



# CHRISTMAS BEGINS WITH *Christ*



**PULSE**

Volume 58 Number 3

Christmas 2018



McQuiston  
*Jesus Centred People Focused*

## EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

At the time of writing we are preparing to mark the centenary of the Armistice that brought to an end the conflict of the Great War.



Whether it is true or not, it's said that following the outbreak of war on 4 August 1914, young men from all over the British Isles rushed to enlist out of fear that the fighting would be "over by Christmas" and they would miss the adventure.



We know better now in the light of what happened in the following months and years, but we can imagine the sense of adventure those boys might have had, who in many cases had never ventured more than a mile or two from home.

As we are preparing for remembrance in another sense entirely we are also preparing for indulgence; the indulgence of the Christmas season.



We overspend, over eat, binge on TV, on alcohol perhaps; everything is overdone and it's all over by Christmas Day.

By the time Boxing Day dawns there is usually a great sense of anti-climax, what was it all about?

That question is sometimes accompanied by a sense of sadness. We're sad because we have been conditioned to expect more, to believe that if we spend enough, then we will have the perfect Christmas when all dreams come true. The reality is somewhat different.



It's never like that, problems don't magically disappear, and for some they only intensify.

So, when Boxing Day comes, all the anticipation, all the excitement and the preparation that made us happy will have evaporated - "over by Christmas".



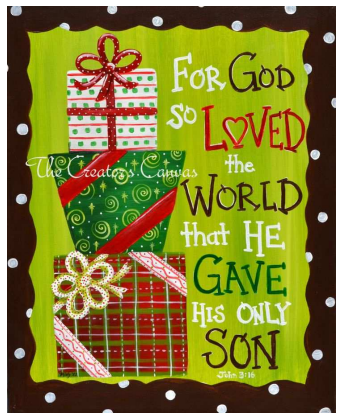
The Christmas dream created for us by advertisers can never meet the expectations we place on it even though we invest so much in the trappings of the season.

Truth be told the trappings of Christmas are mostly in the bin before the end of the day.

By stark contrast, the peace extended to humankind in the birth of God's Son (Luke 2:14) is still held out to us - as our supreme hope in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

It wasn't "over by Christmas"!

**Robert Beggs**



## SPECIAL SERVICES

**18 December @ 6:30pm**

SHED & Ladies Fellowship carol service with Elmgrove PS choir

**23 December @ 11am**

Family service



**23 December @ 7pm**

Carols by candlelight

**25 December @ 10am**

Christmas morning family service

**6 January @ 11am**

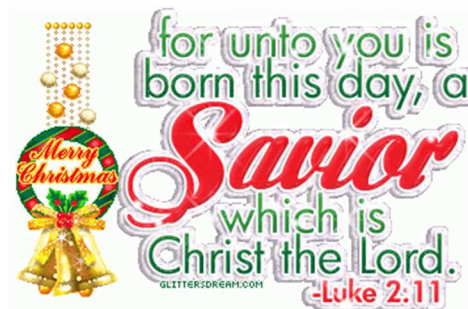
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

**20 January @ 11am**

Ladies Fellowship service

**3 March @ 11am**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper



## ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

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

Our 5th year since the 19th Anchor Boys and Junior Sections resumed in McQuiston has just begun and the second year of our Company Section. At present we have 14 Anchor Boys on our roll, 9 Junior Section and 4 Company Section boys. God has been answering our prayers as each week our numbers have been very consistent and all of the boys have been really open to the sound of the Gospel as it is presented during our respective Bible times.



Our Company Section is led by Glenn Wasson, Grace Price and Jim Ross. Meanwhile Brian Erskine, Grace, Glenn and a new helper Amiina Brint begin work at 6.30pm with the Anchor Boys. It is a joy to welcome Amiina as a helper in the Anchor Boys this year and we ask for your prayers for Amiina and all the other leaders and helpers.

Jim Ross, Stephen Briggs, Richard Hughes and Richard Murray take charge of the Junior Section. As part of the Company Section badgework, the boys have begun to help the other sections. Please remember that we are always looking for helpers and leaders for all sections, if you can help please speak to Jim or any of the BB leaders.



So far this session we have had a great time in all the sections, following age appropriate programmes of badge work, Bible activities, craft, quizzes and physical activities for all the ages involved from 4 to 15. We do make use of most of the rooms and halls on a Friday night and we thank the church for being able to make use of the fantastic facilities.

At time of writing we have just finished a 10km sponsored walk in Ormeau Park when we had a Scavenger Hunt on our last lap around the park and are looking forward to our Enrolment service at the end of November. We have also invited Guide Dogs NI to visit us at the end of November to remind all of our boys why we are collecting for Guide Dogs each week as our Community Project. This session will end on Friday 15 December with our Christmas parties and outings.



Please continue to pray for the 19th Company, the leaders, helpers and the boys. Thanks to all the leaders and helpers who give faithfully of their time each week. Finally, our gratitude must go to the dedication of the boys and their parents, it is a privilege to be part of their lives in the 19th Company of the Boys' Brigade.



**Jim Ross**  
*Captain*

### **Ladies Fellowship**



Our autumn session commenced in September with a visit from Jean Johnston of Newtownards. Jean took us through her Christian journey – the happy and sometimes sad and difficult times with her own family. The joy of receiving a special surprise of a dolls house from her family - complete with all the memories inside from childhood was so special to her.

In October we had a visit from Echo, a retriever and his owner Wendy. Echo is a trained medical alert dog, specially trained to warn his partner when her blood sugars are either too low or high. He is part of an organisation called NIAD – Northern Ireland Assistant Dogs for diabetics. While Wendy was talking about Echo he removed her blood monitor from her handbag and nudged it toward her so she could check her blood sugars.



In November we held a craft night organised by Phyllis McMorran, one of our committee members; a great night was had by all.



On 18 December we will join with the men from the SHED for our annual Carol Service. This year Elmgrove Primary school choir will be joining us and we look forward to the children and their teachers bringing us the Christmas story through music.

In closing may I wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and God's blessing for the New Year.

**Angela Shivers**  
*Secretary*

## Transformers

Since starting back in September we have been looking at different stories from the Bible each week, along with related crafts and work sheets. Every few months we have a team quiz to challenge the children to remember what they have learned over the previous weeks.



Carter, one of the boys who left in May because he was starting High School, has been coming back each week to help with games. This is so important to still have that connection with him.



As we head towards Christmas we will again hear the story about the birth of Jesus, the reason why we all celebrate Christmas. We will have our party on the Thursday before we break for Christmas when we will sing carols around the Christmas tree in church.

We know members of the congregation pray for us and we can feel the Holy Spirit working among us. We have a lot to thank God for, the children, their parents for bringing them to us each week regardless of the weather and blossoming friendships between the children, their parents and the leaders.

We are thankful to the parents for trusting us with their children each week, this is not something we take lightly. Please continue to pray for the children, parents and leaders that we all may know God's blessing on our lives.



***Heather Sergeant***



### **McQuiston Lunch Club**

The Lunch club continues to meet each Monday at noon. Sadly, due to death and illness, our numbers have depleted to just 21 plus 6 helpers.

There is a mixture of men and women and we are a friendly crowd so if you would like to join us you would be made most welcome so just phone the Church Office (90458155). The cost of the 3 course meal is just £2.50

***Sheila McAllister***

## 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.



John McCandless the community worker in Mountpottinger Presbyterian, continues to use our facility in the Lower Castlereagh area, engaging with the European and local community. He is very thankful for our support in this work.

Many thanks to all who have supported this work throughout the year by providing food or financial donations. The monies received enables us to purchase electricity or gas top-ups whenever necessary.

*Thanks*

Please continue your support in this work as it is greatly appreciated by those in receipt of it.

***Alan Bousfield***

## Senior Members

McQuiston's Senior Members' Fellowship is a special organisation within the church. We have quite a good membership – it's one of the biggest groups in Belfast! We meet every Tuesday at 2pm for tea and goodies and there's a lovely group of ladies who serve us.



There's a varied programme throughout the year enjoyed by everyone in our group – including the men! There's good fellowship and a warm welcome for all newcomers.

We enjoy singing, however we are in need of a pianist to play a few choruses each week and there's always a need for more drivers to help folk get to what is a really important time together every Tuesday.



If you can help in any way, it would be very much appreciated.

***Margaret Warke***

**LOVE  
JOY  
PEACE**

One of the most common phrases of the last couple of years, brought to the fore by the President of the United States, was named the Collins Dictionary's official 'Word of the Year for 2017'.

You will probably have already guessed what it is! We certainly hear and read it enough in the media: 'FAKE NEWS'



This term came to mind as I thought of the approach of Christmas 2018. Perhaps you may think 'what is the connection?'

In chatting recently with a teenager, the conversation turned to Christmas and 'the list' already in preparation of 'wishes or wants' of possible gifts to be received.

This tends to be the focus of society, particularly of children and young adults.



Shops are already bedecked with Christmas wares, many with supporting seasonal music. The aim is to tempt us to make purchases. This is the focus of business.



Indeed, today's society is viewed by some as 'an age of increasing conspicuous consumption'.

Within families there is the annual pressure on budgets at this time of year. The demands are very real to buy the latest models, the 'in' gifts and decorations.

One mother has told me that, regardless of cost, she will have to purchase a certain item for her child. She couldn't have her child 'left behind' with the latest technology, because the peer group of friends and classmates of the child would definitely be receiving that item!

In addition to the presents, the expenses associated with attending dinners, parties, celebrations all add to the costs.

For many people, including ourselves, these things can easily tend to be the focus at Christmas.



Yet, often the contentment and fulfilment that we want so much from Christmas are absent.

The above illustrations of 'what I want', 'money I have to spend', pressure 'to keep up with others' – the focus often in our Western society – is far removed from what



Christmas should be about for followers of Jesus. Indeed it is 'FAKE NEWS'!

The Christ child, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, arrived into the humblest of situations, without fanfare, comfort or bright lights.



There were no demands or lists made by Jesus' parents of things they wanted. No-one, at that time, attempted to make money out of the birth of Jesus.

The materialism of life and 'keeping up with others', were not part of the value system associated with Jesus. Instead, the birth of Jesus and the focus of His life, was to show us what life is all about and how God wants us to live it.



The value system exemplified by Jesus was first of all to love, honour and obey God and then to live out that standard in acceptance, concern and love for other people worldwide. God promises to give us peace and contentment if we trust Him (Phil. 4:6-7).



As Jesus simply put it in John 10 v.10b *"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"*.

This is the best gift to receive at Christmas. Contentment and fulfilment will be the result. It is the GOOD NEWS of the Gospel (not 'FAKE NEWS').

As Christmas approaches, if we feel the pressure and the pull of society around us, let us remember the little chorus:



*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth  
will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and  
grace.*

Experience Love, Joy, Peace this Christmas as you make Jesus the focus of your celebrations!

**Anna Johnston**

## World Development Appeal

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



The WDA has been in existence since July 1980 and gives congregations 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 2018 WDA, *Seeking Safety*, invites you to learn about and to support Christian Aid's partner, the National Council of Christian Churches of Brazil (CONIC), in the work being done to address gender-based violence, and in particular the work of the Casa Noeli dos Santos safe house in the city of Ariquemes.



Gender-based violence is particularly pervasive in Brazil. Recent research has shown that every 24 seconds a woman is beaten by a partner or ex-partner and in a 2017 nationwide survey almost a third of girls and women said that during the previous year they had suffered violence.



The city of Ariquemes in north-western Brazil has a population of a little over 100,000 people, and depends economically on mining, fishing, and logging, with open mining, in particular, seen as the root of much of the violence and inequality in the region which was flooded with workers from out of state.

**HELPING** By mid-2010 Ariquemes was facing a serious problem with violence against women and a public meeting was held in which the mayor made a call to see if there was any interest in opening a safe house for women experiencing gender-based violence.



**HANDS**

An envelope is enclosed with this magazine and can be returned on any Sunday in December. Please give generously.



**Joan Gardner**



### **United Appeal**

At the time of writing, our United Appeal giving is up on last year, however we still have some way to go to meet our target of honour of just over £11,000.

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**



**Presbyterian  
Children's  
Society**

## **Presbyterian Children's Society**

The Society's aim is to brighten the future prospects of children and their families.

Every family helped with regular grants will cost the Society between £1,100 and £1,600 per year and every exceptional grant paid is usually between £500 and £600.

This is a substantial commitment which requires your financial support to enable the Society to help them. If you would like to help please make a donation, this can be given via your Elder or placed in the offering plate in an envelope duly marked "Presbyterian Children's Society".



***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 Eastern Europe.

***Roberta Graham***

### **Organisational Accounts**

Please note that all Organisational Accounts should be audited and returned to myself no later than Sunday 27 January 2019.



### **Free Will Offering**



Please note that if you wish your Free Will Offering or giving to other funds to be credited to 2018, these must be received no later than Sunday 30 December 2018. Any monies received after this will be credited to 2019.

***Tim Graham***

## OBITUARY

### ***Wilson Graham***

*The following tribute was read by Mr J C Shivers, Clerk of Session at the meeting of the Kirk Session on 25 October 2018*

It is with great sadness that I advise the Kirk Session of the death of one of our Elders, Wilson Graham who passed away peacefully after a short illness on 29 September. He was 87 years old.

Wilson's parents initially lived in North Belfast and he was baptised at the local Parish church. He started St. James' Primary school on the Antrim Road but the family soon moved to the east of the city, ran a confectionary shop on the Castlereagh Road and lived above the shop. At that time they were members of St. John's, Orangefield.

Wilson and his sister June attended Euston Street Primary school. Following the Belfast Blitz during the Second World War, Mrs Graham and the children moved for a short time to rural Islandmagee.

The children attended Mullaghduh Primary school before returning to complete their education at Euston Street transferring thereafter to Grosvenor High School where Wilson was a founder pupil.

On leaving school Wilson moved into the family's business. Later he became a sales representative for Brooke Bond Tea and then moved to Needlers Ltd, Hull as their Representative for Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man.

Wilson had joined the Boys' Brigade as a child in Islandmagee and then transferred to the BB Company in St. John's, Orangefield. However, he saw a recruitment notice about our own BB Company and as they say, the rest is history.

Wilson passed through the ranks, became a leader in the Life Boys Team (now the Junior BB) and was appointed Captain of the 19th Belfast in 1965, a position he held for 5 years.

He led the Company with energy and zeal during possibly the most difficult years of its history as the “troubles” and the changing attitudes to church attendance took their toll.

Over the years he would rarely have missed a BB Display and was always interested in the work of the Company. Indeed Wilson was so delighted to see the reformation of our own BB Company just a few years ago. The BB was in his blood and he was a founder member of the BB Steadfast Association in Belfast.

Wilson was also a fully committed member of the Ichthus movement in the 1970s and 80s and delighted to participate in the various activities organised for the young people including keep-fit classes in the former Royal British Legion hall on Montgomery Road.

Wilson married Adeline (known to us as Lina) in Cregagh Methodist in August 1972 and they lived happily together at the top of Orby Drive.

In former years their main interest was in ballroom dancing, indeed it was at a gala dance when they first met. They would have attended many formal occasions involving the St John’s ambulance, the Police Authority and the NI Confectionary Benevolent Committee.

Within the congregation Wilson served as a teacher in the afternoon Sunday school for 12 years, served as the Chairman of the Youth Council and was responsible, along with Lina, for the preparation of the Communion Elements.

Wilson was elected to the Congregational Committee in 1967 and was ordained to the Eldership on 16 March 1975. 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. He would pray with them and for them and would always have their best interests at heart.

Wilson had many other interests including being a founder member of the McQuiston Loyal Orange Order, a member of the Guild of Stewards at St. Anne's Cathedral and would have led lunchtime prayers in the Cathedral once a month.

Wilson was a man of prayer and loved to talk with his Lord in prayer; we will remember his prayerful contributions during the mid-week services and Holiday Bible Clubs.

We convey our sympathy to Lina, his sister June and the extended family thanking God for the life of Wilson who knew the joy of the Saviour's love and who served his Lord with 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.

## OBITUARY

### *Joshua Gordon Hamill*

*The following tribute was read by Mr J C Shivers, Clerk of Session at the meeting of the Kirk Session on 27 November 2018*

It is with great sadness that I advise the Kirk Session of the death of another one of our Elders, Josh Hamill who passed away peacefully on 8 November. He was 95 years old.

Josh was born in Co. Armagh and was baptised in Bellville Presbyterian, Lurgan. He was one of 6 children, three boys and three girls, all of whom pre-deceased him.

Josh attended Ardmore Primary school just outside Lurgan before transferring to Lurgan Model and then to Lurgan Technical College. Whilst at College Josh played football as a goalkeeper alongside Jimmy Jones of Glenavon and Belfast Celtic and Billy Dixon who went on to play for Arsenal FC.

On leaving school Josh started work with S. Warnock Building Contractor before moving into the grocery business initially with J&A Hall in Market Street, Lurgan and then the Belfast Co-op where he was manager of the Connsbrook Avenue Branch.

Indeed it was while he was manager in the Co-op that he met Rosemary (known to us as Molly). Thereafter Josh entered the Civil Service and served in the NI Court Service for a further 27 years before retiring.

During the 1940's Josh served as a part-time officer in the "B" Specials. He also served with the RUC Reserve for some 17 years in the 1970s and 80s.

Josh married Molly in McQuiston on 29 January 1952 and they lived happily together in Brentwood Park. It was just in recent times that both Josh and Molly moved to Limetree Nursing Home on the Comber Road, Dundonald.

In their younger days they loved to cycle and enjoyed many cycling trips around the Province. They were blessed with the birth of 2 sons, Paul and Terence who attended the various youth organisations in the congregation.

Within the congregation Josh and Molly were regular in their attendance at morning worship and would have sat in the gallery. However, due to advancing years and deteriorating eyesight, Josh has been unable to join with us for many years now.

Josh was elected to the Congregational Committee in 1971 and was ordained to the Eldership on 5 May 1972. 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. Due to age Josh was granted the status of Elder Emeritus.

We convey our sympathy to Molly, sons Paul and Terence and their extended families thanking God for the life of Josh who knew the joy of the Saviour's love and who served his Lord with 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  
Joan Wootton  
Marie Davison  
Anna Johnston  
Lynn Gardner  
Anne Cosgrove

### October



Claire Fisher  
David Graham  
Mildred Kerr  
Eileen Francis



## AT REST

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

#### 8 September

Mrs Anne Thompson  
93 Euston Street

#### 13 September

Mrs Evelyn Greer  
Tudordale Nursing Home

#### 25 September

Mrs Elizabeth Niblock  
65 Glenvarlock Street

#### 29 September

Mr Wilson Graham  
295 Orby Drive

#### 2 October

Mrs Margaret Deuchers  
199 Cregagh Street

#### 6 October

Mr Thomas Britton  
193 Cregagh Street

#### 12 October

Mr William James McDowell  
20 Willowfield Gardens

#### 8 November

Mr Joshua Gordon Hamill  
Limetree Nursing Home,  
Comber Road, Dundonald  
formerly 90 Brentwood Park



### VESTIBULE OFFICIALS

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

#### **January**

John Shivers

Jim Hunter

Jean Hunter

Convenor: Joan Gardner

#### **February**

Angela Shivers

Raymond Wray

Linda Wray

Convenor: Alan Bousfield

#### **March**

Richard Hughes

Lorraine Hughes

Agnes Somerville

Convenor: Joan Gardner

### BAPTISMS

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

#### **14 October**

Sophie Erin and Lois Eve

*infant daughters of*

Stephen and Rachel Briggs,

12 Ashdene Road,

Moneyreagh



# 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)**



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