

# TRINITY & GILLYGOOLEY NEWS



Issue 49

[www.trinitypresbyterianchurchomagh.co.uk](http://www.trinitypresbyterianchurchomagh.co.uk)

December 2009

## Inside this issue:

Thomas Tomorrow	2
GG 2nd Youth Charity	3
GG 2nd Youth resumes	4
Board acts on PMS	5
Kids page	6
Harvest in Trinity	7
2nd Youth on stage	8
Obituary Desmond Black	9
Rev Clarke 60 years on	10
Rev Clarke - letter	11
Reminiscing at GG	12
Robert reaches his peak	13
Christian Aid	14
Joe & Leslie McGrew	15
Where are they now?	16
Youth in focus	17
YCDA 10th Anniversary	18
GG 50+	19
Diary Dates & Notices	20

**World Development** **Presbyterian**  
**Credit**  
 WHERE CREDIT'S DUE

'Credit Where Credit's Due' is a campaign of the Presbyterian Church's World Development programme who, with your help and through our partners Christian Aid and Tearfund, are giving modest financial support to thousands of people in developing countries.

Its focus is to create just societies and communities where Christian love is seen in action, helping transform lives in a sustainable way.

Through your generosity local self-help schemes in Ethiopia, India, Mali and Cambodia will assist families to escape the poverty trap by giving them small 'start up' loans enabling them to make a living and support themselves.

For further information:  
 Board of Mission Overseas, World Development, Church House, Belfast, BT1 6DW  
[www.pcmisionoverseas.org/world-development](http://www.pcmisionoverseas.org/world-development)

## ***YOUNG THOMAS TOMORROW***

It was time for young Thomas Tomorrow to earn money. His parents could not continue to support him financially. He was not sure of a calling or a vocation but he liked modern communication. He decided to open a mobile phone outlet called Listen-a-Lot.

At the beginning young Thomas had to manage the office himself. He would have preferred to be out on the road looking for business. Sometimes his sister Tara helped out but her fiancée William Worry was worried that she would get dragged in to helping more than she was able.

As it was a course came up for young Tomas. He left his father and mother, Tom and Tillie, to mind the office while he went on the course. He knew that the course and especially the certificate was needed to advance the business.

Tom and Tillie put their back into the office while Thomas was away. Tillie arranged for fresh flowers to be in the reception area. Tom contacted farming friends. They said to him "It took us long enough to get used to the house phone." Nevertheless they agreed that a mobile could be useful to get the vet if they had difficulties lambing the ewes.

Frank Faith gave help as well. He arranged for some leaflets on prayer to be available in the office. Few took the leaflets. Prayer to the customers was old fashioned communication. They needed something up-to-date.

Young Thomas was annoyed when he came back from the course. He was fired up by technology. He was not listening to the family but he was heeding the call of technology. He removed the flowers from the reception area. "I need more space for the customers." Meantime he told Frank Faith to collect his prayer leaflets. "We do not want to offend anyone." At the same time he had a huge sign erected, TECHNOLOGY FOR MODERN MAN.

He thought it would attract new customers. After all he was a young tomorrow man. He reckoned that Billy Backward and Paddy Past would never come into the shop. He was right in this but he was wrong in many other ways.

## ***USEFUL CONTACTS FOR GILLYGOOLEY***

If you require support or information regarding Gillygooley Presbyterian Church or Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association please contact the following:

Gillygooley Presbyterian Church – Rev. Robert Herron Tel: 8224 3776

Sunday School – Beverly Tel: 8224 7047

Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association – Andrew Tel: 8224 2895

Gillygooley Youth Club – Jennifer Tel: 8224 1831 or Alison Tel: 8283 1773

Gillygooley 2nd Youth (50+ club) - Iris Tel: 8224 2895

Chatterbox Playgroup - Linda Tel: 8224 3146

Gillygooley Community Choir - Andrew Tel: 8224 2895

Gillygooley Community Alert – Fred Tel: 8224 2708

Eric Tel: 8224 6511

Gillygooley Walking Club – Iris Tel: 8224 2895

Diane Tel: 8224 6553

Gillygooley Pipe Band (piping or drumming lessons) – William Tel: 8224 8494

Gillygooley LOL 339 – Raymond Tel: 8283 1444

Fairy Water Farmers Group – Mervyn Tel: 8283 1355

Gillygooley Primary School – Tel: 8224 2932

## PRESBYTERIAN NEWS IN BRIEF

*By Gillygooley Correspondent*

### Letter from the Moderator

19<sup>th</sup> October 2009

Dear Colleague,

At the meeting of the General Board on October 15<sup>th</sup>, the following resolutions were passed:

*That the General Board calls on the Prime Minister's Working Group on the Presbyterian Mutual Society, which was to have reported in September 2009, to work with the utmost to provide a full and comprehensive solution for the savers who have been suffering intolerable strain since the freezing of their funds in the PMS in October 2008.*

*That the General Board notes the extensive lobbying and work which the Panel has undertaken and encourages the Panel to continue to be proactive and purposeful in its engagement with government and others to reach a satisfactory solution for the savers in PMS.*

I would ask that you would bring your congregation's attention to these resolutions by either reading them to the congregation or publishing them in your weekly bulletin.

I am aware that many of our members are increasingly anxious about this situation and it is important that they know about the efforts that we have made to bring about a successful resolution of the crisis. Please assure your people that we are continuing to work hard on these matters. It does seem that there may be progress soon and while recognising the many difficulties I would ask for patience.

Many PMS savers continue to experience difficulties as this situation is prolonged and we are eager to ensure a just and positive outcome.

With every good wish,  
STAFFORD CARSON

### Church House

Refurbishment of Church House exterior in Belfast is well on schedule and should be completed by next summer. In recent weeks a bright new clock tower has emerged from behind the scaffolding and cladding that covered it up since April. This marks completion of another phase of the repair of the external stonework of the 100 year old listed building. Work has now commenced on the Howard Street façade. To date, no major difficulties have been encountered in the refurbishment project.



### GILLYGOOLEY 2<sup>ND</sup> YOUTH SUPPORT CHARITY

Gillygooley 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth (50+ Club) raised £200 for Alheimers. The money was raised from in-house raffles held at club meetings for unwanted gifts received by members last Christmas.

Photo left: Margaret Hemphill and Iris Moffitt-Scott, Treasurer and Chairperson of 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth present the cheque to John Hall, Treasurer of Alheimers Society.

**ACTIVITIES RESUME AT GILLYGOOLEY 2<sup>ND</sup> YOUTH**

Following the summer recess Gillygooley 2<sup>nd</sup> youth (50+ Club) resumed activities in September. Iris Moffitt-Scott, Chairperson, welcomed those present, including several new members. Following the formalities, a hands on autumn planting gardening work shop was facilitated by Claire Rodgers of Garden Creations. The next meeting took the form of a Halloween Party when members were joined by Killycurragh and Eden Ladies Club. Cabaret entertainment was provided by Victor Gregg from Garvagh, Gillygooley Community Choir, Linkbox Joe, Jessica Sproule, and the dancing trio, namely Carol Fleming, Jessica Sproule and Rachel Armstrong.



Gerald McCauley has taken up a new hobby assisted by Dorothy King and Beatrice Alexander.



L-R Meta McFarland, Edith Hemphill, Jean Ellis and Margaret Hemphill deep in concentration.



L-R Mary Cooper, Jean Creery and Ethel King busy preparing their pots for planting.



Irene Brown (right) tells Beatrice Alexander the proper way to secure her plants whilst Jan Sterritt concentrates on her own planting.

**SUMMER WALKING CLUB ENDS, WINTER WALKING CLUB BEGINS!**



The summer walking club came to a close with the final walk in the beautiful Forest Park at Parkanaur in what proved to be one of the few sunny days of the summer.

Pictured left: Some members of the walking club at Parkanaur.

For those interested, Winter Walks continue every Wednesday morning at 10:00am meeting at the Crevenagh Park and Share. Everyone welcome.

## Presbyterians Urge Government To Work With Utmost Urgency On Mutual Society Resolution

The Presbyterian Church has urged the Prime Minister's Working Group on the Presbyterian Mutual Society to proceed "with the utmost urgency" to make their report.

The call came from the Church's General Board at its meeting this morning, Thursday 15 October, in Church House Belfast.

The Board expressed its appreciation for the hard work that is being done by the Group and particularly the Northern Ireland Executive Ministers involved but also highlighted the "intolerable strain" that is being suffered by savers who are anxious for a resolution.

Commenting on the situation Presbyterian Moderator Dr Stafford Carson said, "I am encouraged that the Prime Minister's Group met in London this week and the reported comments of the First Minister that the pros and cons of various options had been looked at and his hope that there will be a final decision soon.

"The Church's position is that we want savers to have all their money returned to them as soon as possible and are asking the group to work with the utmost urgency to achieve this."

The Board also heard a report from the Presbyterian Church's own group established last February to co-ordinate the Church's response to the crisis at the Presbyterian Mutual Society which confirmed that it had made a submission in mid-August to the Prime Minister's group.

In the submission, which is confidential, the Prime Minister's Group were urged to consider the acute plight in which those who put money into the Presbyterian Mutual Society find themselves.

The submission also implored the Government to proceed as it has in the case of other financial institutions impacted by the global economic and financial collapse, thereby, as far as the Presbyterian Mutual Savers are concerned, making good on the Government's claim that "throughout this whole crisis, everyone that has been saving in a UK institution has been protected whenever there has been a difficulty in that institution."

In addition to its submission the Presbyterian Group also made it clear that it continued to be in contact by letter and through meetings with the Secretary of State, the First and Deputy First Minister, the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, the Minister of Finance and Personnel and the PMS Administrator.

"We appreciate all the hard work that is being done to resolve this matter which we realise is very complex," added Dr Carson. "But while appreciating that it is import to reach the best solution and not the quickest, the sooner a resolution is reached the better for the savers who have and continue to show great patience.

"I would also ask that Presbyterians continue to pray for a resolution to the matter. While we are actively engaged in practical activity to bring about a solution, prayer is also vitally important particularly for those that are continuing to experience difficulty directly because they have no access to their money and those who have to make important decisions.

The Moderator will continue to press the case for a resolution to the matter in a meeting with the minister of Finance and Personnel this afternoon, Thursday 15 October.

### **The following resolutions were agreed by the Board:**

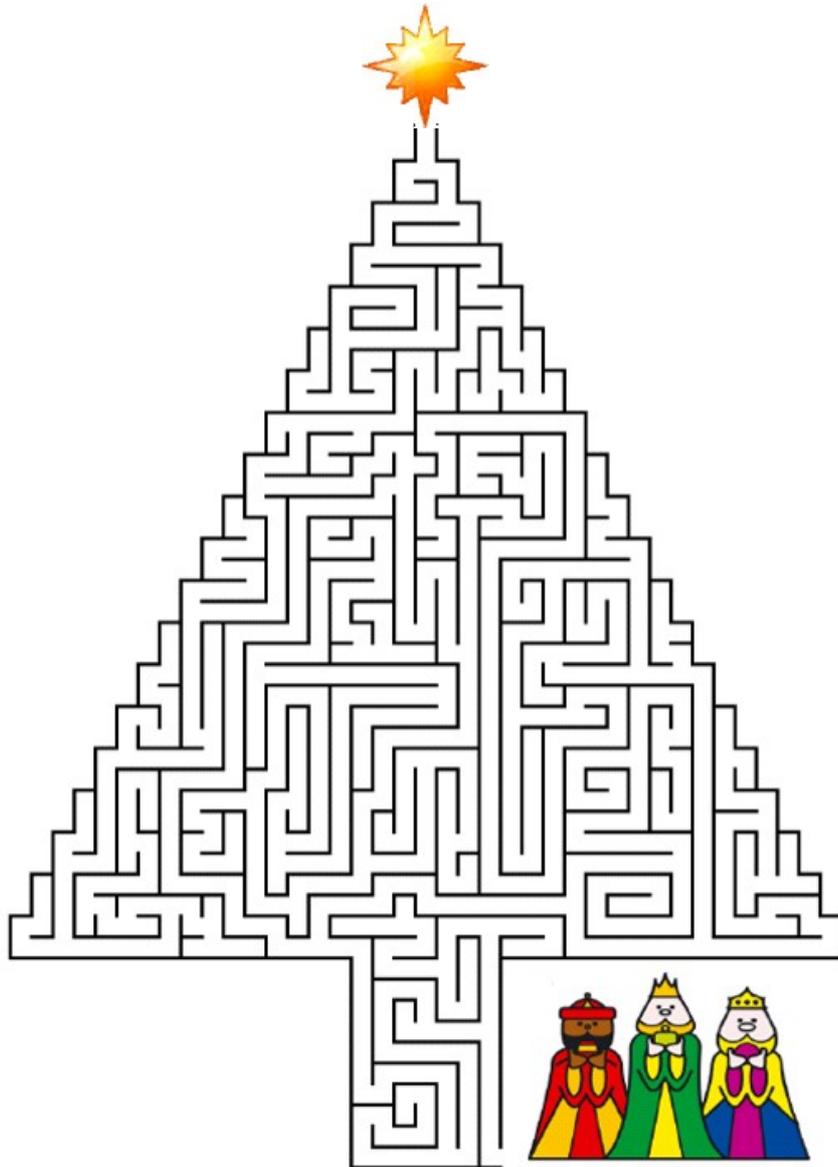
- That the General Board calls on the Prime Minister's Working Group on the Presbyterian Mutual Society, which was to have reported in September 2009, to work with the utmost urgency to provide a full and comprehensive solution for the savers who have been suffering intolerable strain since the freezing of their funds in the PMS in October 2008.
- That the General Board notes the extensive lobbying and work which the Panel has undertaken and encourages the Panel to continue to be proactive and purposeful in its engagement with government and others to reach a satisfactory solution for the savers in PMS.



# CHRISTMAS KIDS PAGE



Can you help the three wise men find the star?



All these words come from the Christmas story. Can you unscramble them?

- 1. STRA           \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. MAGREN       \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. MYAR           \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. SEPHE         \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. DOEYKN       \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. AEGLN         \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. JPHOES        \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. JSSEU          \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. KIGSN          \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. STBALE       \_\_\_\_\_

What three presents did Jesus receive from the three wise men?  
(Matthew 2:11 will help you).

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please Note: We can only accept Primary School entrants. Please indicate which church you belong to on the entry**  
*Please forward entries to Andrew Scott, Aughnamoyle House, 41 Gillygooley Road, Omagh BT78 5PP no later than 4 weeks after publication. If more than one correct entry is received from either church a draw will be made. Please send in whole page including name and address.*

Last issue's winners: Trinity – Graham Carson   Gillygooley – Ryan Crawford

### **HARVEST SERVICE AT TRINITY**

On Sunday 18th October 2009, Trinity held its annual harvest thanksgiving service. The service was conducted by the Very Rev Dr John Dunlop and apart from the usual harvest thanks and hymns he preached about looking after Gods creation and the responsibility we have in caring for His planet. You just need to watch the news to see the effect we are having on the climate, both here and abroad!

The pictures represent just a small portion of the work which was done by members of the congregation in decorating the church. Our sincere thanks go to all who contributed and all who went to the church to help decorate it for the service.

*Photos by Sheena Herron.*



## 2<sup>ND</sup> YOUTH ON STAGE AT KILLYHEVLIN

As part of their crime awareness project on the needs of Older People, Fermanagh Inter-Agency Group invited Gillygooley 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth Drama group to perform three sketches on crime protection to an audience of almost 500 people. Following the performances, one lady was heard to comment that the sketches impressed on her the dangers she faced on a daily basis in opening the door to strangers and that it was much more impressive than all the literature you could read or listen to.



L-R Lily Nethery, George Armstrong and Iris Moffitt -Scott on stage at the Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen performing their sketch 'The Bogus Builder'.



No Sign of pre-stage nerves here as the cast await to perform their sketches. L-R Lily Nethery, Ethel King, Iris Moffitt-Scott, Jean Ellis, George Armstrong, Margaret Hemphill, Violet Crosbie and Dorothy King.



### **GILLYGOOLEY COMMUNITY CHOIR**

The choir, accompanied by Amanda Graham, fulfilled a number of engagements during October. These included an invitation from Fintona Presbyterian Church where they sang two Anthems at their harvest service entitled 'Are You Ready' and 'My Soul Shouts Glory'.

Pictured left: Some members of the choir who entertained residents of Harold McAuley House recently.



### **WORK TO START SOON ON COMMUNITY GARDEN**

As referred to in the last issue, Gillygooley Youth and Community Development Association have secured funding from Airtricity Ltd, to establish a community garden adjacent to the Church. The contract has been awarded to Walker Brothers Ardstraw who are scheduled to commence work when suitable weather prevails.

Pictured left: Location of new community garden at Gillygooley.

## **SUDDEN DEATH OF TRINITY'S SENIOR ELDER**

Desmond Black was ordained as an Elder in Trinity Presbyterian Church and became a member of Kirk Session on 10 January 1982. He organised the rota for the reception committee and collectors for Sunday services until he retired a week before his death on 27 October 2009. He was present at meetings of the Kirk Session and the Congregational Committee on Monday 19 October 2009.

Desmond was a member of Trinity since Sunday School days. He lived in New York for seven years and went to college in the Bronx for eighteen months. His first job was in Chase Manhattan Bank at 40 Wall Street. He said that New York was the city of opportunity but he didn't remain there because the winters were very cold!

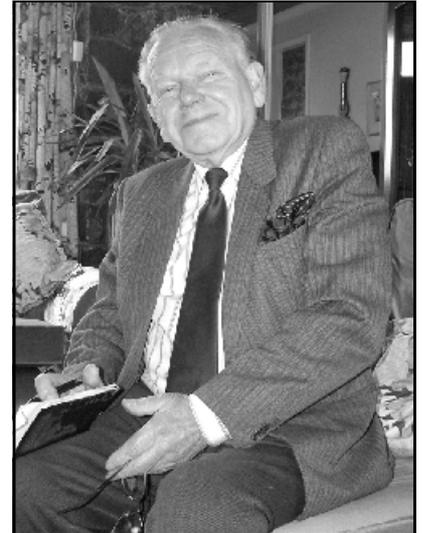
When he returned to Northern Ireland, he changed occupation. He did not consider the bank to be his line of work, although, he said his colleagues in New York had been very friendly. First he worked with his father, who was an auctioneer, then with a mail-order firm in which he became its manager for Northern Ireland and Scotland. It was at this time that he met Beth, his late wife.

Desmond took over his father's business and built it up. There were premises in Market Street and High Street. He also developed a flourishing transport business. With Omagh being an army town, there were removals to 'across the water' and the two businesses complimented each other.

During the 'troubles' his premises were bombed ten times and two vans destroyed and one was high jacked. Desmond's attitude was "Material things are material things. It's not a life. No one was hurt. I got on with things."

Desmond maintained his entrepreneurial spirit and positive outlook in all his endeavours.

He is survived by his daughters Rosemary and Jane.



## **TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

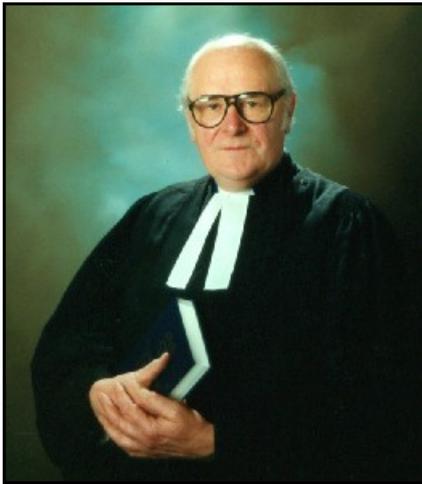
The October meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> with new leader Claire McElhinney in the chair. Apologies were received from Irene, Gladys and Annette. The meeting began with a prayer and the hymn 'O God of Bethel' was sung. Claire then read a portion of Scripture from the Bible. The Birthday Fund for 2008-2009 has accumulated £63,000 from donations which have accrued from PW members throughout Ireland. Some of this money is being divided between the Odyssey project and women in Indonesia. Shoe boxes are being sent to children in various parts of Europe and a collection of boxes from members will be made at the next meeting. Thanks to Audrey McConnell for her assistance in this project. An invitation has been received from Drumragh Mother's Union (St Columba's). A letter of thanks was read out from Eileen Fleming on the recent death of her husband Herbie. The Mission Boxes are to be brought to the next meeting. The November meeting will have two representatives from the Logos ministry in Belfast to speak to our ladies and others from neighbouring churches. Supper will be served by the Trinity ladies.

Claire introduced the speaker for the evening, Constable Jackie Hill (Crime Prevention Officer). Jackie gave an insight into the different ways that people can prevent break-ins and burglaries in homes. Keep windows closed and doors locked even though the owner is in the house. A discussion followed regarding ways to reduce risk, for example identifying callers at the door before admitting them. Audrey McConnell presented Constable Hill with a token of appreciation. Claire closed the meeting and supper was served by the ladies.

## **PARKING AT TRINITY**

Within recent weeks three specific parking bays have been marked out in Trinity car park. One of these is clearly marked DISABLED and therefore requires no further explanation. The other two bays, close to the rear gates, should be reserved for use by the minister and the organist. Every effort should be made to keep these bays and access to them, clear for use by the aforementioned persons. Obviously, if the car park is busy and the bays have to be used by others this is understandable but really only as a last resort. Your co-operation regarding this matter would be greatly appreciated.

## OUR SENIOR MINISTER CELEBRATES THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF HIS ORDINATION



On Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2009, the Rev R W W Clarke, Minister Emeritus of Trinity and Gillygooley churches, celebrated 60 years as an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

Born in Ballybay, Co. Monaghan, he was the youngest of three children to Robert William and Margaret Clarke. The family were regular worshippers at Second Ballybay Presbyterian Church. He started his education in Hall Street National School and was later offered a place as a boarder in the Masonic Boys' School in Dublin. It was while he was nearing the end of his time at the school that Bill was approached by an elderly Presbyterian clergyman about a career in the church. Soon afterwards he completed his exams and gained a scholarship to Trinity College Dublin in 1941.

On leaving Trinity College in 1945, with an Honours Degree in English and French, Bill moved to the Theological College at Edinburgh University. He became a student assistant in a local church before moving to St. Mary's Bellevue Crescent. The summer months were spent as Stated Supply in the most northerly of the Orkney Islands.

Bill's heart lay in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Having completed his time in Edinburgh, he returned to Assembly's College in Belfast and in 1948 he was appointed as an assistant minister of McQuiston Memorial Church on the Castlereagh Road in Belfast.

In 1949 Bill received a Call to Dundalk, Castlebellingham and Carlingford churches. His ordination was on the 13<sup>th</sup> October and in the following year, on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1950, he and Alice were married in First Ballymacarrat Presbyterian Church.

The couple along with their son William spent the next 20 years in the manse in Dundalk with its gardens, tennis court and orchard. They are still remembered with fondness by the people of the three churches and the wider community and many stories are told of their kindness which went beyond the bounds of generosity. It was during this time that Mr Clarke was able to pursue his hobbies of fishing and shooting and many stories are told of his exploits.

On receiving a call from Trinity and Gillygooley in 1971 the Rev Clarke was ordained as minister of the churches on the 12<sup>th</sup> May and served to his retirement in April, 1992. During that time both churches grew under his stewardship and he was ably assisted by his wife Alice. The fabric in both churches was also greatly enhanced during their time in Omagh. An example of this was the installation of the two church bells.

Along with his pastoral duties in Dundalk and Omagh, Mr Clarke served the wider community on many boards and committees; including the board of governors of Dundalk Grammar School and the National Council for the Blind in Co. Louth. He also served as a member of the Western Education Board until his retirement from the ministry.

In 1992 the Clarkes moved to their new home in Gransden Park, Eglinton, Co. Londonderry, where they still entertain their friends, many of whom are members of both congregations. Unfortunately Mrs Clarke suffered a stroke a few years ago which has restricted her movement but we are pleased to say that she is showing steady progress.

We congratulate the Rev Clarke on reaching this milestone in his ministry and wish him and Mrs Clarke God's richest blessings in the years to come.

Presentations were made on behalf of both Trinity and Gillygooley congregations to mark this important occasion.

## **LETTER OF THANKS FROM BILL AND ALICE CLARKE**

*Following a recent visit to the home of Bill & Alice Clarke in Eglinton, when Sam Gallagher, Clerk of Session of Trinity, Bill King, Clerk of Session of Gillygooley, accompanied by Joan Cummins, Dorothy King and Eileen Fleming, made a presentation to the Rev & Mrs Clarke in recognition of sixty years ministry to the Presbyterian Church, the Rev Herron received the following letter:*

*8 Gransden Park, Eglinton, Co Londonderry, BT47 3XL  
Tel: 028 71810763*

November 2009

Dear Robert

Thank you most sincerely for your good wishes on the occasion of my 60th anniversary as an ordained minister.

My thanks go especially to those of you who acknowledged the date in a most generous manner. My thanks indeed are unbounded. The goodwill of your friends and fellow clergy is something on which no price can ever be put and again we thank you.

Alice, my wife, has been prostrated with a serious stroke consequent upon a hip operation but she is in good spirits and joins me in saying a big thank you to you all.

To our friends and supporters

Bill and Alice Clarke

*PS Regards and thanks to all at Gillygooley and Trinity. The generosity of both churches will long be remembered by us.*

## **BRIDES THROUGH THE YEARS**

The Trinity Bible Class is planning the above event to take place in February 2010 and are appealing to mums, grannies and members of the congregation to provide the girls with wedding dresses and bridesmaids' dresses to model on the catwalk, together with a photograph taken on their wedding day to be shown on the big screen. The boys in the bible class will have suitable attire to escort the bride and bridesmaids down the catwalk and we may ask a dad or two to give the bride away!

We are hoping to have guest entertainment on the evening as well.

THIS EVENT CAN ONLY TAKE PLACE WITH YOUR SUPPORT.

Please contact Noel Donald on 028 82245189 at your earliest convenience.

## **GILLYGOOLEY COMMUNITY DIARY**

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December @ 1:30pm – 5:00pm

Community Party

In Gillygooley Orange Hall

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December @ 7:30pm

Community Carol Service

In Gillygooley Presbyterian Church (kindly granted)

Everyone welcome

## DAY OF REMINISCING AT GILLYGOOLEY

One could have been forgiven for thinking they had travelled back in time to the middle of the twentieth century on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October in Gillygooley Orange Hall. As their contribution to 'Age Awareness Week' Gillygooley 2<sup>nd</sup> youth (50+ club) took a most enjoyable trip down memory lane with an impressive display of artefacts from the rural scene of years gone by, kindly loaned by Ivan Graham, Victor Sayers and many others. The event also included a number of displays and workshops on churning (butter making) by Irene Brown, turf cutting and harvesting by John Hall and seed sowing by Andrew Scott.

Pupils from Gillygooley Primary School and Chatterbox Playgroup interacted with members of 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth exchanging stories and asking questions.

Commenting on the event Iris Moffitt-Scott, Chairperson, said the day had been a tremendous success in giving an insight to the children on the ways of the past and the hardships rural people encountered whilst also giving the children an opportunity to interact with the older members of their community. The day also gave the older people an opportunity to 'turn back time' and relive their memories.

Iris also expressed her appreciation for the financial support from 'Changing Ageing Partnership' and all the members who worked tirelessly to make the day a success.

During the event children were entertained to a buffet and the adults to a soup lunch.



Pearl Sayers demonstrating the pedal sewing machine to Nicole Donnell and Leona Walker. Also note the Tilly lamp which was a necessary item in homes before electricity.



Gerald McCauley explains to L-R Rebecca Donnell, Stephen Fleming and Frazer Caldwell how the fiddle was used in bye gone years.



John Hall demonstrating turf cutting by spade to pupils of Gillygooley Primary School at the Reminiscing day.



Irene Brown demonstrating to Leader Trenta Crankshaw and pupils of Chatterbox Playgroup the art of buttermaking. Also in Photograph L-R Sadie Clements and John Hall (Vice Chairperson).



Irene Brown surrounded by pupils of Gillygooley Primary School as she demonstrates the use of butter pats in the process of butter making.



L-R Andrew Creane, Sadie Clement, Robbie & Myra Alexander, Keith Fyfee & Simon Creane view items on display of years of yore.

## ROBERT REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

Robert Scott, Gillygooley, and three of his work colleagues recently completed a gruelling challenge in climbing the three highest mountain peaks in the United Kingdom within a twenty-four hour time challenge. Robert who works with B.A.E. Systems, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne was participating in the Companies designated charity challenge for the "Sue Ryder Care" an organisation which specialises in the care of patients suffering from cancer, brain injuries, Multiple Sclerosis, Motor Neurone and Huntingtons Disease. A total of £20,000 was raised by Company employees for this worthy cause.

The challenge commenced at the bottom of the 1343 meter high Ben Nevis mountain in Scotland at 6:00am. After successfully reaching the snow covered summit they quickly retraced their steps to base camp before making their journey to Scafell Pike, Cumbria, England, for their next challenge. 'Although Scafell only reached a height of 978 meters, it proved much more difficult.' says Robert. 'At times we were forced to climb on our hands and knees.'

By this time, with two down and one to go, they were getting tired and their limbs were aching. Their final climb was Snowden in Wales; a mere 1085 meters. At this stage darkness was falling and they had to proceed with head torches. 'Our legs and feet felt like lead as we wearily and slowly made our way to the summit, drawing on every last piece of energy left in our body,' reported Robert. As dawn was breaking they could see the final destination and at 5:16am, some 23 hours and 16 minutes after commencing in Scotland, they had achieved their objective and captured the Three Peaks within the twenty-four hour period and had additionally travelled some four hundred miles from mountain to mountain. Although weary, tired and with aching limbs they felt a great sense of achievement as they travelled back to Newcastle having succeeded in fulfilling the 24 hour, 3 Peaks Challenge.



Robert, third from left, at the summit of Ben Nevis.



Robert, right, and friends ascending Snowden.

## CHRISTIAN AID

### Update on recent disasters in Asia and Africa

Dear Friends,

You will have been aware of the recent devastation to affect parts of south east Asia and the cost in lives and livelihoods. In Northern Ghana farmers were unable to harvest as severe flooding hit their fields and rendered them inaccessible.

Christian Aid responded in these areas immediately after the disasters struck, providing essential food and non food items such as:

- Food packages containing rice, sugar, sweet soya sauce, instant noodles and palm oil.
- Kitchen kits containing a small stove, cutlery, plates, cups and a cooking pots
- Family sized tents/tarpaulins with supplies of blankets, clothes and towels.
- Hygiene kits including soap, detergent, toothbrushes and toothpaste.
- One month food supplies for 900 of the 3600 families affected in Ghana

Our partner in Indonesia sent in teams of medical and logistics experts as well as medical supplies and they have provided ongoing treatment to and assistance to discharged patients.

One partner in Andhra Pradesh, the Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA), is running a food programme and hopes to reach 12,000 people through a network of local churches and community organisations.

In the Philippines we are prioritizing relief efforts amongst the most vulnerable, for example, female headed households, the elderly, children, people with disabilities, indigenous and tribal people, landless and day labourers and the poorest of the poor who have been affected by the floods and mudslides.

In Ghana many people have been forced to migrate to look for food, leaving behind the weak and most vulnerable people. Christian Aid's partners have mobilised volunteers to ensure that all beneficiaries are reached and assisted as quickly as possible.

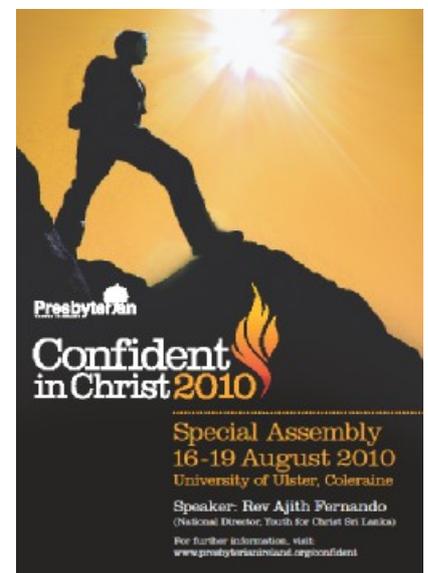
Those working and living in these areas are grateful for the support and the prayers of your congregations and parishes.

Thank you

*Deborah Doherty*  
Church and Community Manager  
[www.christianaid.ie](http://www.christianaid.ie)

#### A prayer for those affected by natural disasters

God of compassion,  
in Jesus you came among us, and sat beside us,  
and heard our stories and healed our pain.  
Be with all people suffering as a result of natural disasters,  
with all who have lost homes, livelihoods and loved ones;  
bring strength to all who are afraid.  
Be with us as we work to build your Kingdom.  
Loving God, your story tells that life is stronger than death.  
When we lose sight of hope and possibility,  
Give us faith, for we know that with You all things are possible. Amen



## JOE AND LESLIE MCGREW *By Margaret Simms*



Leslie

Joe

### The McGrew family

The family consisted of three sisters and five brothers. Two sisters have passed away and two brothers have passed away. The family has always lived in Gallows Hill. As an illustration of how far back the family's connections with the 'Hill' go, Leslie recalls an aunt whose father witnessed a hanging and was so traumatised by what he saw that day that he could no longer work afterwards. Father, mother, grandmother and grandfather all belonged to Omagh and to Trinity. The McGrews are one of the oldest families in Trinity. Leslie says that their mother was "150%" devout in her Christian faith. There was no doubt or uncertainty for her. At the same time she was "a very humble person."

Willie, Sadie and Leslie all taught in Sunday school. Joe and Jack were in the Boys Brigade "since time in memorial." Remembering being involved in the building work for the extension of the Church Hall, Joe says that the work took about 8-9 months. It was all voluntary work, with skilled men offering their services for free. "Everyone got on well." Joe was 26 at the time. Leslie, aged 15 then, was fit and did a lot of work too. He was the youngest helper.

Joe McGrew worked for the railways and this is a story which he told me:

"As a 15 year-old porter, I had to go to Bundoran, to help on the platform, every Wednesday during the summer months. The Customs had a table on Bundoran station. I had to assist, lifting suitcases up onto the table for inspection. The passengers were either coming to Bundoran or going from Bundoran to Derry or Omagh. I had to open the cases and the Customs man searched through them, in case passengers were smuggling undesired items. You were allowed only so much sugar and tea and so on. It was the late 1940s and the war was just over, with rationing still in force in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. As well as helping the Customs men, I had to help unload and load the Guards van. I carried people's suitcases and on my own return journey to Omagh, if there was luggage to pick up on the way, I did that too. Occasionally, there would be an important find of smuggled items, such as valuable jewellery. One particular Wednesday, I got out at Pettigo, where you had to change train, and there was word of a coming search of the people on the platform for smuggled goods. Now I myself had sugar and butter to bring back to my mother! Money was scarce and I had a bit over my limit. So I thought, what am I going to do? Even though I was a railway man they would take it off me. Then I saw this fire bucket on the platform full of sand. No-one was around that part of the platform just then, so I emptied the sand out and scattered it round the platform, which was sandy anyway. The Customs men were at the far end of the platform and there were passengers in between. So I put the bags with the sugar and the butter onto the ground, put the empty bucket upside down on top and sat down on the bucket, all unconcerned. I got on the train 5 minutes later with my butter and sugar."

### Music in their life

About 4 or 5 years ago, Leslie was approached to play in St Eugene's Band. Previously, he had answered an ad in the paper, offering clarinet tuition. He had always wanted to learn a reed instrument, so he went to Mike Reynolds in Castle Street and took up the clarinet. After 9 months, Jimmy O'Neill, a very accomplished musician, took over his teaching and taught him a lot. Mike Reynolds asked him to join St Eugene's Band and he has had some very enjoyable times playing with them. Leslie plays every day during the week. He and Joe go out and play in old people's homes and play 'Oldies' which are greatly enjoyed by their listeners. Leslie gets their audiences to sing along and participate. They have lots of Lonnie Donegan songs, Everly Brothers songs and old dance tunes. A friend, Gerry McGonigle, is a guitarist and plays with them. They do it for fun and to give pleasure.

Leslie's attitude to life, as you could surmise, is that you're never too old to learn. For example, he took up poetry writing in his late forties, he took up the guitar in his 50s and he took up the clarinet in his early sixties. What's next, Leslie??

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Continuing my 'Where Are They Now?' series on former members of Gillygooley Presbyterian Church my travels take me down under (not literally of course!) to Queensland, Australia. On 12<sup>th</sup> August 1974 Sammy Alexander, his wife Sarah and seven month old baby, Adrian, set off to those far away shores to make a new life for their young family. This was a period of great political unrest in the Province and this, coupled with thoughts of warmer climates, may have influenced Sammy and Sarah to make this major decision to leave family and friends and travel to this far off land. Sammy grew up on the family farm at Tarlum which then specialised in rearing pedigree Landrace pigs. The eldest son of Robbie and the late Kathleen Alexander, Sammy feels privileged in the upbringing he and his brothers and sisters shared. During the early 1970's he told me how he was to meet the love of his life, Sarah Rountree, daughter of Olive and the late Moses Rountree from Fintona.

Photo left: A youthful Sammy during his school days.

Sammy and Sarah tell the story of their departure from Ulster soil on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1974. They left the farm at Corlea where they lived from their marriage and recall how they emotionally said farewell to family members at Belfast International Airport. They were accompanied by Sarah's brothers, Jim and Moses, who had also decided to emigrate. Some five months later they were blessed with the arrival of their second child Denise.



"On our journey to Australia" says Sarah, "we touched down in Dubai and when exiting the plane we assumed that the intense heat was being generated by the aircraft, but we soon realised this was just the climate we were in. We thought if Australia is this hot we will have to swim back home!" She recalls "We were met by my relatives who had preceded us down under some fifteen years earlier. We are now in our thirty-sixth year in Australia. Sammy got a job working on a peanut farm and quickly discovered they grow like potatoes below the ground and not on trees as we had imagined. They have to be dug then left in rows to dry before being threshed."

Photo Left: A field of peanuts on the Alexander farm.

"Sammy and I had an ambition to labour our own land and some eleven months later we got the opportunity to lease a 320 acre farm, where we still reside, near the small town of Proston. We have enjoyed the challenges of learning new ways of life and farming. In the early years we grew peanuts, Sorghum, Maize for grain, Sunflower, soya beans and navy beans (better known as baked beans). We also harvest hay and do contract baling for neighbouring farmers. The farming programme in recent years has changed by providing forage crops for our Simmental cattle and in winter planting oats for grazing. Also in winter we harvest Geraldton wax plants for cut flowers, which are delivered in our refrigerated truck to florists and wholesale outlets. The arrival of Glen, our youngest son, in November 1978, brought great joy to the family."

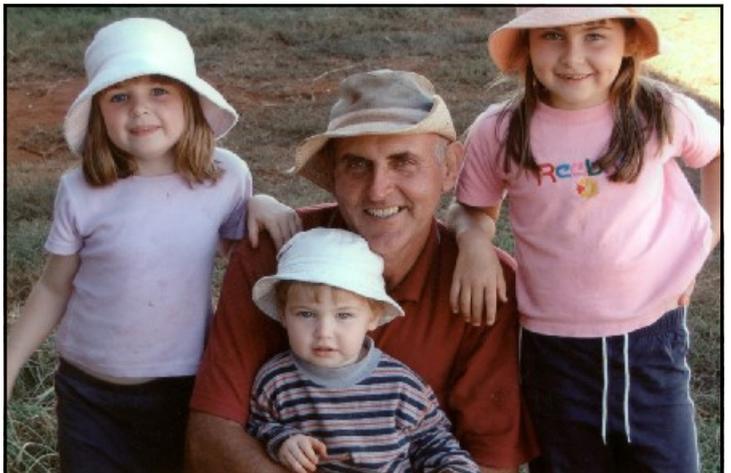


Photo Right: Sammy with three of his five grandchildren.

“Our children now are grown up,” continues Sarah, “and have provided us with five wonderful grandchildren. Our sons and daughters have visited and worked in Great Britain and Ireland and this has given them an opportunity to acquaint with our extended family.”

Sammy and Sarah wish to share with the Congregation of Gillygooley a special experience they had in Australia in 1980 when they came to know and understand the real meaning of salvation:

“We accepted our wonderful Lord into our lives as our personal Saviour and know the joy of his peace, care, love and guidance. What He achieved for us on the cross of Calvary in His death and resurrection causes us to rejoice that we know for certain that we are ready for that great home above.”

“In conclusion we have to say that farming here also has many challenges, with lack of rain or too much at the wrong time. However when all is averaged out, whether in Australia or N. Ireland, we have much to be thankful for. Thank you for taking time to share part of our story, may God richly bless you all.

Finally may we extend an invitation to come and visit us, a warm welcome awaits. Give us a ring on (07)41680145. Just please don't all come at once!”

*Sam, Sarah and family*

Photo right: Sammy & Sarah with two of their children, Denise and Adrian.



## YOUTH IN FOCUS

Zara-Jayne McCauley is a member of Gillygooley Congregation and also assists the teachers in the Bible Class. She is a keen football enthusiast who channels much of her spare time training and playing in Cappagh Spurs ladies football team. Such is her devotion to football that she has withdrawn from Brownies, Young Farmers and other leisurely pursuits to enable her to improve her footballing skills. She is also in her A.S. year as a pupil at Omagh Academy and is particularly interested in Tourism and anything Spanish. Zara-Jayne's footballing skills have not gone unnoticed as earlier this year she was selected to train for the N. Ireland ladies team competing for the Rose Bowl. The Rose Bowl is an international football competition organised by Clubs for Young People (CYP) for girls under the age of 17. Being a member of Cappagh Spurs Football Club gave her the opportunity in May and June of this year to participate in selection training for the Northern Ireland team. She was delighted to be chosen with 3 others from Cappagh with an additional member being chosen as youth coach.



Training took place in Belfast and Cookstown and finished with a team building day at RAF Aldergrove – “Definitely a brilliant day for the team,” says Zara-Jayne.

The competition took place between 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> August with all the players being lucky enough to stay at the La Mon Hotel, Castlereagh, Belfast. Scotland, Wales and England were all good teams and we were happy to finish in third position, the best the N.I. team has ever achieved. They received the trophy for Best Sportsmanship, as well as the first prize at the table quiz.

At the awards ceremony they received international caps at the conclusion of the event and since then have been to Belfast Castle on October 14<sup>th</sup> to the awards night for CYP where Zara-Jayne was presented with medals.

This was a wonderful experience for Zara-Jayne and sharing it with her friends from Cappagh made it even better.

Pictured left: Zara-Jayne with her international cap and medals.

## GILLYGOOLEY YOUTH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION CELEBRATE THEIR 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The Association held a family night in the Orange Hall on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October in celebration of its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Since the Association was formed, funding in excess of £300,000 has been drawn for the benefit of the community through improvements to the Orange Hall and its environment and by providing training and workshops on health, education, youth, first aid, horticultural, agriculture and culture etc. which have all been of immense benefit to our community. As a result employment and work opportunities have been created and this was all provided by a group of dedicated Committee Members and Office Bearers who give their time and expertise voluntarily. For Gillygooley Presbyterian Church, they have the luxury of a modern well equipped hall on their doorstep for the use of their congregation, without the burden of administration. Additionally, an increasing number of both Gillygooley and Trinity use the facilities for social witness.

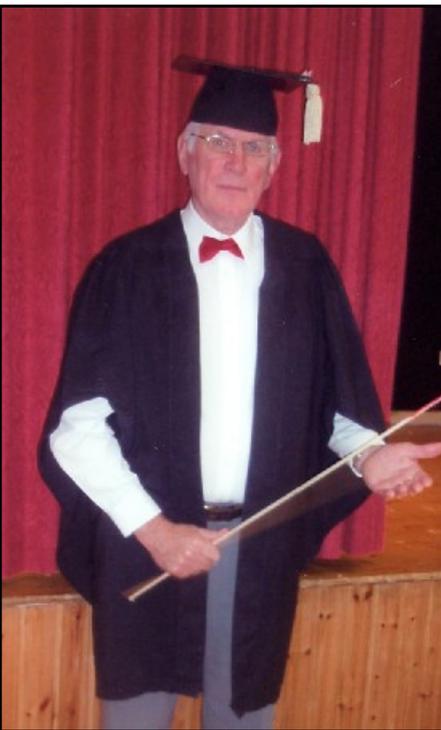
An excellent programme of entertainment was provided by the local talent. In addition to those photographed Gillygooley Community Choir and Youth Choir also entertained.



The cast of "Tilly's Telly" L-R Margaret Hemphill, Jessica Harpur, Alison Hemphill, Robert Fyffee and Raymond King.



The Gillygooley Guys who performed at the Community Association Anniversary L-R Jessica Sproule, Carol Fleming and Rachel Armstrong.



Master McGrath alias Fred Chambers who compered the show.



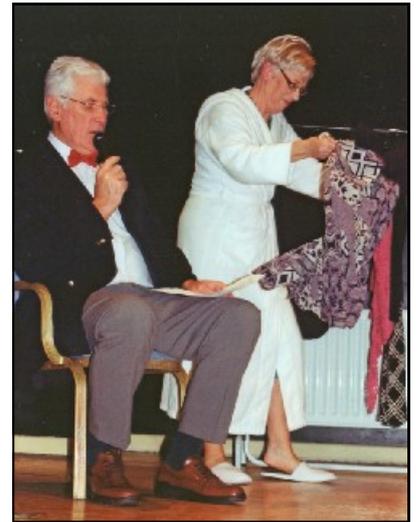
Jonathan Smyth entertained with a drum solo at the event.



Jessica Sproule provided music on her Cornet.



The pipes and drums of Gillygooley Pipe Band.



Fred Chambers and Iris Moffitt-Scott in the sketch getting dressed.

## LIFE BEGINS AT 50 PLUS

According to Ulster Herald reporters, Jude Browne and Michael Devlin, life begins at 50+; at least for those who enjoy the activities of Gillygooley 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth! At the request of the two reporters they attended an evening with the members of 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth as they played 'New Age Kurling'. This activity was invented in 2000 by an Englishman named John Bennett, at the request of his son, to create a sport suitable for disabled people. It has since been used as part of rehabilitation in hospitals as the sport doesn't require any physical fitness to play. The club is grateful to The Health Promotion Agency and Positive Ageing for funding the equipment. Thanks to the extensive press coverage given by the Herald reporters, several new members have since joined this new sporting activity at Gillygooley. Much credit must go to Jean McCutcheon whose idea it was to arrange and develop this new activity in the hall.



Robbie Alexander, seasoned indoor bowler, tries his hand at new age Kurling.



Sadie Clements takes careful aim watched by other members of the Club.



Waiting for their game are L-R Pearl Magahey, Sadie Clements and Edith Hemphill.

## Special Services in Trinity & Gillygooley

(December 2009 & January 2010)

**Sunday, 6 December**

World Development Sunday

**Sunday, 20 December**

Carol Services

Gillygooley 10.00 am & Trinity 7.00 pm

**Friday, 25 December**

Christmas Day Service

First Omagh at 11.00 am

**Sunday, 27 December**

Last Sunday of the Year

**Sunday, 4 January 2009**

First Sunday of the New Year

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

## Record of Deaths

### Deaths in Trinity

15 Oct	Heather Campbell
24 Oct	Violet Beattie
27 Oct	Desmond Black

*"I am the resurrection and  
the life..."*  
(John 11:25)

## Changes to Free Will Envelopes in Trinity for 2010

The Free Will Offering envelopes for Trinity are being prepared at present. If you have any changes for 2010 please leave details on the forms in the front porch of the church or contact Sam Gallagher, telephone (028) 8224 1456, before 7th December, 2009.

## MAGAZINE ITEMS FROM TRINITY MEMBERS

Anyone from Trinity who has an item they would like included in the magazine should contact

Richard McClung Tel: 8224 5150 Email: [TrinityNews@knocksilla.plus.com](mailto:TrinityNews@knocksilla.plus.com) or

Anne Parke Tel: 8224 2598 Email: [anne.parke@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.parke@btinternet.com)

Please include as much written detail as possible and use original photos if emailing articles!

Don't forget you can view a colour copy on the Trinity Church website at:

[www.trinitypresbyterianchurchomagh.co.uk](http://www.trinitypresbyterianchurchomagh.co.uk) and click on Latest Trinity News.

**The deadline for submission of articles for the next edition, which is due out in April 2010, will be Monday 1st March 2010.**

Gillygooley items for inclusion in next Trinity & Gillygooley News should be sent to:

Andrew Scott, Editor, Tel 8224 2895

or

Diane Mills, Assistant Editor, Tel 8224 6553. E-mail: [e.mills@freenet.co.uk](mailto:e.mills@freenet.co.uk)

Photographs by Billy Creery and Andrew Scott.