

TRINITY & GILLYGOOLEY NEWS



Issue 43

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June 2008

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TRINITY WELCOMES NEW COMMUNICANTS



Present at the Easter Sunday service at Trinity Church on 23rd March 2008 were Allison Parke, Gemma Beattie, Hanna Ferguson, Rachael Eccles and Matthew Alexander who were welcomed into Trinity Church as new Communicants. Not in photo, Rachael Eccles.

NEW COMMUNICANTS AT GILLYGOOLEY



Photographed following the reception of new communicants on Easter Sunday are L-R Lindsay Anderson, Christopher Smyth, Zara-Jayne McCauley, Jonathan Sproule, Emma Smyth, Rev Robert Herron, Louise King and Richard Hemphill.

TRINITY ANNUAL VARIETY CONCERT



A packed church hall was the venue for the annual Trinity Variety Concert which took place on Saturday 15th March. Compere, Colin Jardine, ensured that the programme ran smoothly as well as entertaining

the audience between acts.

The show opened with a lively performance by the ever-popular "Trinity on Tour" band, made up of Trinity members Drew Barbour, Colin Jardine, Carol McCandless, Claire McElhinney, Joe McGrew, Roy Millar, John Moore, Greg Parke, Heather Watson and Roy Wilkinson. The audience sang along with the songs including Putting on the Agony, Lily the Pink, You are my Sunshine and Folsome Prison Blues.



Next on the programme was the delightful singing of the Girls' Brigade who entertained everyone with Abba's Mamma Mia and Queen's Don't stop me now.



This was followed by a hilarious sketch entitled "Who wants to be a millionaire?" performed by Roy Wilkinson, Colin Jardine and Johnny Moore.



Keith McKnight then displayed his amazing skill on the guitar before Courtney Allen and Sarah Moore were the stars of "The Nutty News at Ten".



Not to be outshone by the girls, Boys' Brigade members Jonathon Agnew, Aaron Carson and David Kerr entertained the audience with their sketch "Tarzan and Jane".



Drew Barbour was next on the stage to skilfully play Flower of Scotland on the harmonica and I'll



tell me ma on the tin whistle and this was followed by another excellent sketch "The Surgery" performed by Drew Hamilton, Marie Neery and Johnny Moore.



In the next act, both Heather Watson and Noel Donald gave excellent performances in a sketch entitled "Trouble Sleeping".

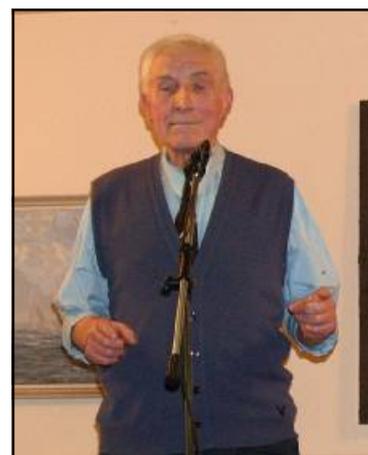
Richard Clements then gave a polished performance of two pieces on the cello after which Roy Wilkinson sang three lovely songs including The Rose of Tralee and The Green Glens of Antrim, accompanied on keyboard by Roy Millar.



This was followed by the equally popular duo "The Two Ms" John Moore and Roy Millar.



Joe Mc Grew then serenaded the audience with Dear hearts and gentle people and Alexander's Ragtime Band before the final act of the evening, Trinity on Tour, who encouraged everyone to join in a well-known selection of songs including Beautiful Isle of Somewhere, Shall we gather at the river? and Count your blessings.



Next on stage was Claire McElhinney to sing three beautiful pieces including Forty Shades of Green and Up in the Mountain.

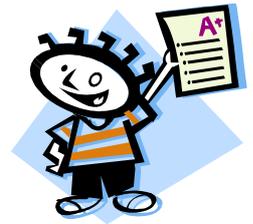


After the concert, the audience enjoyed a delicious supper organised by Pearl Donnell. Sincere thanks to the performers, Pearl and her assistants and to Drew Hamilton and his committee for organising a super evening that raised over £600 for Christian Aid.



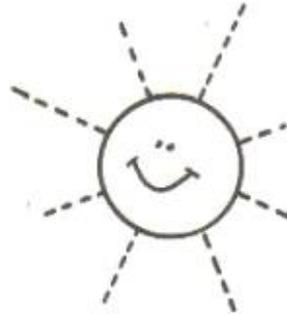
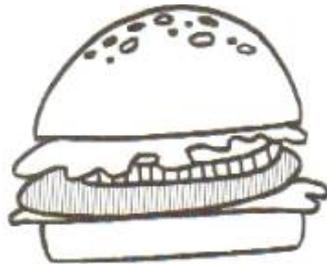


Children's Page



THANK YOU LORD

God has given us many wonderful things. You can see some of them below. Can you colour them in?



What things can you thank God for? Draw them in the box below.

A large rectangular area with a dotted border, intended for children to draw things they are thankful for. The bottom right corner of the dotted line is folded over.

A prayer to say at bedtime

*Thank you for my dinner,
Thank you for my friends,
Thank you for my family,
And love that never ends.*

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 – No entries] [Gillygooley – Calvin Kerr]

JOHN McCANDLESS AND TRINITY CHURCH

John McCandless was born in Strabane and grew up in Londonderry before marrying Carol and moving to Omagh in 1964. They have three children; Philip, Annette and David.

John's career was as an environmental health professional, and his work involved extensive travel in Northern Ireland, the UK and internationally to promote the professional values of the Environmental Health Service and to assist with their development, particularly in Africa.

John retired from the Environmental Health Service in 2001 and since then has co-authored "The People of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Omagh 1754-2004" and served as project manager for the new manse build in 2004-2007.

John recently retired as Congregational Secretary for Trinity Presbyterian Church after over twenty years' service. Trinity & Gillygooley News invited him to share some of his reminiscences with us, and this is his story.

"Looking back my family background probably made it inevitable that the Church would play a significant part in my life. As a child, my three uncles were variously Clerks of Session and Church Secretaries over a period of about 40 years in my local church, Waterside, in Londonderry where my father and mother were also members of Committee. Even my Christian names, "John Wesley" resulted from my father being the first child to be baptised in the new Methodist Church in Londonderry. He later married a Presbyterian!! Also my father's family took great pride from the fact that Cecile Francis Alexander, the great Hymn writer, had been my Granny's godmother. Thus church related matters were a common topic for conversation in our home.

Throughout much of my schooldays in Londonderry, there was a special place in our house for a silver salver that had been inherited from an old aunt who had lived in Omagh. Little did I know then that the inscription on this tray was to have a significant influence on my future life.



The inscription stated:

"Presented to R D Swan, Esq, JP by Trinity Sabbath School as a small token of affection and sincere gratitude for his fifty years faithful and devoted service as teacher and superintendent. Omagh Dec 1927".

Mr Swan was my great-grandmother's brother. He had died in 1932 leaving my great-granny and her two daughters residing in Omagh. My great-granny died in 1936 and the one remaining daughter sold the family home in 1944 and brought the salver to Londonderry where several years later, on her death, it was inherited by my father.

In 1964 I got a job in Omagh and shortly after my arrival I was introduced to the two local Presbyterian clergymen. The words on the salver came back to me and I decided to follow family tradition and join Trinity.

After about 12 years "settling in" I was elected to the Church Committee and several years later I reluctantly became Church Treasurer-a post I held for three years. I was ordained as an Elder in the Church in 1982 and returned to the committee "back benches". However in 1985 I was persuaded to take the vacant Congregational Secretary post. In the beginning it was an easy job. Trinity was blessed with many wise advisors on that Committee and I simply had to note down the wise words and advice proffered by men such as Mr Bertie Parke, Fred Todd, William Porter, Harold McCauley, Bob Elliott and many others.

However as time passed these men were no longer with us and regular new problems with Church property arose. First there was dry rot in one transept and later there was the need for a major organ overhaul. Then the roof was badly damaged in a storm and needed major reconstruction. Trinity always seemed to be fortunate that good advisors emerged to take forward these programmes, none more so than the late Sammy Perkins who donated his talents as an architect and much of his spare time to the improvement of Trinity's buildings.

The 250th Anniversary of Trinity Church in 2004 was a great occasion and an opportunity for the Church's history to be researched and recorded in a book. Little did I know that in helping with this work I would unearth even more evidence of my family's connection with Trinity Church. It transpired that a gentleman named Hugh Kirk had come to Omagh in 1860 and opened what is referred to as a "Boot and Shoe Warehouse". Mr Kirk attended Trinity Church and later served as

its Treasurer for at least 20 years. Shortly after arriving in Omagh he married Miss Maggie Swan, a sister of my great-grandmother. Miss Swan's brother, Douglas, (who was from Bunrana), later came to Omagh to work in the business. In retrospect Messrs Kirk and Swan's relationship to me would be as "great-grand uncles". On the death of Mr Kirk his brother-in-law, R D Swan, succeeded him as Church Treasurer, a post that he held for 18 years until his death in 1932. In the course of time the business name had changed to "Swan and Mitchell", a firm that continued trading in Omagh until 1966.

Hugh Kirk, his wife Maggie and his brother-in-law Douglas are buried in the family plot at the Dublin Road cemetery. Sadly theirs is the only tombstone still broken and un-repaired after some vandalism in the 1980s-90s period. I hope that the local Council may yet consider it worthy of repair.

In the last few years I have inherited the silver salver that now provides me with a tangible reminder of my ancestors and their long relationship with Trinity. Now that I am aware of all the family connections I am very proud that I have been able to continue a family involvement in Trinity that today extends to 128 years including 41 years of Church Treasurers, 23 years of Congregation Secretary and 55 years of Sabbath School teaching (including 24 Years as Superintendent). I am pleased that whatever talents I have were used to assist with the advancement of the Church in Omagh. I know that there is a lot of new blood and fresh talents in our recently elected Committee and I have no doubt that the future of Trinity Church is in safe hands."

Trinity Church would like to extend our thanks to John for all his service to the congregation over the years and wish him and Carol a long and happy retirement.

WESLEY AND KAREN ATCHISON



Wesley was born in Gillygooley and went to Gillygooley church when the minister was the Rev Harry Pinkerton. He remembers the 'Wee Johnny stories' well. He is the son of the late Tommy Atchison, who was very well known from working in WJ Johnston's draper's shop. Wesley's mother is Ethel Atchison. Wesley went to Gillygooley Primary school till he was 10 years old; then his parents bought a business outside Ederney in Co Fermanagh. After that Wesley went to a little primary school in Clonelly near Pettigo. Subsequently he went to Portora for his secondary education. He tells the story of how he did his last A Level exam on a Friday morning and started on the 'Con' as a junior reporter on the following Monday morning! (He'd had an interview at Easter) No gap year! No cruise! That was in 1973 or 1974. He has worked there ever since and became editor 12 years ago. During his time as editor the newspaper has won Best Weekly accolades at both NI and UK levels. To go back to Pettigo, while there he went to the Presbyterian Church (minister Brian Hunt) and he served on its committee. Across the aisle sat Karen: her late father was Clerk of Session. Karen and Wesley were both very much part of the small congregation and Karen taught in the Sunday school. For many years Wesley was a well known face in Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster circles. He

served as a Vice-president of the organisation at Northern Ireland level. He was particularly successful in public speaking, debating and drama competitions. Through Young Farmers he started to do compering, at which, as anyone who has heard him knows, he excels. He enjoys it. He enjoys meeting people, as you realise when you are talking to him. Kesh YF at that time also got to the Finals of the Ulster Drama One Act Plays, which take place in the Lyric theatre in Belfast. Young people in the club worked very well together and worked hard. To win awards at NI level for a club in the west of the province is quite something and Wesley is very pleased to have been part of that, (to which he obviously contributed, but is too modest to say so). When Wesley and Karen got married, they moved to Omagh to live. At that time they joined Trinity congregation, based very much on Wesley having grown up in Gillygooley. A lot of Wesley's work has been "challenging" because when he started work, it was at the height of the Troubles. Many images stay with him, like that of a small family, before Christmas, mother and three children, Christmas banner above them: father gone, murdered in a booby trap bomb. The worst events he had to cover were the Ballygawley bus bombing, which he went to in the hours of darkness, and the Omagh bombing of 15th August 1998. Wesley says that the strong faith which he now has, carried him through many of the situations which he has had to face. He also values prayer highly. He finds church a place of great peace and he feels at home in church. It's nice that there is a warm and welcoming church community, he says. He hopes that the church will always remain aware of the importance of the church community. A few more facts about Wesley: he is a former President of Omagh Junior Chamber of Commerce, his services to which merited the award of a Senatorship, the highest accolade associated with the organisation. Also, he is an active member of the Rotary Club of Omagh,

serving as chairman of its Foundation Charity Committee, working to raise money for the needy worldwide. In his little free time he enjoys relaxing at home.

Karen is a Teaching Principal in Cooley Primary school, which is near Sixmilecross. It's a newly-opened school, due to the amalgamation of three rural primary schools. She is now in her third year there. She teaches three days a week and has two days for administration. It's a challenging job but she enjoys it. In her free time she enjoys playing tennis, trying to play once a week. She also enjoys doing cross-stitch. She does this for family events—

baptisms, weddings etc. The current one is for her sister, who got married at Easter. Karen's family mostly live in the Portadown area now. Her late father was a Bank Manager. Karen was born in Portadown, lived in Waringstown for a few years, then was in Larne for 10 or 11 years, before the family moved to Kesh. Karen went to school in Enniskillen and then went on to the University of Ulster in Coleraine. Her first teaching post was in Langfield in Drumquin. She was in Langfield for 13 years, approx, before moving to Cooley. She and Wesley have been married for 12 years and give each other great support in work as in life generally.

TRINITY FUN RUN

On Saturday 29th March, 11 Trinity members took part in Omagh's annual Half Marathon and Fun Run. Despite the very wet conditions, they all completed either the 4 mile Fun Run or the 13 mile Half Marathon, albeit at walking speed, and were rewarded with specially-inscribed medals at the finishing post. In addition, the group raised over £500 for Omagh County Primary School. Well done everyone!



*Front row L-R Jessica Finlay, Naomi Duncan, Kirstin Duncan, Jade Somerville, Ben Somerville
Back row L-R Isobel Thompson, Gillian Moore, Anne Parke, Joan Somerville, Hilary Duncan, Anne Buchanan and Rhonda Finlay.*

Part Of A Miracle - Tearfund Project Update

If ever a miracle is needed, it's needed in the global response to HIV. Recognising this, Tearfund has an incredible vision – to halt and reverse HIV's spread, by 2015, in more than 20 of the poorest countries where we work.

More than 25 million people have died of AIDS since 1981.

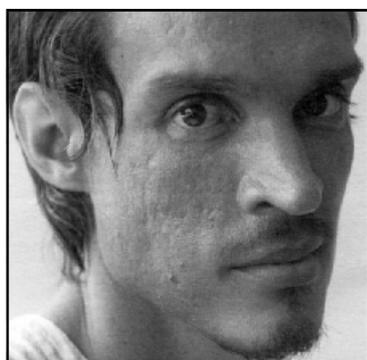
During 2007 an estimated 2.5 million adults and children became infected with HIV (1.7 million live in sub-Saharan Africa)

In poorer countries 7.1 million people are in need of life-saving HIV drugs (only 28 per cent are receiving them)

To date, you and thousands more of our supporters have raised more than £3.89 million for Tearfund's global HIV fund. As well as the treatment and care of those living with HIV, your gifts are being used to raise awareness of the virus and transform more churches into places of acceptance and compassion.

SOUTH AMERICA

Twenty-eight volunteers, three living with HIV themselves, meet each Saturday in groups of four and visit hospital patients living with HIV/AIDS in Natal, north-east Brazil.



Roberio, is 28, but didn't think he'd reach that age when he was diagnosed with HIV five years ago.

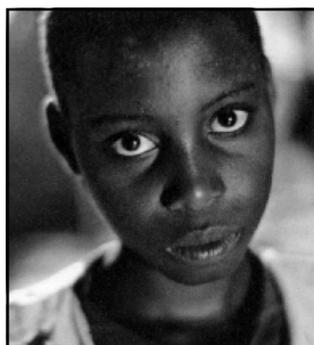
The volunteers bring him towels, soap, shampoo and shaving cream. But

Roberio treasures their words of encouragement most. "They say, 'Don't give up. Just because you are in hospital, it doesn't mean your life is over. You can have a good life.' They are the

angels that come to us. Through them I found out what Jesus is really about."

AFRICA

Remember me?



Some of you will already have met Rachel. Now aged 13, she was eight when her parents died of AIDS-related illnesses. As the eldest child, Rachel became mum and dad to six younger children.

Before a Tearfund church partner intervened, the children had no blankets, no access to water and were vulnerable to sexual abuse.

You'll be glad to learn that the young family are continuing to make progress. They are now in school and Rachel has successfully completed her primary education.

Most importantly they are no longer alone. Rachel's confidence has also been boosted by a friendship with a 'mother figure' from the local church. And the children are able to cook their own meals with the help of a caretaker.

Thank you for helping bring childhoods back to life.

In the places where Tearfund is working around the world, change happens. A child protected from disease and death because its family gets a safe water supply. People living with HIV provided with treatment and care. Vulnerable communities helped to protect themselves against disaster. Children traumatised by war receiving support from Christians in their community. And through all this, we seek to introduce people to the God who loves them and cares for them.

SENIOR MEMBERS ANNUAL OUTING

This year the Senior Members Annual Outing is on Saturday 21st June, to the RUC Memorial Gardens at Knock, Belfast (see description below) and then on to Newforge Country Club for Dinner and entertainment by Claire McElhinney. The bus leaves Trinity Car Park at 10am and returns 6pm. Contacts for the trip are Heather Carson on 028 82244950 or Noel Donald on 028 82245189.



The entrance to the garden is marked by a 'history trail' and a 'sentinel sculpture' by artist Ned Jackson Smith. The heart of the distinctive stainless steel form is a bronze RUC crest. The sentinel is one of four specially commissioned sculptures dotted throughout the garden. Artist Bob Sloan has created two – 'Serving



The Community' and a memorial to those who continue to suffer physical and mental injury – while the team of Eleanor Wheeler and Alan Cargo produced the RUC George Cross memorial sculpture.

It has been suggested that we rename this outing as the 60+ Club Outing and we may attract new members. If that was successful then the 60+ Club could meet once a week in the Church Hall for Coffee Mornings etc.

SPRING CLEAN AT THE FORMER TRINITY MANSE

During the end of March, beginning of April, work was carried out at the former Manse in preparation for sale. Groups of willing volunteers performed many tasks around the outside of the premises including hedge trimming, pruning, weeding, grass cutting and general tidying up. Paved areas, walls and the driveway were power washed by Paul Bell, which really put the finishing touch to the outside of the Manse. The inside of the house was



decorated and cleaned, leaving it ready for sale at the beginning of May. Convenor of the Works Committee, Mitch McKnight, would like to thank all those who worked on this project, especially on the outside work, when the weather at times was anything but kind.

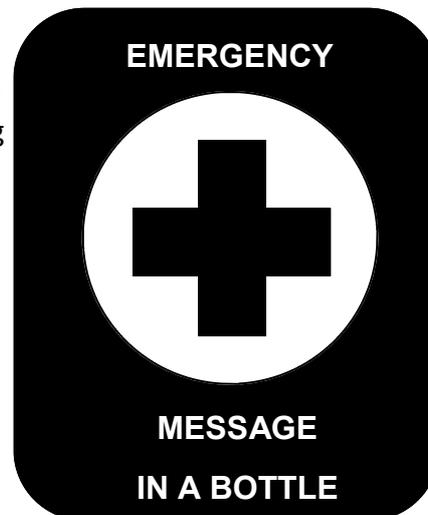


MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE



Message in a Bottle is a scheme to help you if you become ill. It provides the **Emergency Services** with vital details of any illnesses or allergies you may suffer from, medication you may be taking and the name of a person who can be contacted in the event of you suffering from sudden illness or personal accident. The Message is stored within a clear plastic container and kept inside your fridge and contains personal information and will only be used when you are ill and need help.

Two special stickers known to the **Emergency Services** and other caring agencies are put inside your house—one on the outside of your fridge door and the other on a wall or panel inside your front door (where it is not visible from outside the house).



The Message in a Bottle scheme is sponsored by the Northern Ireland Office Community Safety Unit, the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

Message in a Bottle is free. Simply pick up a bottle at the offices of Age Concern or Help the Aged.

Contact: Age Concern NI 028 9024 5729 or
Help the Aged (free) on Seniorline 0808 808 7575 for details.



FIRST AID CLASSES



A joint first aid class involving members of Killycarragh Regeneration Group and Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association took place recently which was organised by Derry & Raphoe Action. The successful applicants who completed the course were:

back L-R Trevor Aiken, Catherine Black, Lynn Black, Andrea Hawkes, Wendy Mitchell, Margaret Hemphill, Raymond King, Hazel Allen, Noel Hemphill and Sharon Clements.
Front L-R Sasha Hawkes, Frances Alexander, Kay McCauley, Tutor Edel Ewing and Ruth Swann.

Who is Linkbox Joe?

Ask anyone within the Gillygooley area and much further afield “Who is Linkbox Joe?” and they will immediately know to whom you are referring. Joe King is a popular member of Gillygooley Congregation, someone who seldom misses a Sunday at Church and has been a member of the Church Choir for 55+ years.



Linkbox Joe (centre) accompanied by Alex Hetherington and Michael McAloon.

He is the first to greet worshipers at Church as they enter with his usual and I quote “Hello, how are you’s doing the day.” With his pocket laden with jelly babies he receives a joyous and expectant response from the children as he slips a sweet into their hand and occasionally mothers may receive one too. Joe has been a life time member of the Church and its possible his family may have been members of the Congregation from the mid 1850s. The King’s came originally from Scotland and first settled in Co. Donegal later moving to Comber, Fintona before their final move to Laght in the mid 1850s. It is believed the then James King married Mary Davis from Drumquin in 1850 who was a renowned horse lady who rode a white mare.

Joe married Ethel Graham on 25th July 1950 and they had nine children, four boys and five girls all of whom have made

excellent careers which has despatched them to various locations throughout the world. Raymond is the only one to follow in his fathers footsteps and continues the farming business at Laght but says he will not be encouraged unto the stage like his father.

Now let us return to the title “Linkbox Joe” and from where it evolved. A familiar sight around the country roads of Omagh for many years has been Joe, his Massy Ferguson 135 and linkbox attached. Around the same time Joe became a popular figure at local halls and social events singing on stage. At one of these events Joe was announced as “Linkbox Joe” and the name has stuck ever since. Joe is in frequent demand on stage at numerous venues throughout Tyrone and Fermanagh.

Joe has always been a Massey Ferguson enthusiast and in 1965 purchased a new Massey 135. Such was his love of this little tractor that in 2006 he completely restored it to its original glory.

Joe is a born at heart country man and has lived all his life on the family farm at Laght. Perhaps this in some way has contributed to his love of country music. Joe is a farmer who doubled as an agricultural



Joe King erecting a new fence around the Church.

contractor, fencing contractor, jack of all trades and can be regularly heard merrily singing as he drives his tractor along the road. A man who gives the impression he hasn’t a worry in the world, always cheerful with a friendly banter for everyone. Joe however does not restrict this friendly banter to the people of Gillygooley but has shared it with the patients of Tyrone County Hospital for 30+ years visiting the wards each Sunday to brighten up their day.



Joe proudly takes former neighbour Nuala Evans, now living in England, for a run on his restored Massey Ferguson 135.

Presbyterian News *by Gillygooley Correspondent*

Potential options for Church House

A specially appointed panel has presented three potential options for the future of Presbyterian Church House, Belfast. Readers will recall my report in last October's issue regarding the decisive vote in favour of retaining Church House at last years General Assembly. The most likely option is the development of Church House as a conference centre by the Church and other conference organisers whilst also maintaining it as the administration headquarters of the Presbyterian Church. It is expected architects will be appointed in June and detailed plans, costs and financing options will be decided at the 2009 General Assembly. The external stonework repair is estimated to cost in excess of four million. A budget for this project is expected to be approved in June along with finalising the provisional amount already being charged to congregations agreed at the last Assembly.

Moderator on Peace Mission to Holy Land

Rev Dr John Finlay joined leaders from Ireland's four main churches on an initiative for peace in the Middle East. The four day tour focused mainly on Bethlehem and Jerusalem where they met local church leaders. They also saw at first hand the relief and development work being undertaken by charities Christian Aid and Trocaire.

Suicide and the Church

The Presbyterian Church's Board of Social Witness organised a conference in Church House to address the increased problem of suicide. Delegates were given practical advice on how the Church can help to combat the problem and also gave guidance on how to pastorally care for the families and friends who have to live with the trauma.

Recognising difficulties for Farmers

Ballyeaston Presbyterian Church, Ballyclare is recognising the difficulties being encountered by farmers. They organise an annual support service for the farming community. The Rev Edwin McDowell who until quite recently was Minister of Fintona and Creevan congregations was the preacher this year. Farmers from a wide area attend this annual service which was initiated in 2001 during the Foot and Mouth crisis to show pastoral support for this troubled industry. Over the years the Ulster farming industry has continued to face hardship as a number of food scares have hit the media glare including B.S.E., Bird Flu, Blue Tongue and the ever increasing bureaucracy and spiralling overheads. A spokesperson for the congregation said the service is a pastoral response to an industry on which so many lives depend. The congregation wants to show Christian care and concern for those affected by it they continued. "Cast thy burden upon the Lord and he shall sustain thee" Psalm 55 v 22

Young Enterprise - by Louise King, Company Secretary

Hi. This is the latest update from "Glitz". We are currently preparing for the Northern Ireland finals which will be held in Belfast on Thursday 15th May. There are five members in the presentation team who will be trying to impress the judges in the final stage of the competition. Glen Foster (managing director), Jonathon Sproule (assistant managing director), Louise King (company secretary), Christopher Smyth (assistant finance director) and Bronwyn O'Donnell (marketing director). We would once again like to thank everyone who purchased products from us and those who came along to our carwash! We would also like to thank our three leaders Sandra Magee, Lorraine Elkin and Yvonne Armstrong for all their help and guidance. From September, we have put in a lot of hard work and commitment which has rewarded us well and left us with a profit of £540! All nine of us have thoroughly enjoyed our Young Enterprise experience and know it's something we will not forget. It has taught us many things; ranging from teamwork to business and has prepared us for our later lives. All that's left for me to say is that I hope our winning streak stays with us for the finals.



Glitz Young Enterprise group from Gillygooley Youth Club who win the Best "Junior Company" "Best Youth Club" and "Best Report" L-R Derek Andrews, Invest N.I.; Yvonne Armstrong, PES; Lorraine Elkin, Club Advisor; Louise King, Jonathan Sproule, Nicholas O'Shea, Omagh Enterprise Co Ltd.; Christopher Smyth, Glen Forster, Bronwyn O'Donnell, Emma McFarland and Lorna McManus, Young Enterprise. Front L-R Richard Hemphill, James Leonard and Dean Barr.

GILLYGOOLEY 2ND YOUTH

As the 2007/2008 season draws to a close Gillygooley 2nd Youth have had another exceptionally good year. In its third season membership has continued to grow and the management committee have endeavoured to provide a varied and full programme of activities. These have been as diverse as a healthy eating project, history talks, soup lunches, circle dancing, yoga, exchange visits, outdoor pursuits, civic receptions, pantomimes etc. etc. Average attendance at a meeting is around fifty and the club continues to provide interaction between like minded people throughout the community. The last meeting of the season was on the 26th May and was to Glantas Irish Gold Mine, Cavanacaw and then to Gillygooley Orange Hall for refreshments and entertainment. For further details contact Iris on 8224 2895.

“Deal or no Deal”

The popular T.V. game show Deal or no Deal was organised and hosted by William and Melanie Swann. Three contestants were successful in occupying the coveted chair. They were Edith Hemphill, Jean Creery and Gerald McCauley. None of the large cash prizes at stake were won although Gerald McCauley got his reward in other ways!



Gerald McCauley always game for a laugh.



Edith Hemphill studies the form with questionmaster William Swann in “Deal or no Deal”



Jean Creery misses out on the big money.

INTERCLUB EXCHANGE BETWEEN 2ND YOUTH, LIFFORD AND CLONLEIGH



Relaxing after their lunch are L-R Mary Cooper, Myra Alexander, a Lifford member, and Robbie Alexander.



Twyla Moffitt, state registered dietitian, giving a power point presentation to members of 2nd Youth on healthy eating and healthy life style.



Members of Gillygooley 2nd Youth listen attentively to Twyla's interesting and informative talk at their recent meeting.



Busy in the kitchen are L-R Jean McCutcheon, Thelma Harkness and Liz Thompson preparing supper for 2nd Youth's club meeting.



Networking with members of Lifford Club are left Meta McFarland and right Gladys Hamilton.



'A woman's work is never done'. Helping in the kitchen after a soup lunch are L-R Elizabeth McGavigan, Audrey Clements, Lily Nethery and Positive Ageing Development Officer, Louisa Pemble.



John Hall, MBE, a club member who gave a very interesting talk and presentation on his 40 year nursing career and history of the Tyrone & Fermanagh Hospital. John also showed a DVD of his investiture in Buckingham Palace and is seen here receiving a gift from Jean Ellis, Chairperson.

COUNCIL RECEPTION FOR 2ND YOUTH



Some members of Gillygooley 2nd Youth who attended a reception given by the chairman of Omagh District Council, Mr Bert Wilson.



Listening attentively to the chairman are L-R Irene McCauley, Jean Ellis and Ruth Patrick.

INTERNATIONAL STARDOM FOR GILLYGOOLEY GIRL

Emma Smyth has followed in the footsteps of her two older brothers by achieving international success in the show jumping arena.

2008 has seen noted success for Emma following her selection as one of five chosen to represent Ireland in the Nations Cup Team in Fontainebleau France on her pony Dream Cruise. Emma participated in a course of intense training which paid dividends by her being selected for the Ireland team. There was keen competition from nine countries competing and the Irish team received the Silver medal being defeated by Germany in the final. Emma has also jumped for her school, Omagh High, in addition to representing Ireland. She was placed second with her pony Lucky Paddy in the Northern Ireland Schools competition at the Meadows, Belfast against a competitive field of fifteen schools. As the season continues Emma hopes to add to her recent success as she finishes her career on ponies and retires in December of this year.



Emma competing on Dream Cruise in the Nations Cup Team Event.



Emma, centre, with the Irish Team and team trainer.

Gillygooley Community Noticeboard

Walking Club

Every Wednesday night at 7.30 p.m. starting from Gillygooley Orange Hall for walks to many scenic areas. For further information contact Diane on Tel 8224 6553 or Iris on Tel 8224 2895.

Gillygooley Presbyterian Church

Pork Barbecue and Dance on Friday 6th June at Gillygooley Orange Hall at 8.00 p.m. (Proceeds in aid of church renovation fund) Tickets available from committee members.

Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association

A.G.M. Tuesday 17th June at 8.30 p.m. in Gillygooley Orange Hall. New members welcome.

Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association

Summer Scheme – Juniors and Seniors

Registration Friday 13th June 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. in Gillygooley Orange Hall

Summer Scheme Juniors Monday 14th July – Thursday 31st July

Children must have completed year 2 and be no older than year 7

Seniors year 8+ Monday 4th August – Friday 8th August

Gillygooley 2nd Youth (50+ club)

Annual Summer Trip on Saturday 28th June. Departs Gillygooley Orange Hall at 9.00 a.m. to Coleraine for a boat trip on the river Bann followed by a scenic tour and evening meal at the Radisson Hotel.

A.G.M. Monday 30th June at 8.00 p.m in Gillygooley Orange Hall.

Trip to Millennium Forum for musical, Foot Loose, on 8th November 2008. Still a few places available. For more information contact Iris on Tel 8224 2895.

Gillygooley LOL 339

Barbeque & Dance Saturday 12th July in Gillygooley Orange Hall. Food served 8.00 p.m. sharp.

Tickets available from Robbie Tel 8224 3436 or Raymond Tel 8283 1444.

TABLE QUIZ AIDS CHARITY

A table quiz organised by Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association raised £550 for The Meningitis Trust. Diane Moffitt now residing in England and formally from Arvalee, Omagh is taking part in a five day trek along the Great Wall of China in aid of the trust and the Association are pleased to support this worthy cause. Prizes were sponsored by Tegral Slates. Anyone wishing to support Diane can donate on line by going to her website www.justgiving.com/dianemoffitt.



Keeping it in the family are L-R Ralph Freeman, Peter Thompson, Allison Hemphill, Dorothy Ferguson and Joyce Thompson.



L-R Kyle McKinley, Louise King, Lisa Hemphill, Gemma Walker and Craig Burrows.



Young enthusiastic teams in the quiz are L-R Emma McFarland, Ashley McIlwaine, Morgan Semple, Kirsty Elkin and Grace O'Neill.



Smiling for the camera are L-R Hazel McCay, Lorraine & Ray Elkin and Robert McCay.



Supporting the quiz are L-R Iris Moffitt-Scott, Richard, Raymond, Neil and Sandra Hemphill.



Keeping the score are L-R Andrew Scott & Mavis Elkin whilst Raymond King centre is question master who deputised for Terry Patterson at short notice.



The team representing Gillygooley Presbyterian Church are L-R Andy & Claire McKernan, Patricia & Raymond Smyth and Clive Porter.



The team representing 2nd Youth are L-R Marjorie & John Hall, Margaret Hemphill, Lila Crawford and Jean Ellis.

Obituary - Colin Turner

It is unprecedented to record the obituary of someone who was not a member of our Congregation although such was the outpouring of grief, within our Church and community, following Colin's tragic and untimely death on Thursday 6th March it would be remiss to do otherwise. Colin was very much part of the Gillygooley Community.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG MAN OF 'GREAT ABILITY AND VISION'



The community of Drumquin, Gortin, Gillygooley and Mountjoy are in a state of shock, following the tragic and untimely death of Colin Turner. Having known Colin from his childhood days, I have watched him mature into a young man with great ability and vision. Colin was someone who packed more into his short life than most may achieve in a lifetime. He was a man who actioned his thoughts, and had a vision of how he wished his community to move forward.

There were no half measures with Colin, a young man who gave his all, should it be as a teenager participating in the youth club, on stage in a drama production with the Young Farmers Club, his contribution to Ulster Scots and in particular, his love of pipe bands, his support and commitment to the Loyal Orders and his interest in sport.

Colin had many talents, and was generous in the sharing of those talents for the benefit of his community.

Much of the achievements of Ulster Scots and pipe band music in the Drumquin area can be attributed to his energy and dedication.

Colin had another positive side to his life – a busy and hectic lifestyle for the benefit of others – he was a devoted family man, who strived to provide for his wife and young family.

The community pay tribute to Colin for what he achieved. We have lost a dear friend and community leader. However, our loss is nothing in comparison to that of his wife, Aurel, children Cameron, Lachlan and Kirsty, parents Calvert and Anne, sisters Diane and Linda, and the extended family circle.

May God be with you all, and give you strength to shoulder your burden.

1st OMAGH BOYS' BRIGADE INSPECTION AND DISPLAY

The Annual Inspection and display of 1st Omagh Boys' Brigade took place recently in First Omagh Presbyterian Church Hall.

A large turnout of parents and friends were entertained by the members of the Anchor, Junior and Company Sections. The boys were inspected by Rev Harold Agnew.

Mrs Alison Agnew presented the members with their awards which they achieved during the session.



Junior Section 1st Omagh Boys' Brigade with officers and Inspecting Officer, Rev Harold Agnew and Mrs Agnew.



Receiving the award of Presidents' Badge from their mothers are L-R Jason Sproule, June Sproule, Matthew Alexander and Valerie Alexander.



Company Section 1st Omagh Boys' Brigade with officers and Inspecting Officer, Rev Harold Agnew and Mrs Agnew.



Receiving the award of Queens' Badge from their mothers are L-R Richard Bell, Isobel Bell, Richard Barton, Irene Barton, Daryl Graham and Linda Graham.



Anchor Boys Section 1st Omagh Boys' Brigade with leaders and Inspecting Officer, Rev Harold Agnew and Mrs Agnew.

Photographs by Kenneth Allen

The major awards went to the following:

ANCHOR SECTION

Best Team Graeme McGonigle
 (Leading Boy)
 Charlie Fleming
 Adam McFarland

Best Games Group Cameron Black
 (Leading Boy)
 Graham Carson
 Matthew Kerr
 Adam McFarland

Youngest Boy Matthew Kerr

Colouring Competition Matthew Kerr
 Andrew Kerr

Best Collector Cameron Black
 £107.65
 Matthew Kerr
 £107.25

Best New Boy Adam McFarland

Best Boy Graeme McGonigle

The Anchor Boy Section undertook a Helping Hands challenge to raise money for the Northern Ireland Childrens' Hospice and raised £155.

JUNIOR SECTION

Best Team Andrew Monteith
 (Leader)
 Reece Kane
 Jack Hall
 Matthew Hill
 Jason Marmion

Best First Year Matthew Hill
 Luke Stockdale

Best Second Year James Rutledge

Best Third Year David McLean

Best Sportsman Adam Moore
 Joel Peden

Best Achiever Jason Marmion

Best Male Marcher David McLean

COMPANY SECTION

Stage 1 Scripture John Kerr

Stage 3 Scripture Stuart Graham

Stage 4 Scripture Matthew Alexander

Archery Jason Sproule

.22 Shooting John Kerr

10 pin Bowling Stuart Graham
 (also won West
 Ulster Battalion
 Competition)

Best Recruit Shannon McLaughlin

Best Boy Matthew McKernan

Promotion to Corporal Matthew Alexander
 Jason Sproule

Presidents Badge Matthew Alexander
 Jason Sproule

Queens' Badge Richard Barton
 Richard Bell
 Daryl Graham



GILLYGOOLEY MEMBERS FEATURED ON CULTURAL WEBSITE



Three members of Gillygooley have been involved in setting up a new cultural website by Derry & Raphoe Action. The interview took place last month and it is due to be launched at the end of May. In the interview each person had to outline their cultural identity and how they saw themselves in society.

L-R Gemma Walker, Flora Magee, Derry & Raphoe Development Officer and Lisa Hemphill (missing from the photograph is Andrew Scott)

Irene is Northern Ireland Champion

Irene McCauley, who is a lifelong member of Gillygooley congregation, has won a major award in a province wide craft competition organised by the Women's Institution. Irene, who is a very talented knitter, competed against fifteen other competitors from throughout Northern Ireland for the prestigious award. She was presented with the Isobel Lusk cup by Lady Anthony Hamilton, Federation President, at the Spring area meeting of the W.I. at the Kings Hall, Belfast. Irene has been a member of Clanabogan W.I. for over twenty years and has held the positions of President and Treasurer. Asked how she developed the skill of being such a professional knitter Irene replied, "My granny was good at needlework and I developed my knowledge from her." Irene is extremely generous in the giving of the finished products to charitable organisations; something which is very much appreciated. Irene, who is married to Gerald, is a dedicated member of Gillygooley Church Choir and also a member of the P.W.A. Irene and Gerald have a family of three; Martin, Sandra and Carol.



Irene McCauley with her trophy and prize winning cardigan.

THE WONDER OF GOD'S HAND IN NATURE - by Gillygooley Correspondent

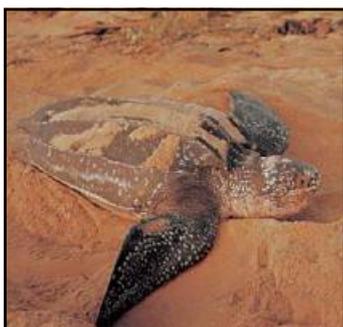
"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth because he himself gives all people life and breath and everything else that lives upon the earth"

The recent opportunity to experience and witness the activities of the Leatherback Turtle left me in awe as to the wonder of God's hand in nature. My story begins in St George the capital of Grenada in the Caribbean sometimes referred to as the spice island due to the many and varied spices grown and produced on the island. As we boarded our mini bus Mac introduces himself as our driver for the arduous journey to the north of the island a journey of some twenty-six miles which incidentally took 1¼ hours to travel such is the steep, windy and potholed condition of the roads. Our journey takes us past the remains of the Presbyterian Church which was destroyed by hurricane Janet in 1955. The Church was built in 1830 by a group of Scottish plantation owners who were residing in Grenada at that time. In 1966 the manse was converted into a church hall known as Knox House which is currently used for Church services



Pictured left: Ruin of St Andrews Presbyterian Church
As we continue our journey we pass through villages where locals are sitting around in the twilight outside their fragile homes and rum bars. Arriving at Levera Beach at 8.00 o'clock we are greeted by Louise and Estelle two local girls who are to be our guides for the night. The Grenadians are a very friendly and welcoming people and we are invited onto the beach for a barbecue. The idealic setting of golden white sand and the full moon glistening on the tranquil sea was like a light reflecting on a mirror. The still night air was continually intercepted by the chirps of crickets and croaks of frogs in the nearby undergrowth.

We are now only a few miles from one of the beaches onto which the turtles emerge from the sea to lay their eggs. The beach is patrolled by volunteers who monitor the turtles ensuring their safety, tagging them and recording the number of eggs laid etc. As we wait in anticipation for our guides to receive a phone call that the turtles have emerged we begin to wonder if our journey has been in vain. The previous night we have been told 14 turtles had come on shore. One hour passed then two suddenly there was excitement on the faces of our guides. A phone call had been received that two turtles had emerged from the sea and we hurriedly clambered on the bus for a further 15 minute journey along a bumpy dirt track to emerge unto a picturesque beach which extended as far as the eye could see in the clear moonlight night. Following a briefing by our guides as how to approach the turtles etc. We watched enthusiastically as the turtle dug out the sand with her huge back flippers creating a hole some three feet deep in which to lay her eggs, she laid 80 in total and then proceeded to cover them over again before making her slow and cumbersome journey back to the sea a process which lasted about two hours.



Leatherback Turtle on Levera Beach

The leatherback turtle is the largest turtle species and grows up to 8 feet long weighing up to 1,5000 pounds. They can live up to eighty years of age and will return from their feeding grounds covering thousands of miles to lay their eggs on the same beach on which they were hatched. The eggs are hatched by the heat of the sun and the incubation period is sixty days. They have existed since the time of the dinosaurs although now they are an endangered species their main predators are humans. It is the worlds largest reptile and have been recorded diving to depths of 1,270 metres.

The trip to Levera Beach was the highlight of my holiday in Grenada

"A sure example of God's hand in nature".

THE TO-MORROW FAMILY

Leslie Lonely and Desmond Depression needed each other even as they needed others. Occasionally they would go to church to have their needs met. They were not sure where to sit. If they sat at the front Desmond could focus on what was going on. Leslie would still be lonely seeing no-one in front of him except the figure in the pulpit. If they sat at the back Leslie would see others in front of him and be encouraged by their presence. Desmond on the other hand would be depressed thinking of all the problems the people before him had.

They liked to stay clear of people with definite beliefs and convictions. They could never be as clear and as definite as others and so they tended to avoid them. Tom To-morrow was an enigma to them yet they felt drawn to him. It was not anything he said or did but being himself they could be themselves with him. Sometimes he appeared like them and they could identify with him. They also liked the down-to-earth style of his wife. Tillie was not into psychology but she understood the moods people go through.

Emily Excited was too excited for them. To them it seemed as if she had only one answer for every mood – excitement. It was so superficial in face of all the problems of the world. Frank Faith was a decent dependable man they agreed but they could not understand how he could meet all of the problems of life with faith. What about those lurking emotions that came out suddenly at unexpected times? If faith could deal with these..... But faith seemed to them a lonely furrow. They needed people in which faith lived. There were too few of them. William Worry was no help at all so they gravitated to the Tomorrow family.

The Tomorrows were not quite sure of tomorrow themselves. Farming and flowers were under threat. Besides the Christians had lost their connection with nature while the world had lost the connection with God.

It was no surprise that Leslie Lonely and Desmond Depression socialised together. They are still there sometimes in the front pew and sometimes in the back pew.

CHILD PROTECTION CLASS



A child protection class organised by Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association attracted attendance from a wide area. The class was supported by Derry & Raphoe Action.

Pictured left: Some of the people who took part in the Child protection class.



TRINITY BOWLING CLUB

The season for Trinity Bowling club is nearly over for another year but the club is always looking for new members to join for next year.

Present are: Liz Thompson, Hazel McKelvey, Thelma Harkness, Jean McCutcheon, Ronnie Orr, Sadie Clements, Maureen Watt and William Watt. (missing from photo, Bertie Forsythe)



Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association Dinner

There was a good attendance of members and friends at the annual dinner held in the Hunting Lodge, Baronscourt. Captured on camera are some of those who attended.

Looking relaxed at the dinner are L-R Margaret Hemphill, Ellen Fyffe, Sam Harpur and Margaret Hemphill.



Les and Jennifer O'Donnell at the Association Dinner.



Having a good time at the dinner are L-R David Hannigan, David McKinley and Bernie Liggett.

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)

Record of Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths in the Congregations

Baptisms in Trinity

6 Apr Lewis Bruce King
4 May Travis Howard Beggs

Baptisms in Gillygooley

16 Mar Archie Joseph King

"Let the children come to me..."

(Mark 10:14)

Deaths in Trinity

12 Mar Margaret Irwin
18 Mar Myrtle Gilchrist
30 Apr James Burke

*"I am the resurrection and
the life..."*

(John 11:25)