

# TRINITY & GILLYGOOLEY NEWS



Issue 45

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## COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCILS VISIT GILLYGOOLEY

A two day workshop embracing Londonderry, Strabane and Omagh District Council Community Relations Department was held in October. Day one, which included members of Gillygooley Congregation, visited Londonderry with a guided tour of the Walls and brief history of the City. Gillygooley Community Association were invited to host the afternoon session of day two and gave an insight into the community work undertaken by the Association and how it has evolved. The workshop concluded with afternoon tea.



Above: Members of Gillygooley 2nd Youth who took part in the workshop L-R Beatrice Alexander, Audrey Clements, Eric Crawford, Gerald McCauley and Philip Elkin.



Members of Strabane Council area enjoy the refreshments at the close of the workshop.

## SUICIDE AWARENESS

Some of the most frequently asked questions...

### What kind of things make someone suicidal?

There is no clear answer... it depends on an individual's circumstances, coping skills and support. We all deal with trauma and stress in different ways.

### How do you know if someone is considering suicide?

It is recognised that most, but not all of those who have committed suicide have left signs of how they were feeling. A warning sign is not always a guarantee that someone is suicidal, but should alert others that something might be wrong and the person needs attention.

### Some signs of concern may be:

- Withdrawing from friends and family
- Loss of interest in usual activities
- Signs of sadness, hopelessness and irritability
- Making negative remarks about themselves
- Talking or writing about suicide
- Putting their affairs in order
- Giving away personal items
- A sudden change from extreme depression to appearing to cope and being calm.

These signs are not definitive, but are possibly some of the signs displayed by someone who is suicidal. Others may show no sign of their pain at all. The only way to address our concerns is to ask.

### Why can't those who feel this way talk to someone?

Suicide is seen by society as a taboo subject. It is perceived as a result of being mentally unstable. A suicidal person may then feel that expressing their feelings will lead to accusations of being unbalanced or selfish and therefore will not have the courage to speak up and ask for help.

### Are all suicidal people depressed?

Those considering suicide are often deeply distressed and the vast majority are depressed. This depression is frequently caused by negative circumstances or incidents in a person's life. Depression can also be a symptom of a diagnosed mental health problem. Sometimes the depression arises as a combination of both.

### Is it dangerous to talk to someone about suicide?

Talking to someone about suicidal feelings may reduce their immediate distress. If you suspect that someone has reached this point, it can be a huge relief

to them to know you are aware of how they feel. It can break the silence for them when they feel unable to communicate their emotions themselves, and may allow them to talk openly and consider choices and options open to them.

### Why do people attempt suicide?

There are various reasons why a person might consider committing suicide. The most common is emotional suffering or pain. Individuals considering suicide have often reached a point where they feel there are no other viable solutions to the problems they face; or solutions that do exist seem unattainable.

### Some myths about suicide

Fiction - Suicidal behaviour is a sign of mental illness.  
Fact - Suicidal behaviour indicates deep unhappiness and a high level of hopelessness, but not necessarily mental illness.

Fiction - Suicide occurs in certain groups only - rich/poor, young/old.

Fact - Suicide occurs in all groups in society.

Fiction - You are either the suicidal type or not.

Fact - It could happen to anyone.

Fiction - Those who talk about it are least likely to attempt it.

Fact - Most people who have died by suicide have talked to others about it in recent past.

### What can I do if I think or know that someone is suicidal?

- Try to listen to how they feel, no matter how painful the words are to hear.
- Take them seriously.
- Offer your support.
- Encourage them to seek further help, i.e. a doctor, minister, counsellor, family member or friend.
- If someone appears acutely suicidal and unable to talk, it may be necessary to seek immediate help through hospital casualty.

If you find yourself in a difficult situation and need immediate help or advice, contact one of the 24 hour help-lines such as the Samaritans.

For further guidance and advice please contact:

### The Samaritans

Omagh Branch (028) 8224 4944

24 hour help-line 084 5790 9090

### PCI Counselling

Board of Social Witness

Church House, Belfast BT1 6DW

Tel: (028) 9261 0586

Email: [bsw@presbyterianireland.org](mailto:bsw@presbyterianireland.org)

Online: [www.presbyterianireland.org/bsw](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/bsw)

## BBC TV VISITS GILLYGOOLEY

As part of the continuing controversy regarding the excessive cavalry of lorries calculated to be in excess of 500 journeys per week using the Corlea/Botera/Aughee and Pharson Roads, BBC TV have been interviewing local residents to highlight their plight.



Linda Hunter (photo left) who is a member of Gillygooley Congregation outlining her concerns said her children were awakened each morning by the noise of these lorries travelling along this single track bumpy road at 6:30am. The roads in that area would have originated as cart tracks and were never constructed for this



weight or volume of traffic she continued. As a consequence the road is continually subsiding and causing damage to vehicles. Local vehicular access to the area is also being inconvenienced and it is dangerous for pedestrians on the road. The lorries are disposing of surplus rock from the local gold mine which is being used to construct the new A4 road from Ballygawley to Dungannon.

The programme which was beamed live from Gillygooley Orange Hall created much local interest as a convoy of some nine vehicles and twenty plus personnel converged on the hall to produce what was realistically a five minute slot.

## MAXIMISING COMMUNITY SPACE



Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association (Y.C.D.A.) hosted a fact-finding visit of community activists from Armagh, Antrim, Fermanagh and Tyrone on Saturday 21st June 2008. The visit was organised by McCready, Donnelly and Lowry Limited, Magherafelt, in conjunction with the Rural Development Council. Following a tour of the Orange Hall complex,

refreshments were served (Picture above). Andrew Scott, Gillygooley Y.C.D.A. chairperson, gave a talk on the history of the hall, and the involvement of the association in the Gillygooley area – which was followed by a question and answer session. This is the second occasion the Association has been portrayed as a roll model for other groups in recent months as earlier this year R.C.N. included Gillygooley in their itinerary for two coaches of voluntary community workers from throughout the Province. The Association have also been invited to host another networking event in October by the Community Relations Councils of Londonderry, Strabane and Omagh.

## Gillygooley 2nd Youth (50+ club)

At the opening meeting the chairperson welcomed everyone back following the summer recess. A special welcome was extended to several new members. An extensive programme of activities has been arranged for the Season including topics ranging from hand bell ringing to archery. Additionally tutored swimming lessons for beginners will be on going during the winter at Omagh Leisure Centre and also classes on basic I.T. skills will be held in Gillygooley Orange Hall. Tuesday night 8-9pm is circle dancing night when club members participate in this gentle exercise activity under the expert guidance of Eileen. No partner required so come along and experience this leisurely dance routine for yourself.



Irene Brown and Stanley Short take the challenge of learning a new game at 2nd Youth.



Presenting a bouquet to Louisa Pemble, Development Officer of Positive Ageing Cross Border, at the final conference of the project in the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan. Louisa gave immense help and support to 2nd Youth during the project. L-R Margaret Hemphill, Dorothy King, Agnes Kyle, Marjorie Hall and Iris Moffitt-Scott.



Gerald McCauley and Beatrice Alexander enjoy the social aspects of 2nd Youth.



The leadership team of Gillygooley 2nd Youth at the opening meeting of the season L-R Dorothy King, Secretary, Margaret Hemphill, Treasurer, Iris Moffitt-Scott, Chairperson, Thelma Harkness, Assistant Treasurer and Ellen Fyffee, Assistant Secretary. (Missing from the photograph Stanley Sayers, Vice – Chairperson)

Members Iris Moffitt-Scott and Margaret Hemphill are currently attending classes in armchair aerobics; their training will be of benefit to the members in the New Year. The club acknowledge and appreciate financial support received from the Western Health & Social Services, Northern Bank, Lloyds T.S.B. and Omagh District Council towards part financing the various training classes and the purchase of more comfortable seating.

# Mitch McKnight

by Margaret Simms



Mitch is one of six new elders elected last year. He has been a Committee member since 2004/2005. Since January of this year, he is Convenor of the Works Committee.

He's semi-retired and he says that he's not necessarily a handyman, but anything he can do himself, he does, like handles off doors and tidying up around the church. For anything more major, more seriously electrical for example, he will bring someone in and act as co-ordinator. Some people will volunteer help, if they have a specific skill, which is great. Congregation members will highlight needs or Mitch/Committee members will see things needing done.

Recently, as was highlighted in the last magazine, the front steps were fixed by Bert Rea. They had deteriorated badly. Next up will be the gates, because it's probably been some time since they were painted. Hopefully they should be done sooner rather than later. After that, the railings will get done, though there is some bad rust in places to be dealt with. So, with getting estimates and preparation, it'll be next year before we see the railings repaired.

Inside the church, the roof has been causing problems. There are damp patches in the walls on both transepts. This is an ongoing problem. It's probably water getting in somewhere, which is very hard to trace. Some repointing and re-sealing has been done on stonework. It's hard to deal with permanently. If anyone is worried for their safety-don't be: it's not dangerous, just unsightly.

Most recent problem solved was a blocked drain, which caused some local flooding. There was a lot of silt, which Mitch succeeded in dealing with himself. Did you know that hula hoops can be useful?! There had been quite a buildup in the pipes in the top carpark, so when Mitch got the pipes cleaned, he nearly got showered!

Over the summer months a lot of power-hosing was done by Paul Bell, who has done a brilliant job. The steps, the tarmac, the walls... "anything that didn't move, he did it!"

Another thing which is happening now concerns the stonework at the front porch. There is sandstone round the doorway, which has deteriorated considerably over the last number of years, so estimates are being taken, which will go to the committee and hopefully that will get sorted next year.

Another focus of attention this year has been the Old Manse, which the Works Committee has been looking after before it gets sold. Quite a lot of work needed to be done, gardening and powerhosing. Cutting the grass was a much bigger problem than usual, given the wet summer we've had. Other people were very helpful at taking on this task; the difficulty was finding a couple of hours in conditions suitable for grasscutting.

Mitch points out that if you keep on top of jobs, e.g. getting the gates done, you can avoid big problems later. If something can be set up and looked after well now, then in 2, 3 or 5 years time there will be very little hassle.

Mitch is originally from Beragh, from a big family, 6 sisters and 2 brothers "Never a dull moment in the house". His parents died young, within 10 months of each other, each 46 years old. That was in 1975/76. Having a big family helped, Mitch says, with the older ones looking after the younger ones (he was one of the younger ones). He was 16/17 years old when his father died. Most of the family live in Northern Ireland, all over the Province and are still supportive of each other.

Mitch's wife Roberta is from Cookstown. They got married in 1981 and have lived in Omagh since 1983. They have two sons. Gareth is 24 and Keith is 19. Gareth lives in Glasgow and works as a Recruitment Consultant. Keith is at Nottingham University, studying music. Gareth is well into rugby; he was President of the Rugby Club at his University in his 4<sup>th</sup> year.

Mitch's occupation at the moment is being a Driving Instructor. He really likes it. Most days are good, he says, and job satisfaction is high.

He has plenty of time for hobbies. If you catch him indoors, it's likely that he will be doing a sudoku puzzle - a passion of his! He could sit for hours doing them, he says, so he obviously doesn't cheat! If you find him outdoors, he could well be in his garden: whenever he gets the opportunity he likes to get out there. He has a small vegetable plot, which he started about 10 years ago, with no previous experience. A man full of enterprise!

Our thanks go to Mitch and the Works Committee for all the work they put in on our behalf.

## Youth in Focus



Emma Mills busy at the computer working on the next issue of Trinity and Gillygooley News.

As promised in the last Trinity and Gillygooley News, I intend to continue my focus on some of the young members of our Church and Community. The youth of today live in a very high pressured society, educational pressure, peer pressure, fashion pressure etc. Need I go on, compare this to being a teenager growing up in the 60's and 70's. Young people are usually full of abounding energy and it is important that we as adults put in place and support organisations and outlets for this energy to be utilized. Emma Mills on whom I focus in this issue is certainly one of those teenagers who has abounding energy and vitality judging by the number of activities in which she is involved. First and foremost I have to say Emma is a very enthusiastic and helpful member of our Church News production team. Emma frequently uses her I.T. skills in preparation of our quarterly magazine.

Emma is a fourth year pupil at Omagh High School having received her earlier education at Gillygooley Primary School. Emma has inherited her father's great interest in sport and has played both netball and hockey for Omagh High School. Although living in Omagh, Emma and her family are members of Gillygooley Congregation where she is enrolled in the Senior Bible Class. She has been a member of Gillygooley Youth Club since she was five years old and has continued her membership through to senior level, currently holding the position of Operational Director in the Young Enterprise Group known as Graffiti. Emma has also been a member of Gillygooley Walking Club for 3 years. Membership of Clanabogan Young Farmers Club is another acclaim of Emma's, an organisation which offers excellent opportunities for young people and on which I plan to feature in a later issue.

Emma is a valued member of Gillygooley Community Choir and is also a Standard Bearer with Blair Memorial Flute Band.

Her hobbies are art and pop music and her ambition is to become a teacher. This is a young girl well focused who uses her talents to their full ability, Emma can I ask the question, "What do you do in your spare time?"

## Gillygooley Y.C.D.A. Celebrate Tenth Anniversary

Gillygooley Youth and Community Development Association commenced the start of their tenth anniversary year at a civic reception hosted by Councillor Bert Wilson, chairman of Omagh District Council. Addressing the Association Councillor Wilson congratulated everyone on the contribution they were making to society and referred to Gillygooley as one of the most successful community groups in the O.D.C. area. Councillor Wilson then informed everyone present the functions of the Council and answered questions from those present. A tour of the Council Chamber concluded with refreshments.



Some members of Gillygooley Y.C.D.A. and Councillor Wilson, O.D.C. Chairman.



Photographed in the council chamber are L-R back, Margaret Hemphill and Andrew Scott, Chairperson, front, Robbie Donald, Stanley Short and Raymond King, vice-chairperson.

## “AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING, WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”

Thousands assembled at cenotaphs and attended church services throughout the Province to pay their respects to the dead of two World Wars and other conflicts including those who paid the supreme sacrifice in our beloved Province. This year marks the 90th anniversary of the end of “World War One” which was to be the war to end all wars and yet today sadly conflicts continue to rage across the world. In Omagh Rev. Robert Herron who was joined by Clergy from the other three main Churches took as his theme for his sermon “Do not let evil conquer good but let good conquer evil.” The Service which was held in Omagh Academy assembly hall included members of both Congregations and was one of the best attended in recent years as was the number of those at the cenotaph for the wreath laying ceremony which followed. In Gillygooley Rev. John Murdoch led an act of remembrance at morning service in the absence of Rev. Herron. Remembrance Sunday is a painful time for many in our Community and whilst it does not take a special day for them to recall the heartache, pain, and suffering they have endured our presence on such occasions show that others care.

“With our busy and hectic life style it is good that a day is specially set aside for reflection and to remember those who gave their lives that we might live.”

(A quote over heard on Remembrance Sunday.)



### **Marriage of David Wallace Rodgers and Olivia Eileen Aiken**

*“What therefore God  
hath joined together let  
not man put asunder.”  
Mark 10 vrs 9*

The marriage of Olivia and David took place in Gillygooley Presbyterian Church on Saturday 5th September.

Olivia is the eldest daughter of Trevor and Amanda Aiken, Killybrack, Omagh and David is the second son of Helen and Wallace Rodgers, Aughnacloy.

## Successful Season Draws to a Close for Gillygooley Walking Club

Gillygooley Walking Club travelled to Ness Wood for the final walk of the season. The group travelled by minibus to this beautiful location on what proved to be one of the few sunny days experienced this summer.

On the homeward journey the group stopped at The Hunting Lodge Hotel, Baronscourt for an evening meal.



Admiring Northern Ireland's largest waterfall at Ness Wood are L-R Sandy Brown, Thelma Harkness, Beatrice Alexander, Wilma Porter and Suzanne McGillion.



Members pause for a photograph in what has been named as one of the most romantic locations in Northern Ireland.



L-R Matthew, Diane & Emma Mills and Jacqueline Crawford take a rest at Ness Wood.

## Out and About with Gillygooley 2nd Youth

To facilitate all its members Gillygooley 2nd Youth (50+ club) organised two summer trips this year. The first was a boat trip on the river Bann followed by a visit to Benvarden Gardens, Bushmills and scenic drive. The party of fifty strong were entertained to lunch at Garvagh Presbyterian Church hall and for their evening meal travelled to the Radisson Hotel, Limavady.

Meanwhile a smaller group who were unable to avail of the June trip were taken in August to Co. Fermanagh where they visited Belleek Pottery, Lough Navar Forest and view point. The journey continued to the award winning Tickety Moo ice-cream farm and Castle Archdale ending at the Lough Erne Hotel for their evening meal.

Future trips planned include a visit to the Millennium Forum, Londonderry for their musical Footloose in November and to the Panto Peter Pan at the Ardhoven Theatre, Enniskillen in January.



Members of Gillygooley 2nd Youth at Lough Navar viewpoint.



Popular Country & Western singer, Sean Cuddy (centre front), who entertained members of the 2nd Youth during a trip to Co. Donegal.

## Omagh/Waterford Peace Choir Concert in Trinity

A candle-lit Trinity Church was the venue for a feast of entertainment on the evening of Saturday 25th October. The Omagh/ Waterford Peace Choir, under the direction of Phil Brennan, performed a total of 22 items during a lively and often moving concert.

Drew Hamilton, honorary director of the choir, welcomed the group to Trinity and he explained that he had accompanied the choir to Sri Lanka during the summer when the group visited orphanages that were built in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami

During the concert, an appreciative audience enjoyed listening to songs such as Amazing Love, Lord I need thee, Through it all, Lights of the City and Let there be peace on Earth. The choir were accompanied by guitar, flute and violin and many of the choir members sang solos, displaying the wealth of talent of the young people in the group.

There was a well-deserved standing ovation at the end of the concert and hopefully the choir will make a return visit to Omagh in the future.



## Young Enterprise by Emma Mills

This year the Gillygooley Young Enterprise group is called "Graffiti." Our group consists of 9 members & 3 leaders! We all have been allocated jobs- Grace O'Neill (managing director), Kirsty Elkin (company secretary), Aimee Gault (finance director), Jayne Donaldson (IT director), Emma McFarland & Laura-Jane Wallace (marketing directors), Emma Mills (operations director), Ashley McIlwaine (Human Resources Director) and Morgan Semple (Sales Director) and our leaders- Sandra Magee, Lorraine Elkin & Yvonne Armstrong- I'd like to say, on behalf of the Graffiti group, a big thank you to them for all the help they have given to us so far! Everyone in our group has got an important job to do and we have learned that teamwork comes in handy! We meet in Gillygooley Orange Hall once a week, on a Wednesday night. At the start, we all put in £15 to buy a share of the company, now we have to make & sell our products to make a profit on the money we started with. So far, we have decided to make a calendar with photographs of the Omagh area and Christmas decorations. We have a craft fair at Gillygooley Orange Hall on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November. We all hope to see you there!

Picture right: This years Young Enterprise Group, "Graffiti" hard at work.



# Whose earth?

**Presbyterian World Development helps free people trapped by poverty and the effects of poverty.**

## **CUT THE CARBON**

World Development channels your support through Christian Aid and Tearfund helping developing communities create a viable long-term future for themselves, enabling them to reduce their carbon emissions and challenging ourselves to adopt more sustainable, less carbon dependent lifestyles.



For further information:  
Board of Mission Overseas  
World Development  
Church House  
Belfast BT1 6DW

# “Whose Earth?” - Seeds for Change

## World Development Appeal 2007

### **A letter from the Convener of the World Development Committee Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Dear Friends,

This year's World Development Appeal is the second of a three year series of appeals under the general title 'Whose Earth?' The appeal for 2007 is 'Seeds for Change'. The heart of the appeal over the three-year period draws attention to the interface of authentic sustainable development and sound ecological stewardship. The projects we are highlighting this Advent and Christmas are in Zimbabwe, Zambia, India and Mexico. In the World Development Committee we believe that the story lines we have from the Southern African countries of Zimbabwe and Zambia are particularly strong and compelling.

We also believe that the impact of climate change is a vital factor in our understanding of development today. Awareness of climate change is particularly pressing given the emerging consensus that even if the targets set by governments for the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>/greenhouse gas emissions are met they will be insufficient to forestall significant climactic chaos. It is by no means assured that these inadequate targets will be met. It is assured that natural disasters arising as a result of climate change will affect the poor most. The situation is serious, but as the projects we highlight this year demonstrate there is much that can be done.

We can also play our part by reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Therefore as part of this year's World Development Appeal we are encouraging congregations to become more environmentally friendly than at present, as an act of solidarity with the world's poor.

Last year, our members again gave generously to the World Development Appeal; it was the best supported ever, raising more than £650,000. This happened because of your involvement in supporting the appeal - a huge thanks to you for the life sustaining and life changing work you have facilitated and been part of.

The Committee encourage you in continuing to make the World Development Appeal a success by building on your commitment last year and making this year's 'Whose Earth? - Seeds for Change' Appeal more successful again.

All good things to you in the name of the Christ who calls us to care for each other in the family of humanity and to be good stewards of the shared home entrusted to us by a loving God.

Mark Gray  
Convener  
World Development Committee

# “Whose Earth?” - Seeds for Change

World Development Appeal 2007

## Background Information

### The Facts:

- The earth is warming faster than at any time in the last 10,000 years.
- The 1990s was the warmest decade, and 1998 the warmest year, on global record.
- The summer of 2003 was Europe's hottest for 500 years.
- By 2100 the world could be between 6 and 10 degrees C warmer on average.
- CO2 emissions are a primary cause of global warming.
- The burning of coal, oil and gas has increased the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere by 30% over natural levels.

### The Impact:

- The area of the world stricken by drought doubled between 1970 and 2005.
- 150,000 die as a result of climate change each year.
- 30 million more people may be hungry because of climate change by 2050.
- Rising sea levels and crop failure could create 150 million refugees by 2100.
- The economic costs of global warming are doubling every decade.
- People in low-income countries are four times more likely to die in natural disasters than people in high-income countries. Globally disaster losses increased from \$71 billion in the 1960s to \$608 billion in the 1990s. Poverty and lack of authentic development increases people's vulnerability to extreme weather.

### A Deeper Analysis:

**The Way We Are**--World Development is concerned with the welfare of people, but addressing inequalities through economics and politics alone will not be enough. There is a deeper problem, which is that the world is living beyond its means. The West has run an environmental overdraft for centuries, partly because it had drawn on the resources of the rest of the world. The developing world has no such luxury, and neither any longer, have we. Authentic development must be ecologically attuned.

Much of our global environmental awareness is limited to the greenhouse effect, and the need to reduce our use of fossil fuels if we are to stop the atmosphere heating up. But to most people, and governments, the issue is how to make the substitution without any further alterations to our way of life. The problem goes much deeper than that.

**The Problem**--The planet is a finite system, with physical resources, like air and fresh water, bound together with living systems made up of countless species of plants and animals, each performing a different function. These ecosystems are like a web, and the species like strands. If one or two strands (species) are lost, the web can be repaired. But lose too many, and it collapses. We are close to that point now--up to a third of land-based species could face extinction by the middle of the century. There is the possibility that the rain forest of the Amazon, which is the powerhouse of much of the earth's climate, as well as home to vast numbers of species, could soon start to dry out. This is both climate change, and the result of climate change--our troubles compounded.

And on the front line are the people of the developing world. It is not usually appreciated that the quality of life for many rural Africans in the 19th century was higher than it is now. The population explosion that has seen Ethiopia rise from 5 million people in 1900 to 77 million today, and 170 million expected by 2050, has squeezed the natural world into unsustainable corners (40% forest cover in Ethiopia in 1900 down to 4% by 1990), with a more erratic climate and degraded agriculture as a result. Freeing up trading conditions will benefit only those who devised the system, and it is a fallacy to think that economic

growth will solve the problem. We need an economy of stability, in which activity works to redistribute wealth, and to improve the quality of life, rather than increase the quantity of goods we use up. We learn this from nature--economy and ecology have the same root, coming from the Greek word that means both household and world. Each year the rain forest produces more new growth and new life per acre than intensive agricultural systems, but it doesn't grow in area or in height. All the incoming energy from the sun is used up with maximum efficiency, and the material resources (minerals) are all recycled so that none leave the system.

**Ecosystem Services**--Living ecosystems regulate the natural world, and also regulate our own human lives. Climate control, waste regulation, fresh water, food, building materials, pharmaceuticals, cultural values and psychological support are all provided for us by the natural world. We normally treat only the more tangible of these as resources. But all are services which nature provides. We can harvest them in a balanced and sustainable way, or we can mine them to exhaustion. If it seems that nature in some situations is hostile, it is usually because we have impaired its ability to deliver a stable environment, or because we are forcing it to perform in a manner that is fundamentally not natural. For most of these services there is no alternative source, and we cannot survive without them.

### **The Solutions**

- It is better to learn how to work within natural systems, than to replace them. So cattle in the African grasslands are far less productive and far more damaging to the environment than the wild game animals working in combination. But this has to be done sustainably, as the appalling destruction of world fish populations has shown.
- Complex mixed agriculture is far better than single crop production, as usually favoured by economists. Hill tribes in New Guinea have worked out how to mimic the complexity of the rain forest in their gardens, with highly productive results. But they are being pressured into replacing these with plantations.
- Bushmen in southern Africa, often thought of as primitive, have a more nutritious and reliable diet from foraging in the desert, than the settled cattle farmers in the more fertile lands around them. And they have more leisure time too! But progress, in the form of the Botswana government, has decreed that they have to be settled, and turn to cattle.
- In the rain forest, all the nutrients that we expect to find in the soil are in the trees. Once the trees are removed, the soil sustains crops for only a few years and then semi-desert conditions develop. Cattle and other forms of intensive monoculture are sustained only by the use of chemicals.
- As the pressures mount, environmental refugees will flee the land. They cannot be accommodated in the West (the principle is fine, but the numbers will be too great, and it only shifts the problem rather than solves it). They cannot go to the cities, as that will encourage further shifts to western-type agriculture to sustain the growing urban masses. They have to be empowered to stay on the land, by being given the freedom and resources to develop in a sustainable way--without the pressure of competition from the West.

### **Rules of Thumb:**

- However sophisticated or technological our world is, it is still part of nature, and has to obey the rules.
- If we give nature room to manoeuvre, it can heal much of the damage we have already done.
- We have to include ecosystem services in our economic balance sheets, and make decisions accordingly.
- Looking to nature will help us design sustainable responses to human problems.
- To banish poverty, we also have to banish excessive wealth.
- God's creation is indivisible.

## Ulster Project 2008 *by Alex McKinley*

This summer I travelled to Salt Lake City, Utah with the Ulster Project. The Ulster Project was started during the troubles to bring together Catholics and Protestants, from different backgrounds and teach tolerance and peace to the teenagers. There were twelve teens in my group and two councillors. We were joined by twelve teens and another two councillors who were the same sex and approximate age. I stayed with two families during the month because my teen Natalie's parents got divorced a few years ago and are now both remarried. I spent two weeks with each side of the family. They both made me very welcome into their homes.

I have many amazing memories of the month and if I wrote them all down it would fill the whole magazine, so I am going to just tell you my favourites.

On the second day after we arrived we went to summer camp, Camp Tuttle, for an overnight trip away. Here I got the gangster name Curley Fri, and because of this I was given a cap and chains from Les as a leaving gift. We were allowed to play pranks on each other; the boys stole our light bulbs, so our hut was left without any light. We put alarm clocks in the boy's room; they were set to wake the boys at 4am, 4:30am and 5am!!

We went to a theme park, but had to take many busses to get there. We had a small wait for a shuttle bus and one of the four American Councillors, Cole, sneaked off for a quick bathroom break and when he got back the bus had left without him!!

On the family free weekend, my family and I went to Lake Powell. We had many adventures there including running out of gas, losing Frank's (Natalie's dad) wallet, which we luckily managed to find scattered across the road, and we were almost bitten by a rattle snake too!!

At UNI, I was interviewed about my experience on the Ulster Project for KSL and I was on TV later that day!

On the river trip, we managed to get 30 people on a single raft which must break the record for any other group!

Many debates took place over the month including "if Harry Potter was English or American" and how you pronounce many words like "Aluminium," "Nike" and "Adidas."

Over the month I did many things which took me out of my comfort zone including jumping off a 30ft pole, swimming with sharks and fish, plus riding on many scary rollercoaster's!!

Some of the most memorable things I did in July were the service projects. Some of the most affecting things I saw that month happened at the soup kitchens, where we fed homeless people, who were so grateful to even get one warm meal. Another moving experience was when we worked at the local school for severely handicapped and disabled kids, these kids were so happy even with the problems that occurred everyday. It really made me grateful for what I have.

I am so pleased I was selected to go to America with the Ulster Project. It has changed my outlook on



life and people. The month flew so fast I will never forget all the wonderful people I met and all the friends I made. I learnt many things during the month, for example being kind is more important than being right, I'm responsible for what I do no matter how I feel and that making new friends involves risks. I have also learnt that all the teens were no different, no matter what religion we were all just teens that wanted to have fun and make new friends. I would recommend the project to everyone, it has taught me so many things and I just wish I could do it all over again!!!

Picture left: Alex, right, with her teen host, Natalie.



Pictured above: The Salt Lake City hosts with their Northern Ireland guests at the Official Reception.

Pictured below: Enjoying the outdoor life at the Great Salt Lake.



## **Presbyterian News in Brief**

*By Gillygooley Correspondence*

During a debate at the General Assembly on education, Rev. Trevor Gibben, Deputy Assembly Clerk made a strong plea for the main Protestant Churches to retain their influence in the administering of state controlled schools through the Transferors system.

Since its inception in the 1930s when the Protestant Churches transferred their schools, pupils and staff into state control, it has been a sector with a Church related ethos, an ethos valued by the overwhelming majority of parents said Rev. Gibben. He further expressed his grave concern that the contribution by the main Protestant Churches was being continually undervalued and steadily and systematically being eroded by the policies emanating from the Department of Education.

### **Church House Refurbishment and Repairs begin**

Following the decision to remain at their landmark site, work has begun at Church House, Presbyterian headquarters. After years of debate regarding the future of Church House the General Assembly last June gave the go-ahead for work to begin on a massive restoration project. Work to the stonework and roof which initially started 6 years ago had been put on hold until a final decision had been made on Church House's future. The completion of the exterior is estimated to cost £4m and will take until June 2010 to be completed. Visitors to the city can already witness work in progress with large sections of the building surrounded by scaffolding.

The Church's General Board under the convenership of Rev. Adrian McLernon are currently developing a plan that would address the needs of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. It is envisaged a ground floor that will be a unique space in Belfasts city centre conveying the Churches heritage and present witness including an exhibition/display space, a themed coffee shop/restaurant, an interactive genealogical facility and a space for reflection.

### **Merger of Women's Presbyterian Groups**

A new Presbyterian women's organisation has been launched in Church House. The new organisation incorporating the Presbyterian Women's Association (P.W.A.) and the Young Women's Group (Y.W.G.) is called Presbyterian Women (P.W.). the new group will have approximately 14,000 members from 500 Congregations. The launch follows a seven year process of reassessing the work and outreach role of both organisations. There have been Women's organisations within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland for over 130 years.

### **"Tributes to Presbyterian Historian"**

Rev. Professor Finlay Holmes who was Presbyterian Moderator in 1990 passed away in July following a long illness, he was aged 81. Dr. Holmes was an authority on the history of the Presbyterian Church and penned a number of best selling books on the history of Irish Presbyterianism.

### **Retirement of Former Moderator**

Rev. Dr. Newell who visited Gillygooley during his term as Moderator in 2004/2005 has retired as Minister of Fitzroy Presbyterian Church in South Belfast. Many will recall his warmth and gentle nature and ability to reach out to others in his Gospel Ministry. He was instrumental in establishing a fellowship with clergy in West Belfast and was awarded the Pax Christi International Peace Prize for his Reconciliation work in 1999. We wish Dr. Newell and his wife Val Gods' richest blessing in his retirement.

# Harvest Time at Gillygooley



Dorothy King and Eileen Fleming.



Anne Moore prepares Gillygooley Presbyterian Church for the Harvest Service.



Rosemary King puts the finishing touches to a flower arrangement.



Beverly Fleming is assisted by Stephen Fleming.

## Obituary – Annie May Ellen Moore



It was sadness and regret that the congregation of Gillygooley learned of the passing of Annie Moore on 4th November. Born in Ballynahatty on 13th February 1929 to the late Nathaniel and Jeannie Burke she had seven brothers and two sisters.

She attended Ballynahatty School later transferring to Canvanacaw. At 15 years she began work on a local farm and later as an assistant cook in the Royal Arms Hotel. Annie also worked as a ward assistant at Tyrone County Hospital before going to Stoke Mandeville Hospital, England also as a ward assistant.

Annie returned to Omagh and she and Hugh got married in Creevan Presbyterian Church on 20th February 1957 by Rev. W.E. Cochrane. Annie was a hard working woman who lived and appreciated the simple things in life enjoying the pleasures of her family and grandchildren; she collected dolls and teapots and contributed to family life until her health declined.

To her husband, Hugh, daughters, Helen, Jeannie and Linda and the extended family circle we extend our deepest sympathy. May God give you the strength to burden your great loss.

*“O God our Father, we pray for those whose life is saddened by death of a relative or friend. Be with them in their loneliness and give them faith to look beyond their present trouble to Jesus, the one who died and rose again, and who lives forever more. Amen”*

# HARVEST TIME AT TRINITY

On the evening of Friday 17th October there was much activity at Trinity Church as a special kind of "Ground Force" took place! Yes, yet again it was time to decorate the church for the Harvest Service on 19th October. Pictured below left is Audrey McConnell and below right is Rosemary and Lindsay Strong, who were just a few of the people who helped. I believe the others were camera shy!!



## Gillygooley 2nd Youth enjoy West End Production

Fifty members of 2nd Youth travelled by coach to enjoy the Musical "Footloose" direct from the West End, London on Saturday 8th November at the Millennium Theatre, Londonderry. On the homeward journey a meal was enjoyed at the Hunting Lodge Hotel, Baronscourt. Our cameraman captures on film some of those who attended.



L-R Marjorie Hall, Iris Moffitt-Scott and Audrey



L-R Meta McCay and Georgina Walker.



L-R Eileen Boyd, Ann Turner and Lily Nethery.



L-R Grace White, Lila and Eric Crawford and Violet Crosbie.



# CHRISTMAS KIDS PAGE



## Christmas Puzzle - The birth of Jesus

Use the code below to solve the puzzle.

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
17	10	18	25	16	23	8	22	14	6	5	11	9	21	20	2	26	12	13	15	24	3	7	4	1	19

8	11	20	12	1

15	20

8	20	25

14	21

15	22	16

22	14	8	22	16	13	15

Luke 2 v 14

**CAN YOU COLOUR IN THE PICTURE OF ONE OF THE WISE MEN?**



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

**Last issue's winners:**  
 Trinity – Molly Buchanan  
 Gillygooley – Jack Crawford

## Presbyterian Women at Trinity

### September

The first meeting of the new session was held in Trinity Hall. Leader Annette Moore opened the meeting by reading a poem and the hymn 'O God of Bethel' was sung. A Bible reading from John's gospel was read by Annette. A minute's silence followed for the former President of Trinity Presbyterian Women's Association the late Mrs. Mary Pinkerton.

Leader Annette went on to explain the new Presbyterian concept which was inaugurated in May this year. The Presbyterian Women's Association and the Young Wives Group are amalgamating to form the Presbyterian Women. Dorothy King gave a report on PW finance and various ideas were shared regarding fund raising. Annette then introduced the guest speaker Mr. Drew Hamilton. Drew gave a talk about his recent trip to Sri Lanka with the Omagh – Waterford Peace Choir. Drew gave a synopsis of his time with the Omagh Youth Choir and how he became involved with the Waterford Peace Choir. Money was raised in Trinity Church during the summer to help with a farming project in Sri Lanka.

Children are educated in orphanages in Matara and Colombo. Training colleges have been set up for the older children. The tsunami has greatly affected the Southern part of the island and it has still not completely recovered as we saw on the photographs. A children's home has been built by subscriptions from Ireland courtesy of Brian Brennan (a hotelier from Waterford). A mini farm has been established by Drew and the members of the Omagh – Waterford Choir for the benefit of the children. Drew answered questions from the members about his trip and Joan Cummins thanked him for his talk and visual display. A donation was given for the orphanage in Sri Lanka. Supper was served by the committee.

### An Appreciation of Mrs. Mary Pinkerton

Mrs Mary Pinkerton was a Past President of the Presbyterian Women's Association (PWA) of Trinity and Gillygooley Presbyterian Churches from 1943 – 1970, when her husband, the late Rev. Harry Pinkerton was Minister of these churches. She was a highly revered and much loved President, who gave unstinted and devoted service to the PWA and all activities connected with Trinity and Gillygooley.

Even when the Rev. Pinkerton became Minister of Edenderry Presbyterian Church she still maintained a great interest in Trinity and Gillygooley by attending every special occasion in both churches. This was very much appreciated and she was always received with the warmest of welcomes. To quote from her Obituary and what everyone, who had the privilege to have known her, said, "Mary Pinkerton was a lovely lady,"

Contributed by Mrs. Olive Parke.

**MARY PINKERTON** – The members of Trinity and Gillygooley Presbyterian Women's Association deeply regret the death of a much loved Past President, Mrs. Mary Pinkerton and offer their sincere sympathy to her family circle.

Mrs. A. Moore – Leader

Mrs. J. Cummins - Secretary

### October

Leader Annette Moore opened the October Meeting with a prayer and the hymn 'O Breath of Life' was sung. The reading was taken from Ecclesiastes 3, verses 1-8 was read by Annette. An apology was made for Mrs Isobel Porter. The special speaker for the evening was Rosemary McKay from Tearfund (The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund) and her daughter Katie who assisted her. Rosemary gave an interesting synopsis on how Tearfund focuses on empowering people suffering from Aids in Africa to obtain medicines to stem the disease. A film was shown which centred on two women with the HIV-AIDS virus. One had access to drugs and the other was less fortunate as she was unable to have that facility. As a consequence she died soon after the film was made.



Tearfund works with local churches to eradicate poverty globally. It was founded forty years ago in London by a group of Christians in response to floods and famine in Bihar, India in 1967 and the war in Nigeria (breakaway Biafra). Rosemary and Katie then conducted an



interview about a thirteen year old girl whose parents had died from Aids. Rachel (the girl) explains how she looks after her younger siblings plus other children. She likes going to school although this happens just three times per week as school fees have to be paid for education. Rachel's pastor helps by donating money for the fees but sometimes she has to look after the children if the little ones are ill. Rachel's wish is that both she and her siblings finish school and have good jobs.

A Tearfund Stall was manned by Katie and many different items were displayed from all India, Thailand and Bangladesh. The sum of £348.35 was realised from the sale. Annette thanked Rosemary

and Katie and presented them with a small token of thanks. Supper was served by the Committee.

## November

Trinity and Gillygooley were the guests of First Omagh for the November meeting. First Omagh leader Margaret Cummings welcomed everyone. The hymn 'When we walk with the Lord' was sung and then a prayer by Margaret. Mrs Evelyn Short read a portion of Scripture with the theme 'Now is the time to trust' from Job in the Bible. The speaker for the evening Mrs Irene Boyd was then introduced by Margaret. Mrs Boyd from Kesh is involved with the Operation Christmas Child Project. This is a Christian based charity which helps those less fortunate children in overseas countries. Irene began to be involved twelve years ago by collecting shoe boxes for children in Romania. Irene explained that a man called Dave Cooke from Wrexham in Wales set up the charity to help children in the orphanages of Romania. Boxes are delivered to the children before Christmas.

The Christmas Child project linked up with the Samaritans' Purse (sponsors of families, gives assistance when a tsunami occurs and with water schemes). Seven thousand nine hundred boxes were given last year from supporters in Northern Ireland. This year the boxes are being sent to Armenia. Mrs Boyd then related some stories from the different countries about the children regarding education and the teaching of the Bible. Children are offered St Luke's Gospel if they wish to have it. Many of the children are in hospital suffering from leukaemia/tuberculosis and were given teddy bears. Street children are abandoned by their mother or their parents are dead.

A DVD was shown about the Samaritans' Purse which operates in many countries and the way the children's delight when they receive their box of goodies. A vote of thanks was proposed by Miss Marion Mitchell and a small token was given to Mrs Boyd. Supper was served by the First Omagh ladies. Leader Annette Moore from Trinity and Gillygooley thanked Mrs Boyd for her interesting talk and the ladies for the delicious supper.

## GIFT AID TAX RELIEF

You are probably aware that for tax paying church members who pay contributions to church funds, the church can claim back a tax refund against those contributions.

Basic rate tax is 20 per cent, so this means that if you give £100.00 using Gift Aid, it's worth £125.00 to the charity. For donations between 6 April 2008 and 5 April 2011 the church will also get a separate government supplement of 3p on every pound you give.

If you are one of those people then please consider completing the form below and handing it to one of the finance committee or any committee member who will forward it to Noel Donald. Please read the notes at the bottom or contact Noel or Ann if you have any queries.

### Gift Aid Declaration

Name of Church .....

### Details of donor

Title ..... Forename(s) ..... Surname .....

Address .....

.....

..... Post Code.....

I want the charity to treat

\*the enclosed donation of £ .....

\*the donation(s) of £ ..... which I made on ...../...../.....

\*all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise

\*all donations I have made since 6 April 2000, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

### NOTES

1. You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the church.
2. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the church reclaims on your donations in the tax year.
3. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that the church reclaims, you can cancel your declaration.
4. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
5. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask the GIFT AID TREASURERS. **TRINITY** Noel Donald Tel:82245189  
**GILLYGOOLEY** Ann Patterson Tel:82258245
6. Please notify the church if you change your name or address or you have stopped paying income tax.

## **THE PRESBYTERIAN MUTUAL SOCIETY - LATEST NEWS**

**The following statement was issued by the Administrator of the Presbyterian Mutual Society on 17th November 2008.**

Arthur Boyd of Arthur Boyd & Company, the Belfast-based chartered accountants and business recovery specialists, has today been appointed Administrator of the Presbyterian Mutual Society.

The appointment of an Administrator follows a period of severe pressure on the Society's liquid assets.

Mr Boyd said: "My appointment as Administrator at the request of the Directors of the Society will provide protection for its assets. Administration is not the same as liquidation, bankruptcy or a winding-up.

Administration is designed to protect a company faced with liquidity problems. The Administrator's role is to act in the best interests of everyone who is owed money. My aim is to see if the Society can be rescued or, if this is not possible, to ensure that the Society is wound down in an orderly manner to maximise the return of money to members.

I cannot at this stage say whether members' funds can be returned to them in full or what proportion of their funds can be returned. The Society has considerable assets but if those assets were sold now it might not produce the best return for members.

Members are not required to take any action at present. I will write to members to inform them of my appointment. As required of an Administrator, I will endeavour to make my initial proposals to the members within eight weeks.

I am aware that in some cases lack of access to funds will cause hardship to members of the Society.

However, the role of the Administrator is to act on behalf of all members and develop a plan which will ultimately be put to those members for their consideration and decision.

The Administrator is currently not in a position to make repayments to members whether they have already applied for withdrawals or not."

### **Q. What does Administration mean?**

A. Directors of a company in financial difficulty can appoint an Administrator. Administration is a legal process. It means that people owed money by a company cannot sue it in the courts for the return of their money. It therefore provides legal protection for the Society's assets and its members.

The Administrator is required by the relevant legislation to rescue the company as a going concern, wherever this is reasonably practicable. In those cases where it is not possible, the objective will be to provide a better result for those owed money than would be achieved in an immediate winding up and only where

this is not possible will he realise assets to make a distribution to members.

### **Q. I need to talk to somebody urgently about my money or money belonging to a relative -- who do I contact?**

A. The staff of the Society remains in place to assist the Administrator. Members can contact the Society: By telephoning **(028) 9031 1232**

By faxing a request for a call back to (028) 9031 1441, or by emailing the Society for a call back at

[mutual@presbyterianireland.org](mailto:mutual@presbyterianireland.org)

You can also write to us at:

**The Administrator  
Presbyterian Mutual Society**

**Glengall Exchange**

**Glengall Street**

**Belfast**

**BT12 5AB**

Please be aware that because of the current level of inquiries it may not be possible for all telephone calls to be answered straight away. The Administrator would ask that people be as patient as possible. Staff will endeavour to reply to all those who make contact.

### **Q. I have applied to withdraw money from the Society. Will this be paid?**

A. Unfortunately the Administrator is not currently in a position to make repayments from the Society. This applies to applications that have already been made and to any new applications for withdrawal. Share and Loan Certificates already lodged with the Society will be returned.

### **Q. Can the Administrator tell me what went wrong with the Society?**

A. It is apparent to the Administrator that the global credit crunch had an effect on the Society's affairs. The Administrator was appointed because the Society had insufficient cash to meet a mounting level of applications to withdraw money. The Directors attributed this run on the Society's funds to an increasing number of members who were moving money into other financial institutions which enjoyed the protection of the UK Government's financial protection scheme for depositors. The Society does not have this protection. The Administrator is aware that representations have been made to the UK government to have the financial protection scheme extended to the Society's members. He supports this appeal but at this stage there has been no response from government.

More information can be found on the Presbyterian Mutual website at :

<http://www.presbyterianireland.org/mutual>

## GILLYGOOLEY YCDA

A service of Christmas music,  
lessons and carols

On

Sunday 14th December

At

7:30pm

In

Gillygooley Presbyterian Church  
(kindly granted)

Collection in aid of Arthritis Care

### Special Services in Trinity & Gillygooley (December 2008 & January 2009)

**Sunday, 7 December**

World Development Sunday

Gillygooley at 10.00 am & Trinity at 11.30 am

**Sunday, 21 December**

Carol Services

Gillygooley at 10.00 am & Trinity at 11.30 am

**Thursday, 25 December**

Christmas Day Service

Trinity at 11.00 am

**Sunday, 28 December**

Last Sunday of the Year

**Sunday, 4 January 2009**

First Sunday of the New Year

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

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

Baptisms in Trinity	Marriages in Trinity	Deaths in Gillygooley
28 Sep Lauren Ellen Colhoun	27 Oct James David McMullan & Iris Kathleen Hamilton	3 Nov Annie Moore
	8 Nov Samuel Ezekiel David Folliard & Deborah Cordner	
<i>"Let the children come to me..."</i> (Mark 10:14)	<i>"Love one another as I have loved you..."</i> (John 15:12)	<i>"I am the resurrection and the life..."</i> (John 11:25)

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](mailto:e.mills@freenet.co.uk)

Photographs by Billy Creery and Andrew Scott.