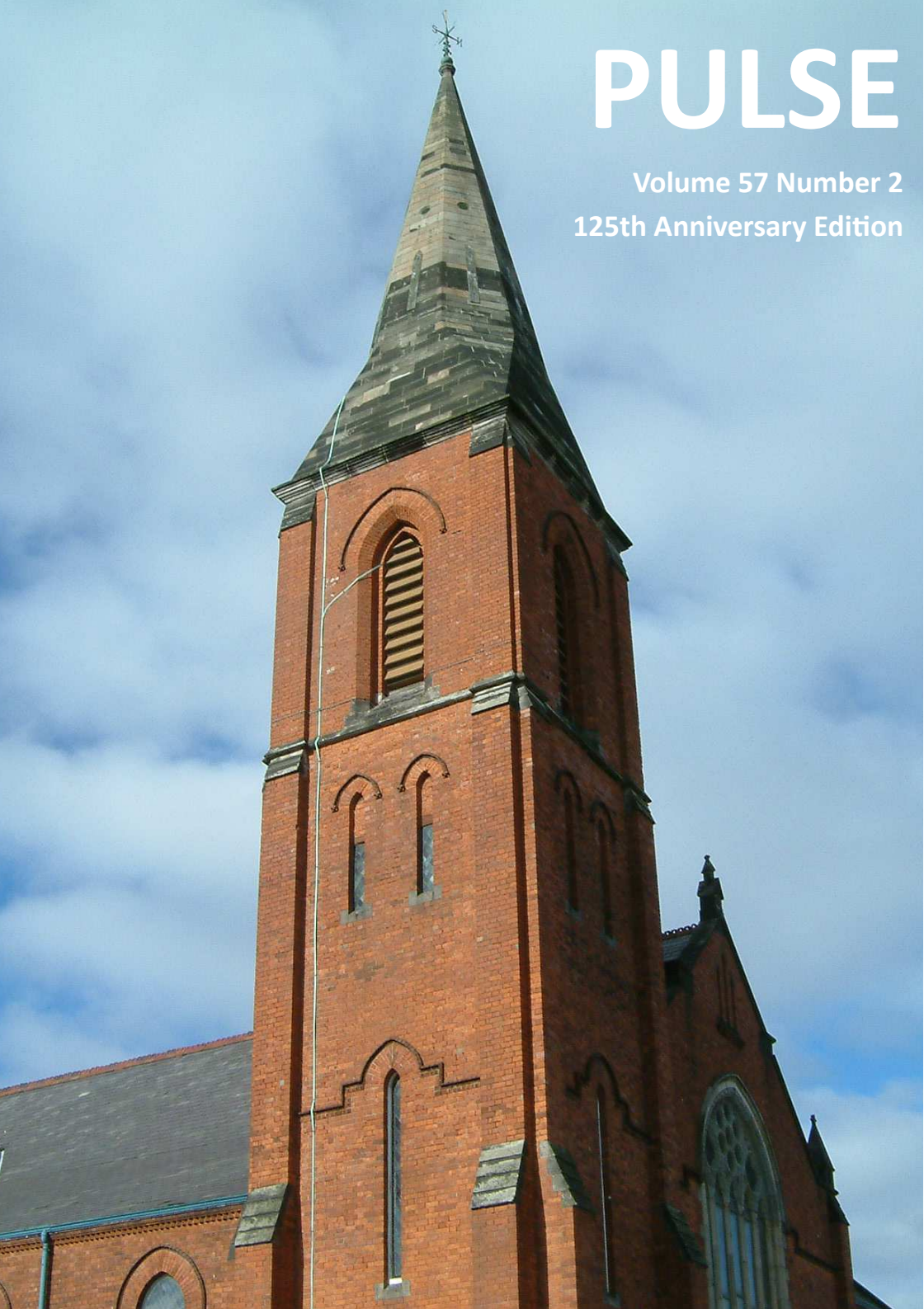


PULSE

Volume 57 Number 2
125th Anniversary Edition



EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

“Did you have a good holiday?” That’s our normal greeting for people who come back home or back to work after what the Americans call a “vacation”.



Well, as I sit down to write to you I’ve just returned after my annual family holiday all of which was again spent amid the natural beauty of the Isles we inhabit and call home.

However, truth to tell, how many of us whether at home or abroad on holiday when we’re stopped in our tracks by the beauty of a sunset, the power of the sea or the majesty of mountain peaks exclaim....” Isn’t God wonderful”? Not as many as should, I imagine.



We’re more likely to come out with something like “isn’t nature brilliant”. We see the creation but not the hand of the Creator yet that’s exactly what we are supposed to see - the Creator’s hand!

The psalm writer didn’t miss the point when he wrote “The heavens declare the glory of God; the Skies proclaim the work of his HANDS” (Ps.19:1)

The HEAVENS
declare the glory of God;
the Skies
proclaim the work
of his HANDS
Psalm 19:1

However, when I say the hand of the Creator that’s not strictly accurate or at least it’s not the whole picture.

All the things we make, we being human beings, are manufactured in one way or another. Someone designs them - someone casts the metal parts - someone else fabricates the structure and someone else puts it all together.



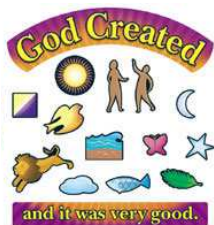
I’m not an expert but you get the drift, somewhere along the line hands and effort are involved in the process. Words just don’t get it done! Not so though where God is concerned.

It’s maybe been a while since you read the very first chapter of the Bible but have a look at it again and you’ll notice that God spoke, only spoke, and things came to be; light, water, plants and creatures, all came to be with only a word.



In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1

Amazingly, only people did God personally craft in His image, He formed us from the dust of the earth and filled us with life by His breath.



Amazing as that is, it isn't the only thing God did in person - He did something else more wonderful still, He came to live and move among us in the person of Jesus his Son, and in person went to the cross to win our freedom from sin and our forgiveness.



So, how much does God love you? Enough to die for you, enough to bear the agony of a judgement that was rightfully yours and mine so that by faith in Jesus we could be His new creation.

When we're talking brilliant and things that amaze.... that is amazing!!!!

Robert Beggs

SPECIAL SERVICES



24 September @ 11am

RAFA Service

1 October @ 11am

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

8 October @ 11am & 7pm

Harvest Services

led by Rev. Richard Houston
(Lucan Presbyterian)

22 October @ 11am

125th Anniversary Thanksgiving
led by Rt. Rev. Dr. Noble McNeely
(Moderator PCI)

22 October @ 7pm

125th Anniversary

Praise service led by
Rev. Scott Woodburn
(Edengrove Presbyterian)



12 November @ 10.55am

Remembrance Day service

26 November @ 11am

BB Enrolment



ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

Boys' Brigade

The BB spring session ended on 7 April with our Parents and Friends evening. We had a great turn out of parents, grandparents and friends from the congregation. Again we were able to give a taste of our usual Friday night programme, as well as seeing the boys being awarded their badges and attendance prizes.



The evening as usual was all about the boys as they marched, played games, sang and acted, showing off their amazing skills and enthusiasm. Even the BB officers were able to show off their acting skills as they presented the story of Cinderella in sketch form. We were able to share about the work of the BB being based on Jesus Christ, the Anchor of our Faith.



During our summer session we had some great activities including parties, nights out to the park, a trip to the Anchor Boy Day at the Folk and Transport Museum, a trip to Aunt Sandra's Sweet Factory and Pirates Golf at Dundonald Ice Bowl.

The Anchor Boys who were promoted to the Junior Section at our Parents Night were encouraged to attend the end of session Junior Section activities thus making the transition to the new section that much easier in September.

BB will recommence on Friday 15 September at 6.30pm. In the new session, we will begin the work of our Company Section for boys aged 11-16. We already have a number of boys in that age group and are looking forward to this new exciting chapter.



As usual, we are looking for volunteers to help on Friday nights from September, within all three sections. If you feel that you can help in any way, please speak to me.



New recruits from the age of 4 to 16 are always welcome. If you have any children/grandchildren or know of any boys who would enjoy the fun please pass on the relevant details.

Thanks again to all the officers, parents and the members of the congregation for all your support, enthusiasm and encouragement for the 19th. Please continue to pray for the boys, their parents and officers, as we seek to advance Christ's kingdom among the boys.

Jim Ross
(Captain)

Transformers

As we start the winter session of Transformers we are blessed and thankful to God for the children who have attended over the past number of years. We have the privilege of sharing with them the love that God has for us.



The leaders have been encouraged by the children asking to pray for them and sharing how to read their Bible. The Holy Spirit is moving in a mighty way and we thank God for it.



They are a great bunch of children and we love seeing them each week. May I ask for continued prayer for returning and new children, for each leader to have enthusiasm for them and to share God's love with them. Everything we do is for the Glory of God.

We meet each Thursday night from 6.45pm-7.45pm. Primary school age children are very welcome, we have lots of fun, including Bible stories, craft, games and of course toast and juice to finish.

Heather Sergeant

Lunch Club

Where can you get a 3 course meal for £2? Well just come and join us on Monday 11 September at noon in the D D Boyle room where you will be made welcome.



If you are interested in joining us for the first time just give your name into the Church Office before the 11 September.

Sheila McAllister

Senior Members' Fellowship

McQuiston has reached a wonderful milestone this year and there's much cause to celebrate, but did you know that at the Senior Members' Fellowship we've also a few candles of our own to blow out? We met for the very first time on 1 March 1977 and 40 years on, the fun and fellowship are something we all really look forward to every Tuesday afternoon.



Fun for Seniors

Our new term starts with an outing on Tuesday 5 September when we plan to leave the church around 11am and will be back by tea-time (though after lunch in the Tullyglass Hotel, you won't have room for much!) If you'd like to join us on the outing, please contact Alan or Kay Bousfield.

Then it's full steam ahead as we get back into the swing of the weekly meetings from Tuesday 12 September. We can promise you a full and varied programme that always includes a cup of tea and something tasty as well as words and music to entertain and inspire you for the week ahead. It's all about fun and fellowship, and you can be sure of a warm and friendly welcome.

You'll have heard it said that life begins at 40 so as we look ahead, we're very excited! With inspiration from CS Lewis who said "... *there are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind...*" why don't you come along yourself? 'Seniors' are getting younger every year and we'd love to have new friends join us at 2pm on Tuesday afternoons.



Maybe you still think you're too young? Why not '*dip your toe in the water*' and come to help out? We're always very much in need of lifts, so if you have a car and could offer a lift occasionally, we'd be delighted if you'd get in touch.

Job realised wisdom was found with the 'aged' (Job 12:12), so the wise man or woman will know it makes sense to spend a couple of hours every Tuesday afternoon at the Senior Members' Fellowship!

Leta Halliday

Ladies Fellowship

The Ladies Fellowship resumes on Tuesday 19 September at the usual time of 7.30 pm. New members will be made very welcome.

On our opening night the guest speaker will be Robin Scott from the Christian Prison Fellowship who provide practical, emotional and spiritual support to prisoners, former prisoners and their families irrespective of their political or religious background.



On 17 October - Hope 365 Ethiopia – an organisation that seeks to reach out to street kids and other vulnerable children in Ethiopia.

Why not come along and join with us, we would love to see you.

Angela Shivers

McQuiston Toddlers



McQuiston Toddlers will re-commence on Tuesday 12 September at 10.15am in the Ballantine Hall. A warm welcome is extended to all parents, grandparents or child-minders within the congregation and from the local area.

Please do come along and join us for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat. You will be assured of a warm, friendly welcome.

Roberta Graham

Praise Group

Praise group will reconvene on Sunday 9 September in the D D Boyle room after morning worship. We are delighted to have been asked to be part of the 125th celebration weekend and also at Music at McQuiston's 10th anniversary.

If you enjoy singing, and would like to join the group please come and speak to me.



Philip Kemp

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

Question: What do you call the summer holidays + a Tardis + craft supplies + a group of people who love Jesus?

Answer: Time Travellers – the 2017 McQuiston Holiday Bible Club!



We had an exciting time praying, planning and taking part in an amazing week at the beginning of August. It was filled with fun, games, worship, prayer, stories, crafts, memory verses and ultimately the Holy Spirit working in the lives of all the children who attended.

Throughout the week we travelled in time with some of Dr Who's friends (Dr Who was too busy to help us). At the beginning of the week we met Eve and learnt about Creation, what sin was and the consequences of sin.



*I am
the Light
of the World
John 8:12*



We then met a Shepherd on Wednesday who told us some amazing news; a baby had been born, Jesus, and He was God's rescue plan for us "*the light of the world*".

On Thursday, we learnt how God's rescue plan was completed, how Jesus died on the cross so we could be saved and what we needed to do if we wanted to be rescued.



Finally on Friday we travelled into the future and met an Angel who told us what heaven was like, a life with God with no more pain or sorrow.



A whirlwind tour through time and the Gospel message delivered in an extraordinary way and of course an amazing family BBQ to finish off the week.

What a privilege for us to work with over 75 children in the local community. As a church family we came together to work as a team, we ate together, we served together, young and old came to pray together every night for the children, leaders and programme.

I have heard it said "*when we do community right, it tastes like the kingdom*"; this year at Time Travellers we certainly reached out into our local community.



We saw God working in mighty and powerful ways in both the children and the team. We rejoiced together and I'm sure there were celebrations in heaven in the stories told of prayers answered, the prayers of the children, questions asked by the children and lives transformed by small people asking Jesus into their lives.

What an amazing week! Please keep praying for the children, for our own children who come every week to all the organisations and church and for next year; God has exciting things in store for us all.



Kerry Sutton



The Harvest
by Alice C. Henderson

The silver rain, the shining sun,
The fields where scarlet poppies run,
And all the ripples of the wheat
Are in the bread that I do eat.

So when I sit for every meal
And say a grace, I always feel
That I am eating rain and sun,
And fields where scarlet poppies run.

Autumn
by Florence Hoatson

Yellow the bracken,
Golden the sheaves,
Rosy the apples,
Crimson the leaves;

Mist on the hillside,
Clouds grey and white.
Autumn, good morning!
Summer, good night!

THE GIFT OF LIFE

In an age in which there seems to be a focus on 'self', encouraging self-esteem, self-reliance, self-expression, self-goals, we are drawn to news items that highlight where reverse actions come to light.

the world
revolves around
ME!

Two such instances impacted me – one in March 2016 and one in April 2017.

You may remember the first occasion - the tragic story of the car at Buncrana pier that began to slip into the water as a family sat watching the sunset.

Inside the car were a four month old baby girl, her grandmother, aunt, father and two brothers (8 and 12 years old). Onlookers watched in horror as the drama unfolded.

The exception was Davitt Walsh who, without thought, threw himself into the water and swam to the car. The only survivor, baby Rioghnach-Ann, was passed to Davitt through the car window.

The second story concerns Matthew Rees who, having almost completed this year's London Marathon, stopped to help a collapsing David Wyeth and carried him over the finish line.



Each runner aims for his/her best time but, as David's legs gave way just 200 metres from the finish, the action of Matthew saw the exhausted David actually gain a higher place than the man whose kindness sacrificed his own finishing time.

Both stories illustrate a genuine spontaneous selfless response to an unforeseen event. I wonder would I have reacted in a like manner? How often in that split second of altruistic thought, cautionary thoughts also come to mind. 'What if I fail in my attempt to assist, and make matters worse?' 'What if this damages my reputation?'

The 'What if...' often stops us from taking action. The above events highlight a genuine core value of the valiant person.



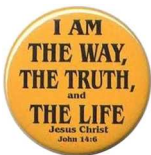
One would hope that the little baby girl, Rioghnach-Ann, will one day grow up to have a true realisation of the actions taken by Davitt to save her.

Likewise that David, the marathon runner, will comprehend the choice made by Matthew on his behalf. It is to be hoped that what was done for both (in different circumstances) will impact their value systems and ways of life forever.

What about the ultimate sacrifice made for each of us? The core of our Christian faith culminated in the terrible suffering and death of Jesus - the Saviour of the world.



At the time it seemed, to outward appearances, to be folly. Yet we realise that the gift of life has been given to us by God (the Creator), out of love, so that we might experience 'fullness of life', as part of the Eternal plan.



We understand that the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus were essential as a complete sacrifice to give us Eternal Life. There was no other way!

In making this ultimate sacrifice for us, Jesus has saved us from everlasting death and has given us the opportunity of everlasting life as designed by the Creator.

For as long as we are gifted with the treasure of 'life' in its fullness because of Jesus, can our daily response be less than complete commitment to Him?



Whilst enjoying and benefiting from all of the blessings bestowed upon us by our Heavenly Father, there will always be an ongoing battle not to conform to those norms of society that are at variance to God's standards and values.

As believers, we are called to live, serve and glorify God rather than ourselves. Our daily walk with the Lord (renewed in prayer; guided by His Word and in service to Him) can fulfil our lives as planned by Him.

As we celebrate this 125th Anniversary of our church let us rejoice and be thankful! The opportunities we have individually, and as a Church family, to share this Good News of life, remain open to us. To commit/recommit our lives in His service, at this time, will bring our Lord honour and delight.



May the Lord bless you and keep you, may His face shine upon you, and give you peace, as you celebrate and live as God's much loved son or daughter.

Anna Johnston

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Cracker

Christmas Cracker will be held in McQuiston on Saturday 2 December from 2pm – 5.30pm and is a respite scheme for adults with a learning disability.



If you would like to volunteer in any way at this fun-filled event please speak to Linda Wray on 02890 796933 or 07809 552712. Activities include arts and crafts, cookery, sports and games etc.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Linda Wray

125th Anniversary Dinner

As part of our Anniversary celebrations we are holding a dinner on Friday evening, 20 October in Ballantine Hall. Numbers will be limited. Tickets and menu will be available shortly.



Please watch the Bulletin for further details.

McQuiston Storehouse



The storehouse has continued to operate over the summer months and we have been able to help those who find themselves in need. We do this by either supplying boxes of food and other goods or, in cases of emergency, topping up electric meter cards.

Thanks to all who support this ministry either by donating food or financial support, also to Geraldine and Barbara who give of their time to sort the food into boxes.

Thanks



Please continue to support this outreach as the people who avail themselves of it are very grateful for our support. The food trolley is situated in the vestibule every Sunday.

Alan Bousfield

MUSIC AT MCQUISTON

Can you believe Music @ McQuiston is in its 10th year? Having started as a one-off event, it has become an annual event in the Church calendar since 2007.



The inaugural concert welcomed an audience of approximately 1000 and, though attendances have fallen and risen, we are now, I feel, on the cusp of something special.



The Music @ McQuiston brand is beginning to reach more distant ears, and numbers have started to grow year-on-year.

This October marks 125 years of the McQuiston congregation, and also 10 years of Music @ McQuiston, which has seen many of the Province's top amateur performers grace our stage.



On Saturday 21 October at 7pm we will host our 10-year anniversary concert which will feature some of the most popular acts from the past decade.

Mark McKeown

HARVEST GIFT ENVELOPES

It is hard to believe that summer is quickly drawing to a close and autumn is almost upon us. With autumn comes the Harvest and at this time of year we remember God's promise to us, *"While the Earth remains, seedtime and Harvest will not cease"*.



Let us take time to count the many blessings we have had during the year, the many things we enjoy and are eternally grateful for, and remember how these things are our "Harvest" for which we truly need to say, "Thanks Father, for your bountiful Harvest".

With this edition of Pulse you will receive a Harvest Gift Envelope which should be returned on Sunday, 8 October.

Take a few moments to consider what God has done for you in 2016. Can we say our Harvest "Thanks" in a tangible way remembering that God's Son gave His "ALL" for you?



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest children's Christmas project.

Last year over 1.2 million shoeboxes packed full of gifts and goodies were wrapped, packed and sent to disadvantaged children from the UK alone. But it all boils down to one gift, from one individual to another. So this Christmas share the power of a simple gift of spreading love, joy, hope and smiles.

Thanks to a huge army of volunteers who give their time to help make this Christmas Miracle come to life, they deliver gifts by hand to children in need living in Africa, Eastern Europe or Central Asia.

McQuiston has been involved in this project for a number of years and this year we need your help to make a difference to children across the world spreading the love of Jesus Christ to those who have never heard His message.



If you haven't helped before, it is easy to get involved and a lot of fun!

1. Take a shoebox and transform it into a gift of love.

2. Wrap shoebox and lid separately
3. Fill shoebox with gifts
4. Enclose a gift of £3.00 (*cheque – payable to Samaritan's Purse*) to cover costs). Envelopes are provided in the vestibule
5. Attach the appropriate boy/girl sticker on the outside of the lid, ticking the correct age category. Please note boxes are not distributed to babies or adults.



All shoeboxes should be brought to church on or before the morning service of **Sunday 29 October 2017.**

Please help us by getting involved this year with your family, your friends and your neighbours. Why not encourage your workplace or school to help also? A DVD presentation and additional leaflets are available which you can use to promote the project.

Should you be unable to make a shoebox but would like to make a contribution, please speak to Roberta Graham so that your donation can be transformed into a shoebox in time for dispatch to the children.



**THE POWER
of a
SIMPLE
GIFT**



"Living for Jesus"

McQuiston Ladies Fellowship
invite you to a

FORK SUPPER

Friday 8 September at 7.30 p.m.
in the Ballantine Hall

Guest speaker: Mrs Laura Patterson
Loughaghery/Cargycreevy

Donation towards supper: £5

All ladies will be welcome to join us. For catering purposes please give your name to Joan Gardner if you plan to attend.

HARVEST SERVICES

We will celebrate our Harvest Thanksgiving Services on
Sunday 8 October.

We would appreciate donations of fruit, vegetables and non-perishable foods to decorate the church. Alternatively if you would like to make a donation towards the purchase of fruit, vegetables and flowers this would be much appreciated.



Please speak with either Karen Beggs or
Joan Gardner.



125TH ANNIVERSARY

As many of you are aware the story of McQuiston began way back in 1892. At that time the area of Willowfield was rapidly growing and the green fields on the outskirts of Belfast were being converted into streets with row upon row of red brick terrace houses.

CELEBRATING
125
YEARS



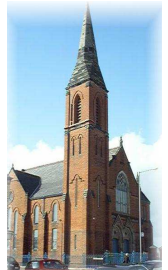
The original building where our church now stands was known as the “Iron Church” and the opening services were held on 24 April 1892. It was at those services that the Rev. T R Ballantine, then a Licentiate of the Belfast Presbytery, was introduced and entrusted with the task of gathering and forming a congregation.

With God’s blessing, men, women and children were drawn to the building and the official first service was held on 23 October 1892. We celebrate that occasion this year on Sunday 22 October, giving glory to God for 125 wonderful years.



As the congregation grew to over 250 families the Iron Church became congested and seating accommodation proved difficult each Sunday, especially at the evening service. Even in those days the challenge of raising sufficient funds to build a new church building was an almost terrifying undertaking. However, the young congregation, filled with faith, vigour and enthusiasm set about the task.

They received a substantial bequest from the estate of the late W J McQuiston and on 27 February 1897 the new church building was opened for public worship.



Over the years the congregation has been led by eight ministers:-

1892 – 1910	Rev T R Ballantine
1910 – 1938	Rev D D Boyle
1938 – 1958	Rev J B McIlroy
1959 – 1975	Rev S Eaton
1976 – 1980	Rev R D Drysdale
1980 – 1986	Rev H Gray
1987 – 2000	Rev W J R Robinson
2001 – present	Rev R J Beggs

All these men have provided spiritual guidance and instruction and, with the assistance of the Holy Spirit, brought many to faith.

From 1919 to the present day some 52 Assistant Ministers have received training within the congregation and gone on to minister in numerous congregations throughout Ireland, Scotland, Israel and even in Canada.



To assist the ministerial team, we have been blessed by the appointments of a Church Sister, 2 Deaconesses and a Woman Worker. All have brought pastoral support to many within the congregation.

Our first Kirk Session was ordained by the Presbytery in 1905 and since then, men and women elected by the congregation to serve as Elders, have faithfully undertaken their duties with diligence and dedication.



Over the 125 years the size of the congregation has fluctuated, cumulating in 1976/77 when 1614 families claimed connection with McQuiston. Although the number of families claiming connection today is 270, we are still a sizeable congregation both within the Presbytery and in the Province.

As we celebrate 125 years and look back with gratitude we must also focus on the present and the future. As a congregation God continues to bless our witness in the Willowfield area. We continue to give thanks for the faithful preaching of God’s word, the joy in our praise and members coming to faith.



In closing may I encourage you all to attend our special anniversary services on Sunday 22 October at 11am and 7pm. It will be great to see the church building filled for the visit of the Moderator and to offer grateful thanks for God’s blessings on our congregation.

John Shivers

FLOWERS



Many thanks to all members of our congregation
who contribute to the church flowers.



February

Eileen Kelso
Irene Smyth
Joan Wootton
Margaret Bartholomew
Mums & Toddlers

March

Linda Wray
Agnes Somerville
Joan Wootton
Eileen Francis
Francis Ramsey

April

Eileen Kelso
Margery Beggs
Anna Corbett
Sandra Morrison
Sadie Ferguson



May

Annette Wasson
Kay Bousfield
Joan Wootton
Margaret Bartholomew
Linda Wray
Sheila McAllister
Jean Ewing

June

David Graham
Sandra McIlwrath
Pat Wray
Sadie Ferguson
Veronica Cockcroft



July

Ann Anderson
Agnes Crowe
John Sutton
Emily McCandless

NEW MEMBERS

***"Be not forgetful
to entertain strangers"***

Mrs Betty McIver
& Miss Lynda McIver,
8 Mashona Court



MARRIAGE

***"Except the Lord build
the house they labour
in vain that do"***

29 June

Rachael Louise Shivers,
11 Lead Hill Park
to

Anthony James Murray,
2 Bishop Gardens, Glasgow

AT REST

***"I am the Resurrection
and the Life"***

27 March

Mrs. Molly McQueen,
10 Mullan Mews

4 April

Eric Francey,
148 Euston Street

24 May

Mrs. Millicent Morrow,
Malone Care Home

27 June

William James (Jim) Barrett,
6 Greer House

VESTIBULE OFFICIALS

***"Be not forgetful
to entertain strangers"***

September

Pat Wray, Ken Wray,
Norman Maynes, Glenn Wasson
Convenor: Annette Wasson

October

Roberta Graham, Irene Smyth,
Alan Bousfield, Kay Bousfield
Convenor: Tommy Kane

November

Avril McColl, Jean Grierson,
Lina Graham, Annette Wasson
Convenor: Ken Galbraith

December

Rene Montgomery, Christine Kelly,
David Graham, Ann Anderson
Convenor: Tim Graham

BAPTISM

***"Suffer the little children to
come unto me "***

25 June

Elizabeth Eleanor Rose
infant daughter of
Stuart & Laura Savage
27 Channing Street

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