



*Foy*

**PULSE**

Volume 57 Number 3

Christmas 2017



McQuiston

*Jesus Centred People Focused*

## EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

It's hard to say whether the Christmas season is coming earlier each year or if I'm just getting grumpier about it. This week, the beginning of November as I write,



we saw our first Christmas tree; not in a shop, that's common place these days, but in a house! In someone's home!

Having to look at Christmas decorations for 7 weeks is torture for some and bliss to others - what do you think?

Christmas, like many other things these days, is something over which opinions divide.

Some think that too much is made of it – in a commercial sense – while others love it.



Others want Christmas without the Christ – call it “*Winter Fest*” – or just say “*Seasons Greetings*.”



Usually these aren't people of other faiths who might be offended as secularists lead us to believe, but the secularists themselves.

And then... there is the other group, the biggest I should think, that don't give a hoot either way but just enjoy the party.



In the song “*The Boxer*” the writers Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel originally included a verse containing the line “*After changes upon changes we are more or less the same*”.

This was dropped from some albums but was performed live in Central Park (New York) and as he often is, Simon proves to be a skilled observer of human life.

For all the changes we encounter, we, as people or as a race, change very little.

People today are much the same as people in the past; we have the same basic needs and encounter the same basic problems and attitudes and so it proves with Christmas.

Rewind 2,000 years or so and you find that something miraculous was happening in the back streets of a backwater town called Bethlehem.



I'd say God taking human form was fairly unique, wouldn't you?

Yet people by and large didn't know and didn't care. The town was bustling, the taverns were full, the money was changing hands, the world passed by and only a few shepherds knew the truth.



What's changed really? It could be this Christmas.

Well, can I invite you again this year to search a little more, dwell a little more on the hidden Christmas – dwell on the incarnation the miracle of God taking human form and wonder at it and ask "Why?".

That's the big story! Make this Christmas different for the world's Xmas will be around next year at the same time... or earlier!



Your friend and Pastor -

**Robert Beggs**

## SPECIAL SERVICES

**17 December @ 7pm**

Nine lessons and carols by candlelight

**19 December**

**@ 7.30pm**

Ladies Fellowship & SHED carol service



**24 December @ 11am**

Family service

**24 December**

No evening service

**25 December @ 10am**

Christmas Morning service

**31 December @ 11am**

Morning worship

**31 December**

No evening service

**7 January @ 11am**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper



**21 January @ 11am**

Ladies Fellowship service

**4 March @ 11am**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

## ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

### Ladies Fellowship

We welcomed Michael Holmes from Hope 365 who told us about their work, helping street children 365 days a year. They are based in Co. Antrim and is an organisation that seeks to reach out to street kids and other vulnerable children in Ethiopia.



Their aim is to help the children regardless of ethnicity, faith or culture. Their work is clearly motivated by the life and teaching of Jesus. They help children get their childhood back providing educational, psychological and spiritual development and in some cases, are able to re-unite children with their families.



In November, Corries Meats provided us with some delicious culinary dishes and showed how our Sunday roast is produced from the farm to the dinner table.

Once again, we look forward to joining with the men from the SHED for a carol service on 19 December. If you enjoy singing carols come and join us at this special time of the year.

We re-commence on 16 January when Jean Johnston will talk us through a story of Dolls Houses. Our Gift Day service will be held on 21 January and hopefully you will have received a Gift Day envelope enclosed with this magazine.

Wishing you and your family a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.



**Angela Shivers**  
Secretary

### McQuiston Lunch Club

Where can you get a 3-course hot meal for £2 (the cost of a cup of coffee)? Why not come to McQuiston Church hall on a Monday at noon where you will be made most welcome. If you are interested in joining us just phone the Church Office (90458155) and leave your name and phone number.



**Sheila McAllister**

## 19<sup>th</sup> Company Boys' Brigade

Our 4th year since the Boys' Brigade resumed in McQuiston began in September and it has been a very exciting one. After much prayer and planning, the officers made the decision to begin a work amongst 11 to 15 year olds and our Company Section was re-opened in September.



At the minute we have 16 Anchor Boys, 8 Junior Section boys and 6 Company Section boys on our rolls, representing a growth in numbers of over 35%. The most pleasing aspect of this growth is the numbers of boys we have attracted who have no church connection - God has certainly answered our prayers.



Our minister has taken charge of the work in the Company Section ably assisted by Glenn Wasson, Grace Price and Stephen Briggs. Meanwhile Brian Erskine, Grace, Glenn and Stephen begin work at 6.30pm with the Anchor Boys and Jim Ross, Richard Hughes and Richard Murray take charge of the Junior Section.

It has been good to welcome Richard Murray to the Junior Section as a helper and a big thank you goes to all the officers and helpers for all of their hard work, enthusiasm and time as they carry out the work of God in the 19th Belfast Company. We are always looking for helpers and leaders for all sections so if you can help please speak to Robert or myself.

The boys in each of their sections follow their own programmes of badge work, Bible activities, craft, quizzes and physical activities. This involves the BB making use of most of the rooms and halls in the church on a Friday night and we will conclude our current session on 15 December with our Christmas parties. BB will not meet on 22 and 29 December, reopening on Friday 5 January.



Please continue to pray for the 19th Company as we continue our new work in the Company Section and among the Anchor Boys and Junior Section. Pray for volunteers and for the boys who will continue to join.



Finally, thanks must go to the faithful and dedicated boys and their parents - it is a privilege to be part of their lives.

**Jim Ross**  
Captain



## Transformers

As we started back in September we have welcomed the return of children plus new faces. At present we have 26 children on our register. It's always lovely to have new children join us, to get to know them and share with them the wonderful God we have and how much He loves us.



We shared with the children the 125 years of witness our church has been to people on the Castlereagh Road and beyond. The children joined together to decorate a poster with hand prints and craft to celebrate and it now hangs proudly on our notice board in the DD Boyle room.

We love to hear how people in our congregation are praying, not only for the children, but the leaders also. We must thank the parents who faithfully bring their children each week and the conversations we have with them.



If you know of any primary school aged children, bring them along at 6.45pm, finishing at 7.45pm every Thursday. Our God is a great big God.

***Heather Sergeant***

## Praise Group

The Praise Group were delighted to be invited back to sing at the 10th anniversary of Music at McQuiston. We also enjoyed leading praise at our special 125th anniversary services. I would like to thank all the members for their hard work over the past number of months in preparing for these events.



Christmas is fast approaching and we are now well on our way in preparing for McQuiston's annual carols by candlelight. This will take place on Sunday 17 December, I hope you will plan to attend and invite a friend.

***Phil Kemp***

## McQuiston Senior Members Fellowship

Whatever the weather, the welcome is always warm at the Senior Members' Fellowship.



“Every week? Seriously?” We’ve lost count of the number of speakers and members of other churches who are astonished (and envious!) that McQuiston’s Seniors turn up every single Tuesday for ‘the meeting’. It seems that we’re unique!

“You have one of the biggest (if not the biggest) seniors group in East Belfast!” It seems we’ve got something special going on too, so if you haven’t been yet, you’re obviously missing out! New friends are always welcome – just turn up at the Moneyrea Street door at 2pm on a Tuesday, have a cuppa and see what’s going on.



There’s too much to mention (since we meet every Tuesday), but to whet your appetite; in December, we’ve young musicians from an integrated school coming to entertain us, and their parents who come too. Christmas crafting is in the diary as well as our special celebration of the birth of Christ, the “reason for the season”!



In the New Year, we’ll have our annual dinner, speakers from missions and charities and a beetle drive. You can be sure that whatever a week brings, there’ll be lots of stimulating chat, friendship and fun.

What makes us very special isn’t just that we meet every single Tuesday at 2pm, or even that there are lots of us. What makes us stand out so brilliantly are the amazing volunteers who give so much of their time, energy and love to keeping us all organised, supplied with tea and goodies and where necessary, providing transport. We’d be lost without their wonderful ministry. ‘Thank you’ just doesn’t seem adequate!

*Thanks*

**Leta Halliday**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Presbyterian Children's Society

Is a family worth supporting with more than the price of a cup of coffee? The answer, of course, is yes! The Society always values every donation no matter how large or small.



The average cost to the Society of helping a family with one adult and one child in need each year is around £1,100; or helping a family with one adult and three children costs the Society around £1,500. The Society helps 400 families and 800 children in congregations throughout Ireland.



Thought provoking?

In these uncertain times, life events such as bereavement, separation, divorce, single-parenthood, disablement or illness can create financial pressures on families already financially stretched.

The good news, however, is that the Presbyterian Children's Society is here to help to make a difference to Presbyterian children, young people and their families. How should we respond?



We are not asking you to forego your coffee, but maybe you could assist the Society with the equivalent of the cost of a couple of cups of coffee, and help the Society make a difference to Presbyterian children and their families in financial need this year.

Please give your donation to an Elder or Sheila McAllister.

***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.



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

**Roberta Graham**

## McQuiston Storehouse

The Storehouse continues to provide food and help to those who are in need. It is important that we continue to provide this important ministry, especially coming up to Christmas when there will be extra pressure on household finances.



This ministry has now spread beyond our local area as John McCandless, the Outreach Worker in Mountpottinger Presbyterian, uses our Storehouse to engage with the European and local community in the Lower Castlereagh area. He is very appreciative of the support he receives from us.

Many thanks to all who have supported this work throughout the year by providing food or financial donations on a regular basis. The money received allows us to help pay for electric and gas wherever necessary.

Thanks 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 Bousefield**



## Christmas Coffee Morning

Our annual Christmas coffee morning will take place on Saturday 2 December at 10am.

**Roberta Graham**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY! HAPPY CHRISTMAS

In answer to the rapping on my front door, I found a little boy (who lived not too far from me) on the doorstep. He had not previously ventured to my home unless with his mother, so this was a first for him!



As he was so young and small he was unable to reach the doorbell. However, the little hand marks on the glass of the door showed his determination to gain my attention.



In my mind, as we entered into conversation, I had a fair idea of why he had come, but I said nothing.

Inwardly I had to smile as, in due course (despite his young age), my visitor skilfully developed the conversation to the point where he informed me, with delight and emphasis, *"it is just six sleeps until my birthday!"* His little eyes gleamed with excitement and anticipation.



Although I had a query as to the accuracy of the number of sleeps, that fact was not of key importance so long as I received clearly the news that his birthday was imminent!



As he left me to return home – mission accomplished – I could see he was a happy little boy (probably anticipating a little gift in return for giving me the information!).

In a few weeks' time a significant number of this world's population will mark another birthday. As disciples of Jesus we will have the privilege to remember and celebrate the day of His birth.



However, this Christmas will we have that sense of anticipation and excitement (like my little friend who visited) as we carefully consider once again the meaning of Christ's coming into the world? Or will Christmas be, as for so many, a burden, a worry or an additional stress?

Can we make it (as with the little boy) our main focus to simply celebrate this very important event? Jesus, the reason for the celebration, will respond wholeheartedly if our focus is on Him.



In Revelation 3 vs 20 He says *“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me!”*.

As Jesus also simply put it in John 10 vs 10 *“I have come that they [i.e. you and me] may have life, and have it to the full”*. This is the best gift to receive at Christmas time.



The little boy I mentioned is no longer a little boy, he is now a teenager. I may see him nowadays only from time to time, but even if he sees me in the distance I always receive that cheerful smile and wave.

He knows now that it is not necessary to remind me annually of his birthday, as I will always remember and mark the occasion.

In a similar way, as our relationship with the Lord develops – as we grow and mature in our faith – we have the assurance that Jesus will always be there for us (*“I am with you always”*, Matt. 28 vs 20). This knowledge should give us great confidence, comfort and joy.

Over the last number of years my visitor wanted to share the gift of the good news of his birthday with me. It was so important to him that he was determined not to keep the celebration to himself.

Likewise – can we keep the wonderful Good News of what Jesus means to us to ourselves?

This Good News about the life He came to share with us while on earth, the tremendous sacrifice of His life on the cross to give us complete forgiveness and the *‘fullness of life’* that He promised.



We bring joy to our Lord as we share this wonderful message with others by word and action.



What a wonderful Saviour we have! With this in mind we can know, experience and share a Happy Birthday and a Happy Christmas.

May this be the gift we again receive this year from our Lord and in turn share with others.

*Peace – Love – Joy*

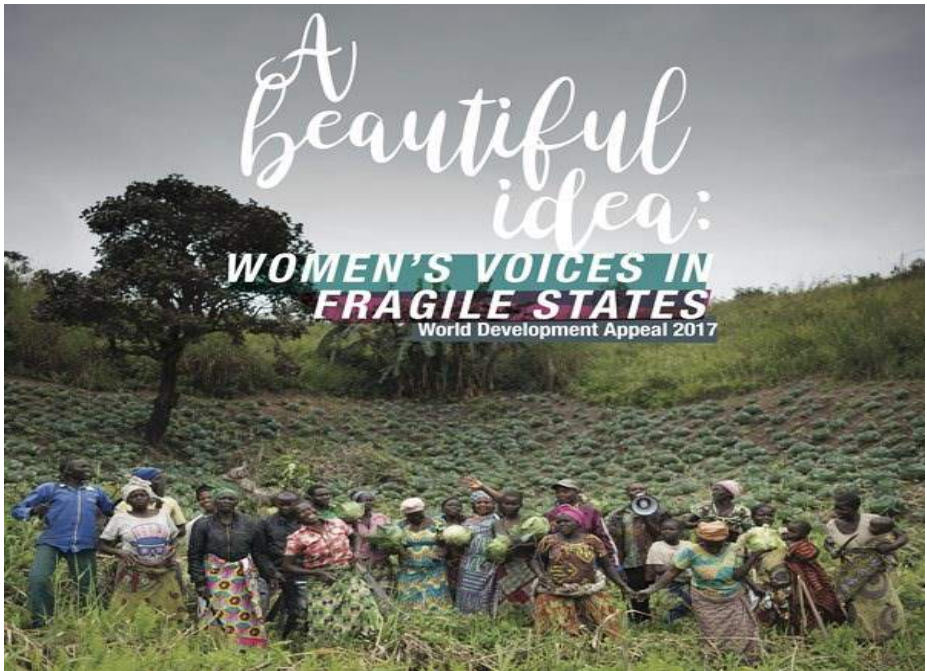
**Anna Johnston**

## World Development Appeal

The World Development Appeal (WDA) is launched in the autumn each year. Over the Advent and Christmas season, PCI aim to raise £500,000 or more for development projects overseas, with funding channeled through our aid agency partners, Christian Aid and Tearfund.



The theme of this year's Appeal is, *"A beautiful Idea: Women's voices in fragile states."*



The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is one of the world's most fragile states. Since 1999, six million people have died as a direct or indirect result of the ongoing civil conflict.



*Following Jesus where  
the need is greatest*

The extreme insecurity experienced by families and communities on a continuing basis leads to displacement, hunger and the breakdown of basic health services.

The reality of good sustainable development work is that it is hard, it is long-term and the forces ranged against you can seem overwhelming. Over the next four years you are invited, through the World Development Appeal, to travel this hard road in solidarity with our partners in fragile states like the DRC.

**Democratic Republic of Congo**

The 2017 World Development Appeal highlights the work of Tearfund partner, Action Entraide, in the DRC, one of the most difficult places in the world to be poor.



Action Entraide is committed to breaking the cycle of violence, despair and fear. Committed to reducing poverty in the DRC, Action Entraide work in a number of focused areas, which include enabling community awareness of issues related to gender and child protection; savings and small business schemes; and peace and reconciliation, encouraging the participation of Christian young people in development and in the reconciliation process.

Action Entraide also work to enable some of the women who have been deeply scarred by violence to speak out, and to participate fully in the building of a new and more safe and stable society.



**Zimbabwe**

The second project being supported by the 2017 Appeal is Padare Enkundleni, a faith based men's forum for gender issues in Zimbabwe, and a Christian Aid partner. The particular project we are supporting will increase the capacity of faith leaders to address issues of gender inequality, gender-based violence (GBV) through church policies and programmes. One of its aims is also to engage men in working to end the practice of GBV in their own communities.



Giving to the 2017 WDA will enable organisations like Action Entraide and Padare Enkundleni, to support some of the world's poorest people, building a future for them in some of the hardest places in the world to be a woman, and to be poor. An envelope is enclosed with this magazine, please give generously—thank you!



*Joan Gardner*

## Free Will Offering

Please note that if you wish your Free Will Offering or giving to other funds to be credited to 2017, these must be received no later than Sunday 31 December 2017. Any monies received after this will be credited to 2018.



## Organisational Accounts

Please note that all Organisational Accounts should be audited and returned to myself no later than Sunday 21 January 2018.

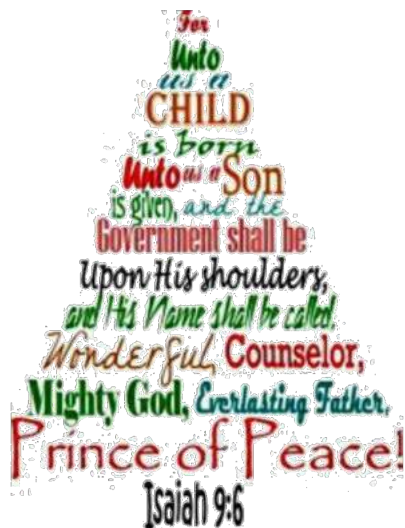
### United Appeal



At the time of writing, our United Appeal giving year to date is tracking similar to last year at £6,800. However, we are still somewhat short of our honorary target of £12,459.

May I further encourage you to give as generously as you can before the end of the year in an effort to close the gap.

**Tim Graham**



### A Christmas Verse

He had no royal palace,  
Only a stable bare.  
He had no watchful servants,  
An ox and ass stood there.  
But light shone forth from where He lay;  
The King of Love upon the hay!





## OBITUARY

### ***Brian McCartney***

*The following tribute was read by Mr J C Shivers, Clerk of Session at the meeting of the Kirk Session on 24 October 2017*

It is with great sadness that I advise the Kirk Session of the death of our Senior Elder, Mr Brian McCartney, who passed away peacefully on 11 October. He was 91 years old.

Brian, was born on 2 October 1926, into a loving family who lived in Greenore Street. He had two sisters Helen, who passed away some years ago, and Iris.

Having been baptised in McQuiston he was to spend the rest of his life as an active and respected member of this congregation.

Brian attended Mountpottinger Public Elementary school before moving to Garvey College, Belfast where he studied general commercial activities. His first job was with the County Down Railway before moving to Midland Employers Insurance in 1943.

Brian was to spend the remainder of his working life in the insurance industry, working in the Insurance Company of Ireland and later Bartholomew and James from where he retired as a Director in 1991.

During this time, he was elected President of the Belfast Insurance Institute, Associate of the Corporation of Insurance Brokers and appointed a Fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute.

On a practical level he offered advice on insurance to many members of the congregation and organised an insurance scheme for the whole Presbyterian Church in Ireland and attended many Presbyteries and Congregational Committees responding to queries raised at a local level.

Brian met a young Elizabeth (Betty) Snowden, who was also a member of McQuiston, and they were married in September 1953. Their family home was on Barnetts Road and they were blessed with the birth of Karen and twins Peter and David. Brian's quiet Christian witness was evident to all and he was a much loved and respected father.

Within our congregation Brian was heavily involved. He served for 27 years as a leader and later leader in charge of the Life Boys (now Junior Section BB).

He was also an officer in the Company section of our BB. Brian also taught in the Sunday School and over the years took on responsibilities as its Treasurer, Secretary and Superintendent.

In the 1970s Brian was instrumental in starting a Sunday School before morning worship through which many young people came to faith. It was also during the 1970s and 1980s that Brian was instrumental in starting and supporting the Ixeus group for young people within the congregation and beyond.

The congregation recognised Brian's many gifts and talents and elected him to church committee in 1949, serving for many years on the Finance Committee.

On 2 March 1952 Brian was ordained an Elder and he continued his quiet Christian witness amongst families in his District and the wider congregation. He was often referred to as a true, humble gentleman.

As an Elder he also served as Convenor of the Personnel Committee and as a Representative Governor at Avoniel Primary school and for a short period at Orangefield High school. When the Peace and Peace-making Committee was established Brian was a founder and enthusiastic member at a time in the 1980s when there was much opposition to the concept.

As our Senior Elder Brian laid the foundation stone of our new suite of halls in January 2005.

Brian had a great love of football and played for BB and McQuiston teams scoring over 100 goals in the Churches League. When he retired from playing he continued to serve as the Secretary of the Churches League team. He was also an avid supporter of the NI football team and would regularly have attended international matches at Windsor Park.

In more recent years Brian suffered from a hearing loss which caused him a degree of discomfort and distress. However, he never complained and battled on.

In January 2016 Elizabeth sadly died and Brian become more dependent on his children. Without hesitation all stepped up providing meals, transport, love and care. In more recent times, due to failing health, Brian moved to Adelaide House Residential Home where he continued to receive Christian love and care.

We convey our sympathy to his sister Iris, children Karen, Peter and David and their extended families thanking God for the life of Brian who knew the joy of the Saviour's love and who served his Lord with undoubted faithfulness.

As is our custom I would ask you to rise for a moment's silent tribute to a beloved Elder who has completed his course and has entered into the joy of the Lord.

## FLOWERS

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

### August

Dorothy Beattie  
Claire Fisher  
Joanne Kane  
Richard Hughes  
Roberta Graham



### September

Karen Beggs  
Margaret Bartholomew  
Joan Wootton  
Marie Davidson  
Anna Johnston



### October

Claire Fisher  
Margaret Millar  
Roberta Graham  
Lynn Gardner  
David Graham  
Mildred Kerr



## BAPTISMS

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

### 8 October

Annie Eleanor  
infant daughter of  
Robert and Jenny Graham  
33 Knocknagoney Drive

## NEW COMMUNICANT MEMBERS

***"On profession  
of faith"***

Mr Colin Kirk  
252 Castlereagh Road

Mrs Donna Kirk  
252 Castlereagh Road

Mrs Maureen Russell  
13 Dunraven Avenue

Miss Caroline Russell  
13 Dunraven Avenue



## AT REST

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

### **19 August**

John Rowan

104 My Lady's Road

### **25 September**

Mrs Winifred Heaney

Rocky Acres Nursing Home

### **30 September**

Mrs May Chambers

Belmont Care Home

### **11 October**

Brian McCartney

Adelaide House

formerly 23 Barnetts Road

## MARRIAGE

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

### **20 October**

Karl Robert Garrett

31 Lavinia Square

to

Sarah Ellen Burns

23 Watt Street



## VESTIBULE OFFICIALS

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

### **January**

Jean Hunter

Jim Hunter

John Shivers

Convenor: Joan Gardner

### **February**

Angela Shivers

Raymond Wray

Linda Wray

Convenor: Alan Bousfield

### **March**

Richard Hughes

Lorraine Hughes

Agnes Somerville

Convenor: Joan Gardner



# DIRECTORY

**Rev Robert Beggs**

*Minister*

52 Kings Road  
Belfast BT5 6JL

Phone: 028 9065 0526

Email: robertjbeggs@hotmail.com

**Mr Alan Marsh**

*Assistant Minister*

20 Lord Warden's Glade  
Bangor  
BT19 1GW

Phone: 028 9107 1951

Email: alanmarshni@gmail.com

**Mr John Shivers**

*Clerk of Session / Pulse Editor*

11 Lead Hill Park  
Belfast  
BT6 9RW

Phone: 028 9079 1246

Email: jcshivers@virginmedia.com

**McQuiston Presbyterian Church**

**83 Castlereagh Road BT5 5FE**

**Phone: 028 9045 8155**

**Web: [www.mcquistonpc.org](http://www.mcquistonpc.org)**

**Email: [churchoffice@mcquistonpc.org](mailto:churchoffice@mcquistonpc.org)**



**mcquistonpc**



**mcquistonpc**

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104506)