

# TRINITY & GILLYGOOLEY NEWS



Issue 37

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## Inside this issue:

Alison Donnell	2
Trinity bell	3
GG 2nd Youth	4
GG 2nd Youth	5
GG Young Enterprise	6
GG Community Choir	7
GG New Committee	8
Drew Hamilton	9
GG Harvest Supper	10
GG Harvest Supper	11
GG Harvest Supper	12
GG Fund raising	13
GG Renovations	14
GG Diary Dates	15
GG Show jumping	16
Kids page	17
GG IFYE	18
Wendy Irwin	19
Malcolm Herron	20
Trinity Hall	21
BB and GB	22
Ulster Project	23
GG Walking Club	24
Tomorrow Family	25
Ulster Project	26
Trinity Harvest	27
Church Services	28

## THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!



The new manse building is now at roof level. Despite some atrocious weather recently, the building work is on schedule. Photos taken 13/11/06

# BEN NEVIS ASCENT

Alison Donnell (pictured right, at the summit) joined more than 100 other people from Northern Ireland, England and Scotland who climbed to the 4,408 foot summit of Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain, on the weekend of the 29<sup>th</sup> September, all in support of The Ulster Cancer Foundation.

The Foundation has now escorted more than 3,500 walkers of very mixed age and ability to the top of the UK's highest mountain, raising a total of one million pounds in the process.

Alison, who works in Moy Riding School and is Secretary of Strule Valley Riding Club, raised £1,400 at the latest count.

Ascents take place throughout the year and if you would like to participate in one contact UK Outdoor Pursuits on 028 9043 9898.



## TRINITY ON TOUR?



Ever wondered what Trinity's Church Committee gets up to in the Summer?

This photo was taken when Ronnie, Caroline and Rosslyn Hussey were on holiday in America, travelling between Nashville and Memphis in July this year. Note the blacked out windows to stop people seeing who is in the bus!

If anyone else has interesting photos please forward them to a member of the magazine committee!

# WHOSE EARTH?

“Whose earth?” is a 3 year campaign promoted by Presbyterian World Development, which divides what we give equally between Christian Aid and Tearfund. The earth is the Lord’s, and we are called to be good stewards of it.

“Whose earth?” is supporting an experiment in Honduras, planting guama tree saplings, which fertilise

the ground naturally, prevent soil erosion and provide sustainable firewood. “Whose earth” is turning things around in Honduras, also Malawi and Zimbabwe.

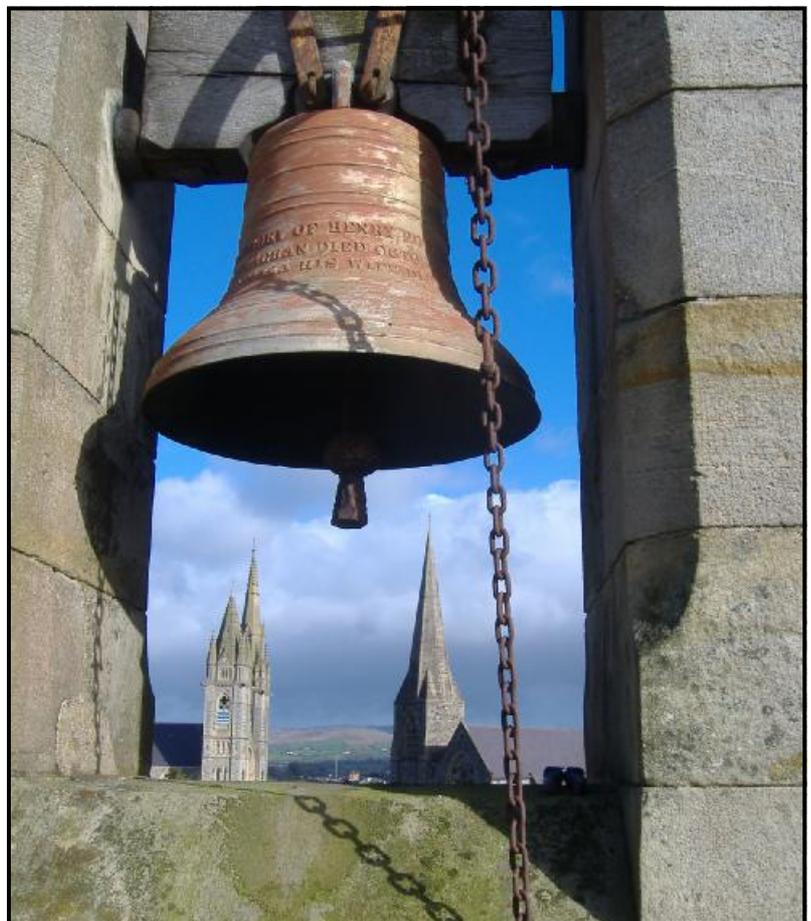
Our prayers and interest give spiritual support to developing countries, our money provides practical support and our buying habits economic support. We can all play our part in turning things around.



# THE BELL IS BACK

Some of Trinity congregation may have noticed that our Church bell was not ringing on Sunday mornings during October. In early November, Church committee member, Alfie Sayers and local steeplejack, Martin McGuigan, set about investigating this problem. They found that it was caused by a break in the wiring up near to the bell tower. Alfie used his skills to repair the electrical wiring and Martin took the opportunity to carry out some badly needed maintenance to the bell and surrounding roof area.

While they were up at the bell tower Martin took a series of photos of the view from that vantage point. One of the most unusual photos is this one of the adjoining Church spires framed by the Trinity bell tower. It's good to have our bell back!



## 2<sup>ND</sup> YOUTH INCREASE MEMBERSHIP

Gillygooley 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth (50+ club) have commenced the new season with membership now in excess of 50. The first meeting took the form of "Take Your Pick" based on the once popular T.V. show. Raymond King acted as question master and also tried to trick the contestants in the yes-no interlude which proceeded "Take Your Pick".

Members also enjoyed a Halloween Party when they were joined by members of Killycurragh Club. Entertainment being provided by Andy Lowry, the Blue Thistle Highland Dancers, The Donemana Players and Gillygooley Community Choir.

Members are currently participating in a weekly Christmas Floral Art Class in the Orange Hall and were represented by Audrey Clements and Jean Ellis at a recent Cluster meeting of the Senior Citizens Consortium. The club are always seeking new initiatives for their members and with this in mind Ellen Fyffee and Margaret Hemphill were nominated to attend a workshop on indoor sport for older people. For the water babes in the club the weekly swimming classes continue to be popular and a good source of exercise. Plans are well advanced for a trip in January to the Pantomime "Mother Goose" and Christmas Party on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. The club meets on the last Monday of each month (except December) in Gillygooley Orange Hall at 8:00pm. Meetings are informal, new members are always welcome.



*Above and below Gerald McCauley and Peggy Fyffee under interrogation from Raymond King whilst Iris Moffitt-Scott keeps an eye on the stop-watch.*





*Some members of 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth at their opening meeting.*



*Ethel King looks somewhat apprehensive as she is about to be quizzed by her son Raymond.*

# GILLYGOOLEY YOUNG ENTERPRISE

For the last number of years Gillygooley Young Enterprise Groups have been continually growing from strength to strength. The G-Factor 2005-2006 group did not fail to disappoint, and this year were once again nominated to attend a special awards ceremony in Belfast, at the prestigious City Hall. The group had been selected due to their continual hard work throughout the business year and innovative products including Christmas Cards and bird boxes. Unfortunately the group failed to win the overall award for 'best youth group' but all the participants were delighted to have reached the final stages. The group totalling over 20 travelled to Belfast accompanied by their business advisors Lorraine Elkin, Yvonne Armstrong and Louise Scott. The teens did themselves proud and all were dressed immaculately for the awards ceremony. They attended a drinks reception in the City Hall and then were invited to an impressive dinner.



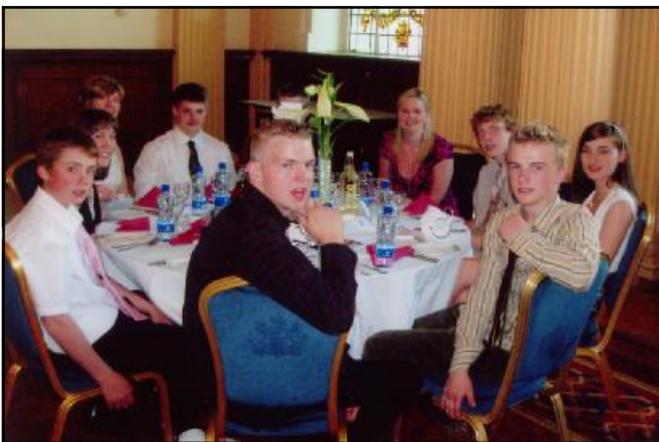
*The Y.E. team outside Belfast City Hall before attending the prestigious awards ceremony*

Business for G-Factor is now closed, but they pass on their determination and persistence to the 2006/2007 Y.E. Group known as 'Gifted', made up of seven enthusiastic Senior members who attend Omagh High School and Omagh Academy, Louise Gilchrist, Lyndsay Gault, Stacey Hemphill, Dean Porter, David Kinloch, John Fitzgerald and Adam Leitch.

This year's Company members have called themselves 'GIFTED' and they have been hard at work producing unique hand-made Christmas cards, gift tags, scarves, hand-painted plaques and other items for the Christmas market.

The young people are being mentored this year by Lorraine Elkin, Link Teacher, Yvonne Armstrong from N.I.E. Powerteam and Sandra Magee who are the Business Advisers.

'Gifted' are delighted to have the opportunity to perfect their selling skills at the Christmas Craft Fair at Omagh County Primary School on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November. The company will also be trading at the Young Enterprise Sperrins and Lakelands Christmas Trade Fair at CA Andersons, Omagh on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December.



*Members of the Gillygooley Young Enterprise Group inside Belfast City Hall with their Advisors, Lorraine Elkin and Louise Scott.*



*Gemma Walker, Lorraine Elkin, Ashley McCauley and Jonathan Smyth at the Young Enterprise annual awards ceremony.*

## COMMUNITY CHOIR FORMED AT GILLYGOOLEY

Another addition to the varied range of activities of Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association is the formation of a Community Choir. To date the choir have had two performances with a further three scheduled. The choir is accompanied by Amanda Graham on the piano.

*Photographed right at one of their recent functions are L-R Karen Hannigan, Sharon McFarland, Claire McKernan, Amanda Graham, Margaret Hemphill, Heather McKinley, Ellen Fyffee, Wilma Porter, Lorna Graham, Andrew Scott and Diane Mills. (Missing from the photograph, Nina Buchanan, Zandra Walker, Diane Stevenson, Joyce Smyth and Raymond McKinley).*



*Gillygooley Junior Choir who performed at the Harvest Supper  
L-R Stephanie Hunter, Kyra McKinley, Aimee Hannigan, Matthew Mills, Emma Mills, Naomi Hannigan,  
Matthew McKernan, Jessica Sproule, Emma Hunter.*

## GILLYGOOLEY ELECT NEW CHURCH COMMITTEE



New committee are: Front L-R Raymond McKinley, Beverly Fleming, Anne Patterson, Rev. Robert Herron, Dorothy and Rosemary King, Andy McKernan and Raymond King. Back L-R Trevor Aiken, Malcolm Fleming, David McKinley, Maurice Stevenson, David McIlwaine, Malcolm McKinley, David Beattie, Robert Fyffee and Clive Porter.

### TRINITY BIBLE AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Trinity Bible and Fellowship group still continue to meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month, at 8pm in the Wee Johnny Room at Trinity.

We have just finished the Gospel of John, which we began in October 2005, and at our last meeting, we completed the four chapter book of Ruth.

At our next meeting we hope to begin our study of some of the Psalms.

This Bible group is open to everyone and I would like to see more people

participate from the two churches. We all learn together and if you would like to know a little bit more about the Bible, this is a good chance to start.

Please do not think that we are a group of dull, boring, old folk - far from it! We have many a laugh and lighter moments but still we keep our focus on God. Please think about joining us. You will be made very welcome. If you would like to find out a little bit more about the group, please feel free to phone me, Claire McElhinney, on Omagh 82244578 after 6pm.

### RETURN TO THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

We live in a materialist age where more emphasis is placed on spending money on often unwanted presents than celebrating the birth of Jesus.

The simplicity of the story of Jesus needs to be more reflected in our way of life and the understanding of others needs. For many people the way they celebrate Christmas is completely over the top and thoughts need to be given to the endless wastage of money and resources. This Christmas think of our brothers and sisters in Christ and consider sponsoring a child's education through Worldvision or providing a sheep at a cost of just £8 for a poor and starving family in Ethiopia.

Christmas should be a time of rejoicing the birth of Jesus not an opportunity to participate in the excesses of consumerism.

# DREW HAMILTON MBE *By Johnny Moore*

Drew Hamilton is a well-known figure at Trinity and has a long association with the congregation, since his marriage in the church in 1977, to Linda McGeagh. Drew comes originally from Newtownstewart, although his police service, which commenced in 1976, has taken him to Newtownbutler and Clogher before Drew and Linda settled in Omagh back in 1983.

It was as long ago as 1983 that Drew first became involved as a leader in First Omagh Boys' Brigade at Trinity, and he still holds the post of Captain today. Drew recalls how Rev. Clarke "persuaded" him to take the Boys' Brigade job on and he looks startled when his attention is drawn to the fact that he will soon have clocked up 25 years' service. Drew's long captaincy will be remembered fondly by many boys past and present (including the writer of this article). However any stories he may tell of an ill-fated camping expedition to Tollymore Forest Park in 1985 are probably exaggerated. In reality Drew's leadership has inspired many boys from Trinity and farther afield to achieve top awards and the company is still going strong in 2006 due in no small part to Drew's dedication and good humoured enthusiasm.

Indeed youth work and community service have played a major part in Drew's life over the years. For fourteen years until his retirement from the police in 2004 Drew was a community relations and

community safety officer based at Omagh station. Many school children and young people benefited from his advice on community matters from road safety to drugs awareness. Drew has also been involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and continues to work with young people in the area who are taking their Bronze, Silver and Gold awards.

A major achievement of Drew's has been the establishment and continuing success of the Omagh Community Youth Choir, which he helped to found in 1998 after the Omagh bomb and has since served as a committee member for the choir. The choir has performed as far afield as New York and Chicago in the USA, in London and around Ireland. Drew and Linda have travelled to many of these places with the young people of the choir and even

have had the opportunity to work with Andrew Lloyd Webber! Since it was formed the Omagh Community Youth Choir has enriched the lives of many young people from Omagh and continues to do so.

You may not know it, but in 2004 Drew was awarded a MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours, in recognition of his years of community and youth work. He is typically modest about this well deserved award and reckons that it is Linda who deserves a medal for putting up with him.

Although Drew is retired from the police and children Judith and David have "flown the coop" life doesn't look like being too quiet for Drew just yet. His involvement with Trinity, the Boys' Brigade and Duke of Edinburgh Scheme should keep him out of mischief for quite some time yet!



*The MBE on the Queen's birthday's honours list, June, 2004 was awarded to Drew Hamilton, who was accompanied by his wife Lynda and children, Judith and David to receive the award at Buckingham Palace, London in December, 2004.*

# GILLYGOOLEY HARVEST FORK SUPPER

The fundraising Harvest Fork Supper organised to raise funds for Gillygooley Church repairs proved a tremendous success both financially and socially. The Congregation were over-whelmed by the generosity of the community in this, the Churches first ever fundraising event. The final total received will be in excess of £6650.00. Sincere thanks to everyone who supported the event, this was much appreciated. Such was the response to the invitation guest list that an overflow had to be accommodated in the minor hall and adjacent Chatterbox Playgroup mobile classroom. Although billed as a harvest supper the meal was in fact a three course dinner with choice of two main courses and deserts with almost three hundred meals being served. This was no mean achievement in a basic hall where much of the equipment had to be brought on site including an impromptu kitchen extension.

The congregation were extremely fortunate to have Karen Hannigan as a member of their flock who took overall responsibility for food preparation and cooking assisted by her mum Myrtle. This is not said to overshadow the tremendous team work and assistance received from virtually every family in the Congregation. Following the meal a programme of entertainment was provided for the guests, compered by Wesley Atchison a member of our sister Church Trinity, Omagh. Also performing were Gillygooley Pipe Band, Gillygooley Junior Choir accompanied by Amanda Graham, Country Code from Newry, Gillygooley Community Choir also accompanied by Amanda Graham, Stuart Buchanan from County Donegal and Joe King.



Busy on the chip pans are Christine Scott and Davy Hannigan.



L-R Melenie King, Noel and Margaret Hemphill.



Sharing a joke are Stephen and Linda Hunter.



Karen Hannigan, front right, in her kitchen with some of her helpers preparing food for the Harvest Supper.



Above: Guests enjoying their meal in the main hall.



Assisting in the portable kitchen which was erected are L-R Linda Sproule, Sandra Hemphill, Wilma Porter and Gertie Short.



Assisting in the preparations of vegetables at the Hannigan home on the Eve of the Harvest Supper are L-R Kyle McKinley, Jack Hannigan, Calvin McKinley, Naomi and Aimee Hannigan and Errol McKinley.



Pictured left: Some of the many helpers who assisted at the Harvest Supper. L-R Iris Moffitt-Scott, Mina McFarland, Margaret Hemphill, Beatrice Alexander, Anne Patterson, Ellen Fyffee and Raymond McKinley.



Guests in the minor hall pause for the camera.



Jean Creery who was responsible for all the magnificent table flower arrangements.



The Chatterbox mobile adjacent to the hall accommodated the over flow crowd. Enjoying their meal are L-R Jean Creery, Mary Cooper, Pansy and Billy Creery, Myra and Robbie Alexander.



Enjoying their meal are some of the helpers L-R Malcolm McKinley, Desmond Scott, Stanley Short and David Beattie.



Robert Fyffee prepares to wash the dishes.

# GILLYGOOLEY HARVEST SERVICE

The theme of the day was “The Mustard Seed” with the service being led by Rev. Robert Herron who was accompanied by Rev. Ian Ellis from the Board of Education. Due to the ongoing Church renovations the service was held in the Orange Hall. The choir trained by Mrs. Sheena Herron sang the anthems “Praise God for the Harvest of Orchard and Field” and “Sing to God with Joy.” Rev. Ellis address to the children was one of great interest. He looked at all different fruits and vegetables that we eat and compared them with body parts complete with artistic diagrams. The children were kept very amused as they discovered potatoes had eyes and cabbage had hearts. The Harvest offering which was very generously supported was in aid of the Church repair fund.

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### Harvest of Talents.

When one thinks of Harvest the mind immediately conjures pictures of farmers in the fields reaping grain, harvesting potatoes and gathering the fruits of God’s Garden.



*Harvesting in a bygone era.*

In recent months the Gillygooley Congregation have reaped another harvest the harvest of talents. As our little Church transforms from the appearance of a bomb site following the extensive renovations, much voluntary work has been evident. Our Congregation have reaped the harvest of the many talents of its people, no where was this more evident than in the recent “Harvest Supper” when again the talents were nurtured for the furtherance of Gods Kingdom.

## CASH FOR RAGS



A fund raising effort for Gillygooley Church repair fund has raised £850. The idea initiated by Sharon Beattie who was assisted by Harold Moore received wide spread community support. Items collected will be sold in thrift shops in Eastern European countries through an agency in Belfast. Items of unsaleable quality are recycled. Sharon has expressed her appreciation to everyone who supported the project.

# GILLYGOOLEY RENOVATIONS NEAR COMPLETION

At time of going to press (mid November) the extensive renovations to Gillygooley Presbyterian Church are almost complete. Resurfacing of the car park and associated work is still to be completed. Interior work outstanding is fitting of pews and completion of electrics. It is anticipated services will resume in the Church on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2006.



*Gillygooley Presbyterian Church exterior almost complete - 5<sup>th</sup> November 2006*



*Church interior nearing completion - October 2006*



*Work in progress at Gillygooley Presbyterian Church September 2006*

## “Presbyterian Church in decline”

*By Gillygooley Correspondant*

This is the view of Prof. Laurence Kirkpatrick a Presbyterian Minister who has recently published a book on the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

He claims 70 members per week are leaving the Church, a situation which has been developing for over thirty years. Prof Kirkpatrick says that while many church leaders were aware of the decline many of its members were not. He pointed the need to move

away from the more formal aspects of worship such as formal dress for parishioners and ministers who preach 30 minutes sermons, continuing he says it is the under 40s' age group that are the shrinking group in the church and this needs to be addressed. Prof. Kirkpatrick's book “Presbyterians in Ireland” outlines the life and times of the Church and its people since they began settling in Ireland during the 1600's. The book also includes a photograph of Gillygooley Presbyterian Church and brief details of its history. To be recommended as an ideal Christmas present.

## Gillygooley Presbyterian Church Variety Night

Gillygooley Orange Hall

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2006

On going: 7:30pm-10:00pm

Cake Stall, Preserves, Produce, Christmas Fayre  
Turf, Firewood, etc etc....

Side shows: trains, bean bags, tail the horse, crazy golf, waterfall, Gillygooley Young  
Enterprise etc, etc....

Tea/Coffee for all

A family night out for young and old

Admission: Adults £2 Children free

## Gillygooley Presbyterian Church Diary Dates

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2007 @ 2.00pm

Service to mark re-opening of Gillygooley Presbyterian Church and celebrations of its  
Bicentenary. Guest Preacher Right Rev. Dr. David Clarke (Moderator)

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Barbeque and Dance in Gillygooley Orange Hall

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Barbeque and Family Fun Night in Gillygooley Orange Hall

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2007

Gospel and Country Concert

### Record of Baptisms and Deaths in the Congregations

#### Baptisms in Trinity

19 Nov Katie-Louise Annie Harkness

*"Let the children come to me..."*  
(Mark 10:14)

#### Deaths in Trinity

15 Nov Jackie Bruce

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

## GILLYGOOLEY SISTERS ENJOY SHOWJUMPING SUCCESS

Gillygooley sisters Morgan and Harley Semple have enjoyed a successful year in the world of show jumping, competing in many competitions and winning numerous prizes. Both girls are members of Seskinore Harriers Pony Club, and have taken home prizes at their annual league, Halloween Show, Inter-Club Team Jumping and Pony Club Camp. The girls are also members of Seskinore and Ecclesville Riding Club, and were delighted to finish third (Morgan) and fifth (Harley) in their respective classes, at the Club's annual league in October. Much fun was also had competing at competitions organized by the Show Jumping Association of Ireland, they have been all over the country competing at venues from Ballymena to Donegal – Limavady to Cavan. A great time was had at the Balmoral Show jumping Festival held in July, jumping on one of the hottest days of the year, with both girls taking home rosettes. When asked for their favorite memories Harley choose last year's team jumping at the Scottish Home Pony International which took place in Lanark, Scotland. She jumped for the Irish '10 and under team' where she and her three team members came a fantastic 6<sup>th</sup> in a large and competitive field of teams from all over England, Scotland and Wales. Morgan's favorite memory is a bit closer to home, this was

the Inter-School team jumping competition which took place at Balmoral Show Grounds in September. She and her two team mates finished a very creditable 5<sup>th</sup> - jumping for Omagh Academy against 38 other secondary schools teams from all over Northern Ireland, and facing fierce

competition. The girls continue to enjoy competing with, and looking after their ponies, the pictures show Harley and her pony Dandy, having received their prize at Eglington Equestrian Centre and Morgan and her pony Woody competing at Balmoral Show Grounds, Belfast.





# CHRISTMAS KIDS PAGE



## Christmas Puzzle – Birthdays

At Christmas time we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Can you find out when these peoples birthdays are???

1. The Queen \_\_\_\_\_
2. Ant & Dec \_\_\_\_\_
3. Rev. Herron \_\_\_\_\_
4. Simon Cowell \_\_\_\_\_
5. Wayne Rooney \_\_\_\_\_

Below is a crossword with a difference. Instead of working out the answers can you make up the clues?

				1					
			2	M	A	R	Y		
		3	D	O	N	K	E	Y	
4	M	A	N	G	E	R			
5	W	I	S	E	M	E	N		
6	S	T	A	B	L	E			

- Clue 1 = \_\_\_\_\_
- Clue 2 = \_\_\_\_\_
- Clue 3 = \_\_\_\_\_
- Clue 4 = \_\_\_\_\_
- Clue 5 = \_\_\_\_\_
- Clue 6 = \_\_\_\_\_

**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. Please send in whole page including name and address.*

**Last issue's winners: Trinity – Courtney Allen Gillygooley – Jack Stevenson  
All the entries to last issue's competition were really good – well done to you all!**

## MEMBERS OF GILLYGOOLEY HOST INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES FROM THE IFYE ORGANISATION

The IFYE (International Farm Youth Exchange) organisation consists of Young Farmers that took part in exchange programmes with other similar organisations around the world.



The European countries involved take it in turns to host the IFYE conference and it's 13 years since the conference was last hosted in Northern Ireland when delegates stayed at Greenmount Agriculture College. The organising committee decided to move out West for this European Conference. It was agreed the Share Centre in Lisnaskea would provide an excellent base for all the planned trips. After a lot of planning the conference took place from the 29th July to 5th August 2006.

About 150 members stayed at the Share Centre and took part in a range of activities and visits during the week such as Belleek Pottery, Quinns Glass Factory, Ulster American Folk park, Marble Arch Caves, Florencecourt, RTD Crawford, Fishers Engineering, Tully Meadows ice-cream farm etc.

Part of the Conference is to show other Europeans (and some from further a field) a slice of life in N. Ireland. To assist with this a host family day was held on the Sunday and numerous ex or current Young Farmers Families hosted 2 or 3 visitors each.

A number of members from Gillygooley and Trinity congregations who were past YFC members took part in this hosting event and

enjoyed showing/sharing their homes and areas with these visitors for the day.

The day began with the Church service in St. McCartans cathedral in Enniskillen which was attended by delegates, host families and sponsors. The delegates then left with their respective host families for the afternoon.

The evening drew to a close back at the share centre with a BBQ and an evening of Ulster Scots entertainment including the Will Drennan experience and the YFCU pipe band.

Past YFC members enjoyed the opportunity to meet people from different countries and cultures and share the experience.

Noel and Margaret Hemphill from Gillygooley were members of the conference organising committee. They have both taken part in the YFCU exchange program. Noel went to Norway in 1992 and Margaret went to Australia in 1994. They were members of Drumquin and Kilrea Young Farmers respectively.

The delegates definitely enjoyed the week in Fermanagh and Tyrone with many intending to come back and visit our wee province.



Pictured above: Delegates from Belgium, Scotland, Australia, Austria, Hungary and the USA enjoy the craic with the Hemphills.

# WENDY IRWIN

By Margaret Simms



Here's another very talented musical lady and another team hockey player! Two in one! But more of that later; just to say first that Wendy is the young blond lady enthusiastically taking the Junior Choir in our services on 17<sup>th</sup> December and 24<sup>th</sup> December. (Note the dates!!) Wendy's mum's family came from Donemana and her dad from Hillsborough. Sadly, her dad died when she was only 18 months old and her brother and sister five and three. Her father was a policeman and was killed near Loughmacrory. Yet when talking to Wendy, you get no sense of bitterness. She has a very happy, welcoming personality. Her mother and father got married in Trinity. The ties with her husband George's family were close even then. George's father worked alongside Wendy's father and he and George's mother were at the wedding of Wendy's parents. Wendy's brother lives in Castlederg and her sister in London. Her mum works with elderly people for

Sperrin Lakeland. So, to music: Wendy has always had her interest and involvement in music - and in drama. Even at primary school, she laughs, she used to get the lead roles in the school plays. She mentions the roles of a 'Whistling Santa'(??) and of Mary in Christmas plays. She started singing when she was 14 and was in the Junior choir at Trinity which rehearsed with Stanley on Sunday afternoons. She remembers doing 'Jonah' and the Junior choir singing with the Senior choir. Persuaded by Stanley, she and Gillian Knox used to sing at weddings, which they enjoyed and found great fun. Wendy reckons she got her musical interests from her maternal grandmother, who used to play a lot, by ear. When she went to the Academy, she learnt to play cello and took and passed Grade 5. She's been playing the piano since the age of six. Wendy says that she would like to take up cello again, if she had time, so when's she's rich, she is going to buy a cello and start learning again! She went to Queen's University and took a Music degree and then started teaching in Gillygooley, which she loved. The first thing she did was to start a choir. The choir was entered during each of her three years there in the U T V School Choir of the Year Competition, where they were competing with much larger schools. Wendy suggests that it would have perhaps been fairer to have had a section devoted to

smaller schools only, as the smaller schools were competing against much bigger schools. That competition has now ended, after a great 10 year run and Wendy has moved from Gillygooley to Seskinore. She speaks with great fondness of her time in Gillygooley and the pupils there and also very enthusiastically about her current school, where she teaches year 7 .

Away from music and school, she's a hockey player, and not just a hockey player but a member of Omagh Ladies Second team! At school, she was Captain of the First Eleven team and she also played a lot of badminton. She won the Pinkerton Medal for the person who best mixed sporting ability with academic achievement. Currently, she is Club Ladies Captain, but, ironically, not playing, because she and George are expecting their first child in the New Year. She's very much in there, though, and is umpiring and helping out with coaching. Are there any things which Wendy would like to do? She jokes that this is a hard one to answer, then jokes a bit more that she'd love to be Maria in the Sound of Music. Maybe she hasn't been watching much TV recently.....but then again, you never know..... Thank you for your input with the Junior Choir for our Christmas services, Wendy. We wish you all the best for the future, especially for February, when the baby is due.

# PLENTY OF ORPHANS BUT NO MADONNA!

*Malcolm Herron shares his experience of a visit to an orphanage in India.*

On 4<sup>th</sup> August 2006 I departed from Omagh with a group of 37 people from the Community Church. One and a half days later we arrived in Chennai, exhausted, and our experience of India was about to begin.

We journeyed across Chennai in buses that appeared barely road worthy; crossing lanes and darting through traffic in a manner similar to that seen on Sky One's 'Most Dangerous Police Chases'. The contrast in societies could be seen instantly. One side of the town had businessmen, shopping centres and billboards sporting the latest camera phones while another had primitive huts and roads with men, women and even children sleeping in the streets, some of them unclothed. Six hours on a train brought us to our destination, Salem, a small city in comparison with Chennai but home to almost 5 million people. For 11 days we stayed in a building appropriately named 'The House of Peace'. Pastor J, who has visited Omagh, is the driving force behind 'The House of Peace' and he has also opened and runs two schools, two churches and four orphanages. Having experienced life as an orphan himself he has been motivated to make a difference and has made life better for thousands of orphans in Salem.



The largest of the orphanages is 'The Promised Land' (pictured above) and it was there that we spent three days carrying out a health clinic and painting murals. The health checks included -

weight, body mass index, lung capacity, temperature, eyesight, and hearing.



The children were also given instruction in basic hygiene like washing your hands, as in the photograph on the left. A profile of every child was made and the information was stored on a database to help with the next visit.

The children were always extremely happy and I became accustomed to walking everywhere with at least three orphans firmly attached to each arm. They were amazed by our cameras and the phrase, "Uncle, one picture!" was heard all too often. (Picture below)



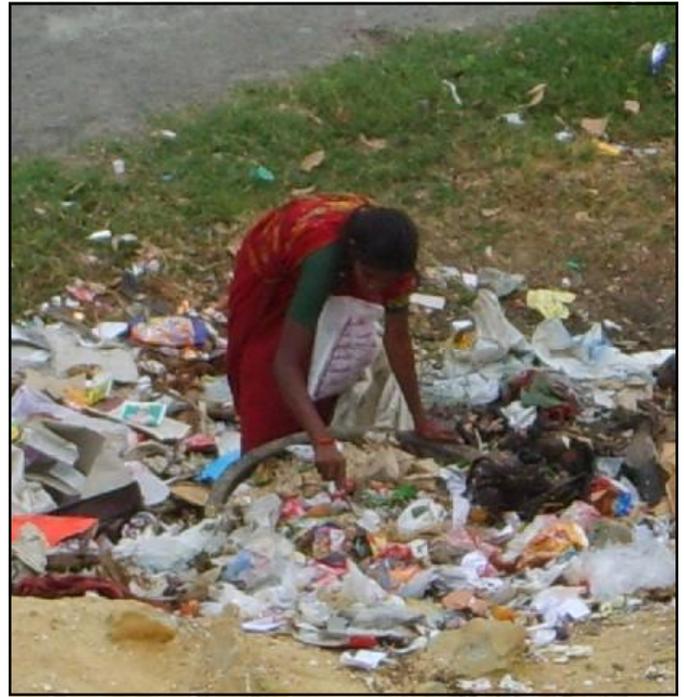
We also visited one of the schools run by Pastor J, St. Basil Matriculation School, pictured below.



The quality of education there is so good that wealthy families pay to have their children attend. I remember talking to a fourteen year old girl who spoke good English, and I was astonished to hear her recite the alphabet backwards and do maths that I have only learned to do in the past year. Pastor J's hard work and inspiration is undeniable.

Another of the highlights of the trip was spending time with a group of almost one hundred lepers, nicknamed 'the untouchables' by some of the locals. The majority of whom don't actually have leprosy but they associate with lepers and are therefore, deemed as outcasts. Many of these people prayed and cried when we reached out and touched them. For some of them it may have been the first hug they have ever received.

Reflecting on this experience I realise that there is so much that we take for granted in our every day lives and how little those people have. I will always remember listening to my iPod on the bus in Salem and looking out of the window to see a



woman with a baby in her arms and a basket balancing on her head and a boy of roughly my own age rummaging through the garbage. I think everyone took something from the trip and it was certainly an experience of a lifetime.

## TRINITY COMMITTEE RETHINK BEST WAY FORWARD FOR CHURCH HALL PROJECT

Trinity Church committee met on 13<sup>th</sup> November. One of the main items discussed was the Church Hall project. While the original plans are still in place and ready to be activated, the committee members have decided to take time to consider if an alternative project could be of greater long-term benefit. The alternative is based around the provision of a main hall entrance at the rear car-park wall and at the gable end of the Wee Johnny room. The committee believes that the rooms behind the ground floor kitchen could be put to better use and, if this is to be, they will need to be upgraded. The new thinking is based on making best use of limited funds by incorporating the provision of a new entrance to our hall facilitates, providing disabled access and toilets and at the same time improving the facilities for the crèche and other activities. This could be a better solution. In the meantime the building fund from recent Easter and Harvest collections is rising towards £60,000. This will make a very useful start to the overall building costs.



# 1<sup>ST</sup> OMAGH COMPANY BOYS BRIGADE AND 154<sup>TH</sup> COMPANY TRINITY GIRLS BRIGADE

The Annual Enrolment of the 1<sup>st</sup> Company Boys Brigade and the 154<sup>th</sup> Company Trinity Girls Brigade took place on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2006 at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Rev R Herron and Rev J Murdoch led the service. A good turnout of members from both Companies were present.

At the Enrolment the B.B. Company presented awards to its members.

Queens Badge  
John Graham

Duke of Edinburgh Award – Bronze Level  
Iain Herron, Malcolm Herron, James Marshall, John Graham, Richard Bell, Daryl Graham, Ashley Graham, Richard Barton, Andrew Young and Adam Henry

Photo below: Queens badge  
John Graham and his mother, Barbara Graham



Photo above: Duke of Edinburgh Award  
L-R John Graham, Daryl Graham, Richard Barton, Malcolm Herron, James Marshall and Richard Bell

Photo below: 154<sup>th</sup> Company Trinity Girls Brigade

Back row: Staff Officer Jolene Bell, Lauren Alexander, Amy Stockdale, Lindsay Carson, Grace Monteith, and Lieut. Kim Bell  
Middle row: Amy Patterson, Hannah Patterson, Megan Smyth and Hannah Leonard  
Front row: Bethany Swann, Gemma Mosgrove, Joanne Thompson and Emily Black



# ULSTER PROJECT 2006

## TUCSON ARIZONA

by Dean Porter

We all had a great time in Tucson Arizona and I had lots of memorable experiences. During my stay I also travelled to Newport California where the surf was massive and the Knotsberry Farm amusement parks had huge rides. Everywhere we visited we were well received and made so many new friends.

My host family's Mum, Jeanie Albertini really made me so welcome and treated me like her own family. Her daughter Josie was also an American youth councillor and cared for me like a big sister. Frank my host teen who like me was 14 years old, was good fun to be 'hanging out' with.



*Centre right Dean Porter and centre of photograph Lee Alexander who are members of Gillygooley Church accompanied by their travel companions and American hosts.*

We stayed for almost a month, which gave an excellent chance to experience the difference in our culture e.g. variety of foods, accents, transport vehicles, driving on the right hand side of the road and the climate, (air conditioning and swimming pools galore). We also extended our vocabulary with Americanisms e.g.

- Trunk = boot
- Sidewalk = footpath
- Hood = bonnet
- Sneakers = trainers
- Cell phone = mobile phone
- Bucks = quids
- Trashcan = bin
- Garbage = rubbish
- Boombox = gettoblaster
- We helped out at a homeless shelter for approximately 40-50 people, by painting doors and cleaning the place up. The hall was not unlike our Youth Club hall except it was full of bunk beds and had a kitchen off to the side. We also prepared some food at St. Pius Church and set it out for them.
- Our combined group consisted of ten Irish teens and ten American teens.
- Tucson was very dry and hot, hot, hot. 40 degrees Celsius (110 degree Fahrenheit) plus everyday.
- Most products were comparatively cheap, around half our price. Due to the favourable exchange rates between Sterling and the dollar.
- When we arrived it appeared that we brought the rain from Ireland to Tucson because they experienced heavy downpours which ended a prolonged drought. This made us feel more at home.
- We visited the Tucson Fire Department and Police Department.
- Everyone including myself had positive experiences. I can certainly recommend the Ulster Project, and am thankful for having had a chance to broaden my horizons in this way. The experience was simply amazing.

## WALKING IN FERMANAGH



*Some members pause for the camera at Drumrush Lodge.*

The new walking club formed jointly by Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association and Gillygooley 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth ended the summer season walking in glorious sunshine around the shores of Lough Erne in the grounds of Castle Archdale. Following the walk they then continued their journey by coach to Drumrush Lodge for a meal. During the summer months the club met on a weekly basis attracting an enrolment of approximately thirty. Many varied and picturesque walks were completed including Gortin Glens, Baronscourt and Pigeon Top.



*Enjoying the Fermanagh scenery L-R Diane, Brian and Matthew Mills, Iris Moffitt-Scott and Jacqueline Crawford.*



*Time for refreshments. Back L-R Jack and Adam Stevenson, front L-R Wilma Porter, Lila Crawford and Margaret Hemphill.*



*Pausing for a rest at the Castle Archdale L-R Maurice and Diane Stevenson and Veronica Daly.*



*Waiting for the coach at Castle Archdale L-R Andrew Scott, Andrew Stevenson, Audrey Clements and Gladys Hamilton.*

## THE TOMORROW FAMILY (3)

After his recovery from his illness Tom Tomorrow decided to sort out family matters. He suggested to his daughter Tara Tomorrow that she along with her intended, William Worry should go to a marriage course held by the local presbytery.

Tara flared up at her father; she didn't want her life organized. Besides she wasn't sure that she wanted to get married. To please her William Worry made a suggestion - instead of going to the marriage course they would go and see William's boss; Frank Faith and his wife. It is easier to talk to those we know than listen to those we don't know.

After the initial introduction, Tara Tomorrow was surprised to find that Mrs. Faith was originally Miss. Mistrusting. She had grown up in a trusting family but life and books had led her to mistrust. She had come to the opinion that trusting folk despised the intellect and were deaf to tomorrow's questions.

She had difficulty in finding work when she graduated from college and decided to take a temporary job with Frank Faith until something better came along. She expected to be bombarded by invitations to church services and church functions. She had excuses at hand if she needed them.

Frank Faith lived by faith. She could see that, especially when business went through a 'bad patch'. Despite herself and her mistrusting moods she was more and more attracted to Frank Faith.

At this point Tara Tomorrow felt she had to call a halt to the night's proceedings. She suspected the end of the story - a match between Miss. Mistrust and Mr. Faith. As far as she and William were concerned it wasn't a matter of feelings, "If we get the technology right the feelings will follow" was their motto. She knew that Frank and Fidelma Faith had something in common but it wasn't tangible.

She decided she would go on the internet to check out on a short holiday break; this would give them more time to think on their relationship. Meanwhile William Worry realized that he didn't need to worry about this day for another four years. It was the 29<sup>th</sup> February! He was as happy as a worried man could be.

## ULSTER PROJECT U.S.A. - LOUISE SCOTT, PROTESTANT COUNSELLOR

Unfortunately my group and I got off to a very shaky start with delays in Dublin and Toronto; a certain Canadian airline left a lot to be desired! We finally managed to arrive at our final destination Lake Charles – albeit a day-and-a-half late, and in a slightly dishevelled and exhausted state. Tiredness however did not curb our enthusiasm and we managed to greet our over – eager welcoming committee with smiles and some wary hugs.

To be honest as a counsellor, our trip was not all plain sailing and there were quite a few problems regarding host families, and the American Board. As a group we did not let this overshadow our holiday and we all thoroughly enjoyed all the activities that were organised for us.

Water activities were truly welcomed by those from Northern Ireland who were by now quickly turning the shade of a very ripe tomato. Other activities included paintballing clay pigeon shooting, fishing and canoeing, and for us counsellors trips to the rodeo when we had finished our “counselling duties”, this was a fantastic experience and probably the activity I enjoyed most.

Our biggest task was when we travelled to Cameron; a Parish in south Louisiana, as salt water mixed with fresh water during the storm much wildlife is struggling to survive. Our role, when we were there was to help with the clean-up operation, removing debris from property of those affected by Hurricane Rita.

As it was a Church based programme, the

teens and I attended two Church services, one Protestant and one Catholic. Both of these were interesting for the kids, as they were able to draw comparisons on each. However the Protestant service was quite unlike any service I have ever attended in Northern Ireland, and I’m not sure what kind of response a rock band would receive in Gillygooley!

Our time in America went extremely fast, and before we knew it was time to fly back to Northern Ireland, although not before yet more delays in Toronto. Now as we drift back into our own lives and our busy daily routines, we must not forget why we were in America and the purpose of the project. The friendships that grew and developed in America must continue at home.

As a counsellor I was able to witness these friendships blossom and I was lucky enough to have a great bunch of teens with me. Today emphasis is regularly placed on children or young people misbehaving in society, however in America I rarely needed to ask one of our teens to behave. All of them acted maturely and would have made their parents particularly proud while doing a brilliant job as ambassadors for their families and Northern Ireland...that’s not saying I never had to raise my voice mind you!

For me personally I met some wonderful people through my participation in the Ulster Project and I hope these friendships grow and mature.



Louise pictured with American counterpart counsellor Ali Neighbours.



Louise pictured with her fellow counsellors and teens at their last function as a group....if you look closely there’s a lot of running mascara.

# HARVEST AT TRINITY



Here are some of the magnificent floral decorations which were to be seen during the Harvest Service at Trinity this year. You must agree that they were very colourful as well as being varied and interesting (see photograph bottom left with Rev Herron checking out what he could have for lunch!). A big thank you has to go to everyone who supplied the flowers, fruit and vegetables and to the people who helped decorate the entire church on the Friday evening before the Harvest service.



CHURCH HALL BUILT 1894  
 CHURCH - ENLARGED 1901  
 CHURCH HALL - EXTENSION 1957  
 EXTENSIVE CHURCH REPAIRS 1969  
 THE NEW TRINITY MANSE COMPLETED APRIL 1973  
 THE CHURCH BELL INSTALLED APRIL 28th 1974

**MINISTERS**

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ROBERT NELSON 1785 - 1801    | Wm. MORRISON 1858 - 1902     |
| DAVID LITTLE 1802 - 1812     | J.H. BISHOP 1897 - 1918      |
| JOSIAS H. HARRIS 1813 - 1871 | W.D. BISHOP 1919 - 1971      |
| THOMAS TOMPKINS 1879 - 1918  | ROBERT A. HARRIS 1971 - 1992 |
| WILSON JOHNSTON 1814         | REBECCAH J. HARRIS 1993      |
| JAMES CAMPBELL 1828 - 1890   |                              |
| JOSEPH W. 1800 - 1890        |                              |
| GEORGE THOMAS 1800 - 1890    |                              |

## **Special Services in Trinity & Gillygooley**

(December & January)

**Sunday, 10 December 2006**

World Development Sunday

**Sunday, 10 December 2006**

McMillan Cancer Relief Service

in Trinity at 3.00 pm

**Sunday, 17 December 2006**

Carol Services

**Sunday, 24 December 2006**

Christmas Eve Services

**Monday, 25 December 2006**

Christmas Day Service

in Trinity at 11.00 am

**Sunday, 31 December 2006**

End of Year Services

**Sunday, 7 January 2007**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Items for inclusion in next Gillygooley News should be sent to:

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