

# TRINITY & GILLYGOOLEY NEWS



Issue 32

September 2005

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## Trip to the Presbyterian Meetinghouse, Cultra



*Layout of Church for Communion Service*

Members of Trinity and First Omagh congregations travelled by coach to the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum at Cultra on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup>

June, 2005 to take part in a service and share in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in the Presbyterian Meetinghouse.

The building, which was originally built in 1721, was used by Presbyterians in Omagh previous to the two existing churches in Omagh. It was occupied by S. D. Montgomery & Co as a printing works in later years and has been very carefully rebuilt and refurbished at Cultra. It now stands proudly among many other exhibits from yesteryear on the site.

The service was conducted by



*L-R: John Moore, Mr Hamill and Rev John Murdoch*



*L-R: Sadie Clements, Mrs McConnell, Audrey McConnell, Claire McElhinney and Sheena Herron inside the church*



*L-R: John & Carol McCandless with Mrs Rowan*

Rev Herron and Rev Murdoch and was based on how it would have been in those days. Rev Murdoch led the singing of Psalm 100 'All people that on earth do dwell' Psalm 116 'I'll of salvation take the cup' and Psalm 23 'The Lord's my Shepherd I'll not want'. There were no organs in those days!



*Ronnie Orr and Sam Gallagher outside the Church*

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed as in the past with members of the congregation moving into the aisles to sit at tables to receive the Bread and then moving to the front of the Church to receive the Wine from the Cup.

Rev Murdoch thanked those who played a part in the service and the staff of the Museum who attended to every detail giving those who attended a glimpse into the past and making the trip such a success.

Before and after the service members of the congregation took time to visit the many exhibits on the site and have a picnic in the grounds on a sunny afternoon.



*Mr & Mrs Hamill, Jim Alderdice & Mrs Hammond from 1st Omagh enjoying the picnic*



*Mrs Porter, Mary Pinkerton and Sheena Herron*

# Robert Clements Remembered



*Robert and Sadie pictured on holiday, summer 2000*

At each of the doors at the front of Trinity on either side of the pulpit there are two new side tables, recently presented to the church by Sadie Clements and family in memory of the late Robert Clements, husband and best friend to Sadie. More observant members of the congregation will have noted that the tables have taken the place of two chairs which were previously placed by the doors and were donated to the church by Mrs McKenzie in memory of her husband Duncan and son Kenneth. The chairs have taken up new positions in the church at the back of each transept under the windows.



*One of the new oak side tables*

There was a special dedication during this year's Easter Sunday communion service for the new tables, which were made last year of oak by Robert's nephew, also called Robert, who is a farmer and wood turner and craftsman of some talent.

Robert Clements died in September 2000 after 41 years marriage to Sadie McGrew. They

were married in Trinity in May 1959 by Rev Pinkerton, and were regular and familiar churchgoers at Trinity throughout their married life. Sadie still misses Robert and thinks of him every day, and has long considered how best to make a dedication to the church in his memory. It recently occurred to Sadie that she and Robert had often remarked of a Sunday that tables at the transept doors would be a useful addition to the church's furnishings as they would serve better to place collection plates, harvest and Christmas decorations (and more recently the weekly orders of service which are left out for Sunday services). So the family decided to offer to have the new tables made.

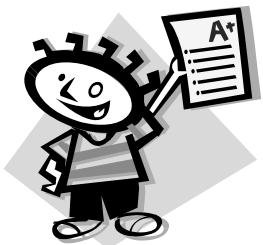
As well as being a handsome and practical addition to the church interior, these new tables are a testament to how well and fondly Robert Clements is remembered by his family – wife Sadie, sons Joseph and Robin, their wives Audrey and Heather and grandchildren Diane, Richard and Mark and Stephen and Matthew.



*Members of the Clements family after the service of dedication in Trinity*



# Children's Page



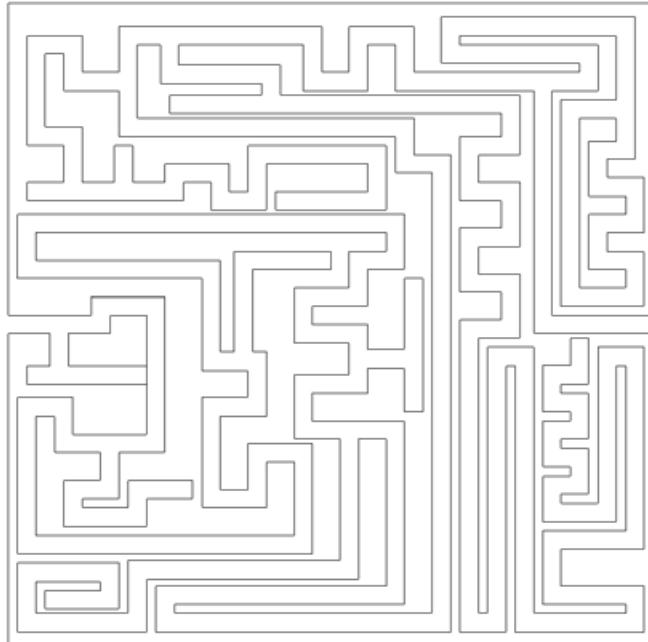
Find the blessing which is part of the Presbyterian Baptism Service. The typist has made a mistake and typed the words back to front. Can you sort it out?

Can you find out the name of this blessing? \_\_\_\_\_.

"ehT	droL	sselb	eeht	dna	peek	eeht.
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
ehT	droL	sekam	sih	ecaf	ot	enihs
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nopu	eeht	dna	eb	suoicarg	otnu	eeht
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ehT	droL	tfil	pu	siH	ecnanelnuoc	
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nopu	eeht	dna	evig	eeht	ecaep	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	

## PUZZLE MAZE

*Find your way through the maze*



**Please Note: We can only accept Primary School Entrants**

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.

Last issues winners: Trinity – Katie McCay, Gillygooley – Zara Jayne McCauley

## Record of Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths in the Congregations

24 Jul 11 Sep	<b>Baptisms in Trinity</b> Jamie Alexander Shannon Kyle Ronnie Johnston	18 Jun  2 Sep	<b>Marriages in Trinity</b> Diane Halkyard & Andrew Patrick Crawford  <b>Marriages in Gillygooley</b> 23 Jul Diane Carol Scott & Graeme Ross William Duguid	27 Jul 21 Aug 10 Sep	<b>Deaths in Trinity</b> Ellen Foster Douglas Simpson Andrew McClelland
	<i>"Let the children come to me..." (Mark 10:14)</i>		<i>"Love one another as I have loved you..." (John 15:12)</i>		<i>"I am the resurrection and the life..." (John 11:25)</i>

## Amanda and Adele Donal d



Amanda and Adele went to Sunday School in Trinity and remember particularly Sunday School teachers Jackie Gibson and Heather Carson. Now they themselves have full responsibility for the running of the Sunday School and take classes themselves. They teach the youngest children and enjoy these groups. Both sisters were involved in Girls Brigade for 13 years. Adele and Amanda give a lot of

their free time to work as First Aiders. They enjoy it and feel that it is good to use their talents too. Their mum and dad both are involved to a great degree with First Aiding (their skills were put to good use on the night of the bomb). The two sisters commitment takes them to provide cover at all sorts of events, for example equestrian events and the town carnival in June. They deal with, amongst other things, broken glass in

fingers and spray-can damage to eyes.

Amanda is doing a course in Business Studies; Adele works for the Housing Executive in Omagh. Both twins quote swimming and reading as main interests. Amanda is also a keen cinema goer, and Adele an enthusiastic walker. Future dreams? For Adele: to go to South Africa (a dream she's had since childhood) possibly to work for a period with children. Her aunt has taught in the Gaza Strip, in Vietnam, in Dubai, and in Egypt and is now teaching in China.

Amanda would like to write a novel. Watch this space!! Talking of activities for young people in Trinity and Gillygooley, Adele and Amanda mentioned, as an example, the 'Stayover' in the Hall, which was organised for the Sunday School Project. They are looking to the planning of further activities for the younger members of the congregation. A Social Committee is being formed. Take note!

# Ulster Project 2005 to Salt Lake City

By Sara-Jayne McClung

It was 3.45am on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June and I was awake. Groggy yet excited I got ready for the journey... to Salt Lake City for the Ulster Project!

The Ulster Project is a Project that was set up in 1988. It is a project that is cross-community, to try and help the relationship between Protestants and Catholics and to try and produce a new generation, who realise that violence isn't the way to solve all the troubles in Northern Ireland. So we go somewhere where there is no religious conflict (as basically in Salt Lake City there are the Mormons and the rest) and we come to realise that we can actually live in peace together and be friends with one another.

So 4.25am came and my dad and I left the house, with me shedding a few tears as I had left my mum for a month, yet I had never been so excited! At 5am the bus pulled out of the bus depot. We had started the long journey.

We arrived at Dublin airport and booked ourselves in. All we had to do was wait to board the plane to Atlanta. The plane journey was extremely tedious, as it was eight hours long! The movies weren't that good either on the way to Atlanta, so we had to amuse ourselves... basically sleep! We arrived at Atlanta on time, and as soon as we walked off the plane the extreme heat hit us! We definitely were not in Omagh any more!

We all had hunger pains when we got to Atlanta airport, so as soon as we had checked ourselves in, it was a

race to Domino's Pizza, to get a big pizza! We then boarded the final plane to Salt Lake City. Excitement was running high again, and after our sleep on the first plane our energy levels were high again too, so the shorter plane ride of four hours flew in!



We reached Salt Lake City in one piece, which our counsellors were extremely thankful for! The main American leader Les Sage, a lovely woman, met us at the baggage claim to help us retrieve our luggage. After the first photos were taken, it was out into the heat and we got a school bus to go and meet the American teens. By this stage we all had nerves. What would we say to our families? We got to the meeting point and a huge stampede of Americans rushed out to meet us, with "candy necklaces" that they had made themselves! An added bonus!



*Me with Annie Johns (left) the American teen that I stayed with for the month in Salt Lake City*

After some light refreshments I left with my family, and I got to see Salt Lake City in all its glory! It was the most beautiful city I had ever been to, and was absolutely huge! I slept well that night and woke up refreshed in the morning.

We left for Les' house for orientation and a pool party! Very quickly we all started to become friends at the party, over pizza and water volleyball, which all the boys were very competitive in!

We left in the afternoon to go home and pack for a weekend at Camp Tuttle, which is an outdoor activity camp up in the mountains! When we reached Tuttle, we were shocked to see that there was still snow, which of course meant there was a snow fight,



much to the counsellors' dismay! At Tuttle we all became close, especially after an emotional candlelight service. We did a low ropes course, which is to build an understanding and trust amongst the group. We also played volleyball and basketball in our spare time, and on Saturday night we had a campfire where I discovered S'mores, (Mmmm tasty!) which I am now addicted to! We left at noon on Sunday to go home and get ready for the Opening Ceremonies and a group photo!

The opening ceremony was at a Protestant service, and was unlike any service I have ever been to, where a youth band played and sang up-beat hymns, which everyone really got into, with dancing and ended up with a Congo line! We all left in high spirits!

The next day was the 4<sup>th</sup> July, and we had the morning free, so I went and visited family friends with my host family. That night we went to a rodeo, which I didn't enjoy that much, as the poor calves were treated very roughly, but



the fireworks display at the end was amazing, and a great way to end the night!

The next day we went to U.N.I. for a low ropes activity, which was a shared time of evaluation and understanding. This was a lot of fun; with a lot of games played that really tested our minds.

That afternoon we went to a "nickelcade" which was a games arcade! A lot of fun was had at this, and many prizes were won, including a very furry red top hat!

The following day was our first service project; Cascade Springs, which was where we had to clean out the very dirty, very smelly spring! However it was very fulfilling to look at what we had accomplished after we were finished! Since we had finished this project quickly and so impressively Les treated us all to a "shake", which is like

melted ice cream and is absolutely delicious!

The next day we were taking a trip out to the desert... to go snorkelling! This was at the Bonneville Seabase, out in the desert. We snorkelled with fish in the natural hot springs in the western desert of Utah, and it was extremely hot, with temperatures reaching 106°F! We even got to feed the fish iceberg lettuce!

On the Friday we had another service project at St. Joseph's Villa, which was a centre for senior citizens. We helped the residents with activities, talked to them and then helped transport them to their rooms.

After lunch we went ice-



skating, which was a lot of fun, and a lot of showing off was going on, which resulted in a number of falls!

Saturday was the Young Eagles Flying Program, which is where pilots took us up in licensed planes, and some people were actually allowed to fly the plane for a few minutes! While we were waiting for our turns, we all made tie-dye t-shirts!

That afternoon was our car wash fundraiser, and we all got VERY wet, as there was a water fight basically all afternoon, even though we really should have been working! This was so much fun, and we all went home tired yet wet!

The next day we went to the Cathedral of the

Madeleine, for a catholic service. The cathedral was enormous, and was painted from the floor to the ceiling and was stunning, although I didn't really like the service, as everything was sung, including the Lord's Prayer. That afternoon we had the Hibernian Picnic, which was a picnic that was organised by a society of Irish Americans. We played baseball and we even did some Irish dancing!

On Monday we had another service project... quilting for the homeless, and we presented our blankets to the homeless after we were finished, which was very fulfilling.

That afternoon we were



treated to two games of ten-pin bowling, and a hamburger and fries after that!

The next day was the talent show rehearsal, followed by lunch at a very fancy restaurant, The Lion House, with the Mormons, who make up a VERY large part of the Salt Lake City population. That night we performed our talent show, which was a huge success! A few laughs and tears were shared by all.

The next day we went



to a ski park, Park City, where we slid down a half-mile of twists, turns and drops in a fibreglass sledge equipped with a brake. All the teens were successful in not hurting themselves, but unfortunately two of the American counsellors were not so lucky. One of them broke his ankle.



and the other cut his arm very badly and took an allergic reaction to the fibreglass.

That afternoon was spent shopping at a huge retail park! Finally, I got to do some shopping!

Next day we went to Jordan Valley School, which is a school for young people between the ages of three and twenty-two, who are severely mentally and physically handicapped. I helped out in a class of two and three year olds, and I fell in love with them all and they really opened up to Annie and I. When we were leaving, they all gave us hugs, and the teacher said she had never seen the children open up as much to anyone in such a short space of time! That was such an emotional day, as



the kids seemed so normal, and it has definitely changed my opinion and view of handicapped people. When we were finished we went back to our hosts house, to get ready for our family weekend which was the weekend we spent with our host family and no activities had been organised for us. But that and the remainder of my trip will be covered in part two!

## *Lisa Smyth heads for Argentina*

Lisa Smyth is spending her summer in Buenos Aires in Argentina. She is currently staying in an orphanage, The Refuge of God, which looks after more than 20 children aged between two and nineteen. I spoke to her before her departure, and she explained why she was devoting her time to these underprivileged young people.

Lisa became aware of the plight of these young people through her friend Lauren Buchanan. Lauren has spent the past three years there. Over the past few years Lisa's family have sent clothes and toys to the

orphanage through Lauren, but this year Lisa wanted to do something which was more hands-on.

The Refuge of God receives no government funding and is completely reliant on volunteers. Lisa is hoping to help out in any way that she can. She will be helping with maintenance work, such as painting, cleaning and repairing. Other duties will include escorting the children to school, playing with them, and teaching them some Basic English.

On Sunday 19 June 2005 Beverley Fleming and the Bible

class organised a coffee morning. This event raised £425, which Lisa was able to take with her to the orphanage on her arrival. Donations like these are essential if the orphanage is to remain open and Lisa

wishes to thank all of those who contributed so generously.

Lisa will be spending two weeks in Argentina and will report on her time at the orphanage in the next issue.



*Lisa Smyth (centre) receiving the cheque for the orphanage from Beverley Fleming Sunday School Superintendent. Also in the photograph are L-R Nicola Smyth, Rev Herron and Jonathan Smyth*

# 30 Years of Tearcraft

Tearcraft began in 1975, when the director of Tearfund, George Hoffman, agreed to spend £10,000 filling a plane with fairly-traded handicrafts on its flight home, after taking relief supplies to Bangladesh.



Volunteers started selling Tearcraft in homes and churches in 1977. By this time, Tearcraft was supplying Harrods with jute pot plant holders.

In 1984 Tearcraft started to sell Christmas cards. Last year 1.25 million were sold. To-day 950 'reps' throughout the UK supply an average of

£1,300 of stock per person each year. There are also nearly 300 shops supplying Tearcraft items.

Thousands of producers in hundreds of producer groups, belonging to 19 craft organisations benefit from Tearcraft's supply of work, and fair wages, which are paid in advance.

After Asia's Tsunami, two Tearcraft partners helped to restore fishermen's livelihoods. One of them, Gospel House, helped rebuild a fleet of canoes, and called one 'TEARCRAFT'.



Another encourages villagers to face the sea and return to fishing. Their catch is huge

and staff tell them about Jesus and the miraculous catch at the Sea of Galilee.

Lives are dramatically changed for the better, when we buy fairly-traded items.

In Thailand, Oritai can care for her mother, who is ill, because she works for Tearcraft.



If you would like to see a copy of the Tearcraft Christmas catalogue, please contact Rosemary McCay Tel :- 8283 1587



## Trinity Girls Brigade

Trinity Girls Brigade are back in action after the summer break.

All girls aged between 4 and 18 are welcome; as is anyone interested in helping out or becoming a leader or assistant.

The Girls Brigade meet in Trinity Church Hall every Wednesday evening from 6.30 to 8.30 pm. Everyone is welcome.

For further information, contact Girls Brigade Captain Mavis Jardine on 8224 4630

# Gillygooley Youth and Community Development Association

## Notice Board

### **Gillygooley Youth Club**

Primary Group	Monday	7.00pm-8.15pm
Junior Group	Friday	7.00pm-8.15pm
Senior Group	Friday	8.15pm-10.15pm

Details available from Jennifer Tel: 8224 1831

### **Gillygooley 2nd Youth**

Gillygooley 2nd Youth (50+ Club) re-commences Monday 26th September, 8.15pm

Details available from Gertie Tel: 8224 4529 Dorothy Tel: 8283 1309

Old Time Dance Classes re-commence, Thursday 29th September, 8.00pm

Details available from Andrew Tel: 8224 2895

### **Chatterbox Playgroup**

Details available from Tina Tel: 8224 3768

### **Fairywater Farmers**

Details available from Mervyn Tel: 8283 1355

### **Gillygooley Pipe Band**

Piping and drumming classes available.

Details available from William Tel: 8224 8494

## **GILLYGOOLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ALTERATIONS – UPDATE**

*by Raymond Smyth, secretary.*

Work has been taking place to progress the scheme, which will deal with the current Health and Safety and Disability requirements and enhance the facilities in the Church.

The plans presented at

the congregational meeting have been modified to incorporate the suggestions made with costings for these having been calculated. Consultations have taken place with Planning Service and Building Control and formal applications are to be lodged in the coming weeks. Necessary approvals of

the Presbytery and the Architectural Committee at Church House will also be sought in the near future.

With the intention that work will commence before the summer of 2006, the Committee will now have to address the issue of fund raising.

## Gillygooley Support for Indonesia

Presenting a tin containing almost £200 to Rev Herron are Andrew Aiken and Emma Hunter. The money was raised by the Sunday School for the 'Helping Hands' Childrens Project in Indonesia. It will help in the development of a youth centre and provision of Sunday school material in Indonesia.



## Marriage of Graeme Duguid and Diane Scott

'What God has joined together man must not separate' *Mark 10 V9*

Graeme and Diane Duguid following their marriage in Gillygooley Presbyterian Church. Diane is the second daughter of Andrew and the late Anne Scott, 41 Gillygooley Road, Omagh. The couple will be residing at Greysouthern, Cumbria. Diane is a Business Studies teacher at Keswick Comprehensive school and Graeme works in finance in Carlisle.



## Church House 'U' Turn

Many Presbyterians from throughout Ireland will be relieved that the general board of the Presbyterian Church has decided to defer the sale of Church House, as decided at the general assembly meeting earlier this year.

The century old listed building, which is situated in a prestigious location in Belfast, houses the administrative staff from the Church's various boards.

The sale of the property has attracted some opposition from various congregations and clergy. The reversal of the announcement has come as a shock to some senior members of the Presbyterian Church, but will be welcomed by many others.

The issue will be revisited again at the 2006 General Assembly.

The Sessions, Committees and Congregations of Trinity & Gillygooley would like to express their sincere sympathy to the Rev Robert, Sheena and family on the sad loss of their dear mother, mother-in-law and grandmother.

The prayers and thoughts of our Congregations are with you all at this sad and difficult time.

*'Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted'*

A video has been produced recording the 30 year history of Gillygooley Youth Club showing photographs from 1974 to 2004 and video footage of the years 1985, 1987, 1992 and 2004. To order your copy contact: Jennifer O'Donnell on 028 82241831

# TRINITY SENIOR MEMBERS OUTING TO DONEGAL



*Rossnowlagh Presbyterian Church*

Trinity Senior Members Outing to Donegal took place this year on the 1st Saturday in July and was very well attended, in fact we picked up two brothers who had missed their bus to Portrush and were so happy with the day's fun that they are both coming back next year!

Our first stop was at the Presbyterian Church in Rossnowlagh (the only tin roofed Presbyterian Church in Ireland) where we had a cup of tea and buns thanks to Heather Carson.

Claire McElhinney played a few hymns on the old pedal organ and the whole gathering joined in the singing. Joe McGrew also entertained with some well known ballads.

We then moved on to Rossnowlagh beach to work up



*Claire Entertains*



*Inside Rossnowlagh Presbyterian Church*

an appetite for dinner at the Abbey Hotel in Donegal Town where we were well attended to in body and spirit. Claire and Joe again did the honours and with the help of Jimmy Elliott many good songs were rendered.



*Joe McGrew and Jimmy Elliott  
entertaining*

Time then for a little bit of shopping in Donegal Town and then on the bus for our next stop at the Belleek Pottery, where we were shown a film about the history of Belleek China and the skill that is required to make such fine pieces of china.

Next stop was a picnic on the bus overlooking the splendid scenery of Lough Erne and then home to Omagh.

A big thank-you goes to Heather Carson and Noel Donald who organised the trip.



*Waiting for dinner in the Abbey Hotel, Donegal Town*



*Trinity Outing 2005 outside Belleek Pottery*

# Gillygooley Congregation's support for Argentinean Orphans



*Relaxing at the coffee morning are L-R Beatrice & Myra Alexander and Dorothy King.*

Thanks to the inspiration of the Sunday School Superintendent, Beverley Fleming, and the members of Gillygooley Bible Class, a coffee morning held after Sunday worship on 19<sup>th</sup> June raised £425.00 in support of the Argentinean Orphans.



*Some of the Bible class members who assisted with the coffee morning.*



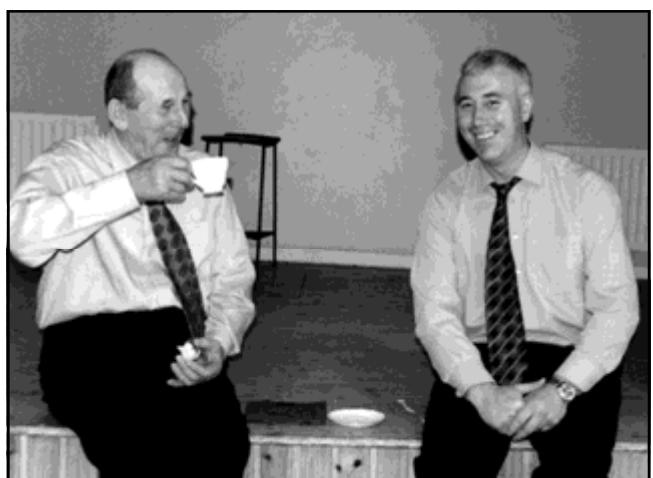
*Enjoying their coffee are L-R Stephen, Katie and Katrine Gault and Kyra Semple*



*Pausing for the camera are L-R Raymond King, Malcolm McKinley and Noel Hemphill.*



*No doubt a farming topic being discussed, L-R Robbie Alexander, Robbie Fyffe and Desmond Scott.*



*Enjoying the hospitality are Gerald McCauley (left) and Andy McKernan (right)*

## ULSTER PROJECT 2005 - TUCSON

By Joanne Fleming

I was delighted to be chosen as one of the twelve teenagers to represent Omagh in the Tucson Ulster project. The two leaders of my group were Ross Moore and Helena Quinn and the twelve teenagers were Rachael Kennedy, Kim McCusker, Chantelle McAleer, Catherine Colton, Laura Taggart, Dannielle Barton, Daryl Graham, Adam Young, Craig Watson, Christopher Ruddock, Padraig McQuaid and myself.

We left Omagh bus depot on Monday 27th June to return on Friday 29th July. Our plane went from Dublin to London and then finally Phoenix, Arizona. The plane journey lasted something like 23 hours so we were all pretty tired by the time we arrived in Tucson which was another 2 hours drive from the airport. I remember the heat as we stepped out of the airport. Everyday it's above 40°C and at night it would only get as low as 30°C. Luckily all the cars, houses and pretty much anywhere you went was air conditioned.

We were all really nervous about meeting our host families for the first time but we needn't have worried. My host family was the Brittain family and my host teen was called Jessica. They all made me feel very welcome in their home and I am sure they were just as nervous about meeting me as I was about meeting them. I got on really well with Jessica even though she was a little quiet when we first met.

On our free weekend my host family took me to the Grand Canyon which has to be one of the most amazing sights I have ever seen. When looking at it you would think you



Joanne and Jessica at the Grand Canyon

were looking at a picture postcard, it was so beautiful and has to be one of the many highlights of my trip.

The church I attended while I was there was called Immanuel Presbyterian. I also attended Catholic mass with the whole of my Ulster project group.

We did a lot of really cool stuff while we were away. We visited Mount Lemmon for an overnight retreat and had 'time of discovery' sessions where we got to know more about each other including the similarities and differences in our religions. We did a ropes course, went to a court house and watched a trial. A 3 day trip to California was a hit with us all especially our visit to Knotts Berry Farm Theme park. Then there was the ice-blocking where each of us slid downhill on large blocks of ice which was great fun.

My favourite activity of all was the 'Tucson metropolitan ministries' (a children's home) where we helped out and played with children up to the age of 13 who lived in the home. There were children from all over the world living there.



Joanne and Gillian (an American teen) with two of the kids they worked with

This project gave me much more of an understanding of how similar we all are despite our differences.

In the last week everyone was really emotional about leaving and we cried so many times in the last few days we spent together. At the closing ceremony, the day before we left, everyone was really upset. We were sitting in Church when the tears started again and that night we had a teen social when we all signed each others Ulster project t-shirts which we will

always have to remind us of our trip. I have stayed in contact with everyone in my group and I hope this continues through emails and talking over the Internet on MSN, much cheaper than long distance phone calls! I will never forget this summer, I had the time of my life and I will never forget the people I shared it with. I hope I will never lose contact with them and maybe one day I will get the chance to go back and perhaps participate as a leader.

I would encourage anyone who has the chance to go on the Ulster Project to take it as it is a chance of a lifetime.



*Tucson group in California 2005*

## Helping Hands

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2005, the Bible Class arranged a "stay awake" for this year's youth project, "Helping Hands". This is a fund that helps poor people in places such as Indonesia, who greatly need supplies such as medical equipment like a new X-Ray machine. This year the Sunday School and Bible Class together raised an impressive total of £409.52. This was from the children's collection and the money raised from the sponsored stay awake.

At the stay awake there was a good turn out, with twelve teens coming. They were Aimee Ruddy, Nikki McConnell, Gemma Law, Adam Leitch, David Crawford, James McCay, Jonny McClung, Kirsty Hannigan, Cat Maclaine, Bob Milligan, Andy Armstrong and Sara-Jayne McClung.

At the beginning of the evening we all were

treated to pizza, which was lovely! Then we had a table quiz in which four teams took part. The team that won was "The Cindys", which consisted of Aimee Ruddy, Gemma Law and Nikki McConnell. The other teams were the "We Love Ponies" which consisted of Cat Maclaine, Bob Milligan and Andy Armstrong, the "We Hate Ponies", which consisted of Adam Leitch, David Crawford and James McCay, and finally "the Malteasers" which consisted of Jonny McClung, Kirsty Hannigan and Sara-Jayne McClung.

After the quiz we watched DVDs and played some games on the PlayStation and sang karaoke!

Everybody managed to stay awake the whole night, with the help of crisps and hot chocolate, (not forgetting the pizza!) which we

consumed through-out the night.

I would like to thank, on behalf of all the teens, the adults that helped to supervise the stay awake who were: Gary Milligan, Mandy Milligan, Amanda Donald, Adele Donald, Noel Donald, John McCay and

Reverend Herron when he popped in to help eat the pizza! Thank you all so much for giving us the opportunity to have a stay awake, for staying awake all night and for putting up with us! It was very well organised by all of you, so thank you!

*Sara-Jayne McClung*



*Sara-Jayne McClung presents the cheque to Rev Herron along with Aaron Carson (middle) and Andrew (left) & James (right) Kerr*

# Gillygooley 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth



*Relaxing at Dunree are L-R Ben Thompson, Carol Brunt, Stanley Short and Betty Thompson*



*Wendy Sterritt (right) who coached the swimmers received a bouquet from Iris Moffitt-Scott*

Gillygooley 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth closed their season's activities with a day trip to Donegal, networking with the members of Fahan Presbyterian Church and touring and viewing the scenery of that beautiful county. On arrival at Fahan the group were entertained to a delightful buffet lunch by the ladies of the congregation. The church, which has

recently been refurbished, was also open for a time of prayer and quiet reflection. The party then travelled along the scenic coast of Lough Swilly to the military museum at Dunree and later to the famine village at Doagh Island. After being treated to traditional fayre, the group were taken back in time to the days of

the famine as they toured round the model homes of that period. The excellent guided tour portrayed the hardship of life during that time. The day concluded with an evening meal at the Waterfoot Hotel, Londonderry.

Gillygooley 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth (50+ Club) resumes its winter programme on

Monday 26th September at 8.15pm in Gillygooley Orange Hall and its membership embraces people from our two congregations and beyond. The club is very informal and provides an outlet for sharing life's anxieties, renewing and creating friendships by being supportive to each other in the manner of true Christianity.



*Some members of 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth swimming class  
Back L-R Jean Ellis, Ruth Patrick, Alexandra Clyde, Gertie Short & Ethel King.  
Front L-R Lila Crawford, Jean Creery, Wendy Sterritt, Margaret Hemphill and Iris Moffitt-Scott*



*Margaret Ferguson of Fahan Presbyterian Church welcomes Jean Ellis Chairperson of 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth. L-R Iris Moffitt-Scott, Gertie & Stanley Short and Dorothy King*

# From Northern Ireland and to Nippon Part II

*By Louise Scott*

Once again we return to my travels. Up to this point I have been telling you about adjusting to life in Japan, and about the trips I made when I was in Asia. I want to continue my story, my next port of call being South Korea.

Korea was divided in 1954 when the communist North invaded the South. Although there was a truce, the conflict is still ongoing. North Korea has become one of the most closed off countries in the World, a worrying fact considering their recent claims to have nuclear weapons. American troops are still posted in the South and act as protection against the threat of communism in the North.

When I was there I was able to go to the Demilitarised Zone, or the DMZ, as it is known. This is the strip of land between the north and South where talks were held between the two nations. This area is heavily fortified and is a permanent base for US troops. The army offers a tour, but only certain nationalities are allowed to take part.

In this tour you are taken right up to the dividing line. At this point you are faced with both North and South Korean soldiers. You are warned beforehand not to make any contact with the North Korean soldiers. Communication with them is strictly forbidden, and even eye contact isn't allowed. This is so that they have no reason to assume that you are being hostile towards them. This experience can only be described as surreal, and as I was standing there looking at the border, and looking at the defence forces, it made me realise how lucky we are to live in a democratic country.

Even though troops are evident throughout the country, they are merely there as a precautionary measure, and the nations have not been hostile towards each other for some time.

Korea offers much more than I have described here. As in other Asian countries, there are many beautiful temples and shrines. The markets are also a place of interest, with amazing Korean cuisine. Depending on your bartering skills, you may also be able to get a bargain, with many clothes and bric-a-brac stalls in the back streets.

Snowboarding and skiing are popular, and for me as a beginner there were many instructors and friendly Koreans willing to give me a helping hand every time I fell over, which, may I add, was quite a few times.

From Korea if you travel south, you will hit Singapore, and I stopped briefly in this modern Asian city. Singapore has much to offer, and it caters for everyone from the lowly backpacker, to the international businessman. It's a huge city, with many different areas to visit. I spent the first two days cruising around the city taking in the local sights. I went on a boat cruise where you can see the huge lion-fish-like figure, which is the national emblem of Singapore. The beauty of Singapore is that it is a very green city. After living in Osaka's urban jungle for two years, it was nice to walk around a city where there is open space and parks.

You will find many different nationalities living together in Singapore - Indian, Chinese, Malays to name but a few and this results in quite a diverse and interesting culture. One of the aspects of this is the multitude of different foods you can get here.

I spent my time in China town, where I was able to sample authentic Chinese food, without the trouble of travelling to China.

Well my travels are nearing an end, but first I want to give you a quick look at Malaysia. This was one of my last trips before leaving Japan, and once again I wasn't left disappointed at what Asia had to offer.

I flew into Kuala Lumpur, and although I was keen to travel out of the city, I spent some time checking out the local sights. I went to the twin towers, which I have to say looked like something out of a Star Wars film. Here I was in the middle of Asia, looking at this amazing futuristic-like building. Words really cannot describe it, and unfortunately photographs just don't do it justice.



Trekking in Bako National Park

From KL I flew across to Borneo, and this is where I spent the rest of my trip. Borneo is home to some of the oldest rainforests and jungles in the world, and I spent time hiking through these. I set out with Jeremiah, who would

be my guide whilst I was in Bako National Park. These hikes were probably the hardest I have ever done, not only because of the height of the climb, but also because of the climate. Being from Northern Ireland I am well equipped for wind and rain, but dealing with 35 degrees temperature with 110% humidity was arduous to say the least. Once again this is an experience that is hard to put into words. I was trekking through a jungle, where I was surrounded by monkeys, snakes, spiders, cats, and I have to say I was just constantly amazed by what I was seeing.

Every day we woke up with the sound of monkeys on our roof, and we were warned by our guide to ensure that all our windows and doors were locked at all times. One couple we talked to had an unfortunate incident with the monkeys. They had left their hut for the day, but had forgotten to secure it. When they returned that evening, they found the monkeys rummaging through their belongings...one of the monkeys had managed to get the lid off the lady's tooth paste, and was sampling her Colgate!



*Taking a rest in Malaysia*

One memory I will not forget was that of my last day. As I was trekking, my friend and I managed to stray from the trail. We had been following the call of the monkeys and had managed to get lost. We were able to see where we wanted to go, but it meant crossing swampland.

Although we only had about 400 metres to go, it was possibly the worst 400 metres I have ever walked in my entire life.

The soil under us was covered in a thick moss, with a layer of water on top of it. The water was milky, and it smelled sour. As soon as we tried to walk through it our feet sank. I tried to walk forward but lost a shoe. The only answer was to roll up my trousers and take off both socks and shoes. Walking through this murky water, I was terrified I was going to be attacked by leeches. I saw things creeping under my feet, but just had to grin and bear it. It was quite scary, as we weren't sure exactly what we were stepping on, or how deep the swamp could get at any time. As I'm sure you can imagine, I was very relieved when we reached dry land.

Up until this point I have been concentrating on Asian countries, but now I am going to move further south and tell you about my trip to New Zealand. This was my biggest trip, and I spent 5 weeks touring around both the North and South Islands.

My trip to New Zealand can only be described as unforgettable, amazing, extraordinary, outstanding, magnificent. No to be honest, there aren't even words to describe how fantastic this trip was.

However, I will try in brief to give you

a summary of my highlights in New Zealand.

The best way to get around is by car, and so from Auckland, my mate and I set off with our new best friend (our very own Nissan Passat) and headed for the North. We started off in the Bay

of Islands where we went cruising with an old fisherman named Joe. He was a real character, with a fish hook as a nose ring. He kept us amused all day showing us the local sights whilst retelling old fisherman's tales. Although we were fishing for a full day, I have to say I wasn't lucky enough to catch anything. We also went whale and dolphin watching, and were lucky enough to be followed by a family of dolphins throughout most of the day.

When I was in New Zealand I was travelling with an American girl from New York, and she couldn't believe how beautiful the scenery was. I too was amazed, however parts of the landscape reminded me of parts of Ireland that I have visited.

In the North Island, I visited mountain ranges, visited active volcanic areas and heritage centres, went luging, fishing, kayaking, wine tasting, and zorbing.

Now some of you may be thinking, what exactly is zorbing? Well, let me explain. You get inside a huge rubber ball, which they then fill with water and finally they roll you down a very steep hill. The act in itself is quite pointless you may think, but indeed I have to say its great fun.

Travelling throughout the North Island I saw some of the most beautiful scenery. One particular journey, which stands out, was the drive from Taupo to Napier. This drive takes you over huge mountains, through gorges and valleys, and you cannot help but be awed by the sites that surround you.

I spent Christmas Day in Wellington. Although I love travelling and although I was having an amazing time in New Zealand, I found Christmas very difficult without my family. To me Christmas is a time for family,

and I have to say speaking to Dad, Iris and the rest of the family that day, made me quite homesick. It didn't last long though! And off to the South Island I went.

Just south of Christchurch I was able to stay with one of my friends on her family farm. Living in Gillygooley I have been brought up in a farming community, but I have never seen farming like this. Her dad owns a vast amount of land, part of which is 'The Remarkables', probably one of the most beautiful mountain ranges in the world. Now for those of you who are Lord of the Rings fans, can I add that her father also owns the land where the city of Edoras, the capital of the Kingdom of Rohan was filmed. Unfortunately when I visited that area, neither Legolas nor Aragon were anywhere to be seen. It was amazing to spend time here, but it also made me realise how much I missed home, and how I was ready to move home from Japan and the urban jungle I was staying in.

In the South Island I did more sightseeing, went jet boating, horse racing, swimming, boating, tubing and one of the highlights was visiting Franz

Joseph Glacier.

This is something that I will probably never be able to do again, and it was a great experience. It is one of the largest glaciers in the world, and is distinct in that it is advancing every year. I spent a full day hiking up this, which was fantastic, although very, very cold, and very, very tiring.

One of the highlights of my trip was my visit to the 'Greymouth Races'. Although, not a spectacular day out, it was one that I will never forget. We spent the day with locals, and in true New Zealand style they were perfect hosts.

One of the things that I was constantly aware of when travelling through NZ, was the willingness of the locals to help. They were always courteous, friendly and obliging.

It was with a heavy heart that I left New Zealand. It is probably the most beautiful country I have been to, and one that I would like to revisit some day.

So that brings me to the end of my travels, and my next long haul flight was back to London for a short stay before I returned

home to sunny Northern Ireland. Although I came home three times during my two years away, it has been strange trying to settle back into life here. Many of my friends have moved to England, and many people have moved on or settled somewhere else.

Also with living abroad, I have had to say goodbye to people who have been my best friends and my family for the last two years. Flying out of Kansai airport, I couldn't stop the flow of tears as I waved goodbye to my closest friends. Leaving was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do.

In saying this I have already had quite a few visitors to Gillygooley from around the globe, and more plan to come and visit our beautiful country.

It has been great though to see my family, and being away makes you realise how much you take your family for granted.

So back to normal, and back to reality until once again I get itchy feet... I hope you have enjoyed my travel tales.

Now, where was that Easyjet telephone number??!

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **Sunday, 2 October:**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in Gillygooley and Trinity  
Bible Class begins a new session in Gillygooley and Trinity

### **Sunday, 9 October:**

Harvest Thanksgiving in Gillygooley  
10.00 am. - Rev Robert Herron  
7.30 p.m. - Rev Stanley Stewart (Chaplain at the Royal and Prior Comprehensive School Raphoe)

### **Sunday, 16 October:**

Harvest Thanksgiving in Trinity  
11.30 a.m. - Rev Robert Herron  
7.00 p.m. - Rev Charles Clements (Minister of Irvinestown, Pettigo and Tempo)

### **Sunday, 6 November:**

Praise Service in Trinity at 11.30 am with Queen's Island Victoria Male Choir

### **Sunday, 13 November:**

Remembrance Sunday