin is either on yourself or Christ, your scapegoat. May you know, or come to know, the joy of sins forgiven and forgotten.

GETTING TO KNOW... RAYMOND MCLARNIN, WELLINGTON'S NEW PASTORAL VISITOR



FROM Lisburn.

MARRIED TO Carol.

MY FAMILY CONSISTS OF 3 daughters: Ruth, Linda and Hannah, 2 sons-in-law and 1 grandson, Jonah.

MY HOBBIES ARE walking, reading, motorbikes (I especially like going to Motorcross events and I even flag-marshall at some), and I'm a keen supporter of West Ham United.

MY FAVOURITE HOLIDAY DESTINATION IS Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland. I especially love exploring sites relating to the Covenanters and looking into that part of history.

SOMETHING NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT ME IS that I love haggis! I first tasted it when a student at the Faith Mission College in Scotland, and I fell in love with it.

I WAS SAVED at 11 years of age, through a Friday night children's meeting in Lisburn Congregational.

MY HOPE FOR THE PEOPLE OF WELLINGTON IS to see those who are not yet saved prepared for eternity, and that Christians will grow more and more – that we be a Bible-reading / loving / obeying people. The constant reading of God's word changes lives.

MY FAVOURITE BOOK IS The Biography of Robert Murray McCheyne by Andrew Bonar. McCheyne died aged only 29 in 1843, but left such a strong legacy that continues today.

MY FAVOURITE PASSAGE OF THE BIBLE IS Philippians 1:6 – "...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." It reminds us that we're a work in progress.

WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS

- GILLIAN ANDREWS, PRAYER ADVOCATE

I cannot believe how quickly the time has been going since I started working with Wycliffe Bible Translators. I have been learning lots of new things and have been enjoying the challenge of using my skills in such a different way.

For those of you who don't know what my role entails, I am working as Prayer Advocate for Wycliffe. Part of my work involves writing prayer devotionals to help people to pray for various projects and to be inspired by all that God is doing. I am also working on resources such as small group material and children's lessons. The other aspect of my role is to help establish prayer groups and to organise prayer events.

It is such a privilege to be part of this wonderful organisation. I am inspired by the passion these people have for God's word. It is humbling to realise how many Christians around the world have no Bible in their own language to encourage them and help them to grow in their faith. Hearing about God's people from all sorts of contexts has reminded me that we are part of a global family of believers, worshipping in every corner of the world.

Having a role focused on prayer has challenged me in my own personal prayer life. It has spurred me on to seek closer communion with God. Many days I fail miserably and end up distracted by other things. But I keep desiring it. I know that I can do nothing apart from him, and we have an amazing privilege to come before his throne of grace - for everything! I am also reminded to be so grateful for the Bible, accessible to me in a language that I can understand and engage with. In a world that is so broken and often so confused, God's word is reliable and sure. I know that it reveals truth. It speaks into every circumstance of life and enables us to know God!

And because of this, I am driven to advocate on behalf of those who do not have a full Bible in their own language, and the millions who don't even have a single verse. I might not be able to actually translate, but I can use the gifts God has given me to support the work, so they can hear God speak right to their heart.

You, too, can be a part of this task. There are lots of resources to help you to pray. Perhaps you could focus on one specific people group and pray for them. Maybe you are in a position to support the work financially, to enable translation teams to keep going. Or you might even feel you could get involved and serve. Thank you for how you have already supported this work by supporting me.

Revelation 7:9 says, "After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb". How amazing will it be to gather around the throne with people from every language, worshipping the Lord who saved us!



Scripture Access Statistics (Oct 2018)

1.5 billion people do not have a full Bible in their own language (that's 1 in 5 people)

There are 7361 known living languages, including sign languages

683 languages have a complete Bible

1534 languages have a New Testament

Over 180 million people do not have any Scripture in their own language

www.wycliffe.net/statistics

AMOS KENNEDY

Serving among the Gabraa people in Northern Kenya

I've been here in the Northern Frontier District of Kenya for around 8 months now, and in that time a lot has happened. I'm here as a short-term missionary, based out of a settlement called Dukana on the Ethiopian border. Dukana is 1000km from the capital, Nairobi, or a 2-3 day drive. Afternoon temperatures reach 40+ degrees and average annual rainfall in the area is between 150 and 200mm, which is unevenly and unreliably distributed; one place might receive it all in a week while others get none in several years.



The AIM station where I serve is always running at full speed, with many different on-going ministries. It is run by missionaries Eddie and Rachel Andersen, who have worked with the Gabraa since 2008. Bible study with those employed at the station (mechanics, evangelists, builders, radio workers) begins the day at 7am. Afterwards the station comes to life as the generator is fired up and work begins.

Each day brings something new. So far I've learned more Swahili, enough Gabraa to make small talk, how to weld, treat scorpion stings and snake bites, talk my way out of being arrested, skin a goat, and confidently replace the brake pads on a Land Rover. The lack of good healthcare in this region brings lots of situations that require first aid – the nearest decent hospital is a 12/14hr drive away. I never imagined myself dressing wounds or testing someone for malaria, but you just never know what someone's problem might be – maybe even a foot with skin corroded by donkey urine!

My main ministry has been in the local schools where I've been teaching Christian Religious Education. This has been a great opening into the lives of students and an opportunity to explain the Bible, beyond simple facts and stories for the sake of exams. I've found that while they are familiar with the Bible because of their education, they still do not understand its concepts – especially in terms of a personal relationship with Jesus, why we need to be saved or

what it means to be saved. One of the main challenges I've come across in the schools, both with students and teachers, is the



belief that all gods are the same. This makes talking about 'God' a lot more difficult, when in their minds God is not the God of the Bible.

Another ministry that I've been involved in is community Bible studies in the surrounding villages. This is something that I look forward to each week. I go with Duba, the Gabraa evangelist and mechanic employed here, and we drive 20 miles and more to the villages. We often leave the station at sunset to arrive at the time of night when people have come back from their day herding animals and are telling stories. On arrival, we're sat down on a cowhide and given chai (sugary tea made with loose leaves and smoked camel's milk) or maziwa lala (sour camel's milk that has been preserved in a calabash or gourd), which we drink while we wait for everyone to gather round.

At present there is drought all across Gabraa land, and people come from even farther than usual with their herds to Dukana for the wells. Driving around, I often have to dodge thousands of camels lining up to have their turn at drinking from the well. All of the villages we have been to have serious need for physical water as well as spiritual. We have sent water trucks with 10,000 litres at a time to some of the villages, just to tide them over until the drought is past. Every visit we make, they ask us if there is a possibility of putting a well in their village. These well installations have proven to be a great way of opening up entire villages to the gospel, but we don't have the funding for more at the minute. If you feel like this is something you would like to contribute to, send me an e-mail/message.

I'm looking ahead to the coming months: to forming deeper relationships with my students and those villagers we share with each week, to being encouraged by other missionaries working here, and to seeing God's call on my life become clearer - to make His name great among the nations (Psalm 67:2-3).



Thank you

.. as a congregation for your prayerful support when I was flown to hospital for a routine appendectomy. I recovered quickly and was back up north 10 days after surgery.

Please pray...

...for the students who have started expressing an interest in coming to church: that they would ask questions and seek the one true God.

...that the people in the foraa (wilderness) would grasp who God really is and realise their need for Him and His love for them.

...for me as I consider what my long-term future here might look like.

...and praise God for the faithful, hard-working employees here at the Dukana station.

...that the Lord would send even a little rain.

...for the new long-term missionary couple coming to Dukana soon to take over the garage ministry.

THE GABRAA PEOPLE

* Semi-nomadic, herding animals (camels, goats, sheep) in search of scarce wells and grazing land

* Inhabit some of the harshest, least-populated land in Africa

* 89,000 between Kenya and Ethiopia

* Only a few hundred true believers

* Roughly 1/3 claim Islam or Roman Catholicism

* Most practice traditional religion - Waaq is a deity who may punish you or your family if you fail to keep certain traditions - for example, sorioo, a sacrificial ritual which occurs 3 times per year)

* There is a closed religious sect called Ayanaa. They live in villages of their own to which we're denied entry, and they refuse any offers of help we may give

* The fear of a distant entity keeps many practising traditional religion and refusing any help offered in Jesus' name



STEVEN LAMONT

What's new in East London? (South Africa)

There have been so many exciting things happening in South Africa over the last while - in ministry and in life.

I moved to East London in January 2018 to begin working for Stirling Presbyterian Church as a Youth Pastor. This role has been a real honour, but it doesn't come without its difficulties.

One of the exciting things that has been happening here is the youth group: seeing how the young people have grown in number, but also in their walk with God. We have also started a monthly Bible study. It is such a good thing to see the young people who attend wanting to go deeper in their walk with God. We love to have fun and play games at youth, but they really enjoy spending time in challenging talks and discussions.

In July, it was great to have a team from Wellington come to join me in Stirling - helping to lead our holiday club and serve in different areas around East London. That was my first real opportunity to spend some time at Greensleeves Place of Safety, a place that has begun to take a bigger part of my heart than I ever would have expected.

Greensleeves is a home for orphans and vulnerable children, currently housing and caring for 48 children, and seeking to raise them with a firm foundation in Jesus. See more at www.greensleeveessa.com.



Since the beginning of January this year, I have stepped into a management role at Greensleeves for at least the next 6 months, along with two others, to try and turn things around, with a lot of prayer, and in building relationships with the right people who have the right experience in different areas.

There are a lot of things that need to happen so that the children don't just survive, but rather that they begin to thrive. We are facing a range of challenges at the moment: the exterior of the building, finances, the children's welfare... But most importantly, for each of us on the team, is that the children will really feel and know the love of Jesus.

Many of you will have seen me quite regularly in 2018 as I was home on four different occasions. This was all due to the visa application process. But praise God, my visa came through on 30th November 2018.

Also within the last year, I got to marry a very special girl, Courtney Paula Lamont (James).

It has been a real blessing to meet the right person, and step into a God-ordained marriage. One of the difficult things we are facing is that Courtney is still studying in Durban, while I live in East London. However, we are beginning to see each other more often, and we are counting down the days till November, when Courtney moves down, and December, when we will both be home (NI) for Christmas.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued prayerful and financial support.

I would also like to thank those of you who have given toward Greensleeves.

As I was reminded before stepping out in 2016 to move to South Africa: whom God sends He will equip. All we have to do is trust in Him and step into the calling that He is placing on your life. God always has us in the palm of his hands, and He promises to never let us go.

You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. (John 15v16)

If God has called you to step up or step out - trust in Him. God's got you.



PEOPLE OF WELLINGTON

This edition, we introduce..

John Sinnerton



Occupation

I am now retired after having worked with British Telecom as a BT Engineer for 40 years

Interesting fact(s) about yourself

I am married to Agnes and have one daughter called Laura who lives in Cardiff. I am interested in sport and listen to a wide range of music - Classical, Opera, Country and Gospel. I enjoy DIY and am a keen gardener. I also enjoy drinking coffee!!!!!!!!!!!!



How long have you been at Wellington?

I have attended Wellington Street Presbyterian/Wellington Presbyterian all my life, as did my parents and grandparents before me.

What is your favourite Bible verse / passage?

John 3:16 - the most famous Bible verse. A verse that once learned can never be forgotten.

What is your favourite hymn / song and why?

Some of my favourite songs are O Praise the Name of the Lord our God, Yet not I but through Christ in me, and the real old Hymn No 705 - I found a Friend O such a Friend. On many a Sunday afternoon at home, we gathered around the piano when my sister played various gospel pieces, and this particular one was a family favourite. I would ask if you don't know these pieces to please take the time and look them up and think what the words mean to you, as I personally find them to be both inspiring and challenging.

Laura McKean



Occupation:
Community
Physiotherapist

How long have you been at Wellington?
6 years

What is your favourite Bible verse / passage? I've always loved Hebrews 4:14-16, especially this part: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need". Such reassurance to know that Jesus has promised us all that we need.

What is your favourite book / hymn / song and why? I love the really old song I Do Not Know What Lies Ahead, which has amazing & comforting words of which I need to keep reminding myself often (as I've a natural tendency to worry).

Do you have a word of advice / encouragement to share with the readers? Sing the song every morning!

What is your favourite thing about Wellington? I have two favourite things about Wellington. The first one is Sunday Worship. I love the praise and all the different sermon series' we go through. The second is the people. Wellington is such a big church and it would be very easy as a new person to get 'lost', but through getting involved with the youth and choir I am very blessed to have a great group of friends who are real encouragers and I know they are there any time I need them.

What is your favourite book / hymn / song and why? My favourite book is Judges For You by Tim Keller. And one of my favourite songs at the minute is Stand in your love by Josh Baldwin:

*There's power that can break off every chain
There's power that can empty out a grave
There's resurrection power that can save
Your name, power in Your name!
My fear doesn't stand a chance when I stand in Your love*

How are you involved in the life of the church? Co-Leader of Friday morning mum's Bible Study & Leader of the church's Holiday Bible Club (along with my husband David). Ps Keep the last week of June free to help out please!

Interesting fact about yourself: I'm married to an Irish man!

Lauren Young



Occupation:
Special Needs
Classroom Assistant

What is your favourite thing about Wellington? The fellowship shared amongst many genuine Christian members (of all ages).

How are you involved in the life of the church? I am involved in the Choir and Sunday evening Collective.

Do you have a word of advice / encouragement to share with the readers? At the November Women of Wellington meeting, the speaker finished with this quote: "What if you woke up tomorrow and only had the things you thanked God for today?" It challenged me but also encouraged me to be more thankful, not for just the big things but also the small things God blesses us with every day.

Reviews

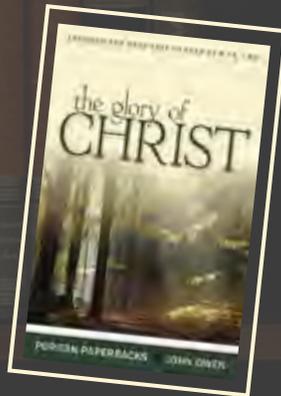
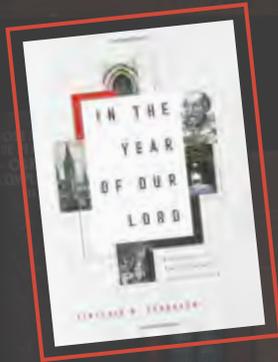
What we've been reading and listening to...

Sinclair B. Ferguson, In the Year of our Lord: Reflections on Twenty Centuries of Church History
(Reformation Trust, 2018)

We're all familiar with family albums: those pages full of fond memories (and embarrassing pictures). In this short book, Sinclair Ferguson urges us as Christians to consider our 'family history'. He points out that "we modern people tend to be so enamoured of the present, so engulfed by contemporary media, that we know very little about history before our own lifetime". What better way, then, to rediscover our family history than by taking a brief glance at each century of the history of Christ's church?

In each chapter Ferguson deals with one century, picking out important Christian figures and events, as well as suggesting what we can learn from them. The broad scope of each chapter makes this book essential reading for newcomers to church history. And for those who are more familiar with the contents of our Christian family album, Ferguson offers an instructive perspective on familiar people, events, and teachings.

- Matthew Houston



John Owen, The Glory of Christ
(1684, abridged version by R.J.K. Law, Banner of Truth, 2015)

It's a sad reality that many Christians today separate theology from practical living. This trend would have horrified John Owen, an English minister in the 17th century. For him, belief and practice were inseparable: doctrine was fuel for the fire of devotion which powered Christian living. In this little book he shows that "beholding the glory of Christ is one of the greatest privileges that believers are capable of" since by this sight they are "gradually transformed into his image". Doctrine is practical! Owen continually draws out biblical teaching on aspects of Christ's glory and applies those teachings to the lives of Christians at all stages of their walk.

Don't be put off by the fact that this book was written over 300 years ago. It is as relevant as, and more profound than, many Christian books written this century. Owen's original prose has been modernised in the abridged edition, making it easier to read. Invest some time in this book; allow Owen to draw your gaze to our Saviour and his glory. Then let the sight of that glory drive you to love and serve him better.

- Matthew Houston

Nigel Cameron, *God and My Mobile* - Keeping the Faith in a Digital World (CARE 2018)

Apparently we check our mobile phones on average every 12 minutes to read an email, send a message, check the weather, or play a song. There is no doubt that developments in communication technology have affected all our lives in varying degrees.

The well-known organisation CARE (Christian Action Research & Education) asked Nigel Cameron to write this book, following the success of 'The Robots are Coming: Us, Them and God'.

The subject covered is wide-ranging, looking back at those huge mobile car phones, and looking forward to a time when we may no longer need an actual phone at all.

While celebrating the enormous benefits of accessible communications, the author alerts the reader to potential dangers to our children and young people of too much mobile use, and encourages parents to think about ways to find a healthy balance for ourselves and our families. If you are a Facebook user you will be interested in the section entitled "Can we trust Facebook?"

This is an easy book to read, and amusing as well as challenging. Why not put the phone down for a short time and have a good read?

- Elizabeth Green



For King and Country, *Burn the Ships* (Curb Records, 2018)

Towards the end of last year, Australian duo For King and Country released this, their third studio album. At first, it seems to be a light, upbeat, pop album, but on deeper listening, and on delving into the lyrics, we actually find a beautiful collection of frank, solid songs, which have been borne out of some difficult experiences.

The title track, *Burn the Ships*, is about facing addiction, *Pioneers* looks at a struggling marriage, and *Hold Her* addresses the helplessness of watching a loved one suffer. The song that caught my attention the most, however, is *Need You More* – it's a simple and haunting plea to God for more of Him in the darkest of days, when life as we know it has been ripped from us. And aren't our prayers often at their most simple when we need Him the most? "Won't you steady my heart for whatever comes next... I need you more."

Far from being a depressing listen, however, there is hope in every one of the songs – hope in the fact that God holds us, that He loves us, that a day is coming when all the struggles will end and we will rise with Him. Each track encourages us to always look up, to never let go, to keep on fighting. The song *Joy* reminds us that, as believers, we can choose joy in the midst of our circumstances, whatever they may be – not a superficial happiness, but that deep-down-in-our-hearts joy. This album is honest and encouraging. It doesn't shy away from the reality of human pain, but always views it in the light of God's love for us.

- Alison Woodrow



Narnia book review

One of my favourite books is "The Lion The Witch and The Wardrobe." It is the second book of a series of 7 C.S Lewis books called "The Chronicles Of Narnia," all of which I have read.

It takes place in a magical world, beyond a wardrobe called Narnia. The main characters are 4 children, Lucy, Edmund, Susan and Peter, a witch and Aslan the lion.

The witch represents all of the evil in the world but Aslan represents all that is good. I love him in these books because he is so mighty and powerful and majestic. The white witch puts Narnia into an eternal winter and turns all things and people into stone. Aslan however is the hero and like Jesus, he was very cruelly treated and eventually killed, however comes back to life to defeat the white witch and reverse the eternal winter. I love this book because it shows how powerful God is but also how he rescued us.

If you like my book review you'll have to read the series. It's perfect for age nine upwards though even adults will enjoy this book!

Draw me!

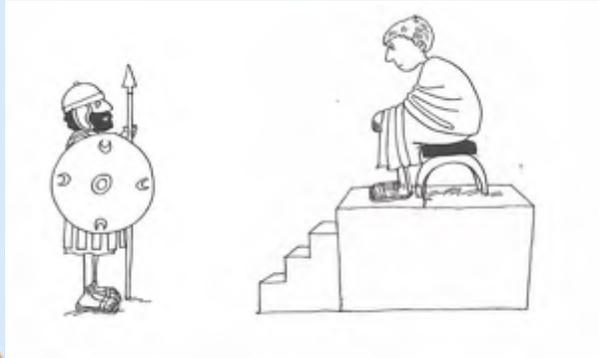
Evie Mckeown

Age 11

Jesus was taken to the Roman ruler, called Pontius Pilate.

The artist has missed out the most important figure.

Read this story in Matthew 27:11-26 and then add the other person.



Wordsearch

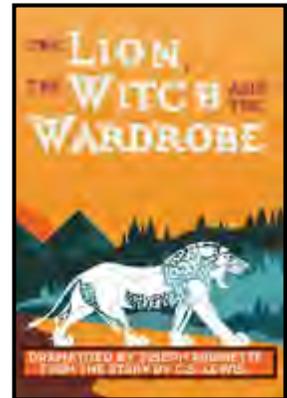
C	R	O	S	S	P	S	D	V	A
E	S	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D
Q	R	T	N	H	M	F	K	E	Y
D	X	E	T	A	L	I	P	A	M
R	F	T	R	S	A	H	Y	S	S
T	I	Y	W	Q	L	L	P	T	R
O	D	S	R	A	I	T	U	E	E
M	V	D	E	T	V	S	K	R	I
B	S	F	T	N	E	U	M	I	D
T	Y	D	V	B	N	S	S	L	L
E	I	N	N	O	C	E	N	T	O
A	N	G	E	L	R	J	Q	G	S

Jesus Cross Disciples Risen
 Tomb Mary Alive Angel
 Pilate Soldiers Innocent Easter

COMPETITION TIME!

"The stand which holds the water used for baptisms is called a 'font'. In our church, we have one which sits on the platform at the front. But there is also an older one, which is on display somewhere in the church building. Can you find it, and then see what year it was given to the church?"

Ask your parents to email the answer to me: alisonwoodrow1@gmail.com, to be in with a chance of winning a book copy of *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* (or alternative if you already have it). The winner will be announced in the next magazine (September)."



What's been happening?



After all their hard work at Christmas, choir and band members enjoyed their annual dinner (and Ronnie Burns' games!) on 18 January 2019.



Elizabeth Kernohan was presented with a token of appreciation for her years of service in the choir. Pictured with Elizabeth Green who made the presentation.





2018/19 Junior Section Battalion Football Champions



2018/19 Company section under 15 Battalion football champions



James and Cathy McClintock's son Ezra was baptised on 2 December 2018. Pictured are James and Cathy with their sons (l-r) Noah, Jonas, Judah, Ezra and Isaac.



Andy and Nicola Lee brought their second son for baptism on 24 February 2019. They are pictured here with little Timothy and his big brother Josh.



On Saturday 1 December 2018, the Christmas lights at the church were switched on.



The special guests for the evening were Carl and Olga Kinsman. Carl Kinsman is a well-known local radio presenter.



The children's choir also performed, and everyone enjoyed the special activities and food - what a great way to kick-start the festive season!





Sunday 2 December 2018 saw our annual gift service, where the children of the congregation brought gifts to be distributed by the Belfast City Mission. The children's choir again sang at this service.





Dolores Kennaway, who is going to Uganda with Fields of Life in April, would like to thank the ladies of the Sew Crafty group, who have made pillowcase dresses to send with her.

Pillowcase dresses





The Wednesday Fellowship had their Christmas dinner on 5 December 2018.



Also pictured is Nigel Davidson, who spoke and sang, and the ladies who so cheerfully helped with the catering.





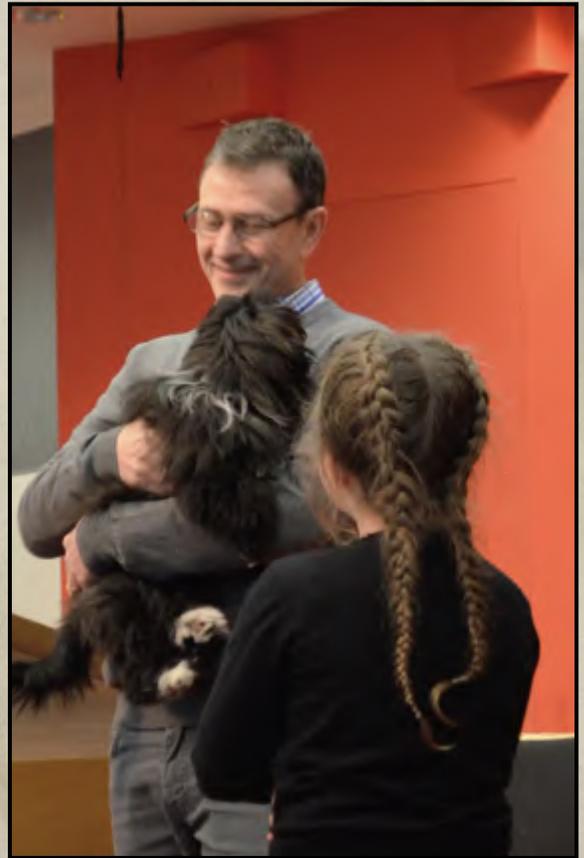
The carol service was once again a wonderful evening for our church family and the wider community.



Held on 23 December 2018, the church was packed and all were blessed by the readings and music brought to us by the choir, band, children and soloists.



Christmas morning was a noisy and happy service – we even had a special furry visitor this year!





Members of our music team have held several praise nights in our halls recently. These have been so encouraging - keep an eye out for upcoming events.

A 7-week Christianity Explored course began in the church on 27 February, attended by approx. 30 people. We'll have a fuller report on the course in a future edition.





In a story that recently hit the news, Wellington member David McKean has gathered a staggering number (over 300 at last count) of pairs of trainers – used but with plenty of life left in them – from fellow runners. He will send them to Mozambique, where an OMS team headed by an NI couple, Melvin and Sharon Kelly, can distribute them to local people with disabilities, and to the young people who attend their football academy. David says: “It’s wonderful to think that these trainers that have run many thousands of miles on the island of Ireland are getting great use thousands of miles away in another country”.





The church was privileged to host the Abaana Children's Choir for a concert on 22 February 2019. It was a wonderful evening filled with stories of hope and transformation.





We're a church that loves to sing, and we're grateful to the music team for regularly introducing us to wonderful new songs. It's incredible that nowadays we can access such a wealth of musical theology so easily, allowing us to use what other Christians have written to help us in our worship.

With this in mind, we've pulled together a list of songs which we've been learning or are planning to learn in the coming months, as well as ministry songs which have been a blessing in recent services. We would love you to listen to them - both to help us learn them as a church, but also so that they can minister to you and encourage you in your own quiet times.

To make things extra easy, we've compiled a playlist on YouTube - here is the link:
<https://bit.ly/2HwHs8J>

CityAlight

Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me

Ancient of Days

The Goodness of Jesus

God is for Us

Shane & Shane

Living Hope

I Will Wait for You (Psalm 130)

His Mercy is More

Psalm 23 (Surely Goodness, Surely Mercy)

North Point InsideOut

Death was Arrested

Chris McClarney

Hallelujah for the Cross

Laura Story

He Will Not Let Go

Hillsong

Who You Say I Am

God So Loved

The Passion

Passion

God, You're So Good

Keith & Kristyn Getty

God the Uncreated One

Matt Redman

One Day (When We All Get to Heaven)

Endless Hallelujah

Zach Williams

Chain Breaker

Sovereign Grace

All Glory Be to Christ

O Lord My Rock and my Redeemer

A Christian's Daily Prayer

Natalie Grant

Our Hope Endures

King of the World

MercyMe

Even If

