

PULSE



Volume 55
Number 1
Easter 2015



"He has risen"

EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

A few years ago I bought the fishing rod I had dreamt about when I was 15 years old doing my paper round.



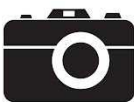
It was an ABU Atlantic Zoom just like the one I looked at longingly every year when I got the latest edition of the *"Tight Lines"* catalogue.



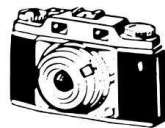
At last I could buy it on ebay! In fact I was so *"hooked"*, excuse

the pun, that I ended up with four vintage ABU rods, whilst different colours, all the same excellent quality.

In my 20's, photography was the hobby that I aspired to master. Having had success with the fishing rods, I again turned to ebay in an attempt to fulfil one of my dreams, by purchasing a vintage camera .



So I went online and spotted them; an Olympus OM10, a Minolta X300 with a black body and one with a silver top. In a moment of madness I bid for them all. A reasonable sum I thought, not too expensive, a bargain really!



In a few days they had arrived and I was now the proud owner of three vintage cameras... that didn't work!

I felt totally stupid! I had been sold *"a pup"*, three in fact! Needless to say it was the end of the bidding for vintage anything on ebay.



Isn't it funny how the things we long for often prove to be a disappointment when we achieve them; or the moment has passed

and we think well that was a waste of time and/or money? We expected more, but it was disappointing and it didn't satisfy.

The same couldn't be said about Jesus, not in my experience or that of many more people who have trusted Him.



Easter will soon be upon us, and you may know of the two disciples that Jesus had met on the evening of His resurrection. They were travelling home on the road to a village called Emmaus. You can read about them in Luke 24:13-35.



As they spoke to Jesus, not recognising who He was, the disappointment was tangible in their voices; to them, Jesus had been a let-down.

What they didn't know was He had done exactly what He had promised to do, much more in fact than they could understand at that moment.

Later that evening, it was only when they broke bread together, that they recognised Him. In an instant all the pain, all the disappointment and the tiredness of the journey home, were set aside, to be replaced by joy, a joy that they were eager to share with others.

This still happens today! When we put our trust in the risen King Jesus, and accept Him as our Saviour, we too will be filled with a joy worth sharing!



Robert Beggs

SPECIAL SERVICES

29 March @ 11am

Palm Sunday service

29 March @ 7.00pm

"My Hope 2015"

featuring Billy Graham

1 April @ 7.45pm

Reflections for Holy Week in words and music – Joint Choirs

2 April @ 7.30pm

"My Hope 2015"

featuring Billy Graham and praise

3 April @ 7.30pm

Good Friday Communion service

5 April @ 11.00am & 7.00pm

Easter Sunday services

7 June @ 11am

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

14 June @ 11am

Morning worship

led by The SHED



ORGANISATIONAL NEWS


Boys' Brigade

The 19th Belfast Company is coming to the end of a fantastic first session. We've had nine committed Anchor and Junior boys whose attendance has been consistent from the very first night.



Every Friday the boys have entered enthusiastically into a programme of games, sports, crafts and community activities. We've planted cress seeds, made bird feeders and calendars and coloured in lots of pictures. The Juniors even made a speaker each to plug into their mobile phones – sorry mums and dads!

At the centre of each night has been a Bible story and we've learnt about *The Creation, Noah and the Flood, David & Goliath*, how Jesus called His disciples to follow Him, and about some of His miracles. We've pursued the object of the BB. *"The advancement of Christ's kingdom among boys; the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness"*.



I want to thank the officers and young leaders for their unflagging commitment, the church for its support and the parents for their encouragement to the boys and leaders. Most of all, we as leaders, want to give thanks and praise to God for the help of the Holy Spirit through the year and for His work in the lives of the boys.



We are looking forward to our first *“Parents and Friends Evening”* on Friday 27 March at 7.00pm when we hope many parents, friends and members of the congregation will join us for some fun and games, a prize giving and some refreshments.

Hope to see you there!

Robert Beggs
(Acting Captain)

Transformers

Transformers started back after Christmas when we finished the series on David and we are now halfway through our study of Elijah. We have an average of 14 children each week, though it does vary.



Our format has changed slightly this year and we now start the evening with circle time when the children can tell us what they have done since the previous week.

We then have a story when the children are split according to their age giving us the chance of going into more detail with the older children. This is followed by either singing, games or craft and the night ends with toast, juice and a prayer.



Please continue to pray for the children, that the stories impact them and that they realise what a wonderful God we have. Pray also for the leaders that we set a good example to the children.

Heather Sergeant

Brownies



Since Christmas the girls have gained, or are about to gain, Interest Badges for Science, First Aid, Safety in the Home, Disability Awareness and Recycling with Belfast City Council.

Our Thinking Day service in February saw Rainbows and Brownies leading Praise. We would like to thank the congregation for their kind generosity with the retiring collection - the monies raised will help pay for the girls' fees.



The Rainbows and Brownies will be holding an Open Night on Monday, 27 April at 7.00pm.

Angela Shivers
Brownie Guider

Ladies Fellowship

We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month and, as we approach the end of our current session, we are looking forward to celebrating St Patrick's Night with The SHED and the Praise Group.



As we enjoy eating, our last night will be a meal at The Secret Garden.



We will recommence in September and an invitation is issued to all women to join our happy group.

Sheila McAllister

SHED

SHED continues to meet every month with a varied programme of social and spiritual meetings. January saw the group visit local sweetie treasure Aunt Sandra's Candy Factory, enjoy great fellowship (and free samples!) and learn about the history and evolution of sweetie production in the area over the decades.



We met in February for a time of praise and teaching in the Church with guest speaker Lindsay Conway from the Council for Social Witness telling us about his work for the Presbyterian Church.



We enjoyed a night of Irish craic in March when we joined with the Ladies Fellowship and the Praise Group to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

We hope to finish the year with two social events; firstly on Saturday 18 April the group plan to visit the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum at Cultra, at which all men in the congregation are welcome.

This is followed with our annual BBQ on Tuesday 19 May, at which all members of the church family are welcome.



We look forward to leading morning worship on Sunday 14 June before ending for the summer. SHED will then recommence in September, and we would welcome all men in the congregation, young or old, to come along and share in our fellowship.

Tim Graham

McQUISTON STOREHOUSE

Many thanks to all who contributed to the storehouse, either by monetary donations or providing food prior to Christmas.



We were able to help quite a few families in the local community who otherwise would not have had such a happy Christmas.



Your support in this ministry is very much appreciated.

Alan Bousfield

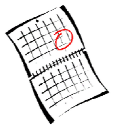
CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

We intend holding another *Money Budget Course* in April/May 2015.



This is a 3 week programme which is free and open to those who would like to manage their finances more efficiently.

If you are interested in attending please contact me and we can arrange suitable dates.



Alan Bousfield

PRESBYTERIAN ORPHANS & CHILDREN'S SOCIETY



We are pleased to say that we donated a total of **£603.00**. As The Society says, "*A brilliant total as always. Many thanks to everyone in McQuiston for their usual generosity*".

The total was made up of:-

Donations from the Congregation	£430.00
McCartney Cochrane Bequest	£173.00

Sheila McAllister

BUILDING FUND UPDATE

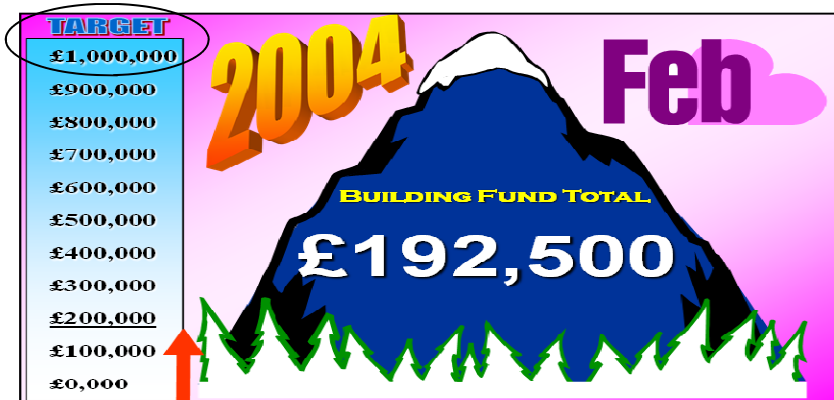
Can you believe it's been 10 years since this?



The foundation stone for our suite of halls was laid by Senior Elder Brian McCartney on 8 January 2005.

Remember our mountain to climb?

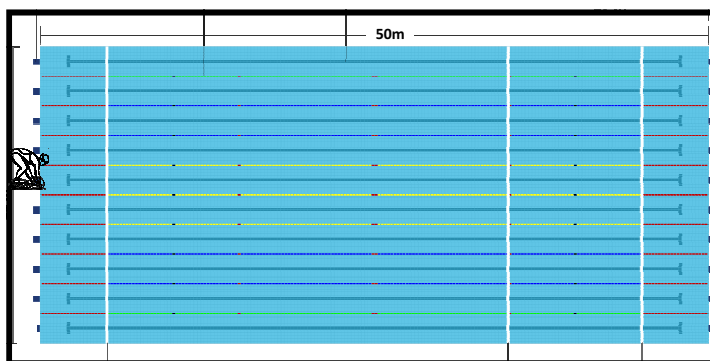
You may remember this graphic from morning worship in February 2004, showing our target of £1,000,000. Though we had made a fantastic start, we still had a long way to go...



We've come a long way in the past 10 years...



And so it's time for a new graphic for 2015...



This 50m swimming pool represents the last £50,000 that we need to pay off our new halls, and our swimmer is currently on the starting board! This means that we need to raise £1,000 per week till the end of the year!

With an average morning attendance of 200 that equates to £5 per person per week, less than £1 per day, or £20 per month using your **yellow Building Fund envelopes**.

Together we can do it, but we all need to pull together to achieve our goal. It's been a long 12 years since we first started our fundraising, but the end is in sight, let's not fall at the final hurdle!

Tim Graham

HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD

Spring is once again almost here. Gardens and flower pots are displaying beautiful rich colours and varieties of early flowering plants – snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils, tulips – and the buds on trees are likewise breaking into flower.



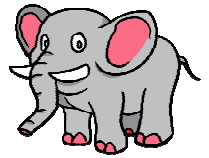
This evidence of new life enriches our lives, and reminds us in 2015 of the creativity and generosity of God who, when He established this world, was pleased with His creation – of what He had made.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

The first chapter of the book of Genesis states *“And God saw that it was good.”* Within His creation God gave us the diversity of living creatures to enjoy and to care for. However, often we do not appreciate the wonder and intelligence of the animal world. Mankind tends to view animals of much less significance and value than themselves.

I read an article recently about elephants, which had a profound and humbling effect on me and made me once again acknowledge *“How great is our God!”*

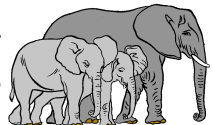


The text was as follows:

“Lawrence Anthony, a legendary conservationist in South Africa and author of three books, including the bestseller *‘The Elephant Whisperer’*, was a man who bravely rescued wildlife and rehabilitated elephants all over the globe from human atrocities, including the courageous rescue of Baghdad Zoo animals during the US invasion in 2003.

On 7 March 2012 Lawrence Anthony died. He is remembered and missed by his wife, two sons, two grandsons, and numerous elephants.

Two days after his passing, elephants (formerly wild & destined to be shot as pests, but rescued and rehabilitated by Lawrence) showed up at his home led by two large matriarchs. Separate wild herds arrived to say goodbye to their beloved ‘man-friend’. A total of 31 elephants had patiently walked over 112 miles to get to his South African house.



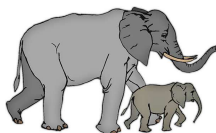
Witnessing this spectacle, people were obviously in awe not only because of the supreme intelligence and precise timing that these elephants sensed about Lawrence's passing, but also because of the profound memory and emotion the beloved animals evoked in such an organized way.



Walking slowly, for days, the elephants made their way in a solemn one-by-one queue from their habitat to his house. Lawrence's wife, Francoise, was especially touched, knowing that the elephants had not been to his house prior to that day for well over three years! But yet they knew where they were going.

The elephants obviously wanted to pay their deep respects, honouring their friend who had saved their lives – so much respect that they stayed for two days and two nights without eating anything. Then one morning they left, making their long journey back home.

One might ask 'The elephants journeyed to pay their respects – but how did they know?'



Surely this makes us realise that something in the universe is greater and deeper than human intelligence. Yet some still say 'there is no God!'"

This Easter let us review our relationship with our Father God who has given us life and so much of everything to enjoy. Especially let us acknowledge, with heartfelt respect, the immense unconditional love shown to us in the sacrifice of Jesus who rescued and saved us at Calvary.



Such love... such care... such forgiveness... such suffering for you, for me. May we never forget '*Whose we are and Whom we serve*', and may we rejoice this Easter season in how privileged we are.

Anna Johnston



EASTER

His	destiny	was	the	cross
His	purpose	was	love	
His	reason	was	you.	
May your Easter be a				
Celebration of the Saviour.				

OBITUARY

Norman McDowell

The following tribute was read by Mr J C Shivers, Clerk of Session at the meeting of Kirk Session on 27 January 2015.

It is with great sadness that I advise the Kirk Session of the death of one of our Elders, Norman McDowell who passed away peacefully on Friday 28 November. He was 89 years old.

Norman was baptised in McQuiston and lived all his life in East Belfast. He was the youngest of four brothers who all pre-deceased him, John, Alek and Tom.

He attended Euston Street Primary school and the College of Technology before entering the world of work with the Belfast Corporation Gas Department in 1940 as a apprentice plumber and later became a clerical officer.

He is remembered for establishing a radio controlled emergency service within the Gas Department. In 1961 he transferred to the Corporation Welfare Department which amalgamated with the Eastern Health and Social Services Board in 1973 where he continued to work as a Supplies Officer until his retirement in 1990.

Norman married Eileen in March 1955 and their family was soon enriched with the birth of two sons, Ian and Norman. Many happy years followed as the boys grew and attended the various youth organisations in the congregation including the BB where both served as Officers in our Company.

Their home on the Ballygowan Road was always open for a chat and a cup of tea. Sadly Eileen passed away in June 2013 after an extended illness during which time Norman faithfully cared for her. Over the past 15 months he missed her dearly.

Norman, an avid DIY person, also enjoyed watch repairing and photography. Like many of his generation he served as an ARP Warden during the Second World War, protecting the citizens of Belfast during the blitz.

His love of music was extensive and he sang with the Clarence Male Voice choir, the Willowfield Unionist Club Male Voice Choir and the BB Centenary Choir. He also played the cornet horn in the Willowfield Unionist Silver band for over 13 years.

Norman was elected to the Congregational Committee in 1964 and was ordained to the Eldership on 2 March 1969. 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 was a very active member of the Congregation serving as a BB Officer for 20 years including 11 years as Company Captain, Convenor of the General Purposes and Co-ordinating sub Committees, sang in the church choir and found time to be a Sunday school teacher.

We convey our sympathy to his sons Ian and Norman, their wives June and Denise, grand-daughter Sarah and Brian and Kirsty thanking God for the life of Norman 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.

November 2014

Eileen Francis
Nan Anderson Family

December 2014

Ann Anderson
Maureen Connolly
Lina Graham
Joan Wootton
Ellie Colhoun
Elizabeth Niblock
Agnes Somerville

January 2015

Marie Davidson
Eileen Watt
Claire Fisher
Marjorie Beggs
Irene Smyth
Ladies Fellowship

February 2015

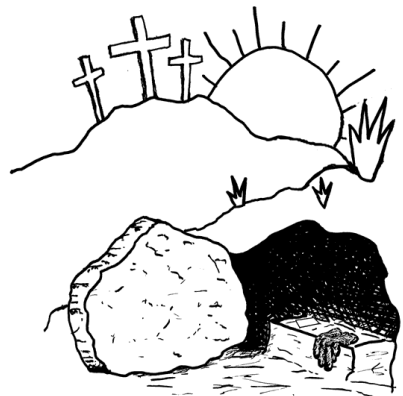
Joan Gardner
Joan Wootton
Ellie Colhoun
Mums & Toddlers
Brownies & Rainbows

NEW COMMUNICANTS

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

Mr James & Mrs Pauline Ross
23 Florida Drive

Ms Marie Doran
122 Oakdale, Ballygowan



He is not here; for He is risen, as He said.
Come, see the place where the Lord lay.
Matthew 28:6

AT REST

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

1 December 2014

James Barr
Galway Park, Dundonald

20 December 2014

Mrs Jean Harvey
Cregagh Nursing Home

20 December 2014

Mrs Isobel Morrison
Cranley Nursing Home

2 January 2015

Mrs Elizabeth Tuft
Dunlady Nursing Home

22 January 2015

David McCullough
Belmont Care Home

26 January 2015

Mrs Joyce Heathwood
10 Mashona Court

21 February 2015

David Gamble
Victoria Park Care Home

21 February 2015

Mrs Ellen Crawford
9a Espie Way

VESTIBULE OFFICIALS

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

April

Wilfie Patterson, Muriel Patterson,
Sheila McAllister
Convenor: Ken Galbraith

May

Lawrence Gardner, Lynn Gardner,
David Boyd, Jeanette Boyd
Convenor: Heather Sergeant

June

Joan Wootton, Eileen Kelso,
Mildred Kerr, Roberta Gibson
Convenor: Sheila McAllister

July

Anna Johnston, Heather Dickson,
Helen Gilmore, Hilary Hawthorne
Convenor: David Craig

August

Ann Anderson, Heather Sergeant,
Richard Hughes
Convenor: Lorraine Hughes

September

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

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