

PULSE

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McQuiston
Jesus Centred - People Focused



It Is

FINISHED

EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

As I sit down to write, news and current affairs programmes have been marking the passage of one year since the first Coronavirus lockdown.

Last March no one could have imagined that such restrictions would still be in place a year later.

COVID-19 
LOCKDOWN

In the interim, our lives have been disrupted and whilst not everything has been bad, it is true that you have to look hard to see the silver lining.

For most of us this is not the “*new normal*” that we want to see continue, yet though we long for life to return to its previous pattern it seems increasingly likely that some permanent changes will result.



Those changes will touch every aspect of life, and that will include the church, but how and in what way we cannot yet say with any certainty.



What is true however, while society around us will change, and church life may change, the gospel message will never change.

The facts of the resurrection are clear; the tomb is empty and we worship a living, not a dead, Saviour!

**JESUS
LIVES!**

His resurrection has sealed our hope for the future and the promise of eternal life. The message has not changed even this Easter and the Holy Spirit is still at work.

So, as Paul comes to the end of that great discourse on the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15 he writes telling the believers in Corinth to stand firm and give themselves to the work of the Lord; because it is certain that their labour in Christ's power will not be lost.

Pandemic or not the work of Christ and the building of His kingdom will continue, and for that we must give thanks to God.



THE REASON WE CELEBRATE EASTER

We celebrate the resurrection and hail the risen Christ. We kneel before the rugged cross where Jesus gave His life.

We lift our hands in total praise and give thanks to God above for the great sacrifice He made to declare His unfailing love.



Prayer is of course the first thing we can do but can I also encourage you to seriously consider coming back to church in-person when restrictions lift.

We will of course still be limited in some respects but the building is of sufficient size to allow most of those who want to worship in this way to join us. I trust that you will feel safe to return when it is permitted. Measures for social distancing, hand sanitising and routes in and out of the building are all in place to keep us all safe.

May the Lord bless His church and may that blessing also rest on you and your loved ones this Easter.

Your friend and pastor,

Robert Beggs

If we look back to Calvary where Jesus was crucified, we can see His nail-pierced hands and the wounds in His side.

We marvel at Christ's suffering and give thanks for His sacrifice 'cause it was for us that Jesus died so we could have eternal life.

But God raised Jesus from the dead! And with gratitude we can say, "Our sin debt has been paid in full," so we celebrate Resurrection Day!

Lenora McWhorter



ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

Ladies Fellowship

The COVID-19 restrictions continue to impact on our normal schedule of meetings. We will have to wait and see how things progress over the next few months and hope that we will be able to meet together again come September.



Our Annual Gift Day service which was scheduled for 24 January had to be postponed but we are hopeful we can re-schedule this for September so your Gift Day envelope, which you will have received with the Christmas edition of Pulse, can be returned then or at any of the Church Services over the coming months.

Hoping you are all staying safe and well. With every blessing,

Joan Gardner

Presbyterian Children's Society

We are delighted to say that we were able to send £300 to Presbyterian Children's Society as our contributions for 2020. This is a wonderful amount in the current situation. Many thanks to all our contributors.



The Society thanks the members of McQuiston Memorial Congregation for their continued caring generosity in raising a total of £300 for their work.

Sheila McAllister

Storehouse



The Storehouse continues to provide food and support to those who are in need within our community. If you wish to support this ministry donations can be left in the halls complex, Monday to Friday between 10.00am and 3.30pm. Many thanks for your continued support, it is very much appreciated by those who receive it.

Alan Bousfield

Transformers

Our last meeting of 2020 was the week before Christmas. We heard the Christmas story of the birth of Jesus, the greatest gift of all. We had a quiz as well as the usual things we do at Christmas we had a party.



As we couldn't meet together, we made up party bags and delivered them to the children's houses and at the end of our Zoom meeting we all enjoyed our party food together. Of course we had to sing "Away in a manger" and "Jingle Bells". We prayed for the children before closing.

By March 2021 we still haven't been able to meet the children in church. We continue to meet via Zoom with some families taking part each time. We have around 40 minutes each meeting and by the time we have a chat, a Bible story, a craft or quiz and prayer that's our time up.



We will continue to meet via Zoom until we can meet again in church. All we do in Transformers whether in person or remotely is to the glory of God.



We often tell the children how much we love God and how much He loves all of us. He knows everything about us, even things we don't know about ourselves. We never want the children to forget the precious gift of Jesus.

We appreciate the prayers of the congregation and ask if they could especially pray for the children to return when we can meet face to face again.



Jesus loves the little children.

Heather Sergeant

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Outreach

During Holy Week we will be reaching out to the shops and businesses on the Castlereagh Road to let them know we are praying for them during these difficult days of the pandemic.



They will receive a small organza bag filled with chocolate goodies. Please pray for the people who serve the community around our church.



We are also holding an Art Competition for the Nursery and Primary 1 pupils in Euston Street and Elmgrove Primary schools. This activity helps us create closer links with the staff, pupils and their families. Remember in prayer all the staff in our schools, pupils, their families and members of the Boards of Governors.

Linda Wray

Senior members pastoral visitation

As I have not been able to visit folk in their homes or care homes during the past year, I initially kept in touch by phone however lately decided to do what I call doorstep visits enabling to see folk face to face.



I can only enquire about folk in care homes by phone but was delighted to leave gifts with the various staff at Christmas who kindly passed them on.

I continue to pray for all our senior members, may God bless you and keep you safe.

Hilary Hawthorne
Pastoral visitor

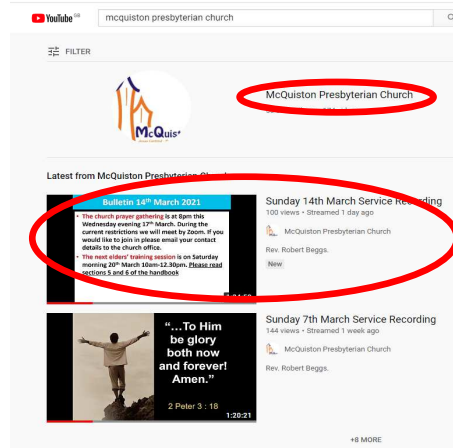
Provision of online service

Once current restrictions on church services are eased, the provision of streaming the weekly service online will continue for those unable to join us in-person.

Joining us online each Sunday is easy to do so via our YouTube Channel or Facebook page, illustrated below.

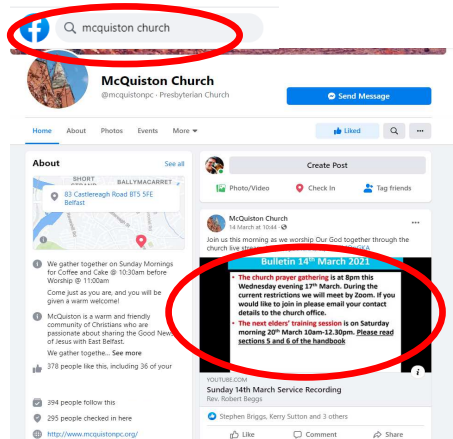
YouTube

1. At 10.45am each Sunday, either go to www.youtube.com using your internet browser or load the YouTube app on your smart device such as phone, tablet or television.
2. Search for McQuiston Presbyterian Church.
3. That week's live stream will appear as a video with the appropriate title, for example Sunday 14th March. Simply click this video and you will be connected to the service live stream.



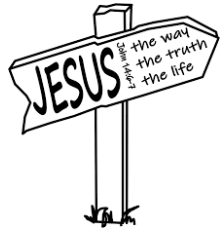
Facebook

1. If you are a Facebook user and have not yet liked the church's Facebook page, do so by searching for McQuiston Church on Facebook.
2. Each Sunday at 10.45am, a direct link to that week's live stream will be posted on the church's Facebook page.
3. Simply click this link and you will be connected to the YouTube live stream of the weekly service.



COME AND JOIN US

Jesus, who lived for just over three decades two millennia ago, made some extraordinary claims about Himself, among them this:



*'I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.'*

John 14 vs 6

Think about that for a second.

He believed Himself to be the gateway to God – the only gateway.



Some may find this outrageous, shocking, unacceptable, the ravings of a deluded narcissist. However, all this time later, over two billion people believe He is what He said, and through Him have a real, vivid, life-changing relationship with God the Father.

Christians around the world will be gathering on Good Friday and Easter Day to remember His crucifixion and celebrate His resurrection. Come and join us – we'd love to welcome you and tell you what convinced us that Jesus was the real deal.



Delicately and thoughtfully painted on our wayside poster is a design that brings out the true feeling of sacrifice that Jesus paid on the cross... His love really was without limits. How are you going to show Christ-like love this Easter?

Come and join us this Easter, both on Good Friday at 7.30pm and on Easter Day at 11am as we contemplate the limitless love of God shown on the cross and what it means to each of us today.

John Shivers

CHANGES

Friends, as I approach halfway through my time with you in McQuiston, I want to thank you for helping me to feel and be part of your work and witness in the various groups and outreaches.

thank
you!

You've helped me and trusted me to be involved in all of the work that goes on here from the toddlers to the seniors. I've learnt so much as we discovered new things together in those groups.



Our work has changed in the past year as we deal with the pandemic, how we meet and how we worship together. How we support and how we encourage others has also changed drastically. Those changes have been tough and hard to deal with, no one likes changes that are difficult to accept.

I remember when the makers of Toblerone chocolate bars decided to run a cost cutting exercise and in order to reduce the amount of chocolate in a Toblerone bar they put less of the wee triangular pieces along the bar, which meant that there were bigger spaces in the top. Sales plummeted and they realized that people didn't like that change.



In our work together we have put up with those changes that have been necessary and have served well. If there is one thing we should learn from this period of pandemic, it is this. That while everything around us changes, God's word and His love never changes.... We just need to change how we share it.

John McCandless

**Jesus said “My house will
be called a house of prayer”**

Matthew 21:13



Prayer, central in the ministry of Jesus while on earth, sets us the example we should follow in our Christian living.

We read in each of the Gospels of Jesus often going off alone to pray to God – sometimes in early morning; sometimes spending the whole night in prayer.

Jesus needed this regular contact with his Father, quality time to be renewed physically and spiritually, and to find the guidance that was required to do His will.

Likewise, for each of us to grow in our faith, and to walk according to the Lord’s will in our lives, we need this vital link with our Heavenly Father on an ongoing basis.



At other times Jesus took His disciples away from the crowds to teach them, and so that they could pray together. This highlights the importance for us to meet and spend time together with others in prayer with our Saviour and Lord.

As we read in Acts, from the early days of the Church this pattern of Jesus was followed – both in private prayer at home, and very much as the church met together (at times, when threatened, behind locked doors) to pray as a body of believers. This has continued through the centuries.

Prior to COVID-19, McQuiston’s prayer ministry included - praying before and during Church services; the



mid-week prayer meeting; and within the various meetings and organisations held throughout the week. There was also a ‘prayer tree’ for members to attach prayer requests.

Since the lockdowns of the last year our prayer ministry, although limited, has faithfully continued during Church services via the live stream and Zoom for the Wednesday prayer group, and other meetings.

In addition, a WhatsApp Prayer Group has been in existence for 20 months, where individuals at home pray regularly for requests, needs and events at home and worldwide.

Easter reminds us of the great sacrifice Jesus made for each of us in His death and resurrection.



Especially this Easter – in a world that has been affected, at every level of society, by COVID-19 – we appreciate more than ever the gift of prayer. Talking with our Heavenly Father has not been stopped, whether privately or collectively, and gives us a stability and assurance in our daily living.

Robert encourages all of us each week during the Sunday service to join the Wednesday night Zoom prayer meeting. If you have not ventured to join this group, please give serious thought to doing so.

It gives a means to focus in conversation with our Saviour, to share with one another and to grow in faith – so essential in these difficult days of COVID-19. Email churchoffice@mcquistonpc.org if you would like to participate; you will be most welcome.



Alongside this, if you have prayer requests, needs or concerns for yourself, your family or friends, the WhatsApp Prayer Group will be pleased to give this support to you on any day of the week. Please contact myself on 028 90292053.



Prayer ministry is recognised as 'the powerhouse of the Church'. We are taught in Scripture 'pray at all times, in all places and situations'; 'pray for one another'; 'share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ'. Prayers always reach God, regardless of whether one prays in solitude or with others. When we pray together, it strengthens our bond with God and our fellow believers; and encourages



us when we are in need, feel defeated, or find it hard to pray alone.

At this most important time of year in the Christian calendar, let us praise our Saviour – as Lord of our lives, giving thanks for the gift of salvation freely offered to each person and remembering to spend quality time talking with and listening to Jesus as our best friend.

Wishing you a blessed Easter!

Anna Johnston

CHURCH GIVINGS

If you are unable to attend church the alternative means below are available for continued giving to the work of the church.



Online bank transfer

If you wish to donate via online banking, please use the following steps:

Set up an online transfer to:

Bank account name	McQuiston Memorial Presbyterian Church
Sort code	98-02-80
Account number	04334037

Please detail on the reference for the payee the fund and your FWO number.

It is very important that you provide your FWO number otherwise we won't be able to record your donation against your record of giving.

Fund	Reference
Freewill Offering	FWO XXX
United Appeal	UA XXX
Building Fund	BF XXX
Benevolent Fund	BV XXX
Harvest	HAR XXX



You will note that the list above includes our Benevolent Fund. This fund exists to allow us to support individuals and families who may be experiencing severe financial stress.

Please make a separate transfer for each fund if you are donating to more than one fund, in the same way that you currently use separate envelopes.

Postal donations

You can donate by sending a cheque to the church treasurer. Please write your FWO number on the reverse of your cheque and also detail which fund(s) you wish your donation to be allocated to. ***Please do not post cash donations.***

Cash donations

If you are unable to use online banking or make a postal donation, you should place your weekly givings in your envelopes as usual and bring these when you feel comfortable coming back to church.

VESTIBULE OFFICIALS

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



April

Brian Erskine, Sheila McAllister
Convenor: Ken Galbraith

May

Lawrence Gardner, Lynn Gardner,
Maureen Russell, Caroline Russell
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: Joan Gardner

August

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

AT REST

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

16 December

Rev. W J R Robinson
(Senior Minister Emeritus)
Clandeboyne Nursing Home,
Bangor

17 December

Robert Orr
6 Ardgowan Drive

26 January 2021

James Frizzelle
31 Heatherbell Street

SPECIAL SERVICES

2 April @ 7.30pm

Good Friday service

4 April @ 11.00am

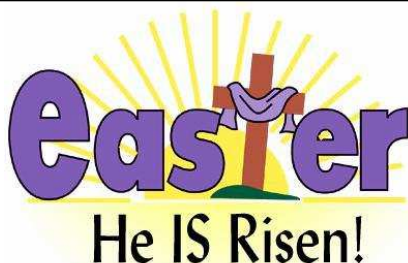
Easter Day service

25 April @ 11.00am

Ordination of new Elders

6 June @ 11.00am

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper



OBITUARY

Rev. William John Roy Robinson B.Sc., B.D.

The following tribute was read by Mr J C Shivers, Clerk of Session, at the meeting of the Kirk Session on 26 January 2021

It is with great sadness that I advise the Kirk Session of the death of our Senior Minister Emeritus, the Rev. Roy Robinson who passed away on Wednesday, 16 December. He was 82 years of age.

Roy was born on 16 February 1938 and lived in Dunmurry Village. He attended Dunmurry Primary before transferring to the Royal Belfast Academical Institution. On leaving school he worked as a textile chemist and studied on a part-time basis for a B.Sc. in science.

Both of Roy's parents died when he was just 16 while he was still at school. He has three sisters – Gloria, Beatrice and Joyce. At the age of 14 Roy came to faith at Dunmurry Presbyterian Church.

He met Lois, who had moved from England to live in Northern Ireland, at a Christian Endeavour weekend at Castlerock organised by Dunmurry Presbyterian Church.

It was during this time that he applied to enter the ministry but plans were put on hold when they heard a representative from the Qua Iboe Mission in Nigeria seeking someone to go and teach science at a new secondary school in Ochaja. A wedding was hastily planned for January 1962 in Whiteabbey Presbyterian Church which was followed by a three week sailing with all their earthly belongings to Nigeria.

After three years at the mission they moved to Kaduna, initially to the Government Secondary School, before joining the staff of the Kaduna

Polytechnic where Roy became Director of the school of Science and Technology. Some ten years later they returned home and Roy entered the Presbytery College completing his B.D. and was ordained at Dundonald Presbyterian Church in 1975.

His first charge was in 1976 to Conlig Presbyterian Church and during the succeeding years oversaw the development of congregations at Kilcooley and Lisnabreen. In addition he was involved with the Chaplaincy work at Newtownards Hospital.

In August 1987 Roy accepted a call from McQuiston Memorial and became our 7th Minister. During his ministry there were many notable highlights including our centenary celebrations, a flower festival, a Millennium concert, our first female Assistant Minister, the formation of our Praise Group and our BB Company Centenary. He enjoyed the pleasure of those families who had given birth to children and brought comfort to the bereaved. Our Youth Organisations flourished during his Ministry and Roy and Lois would have been faithful participants at their Annual Displays. He oversaw the preparation and ordination of seven former Assistants and took pleasure in their on-going service.

In October 2000 Roy retired to live in Newcastle to be closer to their son Clive and two grandchildren. Their daughter Alison, who lives in London, also has 2 children. In later years Roy and Lois moved to live in Bangor. In his retirement Roy loved to potter in the garden but always found time to visit us at McQuiston at least a couple of time each year and loved to be kept updated on events around the congregation.

We convey our sympathy to Lois, children Clive and Alison and their families, thanking God for the life of Roy 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 former Minister and teaching Elder who has completed his course and has entered into the joy of the Lord.

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