

TRINITY & GILLYGOOLEY NEWS



Issue 39

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June 2007

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GILLYGOOLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CELEBRATES 200 YEARS OF WORSHIP AND WITNESS



The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Right Reverend David and Mrs Clarke, third left, following the official re-opening of Gillygooley Presbyterian Church on Saturday 24th March 2007. Also in the photograph are, from left to right, Mrs Alice Clarke, Mrs Mary Pinkerton, Eileen and Herbie Fleming, Rev RWW Clarke and Rev Robert Herron.



The Junior Choir who sang the Telephone Song at the re-opening service.

Gillygooley Presbyterians celebrate 'Special Milestone' in History of Church

The congregation of Gillygooley Presbyterian Church celebrated 200 years of God's witness, with a special service to mark the occasion – and to officially mark the re-opening of the church, following extensive renovations and refurbishment.

The service on Saturday afternoon was conducted by Rev. Robert Herron, minister, assisted by Rev. RWW Clarke – minister emeritus.

The guest preacher was Rt. Rev. Dr. David Clarke, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Dr. Clarke delivered a challenging and inspiring address, followed by prayer of re-dedication. He congratulated the congregation for their vision, and commended them for their commitment to God's work in Gillygooley.

The organist was Mrs. Sheena Herron, who also trained both the senior and junior choir.

The offering, which was for the refurbishment fund, was received by four members of the junior choir, Emma Hunter, Jessica Sproule, Keeva McIlwaine and Kyra McKinley. The lesson was read by Linzi Smyth and Rev. Herron.

Welcoming the large congregation, which overflowed into the adjacent Orange Hall, Rev Herron extended a warm welcome to community organisations, neighbours and friends, in assisting them to celebrate this special milestone in the life of the church.

Continuing, Rev Herron gave a brief history of the church, dating back to October 3, 1806 – when Gillygooley was granted a minister.

The Presbytery of Upper Tyrone granted a petition to some people in Gillygooley, asking for 'Supply of Sermon'.

The church was built the following year, the first minister being Rev. John Watson – who was ordained on June 23, 1807 – with joint charge of Gillygooley and Ballinahatty.

The church was originally thatched, and was severely damaged in the night of the great wind in 1839, and at that time the cost of repairs created serious problems for the congregation. Other alterations have been carried out in the intervening years, including the building of the bell tower in 1988.

The £150,000 project has completely renovated the church building for the congregation of 70

families. Improvements include a new roof, new pews with additional seating space, disabled access and associated works.

The congregation had been out of the church for approximately six months, during which time services were held in the local Orange Hall. Following the reopening service, everyone was invited to the Orange Hall for refreshments. Presentations were made to the Moderator and Mrs. Clarke by Matthew McKernan and by Glenn McKinley to Rev. RWW. and Mrs Clarke – and to Mrs. Molly Pinkerton whose late husband Rev. Harry Pinkerton was minister of Gillygooley from 1943 to 1970, by Stephanie Hunter.

Mr. Bill King, Clerk of Session, expressed thanks to everyone who had contributed to the success of the project, and made a presentation to David McKinley, who had acted as architect and clerk of works on a voluntary capacity.

The afternoon was brought to close by the Moderator, Dr. Clarke, in a moment of silent prayer.

Our Camera captures some of the proceedings at the reception and presentations which followed the service to mark the re-opening of Gillygooley Presbyterian Church.



The Right Rev Dr David Clarke, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and Mrs Clarke, receiving gifts from Matthew McKernan and Stephanie Hunter.



Glen McKinley makes a presentation to Sheena Herron.



Glen presenting Mrs Alice Clarke with a bouquet.



Glen makes a presentation to Mary Pinkerton whose late husband, Rev Harry Pinkerton, was minister of Gillygooley from 1943 - 1970.



Smiling for the camera are Billy & Pansy Creery.



Beatrice Alexander, Alex Hetherington & Wilma Porter in conversation.



Eileen & Herbie Fleming at the reception.



Rev Bill Clarke, Senior Minister, addresses the large gathering.



Junior Choir, L-R, Glenn McKinley, Stephanie Hunter, Kyra McKinley, Keeva McIlwaine, Jessica Sproule, Matthew McKernan, Emma Hunter and Sheena Herron at the new piano.



L-R Jennifer Hagan, Margaret McKinley, Mina McFarland & Linda Hunter enjoy the refreshments.



Joe King attending guests, Alan Rennie & Calvert & Ann Turner.



Former church members, Sadie & Junior Todd at the reception following the re-opening.



Right, Bill King, Clerk of Session, makes a presentation to David McKinley who on a voluntary capacity was architect & quantity surveyor.

DARFUR EMERGENCY APPEAL

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church has launched an appeal for the people of Darfur. Donations will be channelled through various agencies, including Tearfund, who have provided the following information.

What we are currently doing

FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE

Your support has enabled us to care for nearly 10,000 malnourished children of whom 4,000 have fully recovered.

A PLACE OF SAFETY AND HEALING

We currently have over 64,000 children and 17,000 women attending health clubs each week. These don't just provide life-saving advice on hygiene and health, but provide a normal, stable environment to traumatised children.

LIFE-SAVING WATER AND SANITATION

We have installed nearly 15,000 toilets, hundreds of wells and water points, giving nearly 165,000 people access to safe water.

What we could do

£15 will provide health education to ten children for one year.

£25 will buy seeds and tools for one family to support them through the next planting season.

£180 could feed a family of five in a relief camp for six months.

£600 will provide a well, giving safe water for 300 people.

£1,000 will provide sanitation facilities for 50 families.

Help us to show God's love.

The Bishop of El Obeid, Western Sudan, has written the following prayer :

'Almighty God, you have seen the suffering of our people in Darfur. We pray for your divine intervention to touch the hearts of people. We pray, Lord God, that the different factions will unite for peaceful dialogue so that the inhuman war atrocity will stop, and that the discrimination between the tribal groups may cease.'



“A Busy Person Always Finds Time”

This familiar and well known saying was at first related to the writer as a teenager. In preparation for my responsibilities and leadership within the Young Farmers Club Association my Mentor made reference to this quotation. In fact I can remember quite vividly and I quote “if you want something done, ask a busy person and they will always find time” as I have travelled through life’s journey in the intervening years how true and evident this statement has become. It is a statement that without doubt applies to the member of Gillygooley Congregation under focus in this issue.



David McKinley, Architect and Businessman.

David McKinley has played a very prominent role in the refurbishment and

alternations to Gillygooley Presbyterian Church. A project first muted in 1999 only coming to fruition in 2007. During this period David as our architect drew various plans, but as the committees are not always the most decisive of people, David would take it all in his stride when told to discard his hours of work and start afresh. Never once would a frown or grumble be witnessed, in fact it is out of character for David to say no to any request and he will always rejugle his busy lifestyle to assist others. An important milestone for the Congregation has been the celebrating of 200 years Presbyterian witness and the work over the past year in particular, in preparing the Church for this occasion. During this period David was, architect, quantity surveyor, clerk of works etc etc. David in his modesty will say he had many willing volunteers and this cannot be denied but every project needs a leader and David willingly and without

fuss fulfilled this important role. David is also on the Church committee and serves as a Sunday School Teacher.



David, the Sunday School Teacher.

Outside Church he is a devoted husband to Heather and father to three energetic young sons Kyle, Errol and Calvin who also contribute to the life of the Community.

As a business man he is an architect and also runs a building firm known as McKinley Contracts, but his talent and skills extend to other areas.

He is a very popular leader in Gillygooley Youth Club and also pipes in Gillygooley Pipe Band.



David the Youth Club Leader.

David has proved once again that the slogan quoted to me by my Mentor several decades ago is still as prevalent in this the twenty first century.



David the Piper.

Activity News from Gillygooley

Community Association

The association continues to embrace all user groups within the Orange Hall and focus on topics of mutual interest in the community. Several funding application forms have been submitted for improvements to the Orange Hall and also for workshops and classes for the 2007/2008 season. A three week summer scheme is planned starting on 16th July in the Orange Hall for children who have completed year 2 to year 7 and for year 7+ on Monday 8th August for one week only.

2nd Youth (50+ club)

Attendance at the monthly meetings continues to increase with keen interest in varied programmes of activities scheduled. Topics addressed have ranged from health issues to the environment and wildlife with the most recent meeting being held at Woodview Garden Centre, Lislimnaghan. The last meeting of the season is the A.G.M. planned for Monday 25th June at 8:00pm. Funding has been received for a basic food hygiene certificate class. This will be held in the Orange Hall in June. Members have been interacting in a Positive Ageing Cross Border Project with a group from Donegal in

a project funded by Age Concern and Age Action.

Walking Club



The club continues to meet on a weekly basis on Wednesday nights commencing at 7:30pm from Gillygooley Orange Hall, unless otherwise advised. To date in addition to local walks the club has walked at Pigeon Top and Baronscourt. Other routes planned are Lough Fea and Gortin Glens. To book your free bus seat or for other information tel: Diane 8224 6553 or Iris 8224 2895 (walk leaders).

Gillygooley Youth Club

Gillygooley Youth Club has completed thirty three years providing an outlet for young people to channel their energies in a positive and constructive way. As the club draws to a close for the 2006/2007 season, records of achievement have again been surpassed. Membership of 130 members is an immense

challenge for the leaders who are to be commended for their faithful and devoted commitment to the youth of Gillygooley and beyond. The membership of the club far abounds the geographical area of Gillygooley, and has a reputation of excellence throughout the province. Junior and senior members enjoyed a residential weekend at Gortatole Outdoor Pursuit Centre during the Easter holidays. They participated in caving, orienteering, wall climbing and team building exercises.

West Tyrone Federation of Youth Clubs



Congratulations to the senior girls "A" team and the boys team who won the unihoc and football competitions. Also the senior girls "B" team and the junior girls team who were runners-up in the section.

Young Enterprise

Gillygooley Youth Club Young Enterprise team named "Gifted" are to be congratulated on emerging as the regional winners in the Youth Club section.

Barbeque raises £2715

A barbeque in aid of Gillygooley Church repair funds held in the local Orange Hall & grounds proved a tremendous success both financially and socially. The idea was spawned by committee member Malcolm Fleming who along with the generous support of the extended Fleming family organised the event. The unseasonal weather did not deter the large crowd in attendance. The next fund raising event is a Country & Gospel Concert on Saturday 29th September 2007.



"We will show you how to dance" says Leah McIlwaine and Morgan Semple.



L-R Davy Hannigan, David & Heather McKinley.



Rev. Robert & Shenna Herron, Joan & George Armstrong & Claire McKernan relax after their meal.



Malcolm Fleming addressing all present.



Young and not so young enjoyed the barbeque L-R Jemma Walker and Lisa Hemphill.



Neighbours L-R Colin & Mavis Jardine and Melva & Sidney Alexander at the barbeque.



Raymond King who auctioneered gifted items during the interval, assisted by Pansy Fleming.



L-R Catherine Moore, Elaine King, Kathleen & Stanley Wright, Herbie Coulter and Jonathan Moore enjoying their food.



Sandra Hemphill and Iris Moffitt-Scott enjoying the washing up????????????????

1st Omagh BB Display 30th March 2007



Receiving Queen's Badges

*L-R – Linda Graham on behalf of her son Ashley Graham
Malcolm Herron with his mother Sheena Herron
James Marshall with his mother Charlotte Marshall*



Anchor Boys

*Back row L-R - Deane Kane, James Kerr, Andrew Kerr, Matthew Hill, Jack Hall
Front row L-R - Graeme McGonigle, Ryan Gibson, Jason Marmion, Luke Stockdale, Cameron Black, Graham Carson*



Company Section

*Seated L-R – William Barton, Jonathan Agnew, David Marshall, Drew Hamilton, Jason Sproule
Standing L-R – Richard Bell, Matthew Alexander, Malcolm Herron, Daryl Graham, Richard Barton, James Marshall, Stuart Graham, Aaron Carson*



Junior Section

*Front row - Kyle Swan, Andrew Monteith, John Kerr, Adam Moore, Reece Kane
2nd row - David McLean, Ben Hall, Mr Mervyn Rowe (Inspecting Officer) Mrs Evelyn Rowe, James Rutledge
3rd row - Lloyd Kane, Jake Cunningham, Matthew McKernan, Mark Clements, Jack Swann, Justin Aiken, Samuel McGonigle
Back row – Andy McKernan, Alan Duff, Valerie Alexander, Noel Barton*

St. Patrick's Day Festival



Members of Gillygooley 2nd Youth (50+ club) and Youth Club prepare to take part in the Omagh St. Patrick Day Festival.



Nicola Hemphill and Alissa Wallace relax during rehearsal for the Festival.



Above and below, representing Gillygooley Community Association at the St. Patrick's Day Festival in Omagh are some members of the 2nd Youth (50+ club) and Youth Club members.

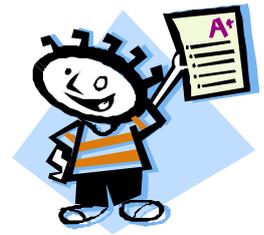


GILLYGOOLEY CHURCH NEWS APPRECIATED IN CANADA

Local youth and community voluntary worker Lorraine Elkin has informed the editor how relatives in Canada keep in touch with events in Gillygooley by reading the Trinity & Gillygooley News online. Lorraine who is a member of neighbouring Lislimnaghan Parish Church is a former treasurer of Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association and currently assistant secretary and Young Enterprise Leader of the Youth Club. It is interesting to note how expats are keeping in touch with their homeland. If any of you would like to write or email us details may be found in the back page of the magazine.

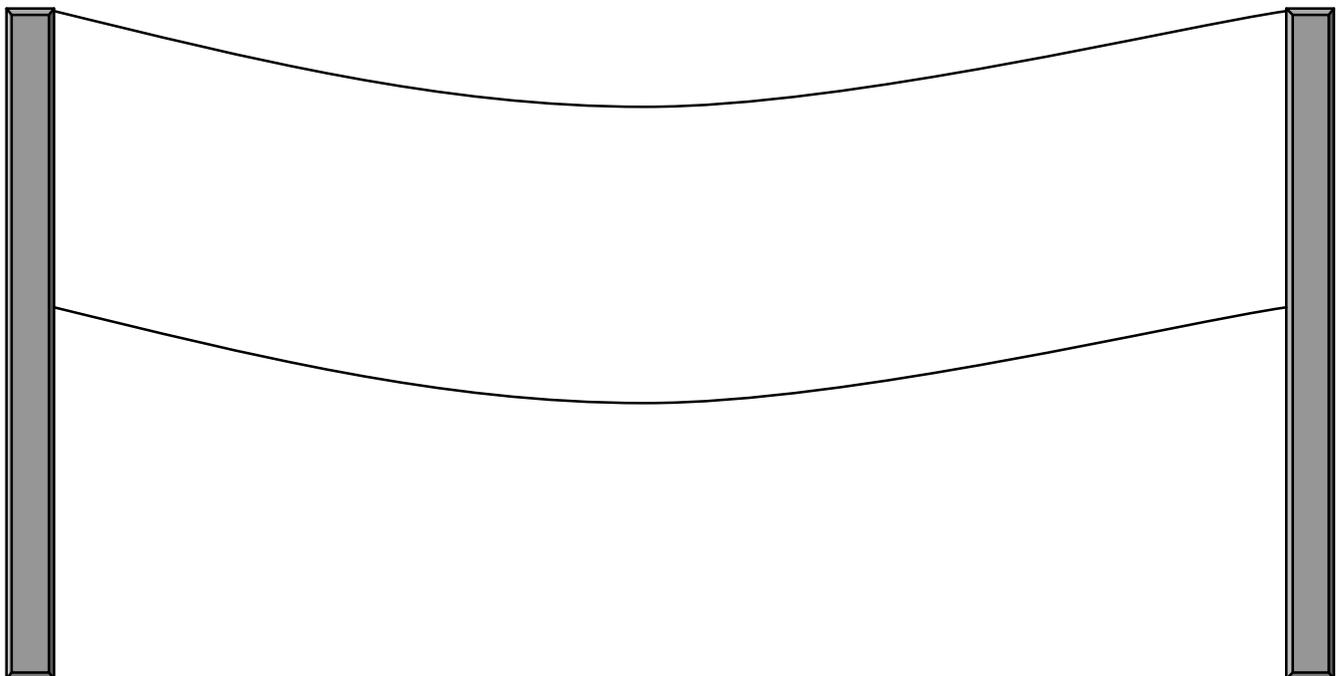
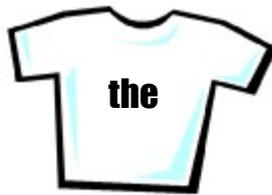


Children's Page



Cut out the t-shirts, put them in the correct order and stick them on the two washing lines below.
 (Bible reference: Mark 19 v 14)

Many people brought their children to Jesus so he could pray for them. Jesus' disciples thought this was wrong but Jesus said.....



Please Note: We can only except Primary School Entrants

Please forward entries to Andrew Scott, Aughnamoyle House, 41 Gillygooley Road, Omagh BT78 5PP or to Catherine & Jonathan Moore (children's page editors) Email: eng@jengineering.co.uk 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 – No Entries] [Gillygooley – Carol Fleming]

YOUTH CLUB AGM

Very positive reports were presented at the 33rd AGM of Gillygooley Youth Club. Appreciation was expressed to the leadership team for the excellent youth work undertaken and for their dedication to the youth of the greater Gillygooley area.

The election was conducted by Andrew Scott, Chairperson of Gillygooley Youth and Community Development Association. Those elected were as follows:

Chairperson	Raymond King
Vice-Chairperson	David McKinley
Secretary	Allison Hemphill
Asst Secretary	Lorraine Elkin
Treasurer	Sharon McFarland
Asst Treasurer	Pansy Fleming

Representatives West Tyrone Youth Council
Jennifer O'Donnell & Bernie Liggett

Leader in Charge Jennifer O'Donnell

Leaders Primary Group Jennifer O'Donnell,
Linzi Smyth
& Ryan O'Donnell

Leaders Junior group Jennifer O'Donnell,
Bernie Liggett,
Andy McKernaghan
& David McKinley

Leaders of Senior group Sam Harpur,
Jennifer O'Donnell,
Bernie Liggett
& Raymond King

Young Enterprise Leader Lorraine Elkin

Club activities will resume in September. Full details later.

FOOTBALL SKILLS OPPORTUNITY FOR GILLYGOOLEY YOUTH

Twenty young people from Gillygooley will participate in a one day soccer coaching course in Newtownards hosted by Northern Ireland striker David Healy. The event takes place on Saturday 23rd July and is organised by the Ulster Scots Agency. David who in his international career has scored 29 goals in 56 games will be joined by 150 local football coaches for the event.

This is the second time Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association have been involved in an Ulster Scots Project the other occasion being last years Summer Scheme. It is intended an Ulster Scots theme will again be included in this years Summer Scheme scheduled to commence on 16 July 2007.

HONOUR FOR LOCAL GILLYGOOLEY 'BOBBY'

Sergeant David Mc Ilwaine has been nominated for the 'Community Police Officer of the Year' award. David serves on the committee of Gillygooley Congregation in a quiet and dignified way and is very supportive of church life.

David is married to Linda and they have three children. Originally from Plumbridge he is from a rural background, having spent his youth on the family farm.

He has been stationed in Castlederg Police Station since 1st August 2005, following a short period of eighteen months at Strabane.

His nomination for the award is no doubt in recognition of the community work he has done in Castlederg, an area which has suffered and experienced much tragedy during the troubles. David was nominated by the Strabane District Command Unit under which jurisdiction Castlederg is located. David's influences in trying to improve community relations have been recognised by his Unit who have nominated him for this award, the finals, of which, will be held at the City Hall, Belfast.

GILLYGOOLEY NEW COMMUNICANTS



New Communicants pictured with Rev. R Herron and Bill King, Clerk of Session.

Following the celebration of the Lord's Supper in Gillygooley on Easter Sunday are Andrew Stevenson and Stacey Hemphill (missing from the photograph is Dean Porter)

CONCERN OVER SAFETY OF GILLYGOOLEY RESIDENTS

A member of Gillygooley Church Mrs Ruby Ford has suffered the unfortunate experience of having her garden fence demolished at least six times, as a result of road traffic accidents. In one of the most recent incidents a people carrier overturned before coming to rest in the rockery at Ruby's front door and a few days later another vehicle crashed just a few yards from her home.

The Omagh to Drumquin road, with its endless bends, has been notorious for accidents with at least two fatalities recalled by local residents. It was fortunate Ruby wasn't in her garden at the time as the consequences may have been much worse



Car in Ruby Ford's rockery, following recent accident (photo by Billy Creery)

Gillygooley Youth and Community Development Association have requested the PSNI provide information on the number of reported accidents on this stretch of road in an effort to establish a case for massive road improvements. The road carries over 2000 vehicles daily and little improvements have been carried out over the past decades.

Local politicians have also been calling for improvements. As an interim solution the DOE have agreed to improve signage and re-surface the road from Mullaghmena Road to Forsythe's lane with a surface dressing which should minimise skidding accidents.

We can only hope and pray this will help end the pain and suffering endured by the travellers of the route and in particular for Ruby, who has endured much trauma.

Local fencing contractor, Joe King, says he has lost count of the number of fences he has repaired on the Gillygooley Road as a result of accidents.

GILLYGOOLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DIARY DATES

Saturday 23rd June 2007 at 7.30 p.m.
Barbeque & Family Fun Night in
Gillygooley Orange Hall

Saturday 29th September 2007 at 8.00 p.m.
Gospel and Country Concert in
Gillygooley Orange Hall

GILLYGOOLEY COMMUNITY DIARY DATES

Monday 18th June 2007
Gillygooley Community Development Association
AGM
8:30pm in
Gillygooley Orange Hall

Tuesday 19th June 2007
Summer Scheme registration
8:00-8:30pm in
Gillygooley Orange Hall
(Summer Scheme commences 16th July for 3
weeks. Children must have completed Year 2
and be no older than Year 7)

Saturday 23rd June 2007
David Healy,
Football Coaching Day, Newtownards

Monday 25th June 2007
Gillygooley 2nd Youth (50+ club) AGM
8:00pm in
Gillygooley Orange Hall

Saturday 30th June 2007
Gillygooley 2nd Youth bus trip to Stormont

Thursday 12th July 2007
Barbeque and dance in
Gillygooley Orange Hall

CASH FOR RAGS

Following the success of the last collection of clothes for recycling in aid of Church funds, Sharon Beattie & Harold Moore, Gillygooley, will again receive suitable items. For further details tel. Sharon 82245641

CHILDREN'S SERVICE & PRIZE GIVING AT GILLYGOOLEY

'How often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing' Luke ch. 13 vs 34. The theme of the Children's' Service on Sunday 3rd June was based on the 'Wings Project'. A project supported by the Board of Youth and Children's Ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. During the past year the children of Gillygooley have financially supported this project through their Sunday School offering.

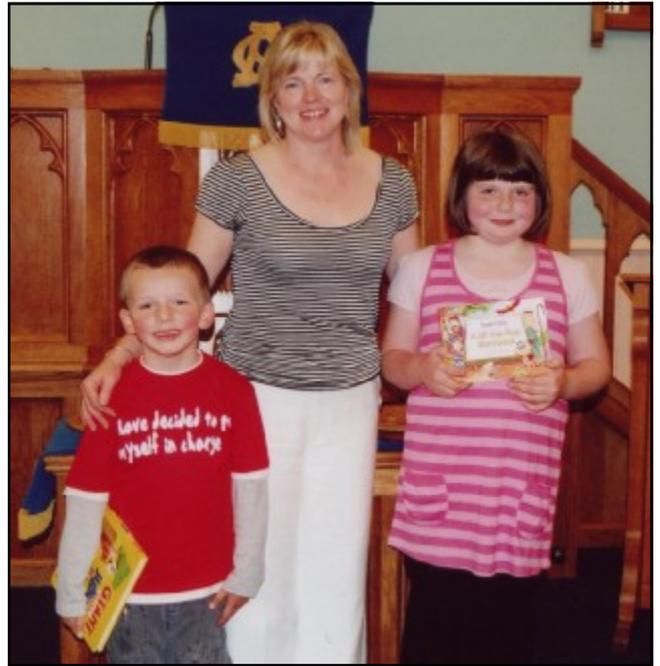
The money will be used to purchase an 'After Care House' which will provide support to enable young people complete their studies or find employment. They will also be taught basic life skills such as cooking, cleaning and how to manage their finances.

During the service the Rev Herron presented the prizes assisted by Beverly Fleming Sunday School Superintendent.



Chloe Aiken and Craig Forsythe present the Rev Herron with money raised for 'Wings Project'

Following the service everyone was invited to the Orange Hall for coffee, scones, and shortbread. Donations were received on behalf of the 'Wings Project'. Thanks to Beverley, our Sunday School Superintendent, teachers and Bible class members who organised the event.



Emma & Matthew Hunter who were presented will full attendance awards (missing from the photograph is Craig Forsythe)



Walker and Stevenson Families at the coffee morning L-R Robert, Jemma, Zandra, Diane Andrew, Maurice and Adam.



Some of the youth in our congregation from the rear L-R Bryan Fleming, Timothy Anderson, Stephen and Richard Hemphill, Kyle McKinley and Jonathan Sproule Front left is Christopher Smyth.

Gillygooley Youth Club Awards Presentation

Local sports personality Shirley McCay from Drumquin was the guest of honour at the 33rd annual prize distribution of the club. This young 18 year old girl is currently a sports student at Jordanstown University. Shirley is part of the Irish over and under 19 years hockey teams and has recently been selected and played for her team Randalstown in South Africa and France. Shirley presented the trophies and prizes to members who had achieved success in the various competitions throughout the year. Formalities were chaired by Raymond King, Chairman. Emma McFarland acted as compare for the entertainment part of the programme which commenced with the primary members in music and action. The junior club presented a talent show mimicking many pop stars from the world of entertainment whilst the senior club staged a one act play entitled "The Way of a Rumour"



Junior members who won prizes with leaders' front, L-R Bernie Liggett & Jennifer O'Donnell. Back L-R Andy McKernan & David McKinley.



The leadership team. Back L-R Sam Harpur, David McKinley, Andy McKernan & Raymond King. Front L-R Bernie Liggett, Jennifer O'Donnell & Zandra Walker, secretary. (missing from photograph, Sharon McFarland, Treasurer)



Carol Fleming who received the junior personality of the year award from Shirley McCay, second from right, also in photograph L-R Bernie Liggett & Jennifer O'Donnell, leaders.



Primary group winners with leaders, Laura Fleming (left) & Linzi Smyth (right).



Right, Lisa Hemphill who won senior personality of the year award for the second successive year. Presenting the trophy is Shirley McCay.

Gillygooley Youth Club Talent Show



L-R David McKinley & Raymond King, leaders, who were dressed up by the Senior Youth Club members.



Comic Relief – Proclaimers – I would walk 500 miles are L-R Matthew McKernan, Callum O'Donnell, Calvin & Errol McKinley and Joel Adams.



A number from High School Musical are L-R Janice Caldwell, Harley Semple, Keeva McIlwaine, Alissa Wallace and Leanne Elkin.



Girls Aloud – Jump! are L-R Jessica Sproule, Carol Fleming, Emma Gilchrist and Rachel Armstrong.



The cast of the play entitled "The Way of a Rumour" are L-R Kirsty Elkin, Jayne Donaldson, Grace O'Neill, Morgan Semple and Emma Mills.



Performing as S Club Junior are L-R Emma Hunter, Kylie Nethery, Stephanie Hunter, Megan Harpur and Nicola Hemphill.



It's the way we tell them!!, comedians, Adam McFarland and Graeme Walker.



Ably supported by Stephen Fleming and Daryl Elkin.



Grand finale; some of the members who performed at the Talent Show.

Presbyterian News

by Gillygooley Correspondent

Moderator visits Presbyterians in Kenya

Rev Dr David Clarke spent three weeks in Kenya meeting officials of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa. He and Mrs Clarke attended the General Assembly in Mombassa before travelling to Olkinyiei to spend time with Gary & Mary Reid and family who are from Randalstown before travelling to Tuum to meet Stephen & Angelina Cowan from Warringtontown. Both families are involved in a skills and training development programme which helps the local Samburu people acquire additional expertise that compliment their cattle farming tradition. The final leg of his visit took him to Galana where Derek & Linda Roulston from Donegal are working in a

P.C.E.A. Agricultural Programme.

The membership of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa is five times greater than the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

P.W.A. A.G.M.

Such was the response for seats at the PWA Annual General Meeting in Church House Belfast that two sittings had to be arranged. Those present received reports on the work of the Association and the launch of their theme for 2007/08 which is "Come and See"

The Moderator Rev Dr David Clarke was in attendance and gave a report on his recent visit

to Kenya.

Church Attendance Highest in N. Ireland

Within the United Kingdom a survey has revealed that 45% of people in N. Ireland attend church (both traditions – Protestant and Roman Catholic) and surprisingly London has the second highest number of regular churchgoers.

General Assembly

Congregations from throughout Ireland will be represented at the General Assembly commencing on Monday 4th June in Church House Belfast. On this occasion Rev John Finlay will be installed as Moderator for the ensuing year.

TRINITY ELECT SIX NEW ELDERS

Following quite a complex sequence of events, involving seeking permission and voting, Trinity have now elected six new elders to help those who are current Elders.

The new elected elders are as follows from top left clockwise:

Claire McElhinney
Drew Hamilton
Ken Duncan
Wesley Atchison
Sam Carson and
Mitchell McKnight





Sunday School and Bible Class Project

During 2006/2007, the children and young people of Trinity and Gillygooley have been collecting money for Wings - The Youth and Sunday School Project of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland for 2006/2007.

The money collected will help the Aksza Mission in Romania to purchase an After Care House. The house will provide a home for teenagers who have lived at Aksza Children's Home but have to move out once they are 18 years old. In the past some of the young people who have left Aksza have been unable to cope and have been forced back to life on the streets or returned to the families who abandoned or abused them. The Wings House will provide security and support for young people, so that they will be able to complete their studies or find employment. They will also be taught basic life skills such as cooking, cleaning and how to manage their finances, so that when they finally leave care they will be able to look after themselves.

The project is called Wings because the after care home will provide a Christian environment where the young people will continue to be sheltered under the wings of God and shown his love and care. The name wings also reminds us that as the young people reach 18 they are ready to spread their wings and leave the nest.

Fact File about Street Children in Romania

Poverty

Romanian families have been significantly affected by the general crisis exemplified by economic hardship, lack of material resources for families with many children, inflation and unemployment. After more than 13 years of transition in Romania, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and real wages are still less than their 1989 levels. This has had serious negative impacts on family welfare. Compared to 1989, when only 6% of the population lived in poverty, 43% of the Romanian population now live in poverty.

Family Conflict and Violence



Since 1989, different generations within Romanian families have become increasingly estranged from each other, as adults struggle to cope with the massive changes in their lifestyles and responsibilities. Under communism, most people's lives were carefully planned out and people knew for example, at the age of 20 what their pension would be when they retired 45 years later. Today, all the old certainties relied upon are gone, and many people are unable to deal with the freedom of making decisions about their future and their own lives. Many middle-aged people, especially women, have lost their jobs and are now unable to earn enough to provide for themselves and their families. All of these factors - poverty, unemployment, overcrowding at home and alcoholism - have all increased the likelihood of family conflict and abuse, which in turn raises the probability of children escaping to the streets.

Description of Street Children in Romania

Although the complexity of every child's situation cannot be underestimated, it would appear that street children in Romania largely fall into four categories:

1. Children who work and live on the street full time. They maintain loose or little family contact and live in groups in temporary makeshift shelters, sewers or dark alleys near to marketplaces, commercial centres and railway stations. (20%)
2. Children who work on the streets by day but return home in the evenings to sleep. This category maintains family contact and may be on the streets to pass time or due to overcrowding in the home. In Romania, this category constitutes the majority of street children. (60%)
3. Young people who live on the street - the former street children for whom the reintegration procedures applied in previous years by governmental or non-governmental institutions have failed. Even if physically and legally these youths are no longer seen as 'children', they are still assimilated to the street children category. (13%)
4. Children who live with their parents on the street and young people who live on the street and have become parents themselves. (7%)

Source: Asociatia Sprijinirea Integrării Sociale (ASIS)
2004

Lives of Street Children in Romania

For a child working on the streets of Romania, the day extends far beyond sunrise and sunset, with rarely a day off. Aside from the evident lack of adequate sanitation, shelter and nutrition, one of the most pressing health problems facing street children in Romania is currently drug abuse, which an increasing number see as offering an escape from the harsh daily realities of family break-up, poverty,

violence and homelessness. Recent reports also suggest that Heroin is becoming more



common among street children in Romania, thereby increasing the risk of HIV/AIDS through groups of children sharing needles to inject.

The reasons for taking these drugs are varied and many. Some report sniffing glue helps them eat the rotten food they are forced to eat for survival, while others

admit using it to quell their constant hunger pains. In many areas, sniffing glue may be cheaper than eating. Glue and other drugs may also be used for the following reasons: to keep street-living children awake for work; alert to possible violence; facilitate sleep during the cold nights, or anaesthetise physical or emotional pain. The combination of malnutrition, inadequate sleep and the characteristics of the street (crowded, extremely hot or cold with many noxious substances) have afflicted many with skin disorders such as scabies, wounds and burns and a number of respiratory disorders caused by cigarette smoke and glue-sniffing. Most of the street-living children have only one set of clothes that quickly become dirty and shabby. Even the street children who return home at the end of the day are denied the opportunity to wash properly as many of the homes lack even basic utilities.

Aksza Mission & Young People



Record of Baptisms and Deaths in the Congregations

Baptisms in Trinity

22 Apr Harley Folliard
 29 Apr Evie McGarry
 27 May Oliver George Irwin

“Let the children come to me...”
 (Mark 10:14)

Deaths in Trinity

16 May George Dunn

“I am the resurrection and the life...”
 (John 11:25)

NEW MANSE TAKES SHAPE WHILST TRINITY MEMBERS PICK STONES

In April, a chain gang was observed working on the ground surrounding the new Manse. They appeared to be kitted out for manual labour duties and were observed bending over continually in the bright sunshine. Some were heard to cry out for water. After completing their punishment for the day, they returned from whenst they came, nursing various aches and pains. Rumour has it that a few managed to escape and are still at large, but are not deemed to be dangerous. Anyone with information about their location is asked to contact Rev Herron (he wants them back for more chores!)
 A job well done!





NEW COMMUNICANTS IN TRINITY

New Communicants welcomed into Trinity on Easter Sunday were as follows:

Matthew Barbour
Ian Dorrian
Victoria Gilfillan
Dean Hamilton
Kyle Hamilton
Adam Leitch
James McCay
Lyndsey McCay
Jonny McClung
Dean McConnell
Rebecca McConnell
Jenny McGurk
Adam Pollock
Melissa Smith

Summer Arrangements

SUNDAY SERVICES

July

TRINITY & GILLYGOOLEY

Rev Robert Herron

August

FIRST OMAGH & GILLYGOOLEY

Rev John F Murdoch

PASTORAL COVER

July - Rev Robert Herron

August - Rev J Murdoch (Tel: 82242239)

On Sunday 3rd June in Trinity, Emma Moore presented Rev Herron with £150, which was the money raised by Trinity Sunday School in aid of the Wings Project, a very worthwhile cause. (See pages 19-21)



Pictured above left: Jim Adams stamps Grace Monteith's Sunday School card and pictured above right: Carson's on porch duty.

Anyone from Trinity with articles or photographs for inclusion in the next magazine, which should be published in October, is asked to forward them to any member of Trinity Committee or

Richard McClung, Tel: 82245150, Email: richard@knocksilla.fsnet.co.uk

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

Andrew Scott, Editor, Tel: 8224 2895

Or

Diane Mills, Assistant Editor, Tel: 8224 6553. E-mail: e.mills@freenet.co.uk

Photographs by Billy Creery & Andrew Scott