

PULSE

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Easter 2020



*Jesus Centred - People Focused*

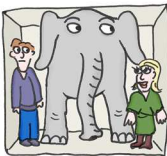


HE IS RISEN

## EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

You've heard the saying "*the elephant in the room*" before meaning the obvious issue, the big thing that everyone is trying hard to ignore; right now it's Coronavirus.



Guess what.... I'm going to ignore "*the elephant in the room*" not because it's not important but because there are other things and Easter is almost upon us.

It's said that an ancient king once gathered his wise men together and asked them to come up with one phrase that would describe



everything. After many weeks and with much thought they came back and presented their solution, "This too will pass."

In this fallen world given time, all things will pass. The hymn writer put it into words which are now famous, even sung at the FA Cup final, "*change and decay in all around I see*". Grim isn't it?

When God created the universe and looked at His finished work He declared it very good. How long it stayed like that we don't know but things fell apart through Adam and Eve's bid for independence.

As part of God's judgement on that sin the whole creation, humanity included, was subjected to death and estranged from God. Humanity's 'own goal' you might say.

This was not something that pleased God, but He had a plan to change the script. A plan that involved a cross and an empty tomb; two parts of one act of sacrificial love.



It involved God becoming one of us, taking our form and our flesh. It involved birth and life, an early death as Jesus lived and suffered like us and died, but not in the same way exactly.

Just to keep the football analogies going – He was our substitute and as He embraced humankind so He embraced our sin carrying it to the cross, dying in agony and suffering all that it means to be forsaken of God.



He bore the wrath of God who is holy, just and merciful all at the same time, and all perfect. He freed humanity from having to suffer the same.



So that was God's solution - since no-one could bear His wrath and survive, He took the blame and bore the wrath himself in Jesus.

The resurrection showed us death was destroyed, and life is offered to us, but a new life in Jesus, life that with Him never ends.

So what's the final score? Well, every Easter people all over the place ignore the elephant in the room, we'd rather think about chicks, lambs and Easter bunnies than sin and death and resurrection.



Thoughts of chicks, lambs and Easter bunnies though will have passed by Easter Tuesday, but the cross and the resurrection make for everlasting life - that you can know only by faith in Jesus.

***Robert Beggs***

## **EASTER THOUGHTS...**

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, in order to pay the bills and provide for our family or 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 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.



All of us long for relationships full of love and for the ability to look forward to each day with real hope.



The Christian gospel is all about the love of God for us and the hope He holds out to us in Jesus.

So why not drop into McQuiston this Easter by using the website or follow us on Facebook and find out why life, love and hope begins at the Cross?

## ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

### Boys' Brigade

In light of recent events with COVID-19, all B.B. companies have been advised to suspend all activities until further notice. This will sadly mean an end to our B.B. programme for this year and the cancellation of our Parent's night at the beginning of April.



Thank you so much for all your support this year and we look forward to seeing you all at the start of the next B.B. term in September. We pray that God will grant you both strength and comfort in these strange times.

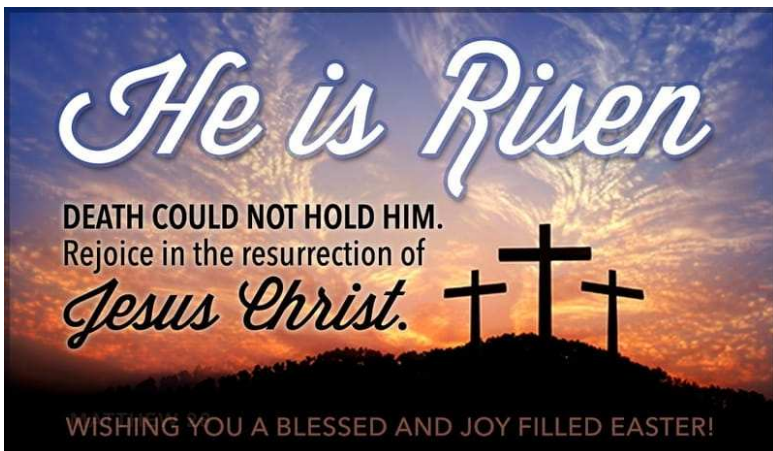
*'We have an anchor that keeps the soul, steadfast and sure while the billows roll.'*

**Stephen Briggs**  
Acting Captain

### McQuiston Lunch Club

The Lunch Club has stopped meeting as with all the other organisations.

**Sheila McAllister**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Belfast City Marathon

The Belfast Marathon will not take place as originally planned on Sunday, 3 May. It has been postponed until September and further details will follow in our next edition.



### United Appeal

The United Appeal for Mission is at the very heart of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. As a church we are making big differences both here in Ireland and all over the world.

Our thanks from the Finance Committee are extended to all those who filled and returned a United Appeal top-up collection box. With your support we were able to raise an additional £634 to put towards achieving our target of honour. With this assistance we were just £364 shy of our 2019 target.



Due to the success of the boxes we are planning to do two collections throughout the year, one in June and the other in December (I will also accept them back any time throughout the year).



If you would like a collection box, please speak to me, and keep an eye on the bulletin for further updates

***Phil Kemp***

### Online resources

You will be pleased to know that, although the Church is currently closed for worship due to the ongoing Coronavirus crisis, materials are being made available online for use at home.



On both the Church's Website and Facebook (details on back page), devotionals will be offered daily and a weekly Sunday service will be uploaded for us all to work through at home.

## CORONAVIRUS

Since the outbreak of this virus we, as Christians, are at times confused, fearful and seeking to understand where God's hand and purpose is in it.

Many of us will probably have had some, if not all, of the following questions going around in our heads.

However, we must remember that God is sovereign and His priorities for us are often different to our own. *'My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways.'* (Isaiah 55: 8]

*Society: 'What about my plans?!'*

God: 'My plans for you are always better than your own. Don't worry. I am going to work this all out for your good.'

*Society: 'We're not going to get anything done!'*

God: 'That's the point. You know how you are always working, moving, doing – but never feeling satisfied?

This gives you an opportunity to stop. Now your calendars have been cleared for you! Your worth is not tied to busyness or to accomplishment. All you have to do is take care of each other.'

*Society: 'What does this all mean for us now?'*

God: 'It means I am ultimately in control. It means you are human and I am God. It means you have a wonderful opportunity to be the light in a dark world. It means you are going to learn to rely on me.'

*Society: 'What are we supposed to do when we can't leave our homes?'*

God: 'Rest. You are always so busy and overwhelmed, crying out to me when you are weary and exhausted.

Can't you use a break from your fast-paced and over-scheduled lives? Go ahead and rest. Pray. Love your families. Be still and spend time with me.'

*Society: 'You mean we're supposed to stay at home with our kids all day, every day?'*

God: 'Yes. And you are going to be just fine. This time together is a rare gift. The rush of daily life has come to a halt.

Play games. Bake cakes. Work on projects you have never had the time for. Teach them kindness and grace. Show them how to endure difficult circumstances and steer them towards me.'

*Society: 'We had better start hoarding anything we can get our hands on!'*

God: 'Prevention, yes. Precaution, yes. Preparedness, yes. But after that, it is time to put the needs of others before your own.

When you see someone in need, help them. Offer up what you have. Do not worry about tomorrow! Haven't I always taken care of you? Now, go and take care of someone else.'

*Society: 'Why is this happening?'*

God: 'Deal with the present situation. Bring your attention back to me. I am bringing you together as families and neighbours.

I am showing you patience and perseverance. I am reminding you of your purpose and priorities. Now is the time to learn and teach your children what this life is really about.'

*Society: 'We don't know who to believe.'*

God: 'Believe in me. Trust me. Ask me for wisdom and I will surely give it.'

*Society: 'We're scared!'*

God: 'I understand and I am with you.'

[Anon]

Scripture tells us in Ephesians 5 vs 2 to '*Follow God's example ... live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*'

**Anna Johnston**

## MAGAZINE CELEBRATES 60 VOLUMES

We are absolutely delighted to bring you our 60th Volume of the church magazine.

Having started in 1908 we have faithfully brought you the news, events, children's stories, obituaries and miscellaneous items.

However, as you are aware we have been hit by the Coronavirus and as such this edition is remarkably small. Nevertheless, here is a brief history of our church magazine.

If you are an historian you will note that an initial magazine for McQuiston was published in 1908 which ran each month until 1921.

Most copies are available for inspection in the Presbyterian Historical Society, Assembly Buildings, Belfast.

They were available for collection costing just one old penny. Along with interesting items concerning the church the copies also contained 24 pages with general interests.

The motto for 1908 was *"Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy"*.

At Easter 2010 we introduced our new title Pulse which has attracted various comments, most of which are complementary.

That magazine contained a large number of advertisements which obviously kept the cost down.



*McQuiston Magazine's inaugural cover  
January 1908*



The magazine served the congregation of over 500 families and contained information on 22 church organisations.



Why the magazine stopped in 1921 and was not re-introduced until 1960 we are unable to discover, but it has remained in publication since and free to recipients.

Over these years our ministers or assistant ministers have contributed to each edition, often bringing challenge or encouragement to the congregation.

They have reflected society through difficult times – 1970/80s, celebrating the millennium in 2000, the erection of the new halls and the succession of new ministers.



The years have seen the magazine professionally printed, printed in house, containing just prose, the introduction of photographs and the use of coloured covers.



Cover April 1911

Should you wish to look something up since 1960 all editions are neatly filed away in the Church office.

However we are missing magazines from the years 1974 - 79, so if you happen to have some of those please contact me and I can make copies to add to the collection.

From the 1960s the magazine has had a number of Editors – Ossie Bell, Derek Smyth, Howard Thompson and John Shivers.

Those men have been ably assisted by a dedicated band of helpers including Tim Graham, Philip Kamps and Craig Wootton for the last 10 years.

**John Shivers**

## AT REST

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

### **13 November**

Mr Derek Gardner  
15 Hillsborough Drive

### **7 January**

Mrs Margaret Richmond  
5 Ardgowan Drive

### **10 January**

Mr John Moore  
32 Sandhill Park

### **4 February**

Mrs Agnes Crowe  
70f Mount Merrion Avenue

### **5 February**

Mrs Patricia Hillis  
46 Carncaver Road

### **8 February**

Mr Roy Fleck  
10 Moneyrea Street

### **16 February**

Mr Roy Robinson  
19 Donovan Fold

## FLOWERS

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

### **November 2019**

Joan Gardner  
Avril McCall  
Anderson Family  
Richard Hughes



### **December 2019**

Maureen Connolly  
Joan Wootton  
Lina Graham  
Ann Anderson  
Barbara Best  
Agnes Somerville

### **January 2020**

Marie Davidson  
Eileen Watt  
Claire Fisher  
Joan Gardner

### **February 2020**

Eileen Kelso  
Irene Smyth  
Mums & Tots



### **March 2020**

Linda Wray  
Agnes Somerville  
Joan Wootton

## VESTIBULE OFFICIALS

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

### June

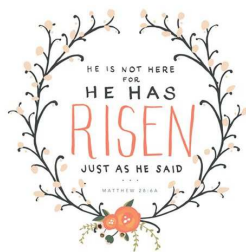
Joan Wootton, Eileen Kelso,  
Mildred Kerr, Roberta Gibson  
Convenor: Sheila McAllister

### July

Anna Johnston, Heather Dickson,  
Helen Gilmore, Hilary Hawthorne  
Convenor: Joan Gardner

### August

Ann Anderson, Heather Sergeant,  
Joan Gardner  
Convenor: Ken Galbraith



## SPECIAL SERVICES

**31 May @ 11am**

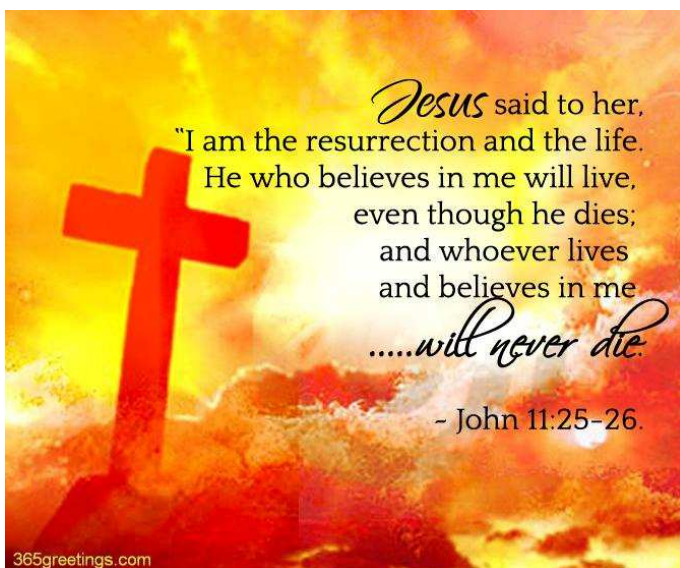
SHED Service  
with Jason Nicklinson  
from Children's Society

**7 June @ 11am**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

**28 June @ 7pm**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper



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