

# PULSE

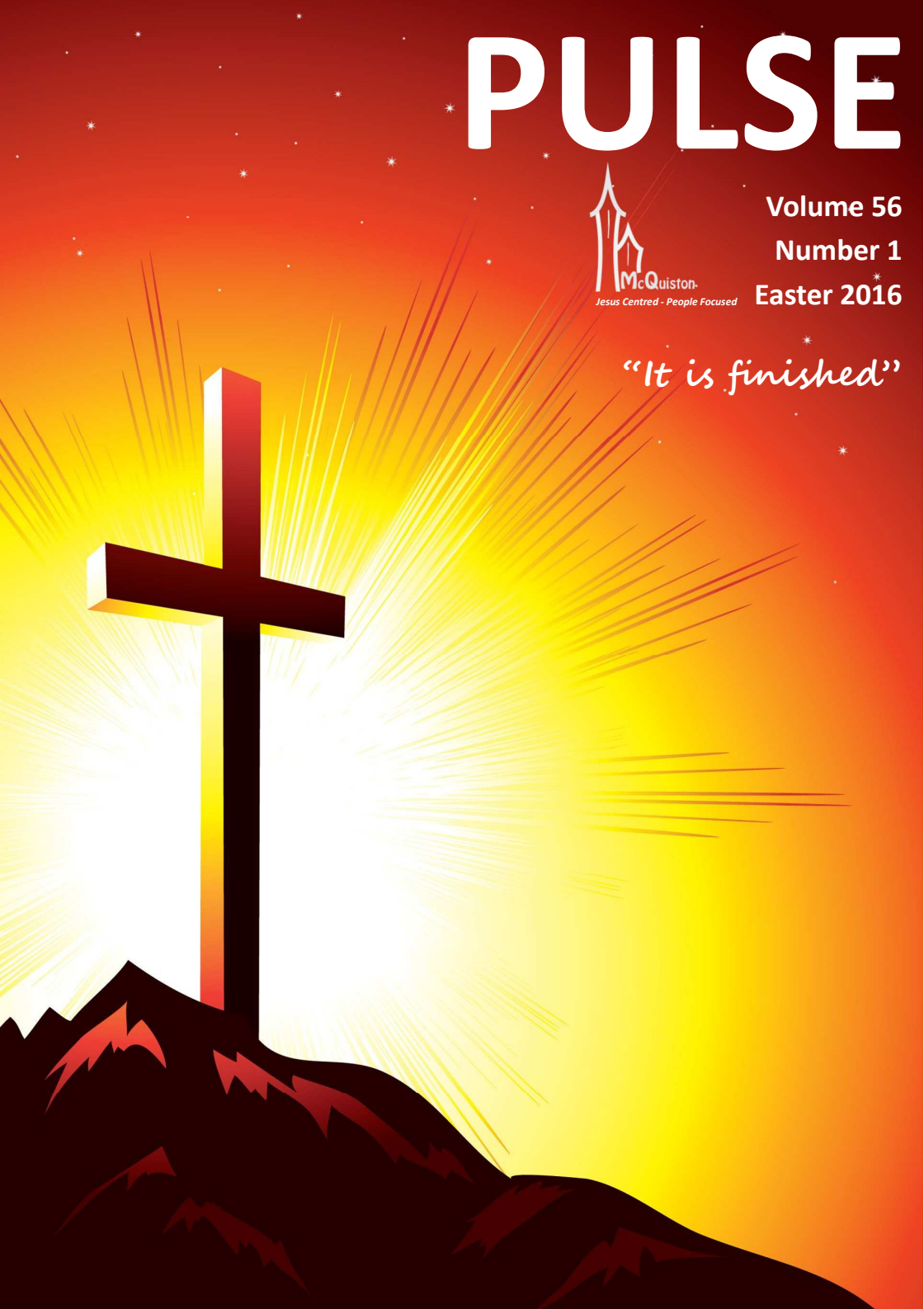


Volume 56

Number 1

Easter 2016

*"It is finished"*



## EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

*"How will you celebrate the Easter Rising?"* is potentially a controversial question, but to answer it correctly we have to ask to which event does the question refer?

We have been reminded many times in the past months of the significance of 2016 for the loyalist and republican elements of our community; stemming of course from different events 100 years ago.

The first, the uprising or rebellion, depending on how you see it historically, in Dublin at Easter 1916. The second, the Battle of the Somme in the Great War, which immortalised the role of the 36<sup>th</sup> Ulster Division in loyalist culture.



Still the repercussion of these events... or more strictly how we as a community commemorate them has implications for the present and indeed, the future.

Significant as these commemorations may be, they are overshadowed by another event we celebrate every year; another yet greater Easter rising.



That of our Lord Jesus Christ who rose from the tomb breaking forever the stranglehold of sin and death on humanity, liberating those who come to Him to live life and be human as God intended.



I have no idea how you plan to celebrate these other centenaries or how important they might be to you? However, I invite you to celebrate the one true and most significant Easter rising with us this year and make it perhaps the first year of your new life.



**Robert Beggs**

## EASTER – NEW LIFE, NEW HOPE

What gets you out of bed in the morning? Apart from a wide-awake toddler or a dog that needs walking that is?



For many of us, it's the need to earn a living to pay the bills and provide for our family and ourselves. If we're blessed enough to do work we enjoy and find fulfilling all the better.



For Christians, each day is a gift from God thanks to the hope we have in Jesus. The events of Easter many years ago provide those who follow

Jesus with forgiveness for the past, God's help and guidance in the present and the promise of a bright future with Him.



We hope that you can join us this Easter and find out why life and hope begins at the cross...

## SPECIAL SERVICES

**Sunday 13 March @ 6.30pm**  
East Belfast Presbytery service  
in Knock Presbyterian

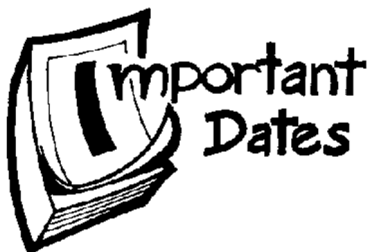
**Wednesday 23 March @ 7.45pm**  
Easter Reflections with Joint  
Choirs

**Friday 25 March @ 7.30pm**  
Good Friday service  
with Communion

**Sunday 27 March @ 11.00am  
& 7.00pm**  
Easter Day services

**Sunday 15 May @ 11.00am**  
SHED service and BBQ

**Sunday 5 June @ 11.00am**  
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper



## ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

### Boys' Brigade

This second year of the resumption of Boys' Brigade in McQuiston has been a tremendously encouraging and fruitful one. We currently have 8 Anchor Boys and 7 Junior Section boys on the roll, more than doubling our numbers from our first year.



Our nights begin together for 'Fall In' and then we split the sections. At the heart of each night is our Bible time when the Anchors have been following a DVD series of Bible stories and the Juniors the Scripture Union syllabus.



The programme on Friday nights for both age groups also includes activities, challenges, quizzes, games and craft, which help the boys earn BB badges for all their efforts. Among other things, we have made clocks from old records, hovercraft from CDs, cooked buns and treats, planted pots and had great fun doing it.

Along the way, our Junior BB 5-a-side team won the Belfast Battalion football competition held in Bangor in February and now go on to represent Belfast at the NI finals at the end of April.



Don't forget  
Parents'  
Evening!

The Officers would like to thank the congregation for all the support and encouragement that you give the BB Company and would like to invite you all to our Parents and Friends Night on 18th March, where we will give you a taste of what goes on in BB on a Friday night.

Please continue to pray for the Officers - Brian, Glenn, Gillian, Stephen, Robert and Jim as we seek to advance Christ's Kingdom among the boys.



Finally thanks must go to all the boys and their parents. We have a really faithful and dedicated group of boys and parents, it is a privilege to be part of their lives.

**Jim Ross**  
(Captain)

## Transformers

Since starting back after the Christmas break our numbers have been steady each week with a few new children; although we will lose four to 'big' school later in the year.



The new session sees us looking at women of the Bible.

We feel blessed and thank God that we have the privilege of teaching the children stories each week and forming relationships with them. We are due to make cards for Mother's Day and a craft at Easter. The children love to play different games each week and we finish with juice and toast!



May we ask the congregation to pray that the children will go on to have a personal relationship with Jesus and that the leaders through their words and actions show them the love of God.

**Heather Sergeant**

## McQuiston Lunch Club

We meet every Monday at noon and enjoy a healthy meal at the great price of £1.50. If you would like to join us please phone the Church office (028 90458155) and leave your contact details.



**Sheila McAllister**

## Ladies Fellowship

It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of our session. We were pleased to welcome Deaconess Doreen Draffin (a former member of our Church) as speaker at our annual service.



We also enjoyed Desert Island Discs with Alan Marsh (our Student Assistant) and his wife Esther. Our March meeting is a St. Patrick's themed night when we join with the SHED.

A welcome is extended to any woman in the congregation to join us.

**Sheila McAllister**

## Brownies

The girls have now completed their “Safety in the Home” and “First Aid” badges. As most will know many accidents happen in the home and can be quite easily caused by objects left lying on the floor or dishwasher/washing machine tablets sitting on a kitchen worktop all within easy reach of a toddler.



Thanks to Senior Staff Nurse Christine Kelly who came along and showed us that children can play their part in first aid in their homes. This may even save some-one's life.



We held a very enjoyable Thinking Day service in church in February. The girls led the praise and special thanks to Libby, Katie and Erin for taking part in the service. Thanks also to Craig for leading, Mark and the band and Robert for their help and support.

**Angela Shivers**  
**Brownie Guider**

## SHED

Men of all ages continue to meet for fellowship on a monthly basis. The new year kicked off with a movie night when we met to watch 'Amazing Grace'.



In February the Methodist President Brian Anderson was our guest speaker, and in March we plan to meet with the ladies to celebrate St. Patrick's Night. April will see the last of our Tuesday night gatherings for the summer when we welcome Jim Clawson from Foodbank to our meeting.



After the success of last year's BBQ following the SHED service, we plan to do the same again this year on 15 May. After worship, the fun and fellowship will continue with some food at Stormont Play Park. All men, women, young and old are invited so please do plan to attend.

**Tim Graham**

## McQuiston Seniors

McQuiston Seniors has had a great start to 2016 by donating £1,000 to the Church Building Fund. Every Senior got a *Smarties* tube and filled them with 20p coins. Here is a photo handing the cheque over to the Rev Robert Beggs.



We are still averaging between 45 and 50 attending each week but there is STILL room for YOU! Many of our Church members who now attend have said that they are sorry they didn't join years ago. So why not come along and join us on a Tuesday afternoon?



If you need a lift we can arrange that for you and as always, if you would like to come along and help with the Seniors we will always be delighted to find a job for you, even if it is only sitting with someone and having a wee chat.

On 12 April we have Eddie Kelso with his Holy Land video and on 19 April we are going to Grove Baptist to join their afternoon meeting and hear from the mum of Jennifer Cardy, a little girl tragically murdered. That is just to whet your appetite.

Any queries please call Leta Halliday on 07889 333362.

***Alison Coyle***



## McQUISTON STOREHOUSE



The Storehouse continues to help those who are in need.

I am pleased to report that the food bank is being used more by the local community who have been contacting us by the church website.

Thanks to all who support the storehouse either by supplying food or donations.



The people who avail themselves of this ministry are very appreciative of this service provided by our church.

*Alan Bousfield*

## CONGRATULATIONS 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY

Many congratulations to Agnes Radcliffe of Mashona Court who celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 4 February 2016.



She was joined on her birthday by the Very Rev. Michael Barry (Previous Moderator of PCI), Mrs Barry, the Rev. Robert Beggs and Mrs Patricia Wray (Elder).



Flowers were also presented to her on behalf of the congregation.

## PRESBYTERIAN ORPHANS & CHILDREN'S SOCIETY



Every year members of the congregation make donations to the Society. This year we raised a total of £335 which unfortunately was less than previous years.

It was however gratefully received by the Society as it has enabled them to help make a real difference to Presbyterian families traumatized by difficult and varying circumstances. Thanks to all who donated.

*Sheila McAllister*



## EASTER REFLECTIONS

*"The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ came to do three things. He came to forgive your past, give you a purpose for living, and a home in heaven."*



***Rick Warren***



*"God proved His love on the cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, 'I Love You'"*

***Billy Graham***

### WITHOUT EASTER

Without Easter,  
There would be no hope of heaven.  
Without the hope of heaven,  
There would be no repentance,  
No personal transformation,  
No attempt to follow Biblical principles.  
Without Easter,  
The world would be in chaos  
And darkness.  
Jesus' death and resurrection  
Means we can be reborn,  
To live better, to do better,  
To shine light into the shadows.  
Hallelujah!  
Happy, Happy Easter.

***By Joanna Fuchs***

### JESUS LOVES US ALL SO MUCH

Jesus loves us all so much  
That He would bleed and die  
He took upon His beaten back  
The cross that saw Him crucified

Yes, He loved us all so much  
That He was scorned and scoffed  
He took it all upon Himself  
For it was the will of God

God knew it was the only way,  
The final sacrifice  
Jesus Christ, a sinless man,  
Would need to give His life

And even in the gift He gave  
We still have not yet known  
The fullness of His mighty love  
And the grace so freely shown

All He asks is that we all  
Repent and follow Him,  
For He has made the way for us,  
Free from hurt and sin

Yes, God loved us all so much  
And yes, He loves us still  
He longs for us to trust in Him  
And do the Fathers will.

***M. S. Lowndes***

**THE LORD IS GOOD  
HIS LOVE IS ETERNAL  
HIS FAITHFULNESS  
LASTS FOR EVER**

*Psalms 100:5*

These words should shape the praise we give to our Heavenly Father as we approach Easter. The attributes of 'goodness', 'love' and 'faithfulness' mark the character of our Saviour.



There is much to be thankful for as we consider the daily blessings we receive in the beauty of this world, the provisions of health, family, friends and material goods.

Certainly, when all is going well in our world it is easy to acknowledge and respond with heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the Lord.



However, often we have to deal with difficulties, problems, heartache and pain. At these times faith can be tested.

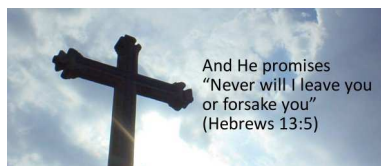
Sometimes our prayers for help or deliverance are granted; at other times we have to wait for an answer and there are times when God does not grant our requests in the way we would wish.



When living with ongoing suffering and loss it can be a human response to cry out '*Where is God in this?*' or '*Why is this happening to me?*' In such circumstances some people have been known to give up completely on God.

As followers of Jesus, where is our reference point at such times?

Our Saviour has promised "*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*" [Hebrews 13:5b] If we ask Him, He will enter into the depth of our need(s) because He fully understands and walks with us through them.



When we look in the Scriptures, prior to the trial and crucifixion of our Saviour, we read of Jesus with his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46 & Luke 22:39-46)

Jesus was in anguish, pleading with His Father that He would not have to undergo the cross, the isolation, the suffering.



Likewise, God has a unique plan for the life of each of us which, at present, we may not understand.

Such was His pain and suffering that we are told *'His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground'*. Jesus dreaded what was to come to pass and beseeched God for deliverance.



This was the first part of the prayer that Jesus made to His Father God that night. As we know, *'that cup of suffering and death'* was not removed from Jesus.

The second part of Jesus' prayer that night was *"Yet not as I will, but as You will". "May Your will be done"*. This second part of the prayer was granted – *"Your will be done"*.



In submitting to God's will, Jesus fulfilled His Father's plan for His life. On the cross Jesus secured for us (who believe) forgiveness, fullness of life, eternity with God. What a free precious gift to us – but what a cost to Jesus!

As with Jesus, our Heavenly Father knows our human frailty, and He will be with us each step of the way (in the good times and the hard times) as we open our lives to Him.

EASTER celebrates the victory over death, sin, desolation - accomplished through Jesus fulfilling God's plan in going to the cross – giving us forgiveness, freedom, purpose and joy.



May our faith be renewed this season as we prepare for the celebration of Easter. Whatever the situation in life in which we find ourselves at this time, let us rest in the promise *'Wait on the Lord .... He shall strengthen your heart'* [Psalm 27:14]

We can rely on the wonderful love of God, who is in control of the future, as we humbly acknowledge...

*THE LORD IS GOOD  
HIS LOVE IS ETERNAL  
HIS FAITHFULNESS  
LASTS FOR EVER*

## OASIS VILLAGE

“Oasis Village” is situated in the South Western outskirts of Ndola in the Zambian Copperbelt.



Oasis Village Trust  
a light in the darkness...



This project goes back nearly ten years with our daughter Nicki and her husband Ziso Moyo's vision of building an orphanage. The building of the family style chalets to house the children commenced in 2007 and six children plus a housemum will occupy each chalet.

A lack of a proper water supply, after several failed boreholes caused long delays in bringing any children into Oasis Village, however since August last year the first 20 children are now happily housed at Oasis Village and what a change in their young lives.



There are many children who have lost their parents from HIV/Aids and Malaria. Teams from churches in the province travel out regularly to see the work, offer practical help and minister to the local community.

Mountainside Primary School opened on the site in January 2015. The Moyos wanted a school for the children to attend and decided to set one up at Oasis Village. They had prayed for 50 children from the local area and now have nearly 400 on the register! The school offers classes from nursery level to Grade 5. The standard of primary education within the local schools is very poor.



The upkeep of the children living at Oasis Village, the overall project (building work continues) and the Moyo family (Ziso, Nicki, Zach, Zoe and Zara) are all prayerfully and financially supported primarily by folk here in Northern Ireland including some members of McQuiston.

The original vision is now being realised. Pastor Ziso Moyo has now opened an Elim Church and some of the children from the orphanage are even learning musical instruments to bolster the praise. God has indeed richly blessed the work.



We ask for your continued prayers: for the further growth of the orphanage, giving thanks for the twenty children and staff currently living there, for International teachers to develop curriculum in the school and for the continued interest in short term volunteers to assist at the orphanage and school.

For further information please visit the website [www.oasisvillagetrust.com](http://www.oasisvillagetrust.com) or speak to Raymond or Linda Wray.

***Raymond Wray***



## FLOWERS

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

### November

Eileen Francis  
Molly Hamill  
Elizabeth Niblock  
Gillian Breen  
Richard Hughes

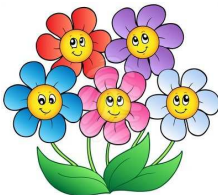


### December

Ann Anderson  
Maureen Connolly  
Agnes Sommerville  
Sadie Ferguson  
Lina Graham  
Margaret Warke  
Joan Wootton  
Ellie Colhoun  
Elizabeth Niblock

### January

Eileen Watt  
Marjorie Beggs  
Claire Fisher  
Joan Gardner



## BAPTISMS

***“Suffer the little children to come unto me ”***

### 13 December

Amelia Grace  
*infant daughter of*  
Ryan & Ruth Fargher  
107 Millreagh Avenue  
Dundonald



*I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*

## NEW MEMBERS

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

**Ms Naomi Martin**  
171 Orby Drive

**Terence White**  
3 Rosewood Park



**WELCOME**  
*to Our Newest Members!*





## AT REST

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

### **7 December 2015**

Mrs Phyllis Killops  
52 Ardenvohr Street

### **3 January**

William Moore  
29 Loopland Fold

### **4 January**

Mrs Elizabeth McCartney  
23 Barnetts Road

### **17 January**

Mrs Lily Maynes  
46 Brentwood Park

### **5 February**

Wilbur Cockcroft  
12 Ellis Court

### **8 February**

Mrs Edith Robinson  
19 Donovan Fold

### **16 February**

Mrs Mary Hill  
54 Callan Way

## VESTIBULE OFFICIALS

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

### **April**

Wilfie Patterson, Brian Erskine  
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, Sheila McAllister,  
Heather Sergeant, Richard Hughes  
Convenor: Lorraine Hughes

### **September**

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



# DIRECTORY

**Rev Robert Beggs**

*Minister*

52 Kings Road  
Belfast BT5 6JL

Phone: 028 9065 0526

Email: robertjbeggs@hotmail.com

**Mr Alan Marsh**

*Student Assistant*

20 Lord Warden's Glade  
Bangor  
BT19 1GW

Phone: 028 9107 1951

Email: alanmarsh82@yahoo.co.uk

**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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