



# PULSE

Volume 55 Number 3  
Christmas 2015



# McQuiston

*Jesus Centred People Focused*



## EDITORIAL

### Dear Friends

As I sat down to think about this article I glanced at the date and remembered that it was exactly 41 years since I took up employment in my first job. Where has the time gone? 41 years - it was a different world back then.



My first placement was in the city centre where bombs were exploding almost daily and where it wasn't at all odd to be evacuated from the building for several hours because of a suspect device. Each New Year literally began with a bang as the terrorists blew up another landmark, or plunged another family into despair.

Time really has changed the outlook since those evil days long ago. Not that peace is yet perfect but could it be otherwise in a fallen world? As I'm writing this the news is filled with the terrible events in Paris.



The writer of the popular Christmas carol *"It came upon a midnight clear"*, though writing in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, has captured something of the same sentiment in his words.

Pointing first to the fallen nature of the world and then the passage of years he writes, *"With sorrow brought by sin and strife the world has suffered long, and since the angels sang have passed 2000 years of wrong."*

Will this Christmas really be any different?  
Probably not!



The news will be filled with the same type of events, our lives with the same sorrows, people with the same or similar worries for employment and health, or a multitude of other personal problems.



Something though happened 2000 years ago that changed and fixed the future - the Son of God became a human being! He stepped from the world of light into a world of darkness bringing light to the darkness. He touched the impure and made them clean; the broken and made them whole.

Though He suffered because of man's sin, *Christ* yet in His suffering He made atonement for *our Saviour is Born* that sin on the cross.

His resurrection still brings the hope of eternal life to those who trust in Him, and because of Him history ends not in destruction but in a new heaven and a new earth. Yet only those who believe in Jesus Christ have this hope!



In light of these truths the carol we've been thinking of ends positively, *"And still the days are hastening on – by prophets seen of old – towards the fullness of the time when comes the age foretold: then heaven and earth renewed shall see the Prince of Peace, their King; and the whole world repeat the song which now the angels sing."*

I hope that if you sing this carol at a service or an event over Christmas, you can do so with real hope, because you know the one who is the Prince of Peace.



If you don't know Him, what are you waiting for... time flies!

**Robert Beggs**

## GARETH SIMPSON

Gareth Simpson, our Assistant Minister, has accepted a call from the congregation of Ballywalter Presbyterian in the Ards Presbytery and will leave us on Sunday 22 November.



Gareth has been a popular member of the Ministerial Team despite not getting Robert out on a mountain bike.

His conducting of worship has matured over the years and his sermons are well prepared, challenging and thought provoking. He has ministered to the sick and been supportive to those members who have experienced bereavement.

His service of Ordination and Installation will be held on Friday, 4 December at 7.30pm in Ballywalter Presbyterian.

We wish Gareth, Leanne and the children God's blessings as he takes up his first charge and ministers to the congregation in Ballywalter.



## ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

### Praise Group

The Praise Group were delighted to be invited back to sing at this year's *Music at McQuiston*. I would like to thank all the members for their hard work over the past number of months in preparing for the night. We would particularly like to thank Mark for not only helping us learn the harmonies but also for arranging the different parts of "10,000 Reasons" and "Creep".



Christmas is fast approaching and we are now well on our way in preparing for McQuiston's annual Carols by Candlelight service which will take place on Sunday 20 December. I hope you will plan to attend and invite a friend.

**Phil Kemps**

### Transformers

We started back in September with a great turn out including three new children! The numbers have been steady each week and the leaders have been greatly encouraged by this but ultimately we give God the glory.



We have been finding out about the life of a disciple each week and of course we will end the session in December with the Christmas story. We will also have a party which all the children look forward to.



We thank God for the children and the privilege of spending time with them each week.

**Heather Sergeant**





## Brownies

Brownies have had a very full and eventful start to the new term. We welcomed back Linzi McKeown from Disability Sports NI when we experienced a number of different ways children can take part in sports whilst being wheelchair bound.



We completed our project on farm safety which provided an insight into how accidents can on a daily basis happen on a farm. We are looking forward to a farm visit in the Spring.



A popular badge we enjoyed completing was Science Investigation – try putting your whole body through a piece of paper with just a pair of scissors! Thanks to Hannah Gibson from Grosvenor Grammar on a super night.

In November we joined our Brownie friends from Orangefield Presbyterian for a fun filled evening together.



In closing may I thank all parents and friends who have supported us over the year. We wish you all a very peaceful and happy New Year.

**Angela Shivers**  
Brownie Guider

## McQuiston Lunch Club

The club is open to both men and women and meets on a Monday at noon. A warm healthy meal together with a dessert followed by a cup of tea is served for only £1.50 (cheaper than a cup of coffee!).



Anyone who would like to join a happy band of diners please phone the Church Office and leave a contact number.

**Sheila McAllister**

## McQuiston Seniors

Sometimes after Christmas the days are long and hard to fill, so why not spend Tuesday afternoons with us at McQuiston Seniors?



We meet every Tuesday at 1.45pm and whatever age you are we would love to see you. Not only are new members welcome, but additional helpers are also required. If you require transport please contact us.



We recommence on 12 January with a 'Chat and Chew' day and continue through to May. Our programme includes visitors from S D Bells, The Gideons, Dogs for the Deaf to name only a few.

We have over 50 members but only about half of those are from the church so please consider coming along on a Tuesday. We are a very friendly bunch and can assure you that you will enjoy the afternoon.



Should you have any queries please call myself on 07889 333362.

***Leta Halliday***

## Ladies Fellowship

The Ladies Fellowship is part of Presbyterian Women and we meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in the D.D. Boyle room to enjoy fellowship and fun.



Our theme for this year is *"Here is love"*. So far this year we have heard about the work of Kenyan Sunbeam Mission looking after orphans and also from The Flying Doctor on flying patients to England for life saving treatment.



We would extend a warm welcome to the ladies of the congregation to join us in the New Year.

***Sheila McAllister***

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Music @ McQuiston

Music @ McQuiston 2016 is on Saturday, 5 March at 7.30pm. It will be a commemoration of the World Wars and a celebration of those who gave their lives for our freedom.



There will be a variety of music associated with the World War eras. Please put this date in your diary and plan to attend.

**Mark McKeown**

### Community Carol Service

We are looking forward to holding our second Community Carol Service on Wednesday 16 December at 6.30pm.



A warm invitation is extended to both members of the church and the community to join with us to sing carols and hear again those familiar Bible verses which point us to Christmas.



We will also be led in song by the choirs of Elmgrove and Euston Street Primary schools. Refreshments will also be served.

Please put this date in your diary and plan to attend.

**John Shivers**

### Free Will Offering



Please note that if you wish your Free Will Offering or giving to other funds to be credited to 2015 these must be received no later than morning worship on Sunday 27 December 2015. Any monies received after this will be credited to 2016.

### Organisational Accounts

Please note that all Organisational Accounts should be audited by Billy Best or Sam Quinn and returned to myself no later than Sunday 24 January 2016.

**Tim Graham**

## McQuiston Storehouse

The Storehouse continues to provide food and supplies to those who are in need. It is important that we continue to provide this ministry, especially coming up to Christmas when there will be extra pressure on household finances. Many thanks to all who have supported throughout the year by providing food or donations on a regular basis.



Thanks also to Barbara Best and Geraldine Smyth who help to make up the boxes for distribution. Please continue your support in this work as it is greatly appreciated by those who receive them.

***Alan Bousfield***

## The Presbyterian Orphan and Children's Society

It's that time of the year again when we ask members of the congregation to contribute to the Society and help young lives flourish.



Please help us to support children and their families facing adversity and financial hardship. You can help us make the difference to the lives of many children, young people and families within our Presbyterian Church.



Please consider making a donation this year and give it to either Sheila McAlister or your Elder.

***Sheila McAllister***

## Operation Christmas Child

A massive thank you to all members of the congregation who contributed in any way to this year's Christmas Shoe-box Appeal.



Almost 140 shoe-boxes were filled and will bring hours of great delight to children around the world. Given the difficult financial times which we live in this was a fantastic effort.

***Roberta Graham***






## FINANCE UPDATE

Can you believe it has been 10 years since we opened our new suite of halls? As they're now a decade old perhaps they are not new anymore!

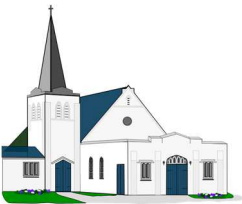


 Back then we borrowed £500,000 to help finance the building project and as you read this some 10 years on I can confirm that we've done it -we've repaid our loan! Many doubted we would do it (myself included at times), but God has proved His faithfulness towards us.

To celebrate this milestone we will be holding a weekend of celebratory events in the New Year so keep an eye on the weekly Bulletin for further details.

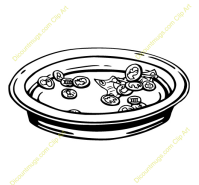


Whilst we've repaid our loan I wish I could say we could take a break from supporting the Building Fund, but as mentioned above the halls are now 10 years old and require ongoing maintenance.



In addition the main sanctuary hasn't enjoyed the love and attention it has required while we have been repaying our loan. Furthermore, it is now a listed building, and will require some significant investment over the next few years.

For these reasons, I would ask that you continue to be faithful in your giving towards the Building Fund as we endeavour to provide a fit for purpose building to enable us to reach out and witness to the local community.



**Tim Graham**

## PRAYER MINISTRY

*'Help to carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will obey the law of Christ.'* Galatians 6 v.2



Prayer on behalf of one another is a valuable ministry of support and encouragement.

As part of the Church's prayer ministry it is planned to set up a team of members from the congregation who would be prepared to pray regularly for the needs of others.



A prayer request box will be provided in the church so that requests can be received from members of the congregation. The prayer team will be given (in confidence) information regarding people or situations, for which prayer has been requested.

Items for prayer can cover a wide range – for example, regarding people who are ill, people who are in sorrow, matters of concern, decisions to be made etc. A request can be made by anyone for himself/herself, on behalf of another person, or concerning a situation (local or global).

Please give this matter your prayerful consideration. If you feel that this is a ministry that you would be interested in committing to please contact Anna Johnston on 028 90292053



**Robert Beggs**

## PRAYER TREE



A Prayer Tree has been placed in the link. Members of the congregation are encourage to write prayers (requests and thanksgivings) on the cards provided for hanging on the tree. Others will then be able to pray for you and your request. It is hoped that this will further the prayer life and fellowship of our congregation.

**Manse Discipleship Group**

## SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS

**16 December @ 6.30pm**

Community Carol  
Service

**20 December @ 11am**

Family Service

**20 December @ 7pm**

Carols by candlelight

**22 December @ 7.30pm**

Ladies Fellowship/SHED carol service

**25 December @ 10am**

Christmas morning service

**27 December @ 11am**

Morning worship

**27 December @ 5.30pm**

Evening worship -  
Fellowship, prayer and praise



**3 January @ 11am**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

**17 January @ 11am**

Ladies Fellowship service  
with Doreen Draffin (Deaconess  
Whitehouse Presbyterian and the  
Hospice)

**30 & 31 January**

Weekend of Celebration  
and Thanksgiving

**21 February @ 11am**

Guide Thinking Day

**6 March @ 11am**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper



**"This Advent** we look to the Wise Men to teach us where to focus our attention.

We set our sights on things above, where God is.  
We draw closer to Jesus...

When our Advent journey ends, and we reach the place where Jesus resides in Bethlehem, may we, like the Wise Men, fall on our knees and adore him as our true and only King."

**Mark Zimmermann**

## SUCH LOVE

Recently I attended the baptism of a beautiful baby girl, Ruby. The reaction of members of the congregation and later at the home celebration (with family and friends), was the same – this little new life brought forth smiles, joy and comments of delight.



Baby Ruby lay snug, content, safe and loved in the arms of either her mum or dad. Friends and relatives touched the tiny outstretched fingers and even talked to this little wonder.



As we celebrate the birth of Jesus in a few weeks time we recall that when Jesus was very little (like Ruby), Mary and Joseph brought Him to the Temple to be consecrated to God.

In contrast to Ruby however, the birth of Jesus was in the most humble and poor of conditions. Then at a very young age with His parents, He became a refugee escaping to Egypt.



Despite these differences Jesus knew the same deep love and care of His parents, the adoration and delight of the shepherds, wise men and others who came to visit this special baby boy.



A treasured new baby doesn't receive the love and devotion of family and friends because (s)he is clever, has gained a degree, is wealthy, has done some momentous deed. No – the baby, who has done nothing to deserve such unconditional love, is valued and adored just for who (s)he is.



This Christmas let us consider and rejoice again at the unconditional, amazing love that our Lord has for each of us. Jesus has told us *'As my Father has loved me, so have I loved you.'*

We are loved and accepted in Jesus – not by any good works we do, not by any effort on our part, not because of our social standing and not because of our financial situation.

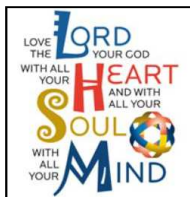
God has loved us from the beginning of time, and only asks that we accept His free gift of love and redemption. This ensures we can have life in all its fullness, both in the present and into eternity.



Has my life, has your life, been transformed by this saving, healing love of God? If so, let us extend the same unconditional, genuine love to those whose lives we touch, as we celebrate this Christmas.



There will be many opportunities to do so. This may be in our homes, in our workplaces/schools, in our church, in our neighbourhoods, in our social gatherings. It may be to the stranger, the refugee, the homeless, to someone in need.



Jesus still challenges us *'To love the Lord God with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love our neighbour as ourselves!'*

In doing so, we shall indeed bring joy to our Lord, to others and to ourselves, a true Happy Christmas.

**Anna Johnston**

## A Christmas Promise

*Christmas is often a time of promises*

"I promise to get you the toy everyone wants"

"I promise not to work late on Christmas Eve"

"I promise to be nice to ALL the relatives!"



Actually, a promise is right at the heart of the Christmas story – God's promise to send His Son into the world. It affects every one of us, because it deals with what we need most – to be re-connected with the God who created us.



The Good News of Christmas is that we can come back to God through Jesus – we can know His love, His peace and real hope for the future.

Do join us at our many services to discover that promise for yourself – it's what you need most this Christmas. Details of our services can be found on page 11 of this magazine.

Join Us



## World Development Appeal 2015



The World Development Appeal has been in existence since July 1980, and gives our church members the opportunity to respond to the needs of the poorest and most marginalised of the world's people. We work in long term partnership with the poor, changing lives and communities for the better.

- World Development not only aims to raise money but also to raise awareness.
- World Development supports the continuing campaign to cancel the debt of poor countries.
- World Development supports the Trade and Justice Movement which is working for fairer world trade rules.



The theme of this year's Appeal is *Forecast:hope*! The Appeal highlights the serious effects of climate change which are already being felt in some of the world's poorest countries, demonstrates some of the initiatives which are helping people to adapt, and calls on all of us to work for climate justice, that is, a shouldering of responsibility by those whose lifestyles have contributed most to climate change.

The projects being highlighted this year are in Bangladesh and Ethiopia.

Bangladesh, with its tropical climate and low-lying coastal zone, is a country in which climate change is already having a severe impact. Our partner in Bangladesh is the Bangladesh Nazarene Mission (BNM), which is working through its network of over 55 churches in some of the areas most at risk.



The 2015 Appeal will also support the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus – Development and Social Service Commission (EECMY), which is developing a new agricultural base for the women of Chewaka district.

Envelopes will be distributed to the congregation Sunday, 13 December and can be returned on Sunday 20 or 27 December. Your giving will enable us to support some of the world's poorest people in building a way out of poverty and into a life of dignity and greater freedom.



## CHRISTMAS EVERYWHERE

Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!  
Christmas in lands of the fir-tree and pine,  
Christmas in lands of the palm-tree and vine,  
Christmas where snow peaks stand solemn and white,  
Christmas where cornfields stand sunny and bright.  
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!



Christmas where children are hopeful and gay,  
Christmas where old men are patient and gray,  
Christmas where peace, like a dove in his flight,  
Broods o're brave men in the thick of the fight;  
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!  
For the Christ-child who comes is the Master of all;  
No palace too great, no cottage too small.

*Phillips Brooks*

## OBITUARY

### ***William John Gordon MBE***

*The following tribute was read by Mr J C Shivers, Clerk of Session at the meeting of the Kirk Session on 24 November 2015.*

It is with great sadness that I advise the Kirk Session of the death of one of our Elders, Mr William John Gordon MBE who passed away peacefully on 9 November. He was 93 years old.

John was born in January 1922 and was the only boy in a family with 6 sisters. The family attended Dundrod Presbyterian church. John attended Straidhavern Primary School in Crumlin before leaving to work on the family farm at aged 14. He later attended evening classes at Antrim Tech and Greenmount Agricultural College for a brief period.

For some years he was a member of the fire service at Nutts Corner Airport and was awarded a Queen's Commendation for Bravery for his actions following a serious aircraft crash in 1953. He was also employed as a Field Officer in the Milk Division of the Ministry of Agriculture. Over the years he moved between departments and in 1967 was appointed to set up the Safety Division.

Following that, Health and Safety was to play a major role in John's working life and he was appointed Chief Health and Safety Officer at Enterprise Ulster in 1980. During those years John devoted himself to the safety of others until he eventually retired from work in 1987.

John met Nana and they were married in Lyle Hill Presbyterian in April 1943. Their marriage was blest with the birth of 4 children Mary, Joan, Andrew and Anne. Joan sadly died in infancy and Mary passed away just a few years ago. As a family the Gordons attended a number of congregations of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, including the Scots Church, Enniskillen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Castlederg where John was Church Treasurer and Trinity, Omagh where John served as BB Captain and was a member of the Congregational Committee.

The family moved to Belfast in 1967 and eventually joined us here in McQuiston. They quickly settled into the church and started to become more involved within the congregation. John was elected to the Congregational Committee in 1975 and was ordained to the Eldership on 16 April 1978. He fulfilled his duties as an Elder with enthusiasm and faithfulness. As an Elder he visited the families in his District over many years and was always most welcome in their homes.

John also served as Chairman of the Congregational Committee for some 12 years, was heavily involved on the General Purposes committee, acted as Prayer secretary and was a leading figure within Fund Raising Committee. In later years John represented the congregation as a Representative Elder at the General Assembly and would have always presented a very thorough report to the Kirk Session there-after.

John had many interests outside of the congregation including playing golf at Knock with a handicap of 12, advocating for people with learning disability whilst serving on the Orchardville Management Board, he was a founder member and later Chairman of the Edgumbe Parents and Friends Group, and of course the Limousin Society of which he was President. He was also awarded an MBE in 1995 for services to Health and Safety.

Sadly Nana passed away in September 1997 and John continued to care for Anne at the family home until recently. Over the past few years John's health deteriorated yet he was always keen to attend our worship services and meetings of Kirk Session.

We convey our sympathy to son Andrew, his wife Evelyn and their family, to Mary's family in England, and to Anne; also to his companion Joan thanking God for the life of John who knew the joy of the Saviour's love and who served his Lord with faithfulness.

Having completed his course John has entered into the joy of the Lord and we as a Kirk Session recognise the passing of one of His saints. As is our custom I would ask you to rise for a moment's silent tribute to a beloved Elder.

## FLOWERS

Many thanks to members of our congregation who contributed to the church flower fund.

### September

John Gordon  
Joan Wootton  
Ellie Colhoun



### October

Claire Fisher  
Margaret Millar  
Mildred Kerr

## MARRIAGES

***“Except the Lord build the house they labour in vain”***

### 18 September

Matthew Neville Ginn  
24 Richmond Crescent, N'Abbey  
to  
Nicola Sarah Jean Neilly  
34 Tamery Pass



## AT REST

***“I am the Resurrection and the Life”***

### 1 June

Mrs May Anderson  
Oakmont Nursing Home, Bangor

### 18 September

Mrs Tillie Stone  
Mount Lens Nursing Home

### 29 September

Mrs Hazel McClure,  
Hollygate Lodge Nursing Home

### 29 September

Sam Craig  
7 Ellis Court

### 2 October

Mrs Jeanie Graham  
Cedarhurst Nursing Home

### 9 November

John Gordon  
19 Sydenham Court

and his name shall be called  
Wonderful,  
Counsellor,  
The mighty God,  
The everlasting Father,  
The Prince of Peace.





### NEW MEMBERS

***“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers”***

David Graham  
103 Euston Street

Terry Ferguson  
74 Castlereagh Street

Ms. Linda Connor  
52 Tamery Pass

### VESTIBULE OFFICIALS

***“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers”***

#### January

Donald Connolly, John Shivers,  
Jim Hunter, Jean Hunter  
Convenor: Joan Gardner

#### February

Angela Shivers, Florrie Smyth,  
Raymond Wray, Linda Wray  
Convenor: Alan Bousfield

#### March

Richard Hughes, Lorraine Hughes,  
Agnes Somerville  
Convenor: Joan Gardner



for unto you is  
born this day, a  
**Savior**  
which is  
Christ the Lord.  
-Luke 2:11

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