

TRINITY & GILLYGOOLEY NEWS



Issue 46

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March 2009

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TRINITY AND GILLYGOOLEY BIBLE CLASS OUTING

On Saturday evening, 13th December, members of Trinity and Gillygooley Bible Classes met at Trinity car park for a trip to the Pyramid bowling centre in Irvinestown. See center pages (16 & 17) for more photos and a write up.



Above: Boys winners photo Winner, on the left: Aaron Carson with a score of 133 and Runner Up, on the right: Matthew Mills with a score 115.

Below: Girls winners photo Winner, on the right: Keeva McIlwaine with a score of 123 and Runner Up, on the left: Leah McIlwaine with a score of 118.



MODERATOR SAYS MUTUAL CRISIS PUTS "WITNESS TO JESUS CHRIST AT STAKE"

Presbyterian Moderator Dr Donald Patton told the General Board of the Presbyterian Church that the Church's witness to Jesus Christ as Lord, together with its future work is at stake as it develops its response to events at the Presbyterian Mutual Society.

Dr Patton said, "The Church has been shaken by the sudden crisis in the Mutual Society. Many are distressed. Now is a time to stand together, shoulder to shoulder, and to bend mind, heart and soul to the task of what we do to help the situation.

"In it all our witness to Jesus Christ as Lord is at stake and our future work. We need to be patient and positive, looking ever to Jesus. The time will come when we will reflect on the issues and learn the lessons for future reference. But for now we concentrate on where we are and how we can go forward"

Clerk of Assembly Rev Donald Watts described the last three months as the "most difficult our Church has faced in a very long time," but emphasised that the real concern must be for investors caught up in the unfolding events.

"Our concern above all must be for people who, in good faith, invested their savings in a society which seemed to be strong and providing a good return each year, only to find that their money has been locked up for a time and the ultimate return is unknown.

"We must continue to offer prayerful support to them and do all within our abilities to ensure the best possible outcome for them. The Church cannot be separated from the people who are suffering most because they are part of the Church. Those who do not understand that neither understand the gospel nor the Presbyterian Church."

The General Board met to receive a report from the Moderator's Advisory Committee which detailed the response of the Presbyterian Church to events surrounding the Presbyterian Mutual Society over the last three months.

The Board also agreed seven resolutions which include recognition of the deep hurt felt by many at events surrounding the PMS, support for the Moderator's request to meet the Prime Minister and encouragement for officers of the General Assembly to continue to consult with politicians and government representatives.

REPORT OF THE MODERATOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE, ON THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO THE PMS, TO THE GENERAL BOARD , 06 FEBRUARY 2009

1. The Moderator's Advisory Committee has met twice to receive reports and consider the response of the Church to the evolving situation of the Presbyterian Mutual Society. On 21 November, 2008, the Clerk outlined the position as it was then known. The Chairman of the Directors and Secretary of the Mutual Society had asked for a meeting on Monday, 27 October, 2008. At that meeting they indicated that the Society was no longer able to meet demand for payments and the Directors had invoked the rule delaying payment for 21 days. They indicated that a letter was being sent to all shareholders.
2. At a routine meeting of Clerks of Presbytery, held on 6 November, 2008, the Clerk of Assembly alerted Clerks of Presbytery to the problem, but took the view that shareholders had the right to be told by the Society before any comment was made by the Church. However, there was useful discussion as to how Presbyteries might be able to support their members and the Clerk of Assembly agreed to alert all ministers as soon as it was clear shareholders had been informed.

3. On 12 November, 2008, the Clerk wrote to all ministers, both by post and e-mail, including a copy of the Presbyterian Mutual Society Directors' Statement to shareholders and a Press Statement issued by the Society.

"It is easy to point out that the Mutual Society is a separate legal entity which is quite separate from the Church. It is also clear that the Church cannot in any way underwrite the commitments of the Society. However, the reality is that many Presbyterians who have invested in the society are now understandably worried and we have a responsibility to care pastorally for them."

Since then the Church has been considering all possible ways to fulfil its responsibility to care, recognising that much of this support must be given at a local level.

4. On 14 November, 2008, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment announced that it had rushed through urgent legislation to allow the Presbyterian Mutual Society the option of going into administration or a voluntary arrangement. This information was e-mailed to all ministers the following day, again emphasising the Church's responsibility to those deeply concerned by the unfolding events. On Monday, 17 November, 2008, the Society was placed into administration and Mr. Arthur Boyd, FCA, appointed Administrator.

5. The Moderator's Advisory Committee affirmed the steps that had been taken to inform the Church of the situation as it was known, recognising that the Church has limited knowledge. There was much discussion of the growing concern among shareholders and the position of the Church. The Committee recognised some of the legal issues which may emerge. In general the advice was to say little until the Administrator was able to make a full and accurate assessment of the Society. The Committee also considered a possible letter from the Moderator to follow up that of the Clerk. A small group was appointed to advise the Moderator on this letter, which was sent to all Ministers on 21 November, 2008.

6. The Moderator's Advisory Committee also looked at how the Church might support those in financial difficulty, whether through their investments in the Presbyterian Mutual Society or for other reasons. There are funds within the Church which can give modest support to those in acute hardship and it was felt best to utilise these for the present. While it was recognised that these would not meet the requirements of those who need immediate access to large sums of money, it was felt important to do immediately what can be done. The Financial Secretary wrote to all ministers on 24 November, 2008, outlining the funds available, both to individuals and to Congregations through the Crescent Loan Fund.

7. The Moderator reported to the Committee that he had written to the Prime Minister on 3 November, 2008 asking for sympathetic consideration of the position of the Presbyterian Mutual Society and particularly the plight of its shareholders. A reply from the Treasury on 9 January, 2009, indicated that a review of the regulatory framework for mutuals in Northern Ireland is underway, but it did not directly suggest financial help for the Presbyterian Mutual Society. As well as on-going meetings which the Moderator and Clerk have held with interested MLAs, the Moderator took the opportunity while visiting Westminster on 21 January, 2009 to raise the matter with Northern Ireland MPs. He wrote again to the Prime Minister on 23 January, 2009 again raising the issue and asking for a meeting. One possibility is that this would be along with the First and Deputy First Ministers for whom it is reported a meeting is being arranged. This initiative is being supported by a petition, which has been circulated to all

Church members, a letter in their private capacity from 23 former Moderators, the Methodist Church in Ireland and many local politicians. At the time of writing this report a response is still awaited.

8. The Moderator also brought together a small group to advise on financial initiatives which might be taken, especially a "Relief Fund" which had been suggested by one of the members. The group met on three occasions, with others in attendance, but following the publication of the Administrator's Report it was accepted that this initiative would not proceed.

9. The Administrator's Report was issued on 12 January, 2009. It included a proposal that "the Society's existing business should be wound down in a managed and orderly manner through a formal arrangement with its members". It invited creditors to vote on 5 resolutions, 3 of which, if agreed, would allow for the orderly wind-down through a formal arrangement, as suggested by the Administrator. The result of the vote will not be known until after the General Board meeting.

10. It has been recognised that much of the support to Presbyterian Mutual Society shareholders needs to be given at a local level. With that in mind a special meeting of Clerks of Presbytery was held on 28 November, 2008, to hear views and exchange ideas. Following that meeting the Moderator and Clerk of Assembly issued a statement for the December Presbyteries. A copy is appended.

11. A further meeting of Clerks and Finance representatives of Presbyteries was called following the publication of the Administrator's Report and in the light of much confusion over the resolutions. The Administrator kindly agreed to attend with his advisors. This was a useful meeting, which did bring greater clarity, as did the later statement of clarification from the Administrator. There were a number of meetings of shareholders at Presbytery or Congregational level which proved helpful.

12. The Moderator's Advisory Committee again met on 26 January, 2009, and reviewed the developments in respect of the Presbyterian Mutual Society as outlined above. It appreciated many of the frustrations and difficulties of those trying to respond on behalf of the Church to a changing situation, where there are still no definitive answers to crucial questions. It also recognised that there were times the Church rightly deferred to the Administrator. The independence of the shareholders must also be respected.

13. The question of Benevolent/Hardship Funds was again considered, in the context of all those Presbyterians who may have pressing needs for whatever reason. Up to the present, the existing funds have proved sufficient for any requests of that nature. The Trustees have agreed that the Scott Benevolent Fund may be used to cover needs not already met by the Indigent Ladies, Old Age or Presbyterian Women's Funds. This Fund's resources may be supplemented, if needed, from the Trustees' Discretionary Fund. It was therefore agreed that no special provision needs to be made at present to meet the acute benevolent needs of members, but this will be kept under review.

14. The situation of those in the Church who need access to larger amounts of money in the short term is also a concern. Even with the publication of the Administrator's Report the total

potential needs of Presbyterian Mutual Society members is unclear, as is the help the Church may be able to give. The Moderator's Advisory Committee also recognises that in the present financial climate there will be Presbyterians in need who are not shareholders in the Presbyterian Mutual Society. In order to give this situation further careful thought, the Moderator's Advisory Committee recommends the appointment of a small panel to advise the Moderator and Clerk on the response of the Church to the evolving financial crisis, including that of the Presbyterian Mutual Society.

15. From the beginning of this crisis, the Church has repeatedly asked that it be seen in the context of our total trust in God, who does not fail us. "I waited patiently for the Lord; He turned to me and heard my cry" (Psalm 40:1). As many people continue their diligent search for the way forward, the whole Church is asked to be diligent in prayer for those who have suffered much and are confused; for those who must think their way towards important recommendations; and for those who offer pastoral care for friends within the Presbyterian family who are deeply hurt and distressed. So may we together find God's way.

Donald J. Watts

(Convener)

Resolutions

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Board, recognising the deep hurt felt by many at the recent events surrounding the Presbyterian Mutual Society, calls the Church to continue in prayer for all who are involved.
3. That the General Board supports the request of the Moderator for an urgent meeting with the Prime Minister to discuss support for those who are suffering because of the present situation of the Presbyterian Mutual Society.
4. That the General Board encourages contacts with the Taoiseach and his Government to explore ways in which help may be given to Presbyterian Mutual Society savers, some of whom live in the Republic.
5. That the General Board asks its officers to continue on-going consultations with Executive Ministers and MLAs at Stormont to seek support for those who are suffering, for whatever reason, through the present financial crisis.
6. That the General Board appoints a small panel to advise on the response of the Church to the financial crisis, including the situation of the Presbyterian Mutual Society. The membership of the panel to be: Moderator, Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Financial Secretary, with power to co opt.
7. That the General Board takes steps to investigate the spiritual and ethical issues that emerge for our Church from the history of the Presbyterian Mutual Society, especially in the light of recent economic developments that forced the Society into administration, and that a report be presented as soon as appropriate.



Glengall Exchange
3 Glengall Street
Belfast
BT12 5AB

6 February 2009

Dear Member

Re: The Presbyterian Mutual Society Limited (In Administration) (the "Society")

I am pleased to advise you that all of the Administrator's proposals have been passed by the required majority of votes. I attach a copy of the formal notice of the result in a Form 2.23B and a summary of the voting by each resolution. I indicated at paragraph 5.8 of my proposals that whilst the law did not require me to consider the votes of members in respect of their share capital in the Society, I intended to look at the votes cast by the members as a whole. The attached summary outlines the votes cast by members in respect of their shares and/or loans. I would like to thank you for your positive response.

I will now be proceeding to consider and prepare a proposal for an arrangement to enable an orderly run down over time. I will be continuing the ongoing work of collecting in outstanding monies and progressing my report to the Department of Trade and Industry concerning the conduct of the Society's directors.

Some members have written to me raising questions concerning the management of the Society. Whilst I am constrained from dealing with these matters directly, I will be taking them into account in the course of my investigations.

I anticipate reporting to you further by the end of May 2009. At that stage, it would be my intention to put a detailed proposal for an arrangement to you and ask you to vote on it. I would then hope to be in a position (subject to approval of the arrangement), to pay a first small distribution/dividend in the late summer.

Yours faithfully

Arthur Boyd
Administrator

The affairs, business & property of the Presbyterian Mutual Society Limited are being managed by Mr Arthur Boyd FCA, as Administrator. Mr Boyd is a licensed Insolvency Practitioner authorised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland, and acts as agent of the Society without personal liability.

THE PRESBYTERIAN MUTUAL SOCIETY - RESULT OF POSTAL VOTE

Resolution 1

That the Administrator continues to manage the affairs and property of the Society and finance this from the income received by the Society in such manner as he considers expedient with a view to achieving a better result for the Society's members as a whole than would be if the Society were wound up

Resolution 2

That the Administrator shall do all such other things and generally exercise all his powers as Administrator as he, in his discretion, considers cost effective and desirable in order to achieve the purpose of the Administration, to protect and preserve the assets of the Society, to maximize their realisations or for any other purpose incidental to these proposals.

Resolution 3

That the Administrator's remuneration be agreed on a time cost basis by reference to the time properly given by the Administrator and his staff in attending to matters arising in the Administration.

Resolution 4

That the members agree to a six month extension of the Administration, if deemed necessary by the Administrator.

Resolution 5

That the Administrator puts forward a formal arrangement for the members to consider pursuant to either Part 1 of the Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 or Part 26 of the Companies Act 2006, that such arrangement shall incorporate the existing rules of the Society and/or such other terms as the members may approve and that the arrangement shall make provision for a distribution to be made as soon as is practicable. Failing the approval of such an arrangement by the members/creditors, the Administrator may proceed to put the company into a Creditors Voluntary Liquidation with Mr Arthur Boyd being proposed as Liquidator.

Note

Total value of members shareholdings

Total value of creditors/members loan holdings

£101,522,000

£204,643,249

The total of voting forms returned by 12 noon 30 January 2009 was 90.9% of the total originally sent out. 1.4% of the returned voting forms, (being members' shareholdings of £1 Million and creditors/members' loan holdings of £1.9 million) were invalid, not having been properly signed/completed. A further 2% of voting forms were received late, after the closing date.

Members' shareholdings

Yes	No	No vote recorded
£94,438,700	£446,200	£362,700
99.1%	0.5%	0.4%
£93,538,900	£609,900	£2,098,800
97.2%	0.6%	2.2%
£88,118,900	£2,079,800	£5,048,900
97.5%	2.2%	5.3%
£88,862,000	£1,956,300	£4,429,300
93.3%	2.0%	4.7%
£86,167,900	£5,506,400	£3,573,300
90.5%	5.8%	3.7%

Creditors/members' loan holdings

Yes	No	No vote recorded
£189,112,603	£883,869	£3,591,637
97.7%	0.4%	1.9%
£185,816,400	£1,568,540	£6,153,188
96.0%	0.8%	3.2%
£179,369,444	£3,305,195	£10,863,469
92.7%	1.7%	5.6%
£180,293,427	£3,046,261	£10,198,420
93.1%	1.6%	5.3%
£171,537,785	£12,645,394	£9,354,929
88.6%	6.5%	4.9%

GILLYGOOLEY ASSOCIATION DINNER

Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association held their annual dinner in the Hunting Lodge Hotel, Baronscourt. Representatives from the various organisations which meet in the Orange Hall and constitute the Association were present. The Association now in its tenth year continues to coordinate and manage events in the hall and draw on funding as it becomes available. Following the dinner everyone enjoyed dancing to Liam McLaughlin.



L-R Mavis Elkin, Andrew Scott and Joyce Smyth relax after dinner.



Enjoying each others company at the Association dinner are, back L-R Iris Moffitt-Scott, Joyce Smyth and Mavis Elkin, seated L-R Diane Stevenson and Lorna Graham.



L-R Maurice Stevenson and Haldine Elkin at the Association dinner.



L-R Lorraine and Ray Elkin, Raymond and Elaine King, Bernie Liggett and Jennifer O'Donnell take a rest from the dance floor at the association dinner.

YOUTH IN FOCUS

Continuing my focus on youth and the contribution they make to society. My attention is directed to one of our uniformed organisations and to the leadership training, skills and encouragement it gives to our youth. Dean Porter and Ryan O'Donnell are members of 1st Omagh Explorer Scouts having joined the Scouts movement when they were 6 years old. They have gained their Queens Scout and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards and Ryan will be presented with his badges at a function at Hillsborough Castle later this year. Meanwhile Dean will travel to Buckingham Palace to receive his badges.

Supporting Charity – As part of their achievements for attaining the awards the boys assisted the Riding for the Disabled for twelve months supporting those with disabilities, helping with the care of ponies and the management of the charity.

Skills – In preparation for the water experience of the project a twelve week course in lifesaving skills had to be completed at the end of which the boys attained their Bronze Medallion. They also completed a youth leadership course, Dean at the N.I Scout Centre, Crawfordsburn and Ryan at Gortatole Outdoor Activity Centre. Experience gained included archery, orienteering, wall climbing, assault courses etc.

Canoe Restoration – Having found an old canoe in the attic of the Scout Hall Dean and Ryan were part of a team who embarked on a restoration programme. In addition to the restoration the boys had to receive training and become proficient in handling Canadian canoes. When completed their first adventure was on Lough Erne for four days camping under canvas on various islands at night. This was a wonderful experience said the boys although the wet and windy weather made it the most arduous

part of our Award preparation. Dean and Ryan agree that in addition to the fun and enjoyment the project has helped them to broaden their horizons, develop better communication skills and learn ones own strengths and weaknesses.



Editors note: Have you an experience you wish to share? To be included in future issues of Gillygooley News please contact the Editor or Assistant Editor.

VOLUNTARY TRUSTEE APPOINTMENT FOR MERVYN



Mervyn King who is a member of Gillygooley Congregation has been appointed as voluntary Trustee of Agrisearch the Northern Ireland Agricultural Research and Development Council. Mervyn is one of the youngest appointees to be elevated to this position indicating the high esteem in which he is held throughout the agriculture sector. Mervyn works for animal feeds compounders Scotts of Omagh which is now part of the farmer owned Fane Valley Co-op. As a voluntary Trustee Mervyn will assist in overseeing Agrisearch supported trials in the dairy, beef and sheep sector.

Mervyn (pictured left) has been a life long member of Gillygooley Presbyterian Church and resides with his wife Melanie and two sons Oliver and Archie in the Gillygooley area.

He is secretary of the locally formed Fairywater Farmers Group who have assisted farmers access E.U. funding. Mervyn is also secretary of the Omagh Dairy Discussion Group which is the longest established such forum in the province.

As a hobby Mervyn enjoys playing Rugby and plays for Omagh Accies. He also enjoys assisting his brother Raymond with his pedigree Ayrshire herd on the family farm.

GILLYGOOLEY Y.C.D.A AIDS CHARITY



L-R Moria Stewart, Treasurer of Arthritis Care N.I Omagh Branch and William McCrea, Chairperson receive a cheque for £400 from Andrew Scott, Chairperson and Margaret Hemphill, Secretary of Gillygooley Y.C.D.A.

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SOCIAL EVENTS

The Trinity social events committee decided last April to start a tea morning before the church service. This took place on the second Sunday of each month. This was organised with the object of the congregation having an opportunity to meet and to have a chat over a cup of tea or coffee. Those who took part enjoyed the mornings and made donations which came to a total of £255.89.

The monies were distributed as follows:

£70.00	Sunday School Appeal.
£51.10	Sri Lanka
£125.79	Omagh Chest, Heart & Stroke.

The committee would like to thank all those who participated and helped with providing the tea and biscuits.

The tea/coffee mornings continue to be held on the second Sunday of each month in Trinity Hall at 10.30am and everyone is welcome!



Photo: Presenting a cheque to Albert & Jillian Porter, Omagh Chest Heart & Stroke.

Sunday 8th February, 2009

The usual tea morning was slightly different this month. From an early hour members of the Sunday school and social events committee were busily clearing snow from around the church and spreading salt to prepare for the influx of members of the congregation for a special tea and pancake morning organised by the Sunday school in aid of the 'Treasure Box Appeal' for the Youth & Children's Project 2008-2009.

The 'Treasure Box Appeal' supports the work of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, in Malawi. It is supporting the work of the Youth and Children's Department of Livingstonia Synod under the leadership of the Rev Stephen Bota as they develop a new curriculum for use in Sunday Schools.

The Treasure Box Project will provide:

- A new curriculum and resources to be used with children and young people from 2 – 18 years old.
- Support of the work of the newly formed Sunday School Committee in the Synod of Livingstonia.
- Training programmes in relation to the new curriculum for Sunday School teachers and youth leaders.

The Sunday School would like to thank all those who braved the wintry conditions and came out to support this very worthwhile cause. A total of £136.42 was raised.

CHATTERBOX PLAYGROUP BY LINDA HUNTER

The Children of Chatterbox Playgroup have enjoyed their first taste of education with a very busy autumn/winter term which finished with a flourish. They enjoyed a trip to Mr. Tumbles in early December and a visit to Woodview Land of Little Animals to see Santa. The finale being a Christmas Performance of Nursery Rhymes and songs, for Parents, Grandparents and friends. They started the New Term full of



L-R Jody Crankshaw, Lauren Hunter, Marianne Alexander, Iona Mills, Luke Cousins, Sarah Carson and Freddie Vincent having fun in the snow at Chatterbox Playgroup.

enthusiasm along with a number of new pupils and spent the first few weeks learning about different cultures and celebrated the Chinese New Year at the end of January. February dawned with the promise of snow and to the delight of the children, they were able to spend some time enjoying this winter wonderland. Over the coming weeks the children will be learning about springtime and watching their daffodils (which were planted during autumn) grow and bloom. A fundraising event is being planned for the end of March and it is intended this will be a Spring Dance. There are places available for children aged from 2yrs 10mths in this current school year and in September along with two PEAGs places. If you are interested in sending your child to the Playgroup or know of children who would benefit from a small group with an excellent dedicated team please contact either Karen Alexander, Playgroup Leader, Tel: 8224 2006, 9am – 12:30pm or Linda Hunter, Chairperson, Tel: 07840 996922.



Christmas Drama at Chatterbox Playgroup L-R Lauren Hunter, Marianne Alexander, Beth Cousins, Jody Crankshaw, Jessica Sterritt, Freddie Vincent.

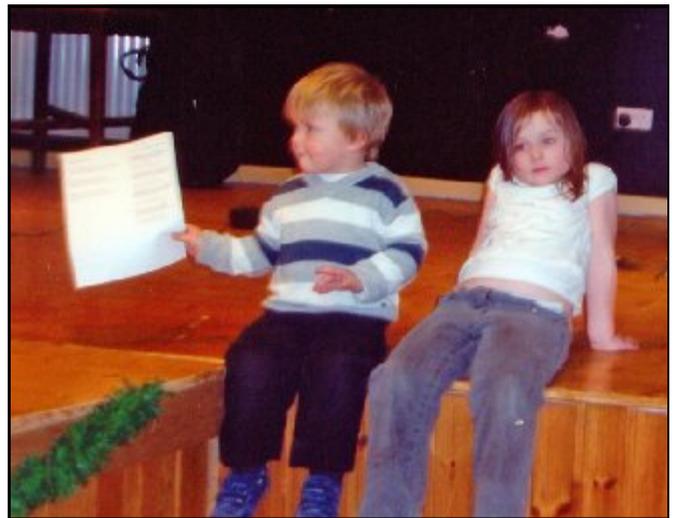


Learning about other cultures on Chinese New Year are L-R Freddie Vincent, Sarah Carson, Jody Crankshaw, Marianne Alexander, Lauren Hunter, Jessica Sterritt, Iona Mills and Luke Cousins.

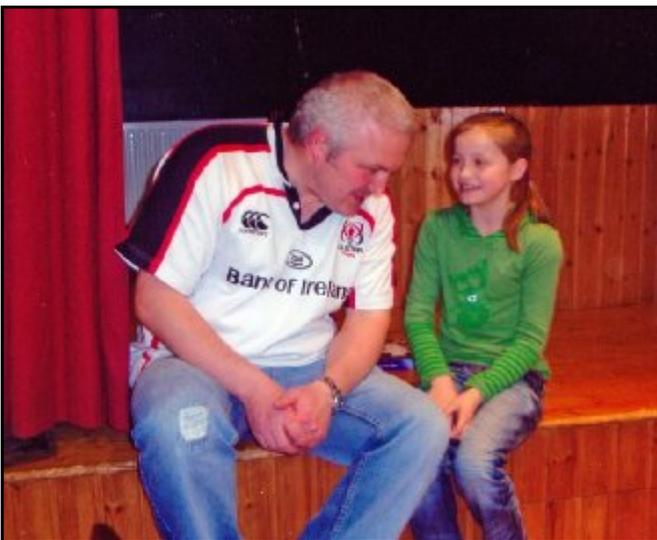
“The Teaching of God’s Word”

The Congregation of Gillygooley Presbyterian Church are deeply indebted to the team of Sunday school teachers who endeavour to teach the message of the gospel each Sunday to our children. Under the leadership of Beverly Fleming, Sunday School Superintendent, these members of the Congregation give a commitment which is not always fully recognised by many in the pews. The same team gave of their time and energy to organise a successful Christmas Party for all children in the Congregation. Thank you to all concerned.

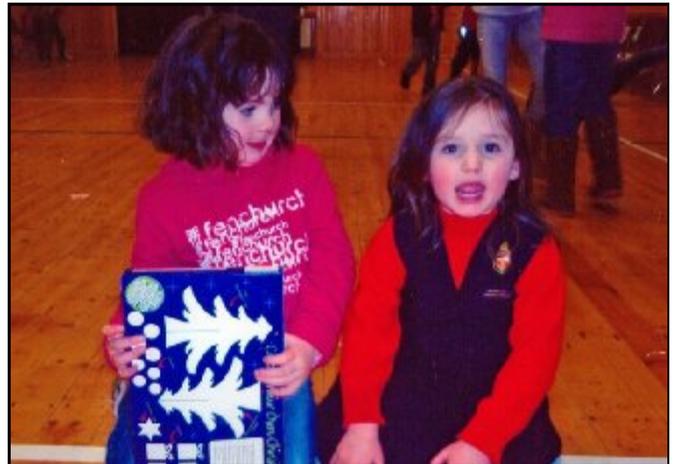
“Suffer the little Children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God.”
Mark 10v14



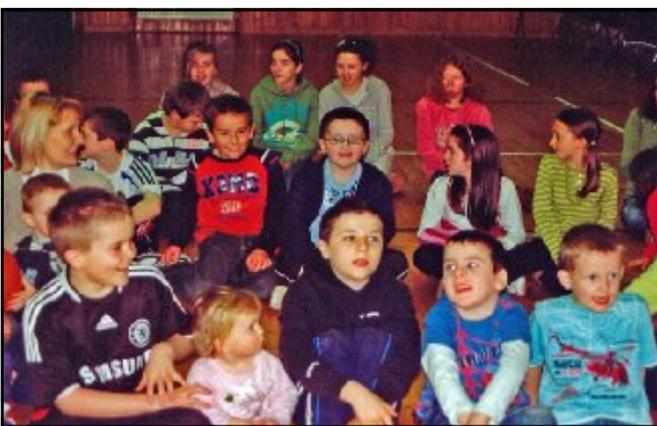
Gareth Forsythe and Lauren Hunter do their party piece at the Sunday School party.



Sunday School Teacher, David McKinley, learns the Santa wish list from Katie Gault.



Lauren Hunter, right, in fine voice being given moral support by Karen King.



Children patiently await the arrival of Santa at the Sunday School Christmas party.



Andrew and Harvey King pose for the camera at the Sunday School party.



Children and parents assemble around Santa for a photo call at the Sunday School Party.



Rachel Graham looks pleased with her Santa present, accompanied by her mother Amanda.

USEFUL CONTACTS FOR GILLYGOOLEY

If you require support or information regarding Gillygooley Presbyterian Church or Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association please contact the following:

Gillygooley Presbyterian Church – Rev. Robert Herron Tel: 82243 776

Sunday School – Beverly Tel: 82247 047

Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association - Andrew Tel: 82242 895

Gillygooley Youth Club - Jennifer Tel: 82241 831

Gillygooley 2nd Youth (50+ club) - Iris Tel: 82242 895

Chatterbox Playgroup - Linda Tel: 82243 146

Gillygooley Community Choir - Andrew Tel: 82242 895

Gillygooley Community Alert - Fred Tel: 82242 708
Eric Tel: 82246 511

Gillygooley Walking Club - Iris Tel: 82242 895
Diane Tel: 82246 553

Gillygooley Pipe Band (piping or drumming lessons) - William Tel: 82248 494

Gillygooley LOL 339 - Raymond Tel: 82831 444

Fairy Water Farmers Group - Mervyn Tel: 82831 355

Gillygooley Primary School - Tel: 82242 932

CARSON ELECTED AS NEXT PRESBYTERIAN MODERATOR



The next Moderator of the Presbyterian Church will be Rev Stafford Carson (57), minister of First Portadown Presbyterian Church.

Mr Carson was nominated by 10 out of the 21 Presbyteries who met today throughout Ireland to vote for a new Moderator and will take up office on the 1st June in succession to Dr Donald Patton who continues as Moderator until that time.

Rev Derek McKelvey of Fisherwick, in Belfast, received 6 nominations and Rev Norman Hamilton, minister of the Ballysillan congregation, also in Belfast received 5 nominations.

Commenting on his election Mr Carson who has been minister of First Portadown for the last four years said, "I am very surprised but greatly honoured by the way in which the Church has chosen me for this important task."

He describes himself as 'theologically conservative' and sees one of the major challenges of ministry today as introducing change within the church to help it connect with people in relevant and meaningful ways.

"Outreach and mission has to be one of our main priorities. In First Portadown we are trying to develop that aspect through various initiatives. We are involving ourselves more in the daily life of the local community so that the practical side of our Christian faith is clearly seen while on Sundays the introduction of a contemporary style makes our worship more meaningful to people new to the congregation."

Born in Larne on 29 May 1951, John Stafford Carson attended Moyle Primary School and Larne Grammar School. In 1973 he graduated with a BSc from University of Ulster in Coleraine and three years later was awarded an MA from the same university.

Brought up in the Elim Church, Mr Carson was also strongly influenced through the ministry of Christian Endeavour and Youth for Christ and after his marriage joined his wife's congregation of First Portglenone Presbyterian.

While studying for his MA, Mr Carson taught Biology in Ballymena Technical College before his theological studies took him to the USA and Westminster Theological Seminary where he graduated with a Masters in Arts and Ministry in 1980 before completing his ministerial training at Union Theological College in Belfast.

In 1983 he was ordained as assistant minister in the High Street Antrim congregation before being installed in the joint charge of Kells and Eskylane a year later. In 1991 Mr Carson was called to be minister of Carnmoney where he stayed until taking up the post of Academic Dean at Westminster Theological Seminary in 2000. In 2005 he returned to Northern Ireland and became minister of the First Portadown congregation.

He has convened various committees of the General Assembly, particularly those related to theological education of ministers and the provision of resources to help local churches be more effective in their mission outreach.

An Ulster Rugby season ticket holder Mr Carson is married to Patricia and has two daughters and a son.

Mr Carson will take up office as Moderator in succession to Dr Donald Patton at the opening session of the 2009 General Assembly on Monday 1st June.

Voting for each candidate was as follows:

Rev Stafford Carson (First Portadown) 10 Votes: Armagh, Ballymena, Down, Dromore, Foyle, Iveagh, Newry, Omagh, Route, Tyrone.

Rev Derek McKelvey (Fisherwick) 6 Votes: Ards, East Belfast, South Belfast, Derry/Strabane, Monaghan, Templepatrick.

Rev Norman Hamilton (Ballysillan) 5 Votes: North Belfast, Carrickfergus, Coleraine, Donegal, Dublin/Munster.

TRINITY AND GILLYGOOLEY CHRISTMAS BIBLE CLASS OUTING

There were about 30 of us in total on the trip and we all squeezed nicely on to the bus. The leaders who came with us were Noel Donald, Andy Mc Kernan, Adele Donald and Beverly King.

It took about half an hour to get to Irvinestown and when we arrived we were all raring to get started!

The bowling was a great success and was enjoyed by everyone.

Gillygooley took the honours in the girls' section. The winner was Keeva McIlwaine and her sister, Leah, was the runner-up.

In the boys' section, the runner-up was Matthew Mills of Gillygooley, but Aaron Carson salvaged the pride of Trinity by winning the boys' section.

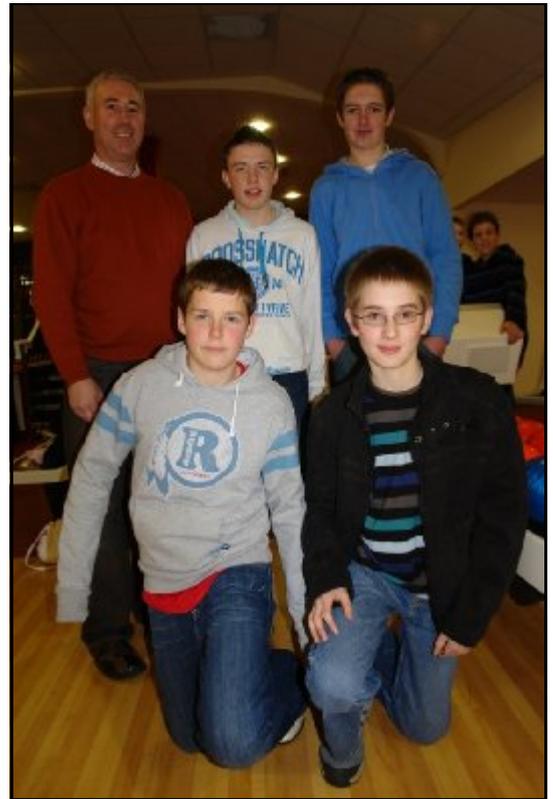
After our strenuous efforts in the bowling alley, we were all hungry and tucked in to a scrumptious meal of chips and sausages or chicken nuggets.

A great evening was rounded off with some fun in the games arcade.

Our thanks for organising a memorable night are extended to Noel, Andy, Adele and Beverly.

Kirstin Duncan

Editors note: Ronnie Telford, the bus driver, was heard to say that this was the best behaved group of young people he had taken on a trip all year. The bowling centre staff agreed. There's hope for us yet!



Back Row L-R: Andy McKernan, Aaron Carson, David Fleming. Front Row L-R: Adam Stevenson and Adam Moore.



Front Row L-R: Errol McKinley, Bryan Fleming, Gareth Barbour, Kyle McKinley. Back Row L-R: Matthew McKernan, Graeme Walker, Matthew Mills and Stephen Hemphill.



Back Row L-R: Katie McCay, Adele Donald, Noel Donald. Front Row L-R: Sarah Moore, Grace Monteith and Lynsey Carson.



Back Row L-R: Keeva McIlwaine, Kyra McKinley, Harley Semple, Hannah Patterson Front Row L-R: Janice Caldwell, Jade Somerville, Naomi Duncan and Kirstin Duncan.



Back Row L-R: Beverley Fleming, Leah McIlwaine, Mark Clements, Dean Hannigan Front Row L-R: Reece Kerrigan, Samantha McCauley, Carol Fleming and Jessica Sproule.

Trinity Badminton Club *by Ronnie Keys*

This year the Badminton Club started slowly but with new members joining in January this year, I have to report the Club is going from strength to strength.

John Thompson, an active member, managed to convince his brother, Basil and sister-in-law Sylvia to join. I do not know how he did it; maybe he has a gift or else maybe he just threatened them, but Basil and Sylvia are becoming good players – they might even become better than John, so he will need to improve his game!

Another new recruit is Kenny Stewart and already he is showing some form and I have every faith he will be a handy player. On Friday 27th February James Oliver made his debut with us although we soon realised he had played before. He made some lovely drop shots and with the big grin I believe he was certainly enjoying himself. We now have 15 players and if this continues we could do with another court!

Players who have attended regularly over a number of years include the following: Robert McCay, Claire Roke, Wayne Oliver, Andrew Oliver, John Thompson, Hazel Marshall, Richard Marshall, Anne Keys, Angela Keys, Richard Keys and yours truly.

Some are becoming much better players and all are becoming a bit fitter and a few are losing pounds – I mean weight. Friday nights are a laugh!



GILLYGOOLEY VETERAN HONOURED



Edward Stevenson presenting Bob Walker with his seventy-five years certificate.

Robert Walker Senior or Bob, as he is known to his friends, has been a dedicated member of Gillygooley Presbyterian Church. Bob, who is in his 96th year, is the second most senior member of the Congregation and served as a faithful member of the Congregational Committee for many years until advancing years necessitated his retirement. Bob is a great conservationist with a brilliant memory and relishes in relaying stories of years of yore to the many visitors who call at his home. Bob has lived his entire life in the Gillygooley area. Prior to his marriage he resided and farmed on the family farm at Cloghog. Following his marriage to Lily they purchased a farm at Mullinatomagh where they

established their new home. As a youth Bob joined the local Orange Lodge which was then known as Corlea. At a recent function in Bob's home the Lodge honoured his dedicated years of service by presenting him with a seventy-five year certificate. The presentation was made by Edward Stevenson who is Deputy Grand Master of Ireland and also a member of session of Ardstraw Presbyterian Church.

In addition to his service to the Lodge, Bob was a talented musician who joined Corlea Flute Band when he was twelve years old, when Gillygooley Pipe Band was formed in 1935 he was one of the founder members.

Andrew Scott, Omagh District Master presented Mrs. Lily Walker with a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her support for the Lodge, Bob was a renowned ploughman who won numerous ploughing matches representing Gillygooley Young Farmers Club in 1930's – 1940's. This was in a period when horsepower was still very much a reality. Bob has witnessed many changes in his life including numerous improvements to Gillygooley Presbyterian Church. One recollection he recalls was delivering a load of turf by horse and cart for the stove which was sited in the middle of the isle to heat the Church.



Andrew Scott presenting Lily Walker with a bouquet of flowers.

Ulster Project 2009

By Adam Stevenson, Gillygooley

My name is Adam Stevenson and I live at 71 Drumlegagh Road South, Omagh with my family; my mum, my dad and my two brothers Andrew (16) and Jack (10). We also have two cats, two hens and a bad tempered rooster. My favourite pastimes are playing the guitar, badminton, football, walking dogs for Canine Care, reading and going to the pictures with my friends. I also belong to 1st Mountjoy Boys Brigade where I have just started to work on my Silver Duke of Edinburgh award.

The reason I wanted to participate in the Ulster Project was because my brother (Andrew) went two years ago and said it was one of the best experiences of his life. I was lucky enough to get chosen to go to Salt Lake City which is the same place that Andrew went so he will be able to give me lots of advice when it comes nearer the time to go and when packing my bag. At first I didn't really think I would get picked because I had been told that places were limited so when I got the letter and it said I was going to Salt Lake City I was really chuffed.

The next day I found out that there are three other people going to Salt Lake City who are in my year at Omagh Academy, (Adam Moore, Alice Logan and Zara Gillespie). They are all my new American buddies along with other members of my group who I have yet to get to know, but I am looking forward to making new friends from different religions and backgrounds both here and in USA.

Unfortunately there is a down side to going to the USA, "FORMS" there are so many letters and forms to fill out before we even get started. I had to book an appointment with the doctor to get my blood pressure and pulse rate taken, I have to go to the dentists before I leave and I have to hand in a form with details about my allergies, diseases, fears and any medication that I might be on. I also have to write about myself so that the organisers of the Ulster Project can pair me up with a suitable family (but that's not bad). I have also started putting together a scrap book which I will take with me to my host family in America and it will have pictures of my home, school, church etc here in Northern Ireland. This will give them a better idea of my life here.

We have already met as a group on 2 occasions so far with our leaders Mark Monteith and Una McGurk and have started to make a banner for the St Patrick's Day Parade which will take place in Omagh over the St Patrick's Day weekend. We also have lots of other fund raising events and team building exercises to carry out before we go to America so that we have raised enough funds to help send us on our way on the 25th June. Some of the events that are planned are a bag pack in ASDA on Saturday 11th April (Easter Saturday), a table quiz on Thursday 7th May and a concert on 18th June – so don't forget to support us. We will also have a Service of Blessing on Sunday 21st June before we depart for USA.

I will be away for 4 weeks in total over the summer holidays and although all my food and activities will be paid for by the host family I will need to start saving hard from now on – no more spending on DVD's and sweets etc so that I have a little spending money when I get there.

My family have asked me will I not miss everyone while I am away – but I have told them that I will be that busy everyday with pool parties, picnics, camping and group activities that I will hardly have time to think of home or make a phone call. So roll on the 25th June; USA here I come!



Adam Stevenson, right, enjoying the snow with brothers Jack and Andrew.

Community Carol Service

As part of the tenth anniversary of Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association a community carol service was held in Gillygooley Presbyterian Church on Sunday 14th December. A capacity Congregation followed the Christmas message in lessons, carols, music and poetry. The Rev. Robert Herron welcomed everyone present and opened the Service with prayer. The praise was led by Gillygooley Community Choir who also sang an anthem "Come and Sing the Christmas Story" whilst Gillygooley Youth Club Choir sang two carols "The Shepherd Guards His Sheep" and "Shepherds Came Their Praises Bringing". Gillygooley Sunday School Choir sang "Away in a Manger", all three choirs were trained and accompanied by Amanda Graham with special musical accompaniment by Jessica Sproule and William Smyth. The lessons were read by representatives of the organisations who use the Orange Hall complex and constitute the Community Association. William King - Gillygooley Presbyterian Church, Sandra Magee - Gillygooley Sunday School, Allison Hemphill - Chatterbox Playgroup, Jennifer O'Donnell - Gillygooley Youth Club, David McKinley - Gillygooley Pipe Band, Raymond King - Gillygooley Orange Lodge, Fred Chambers - Gillygooley Community Alert, Errol Thompson - Corlea Apprentice Boys and Margaret Hemphill - Gillygooley Y.C.D.A. A Christmas poem entitled "The Priceless Gift of Christmas" was read by Iris Moffitt-Scott - Gillygooley 2nd Youth. The offering which was in aid of Arthritis Care was received by Bernie Liggett - Gillygooley Youth Club and Robbie Donald - Gillygooley Orange Lodge. Andrew Scott, Community association chairman brought the Service to a close with prayer. He also expressed thanks to everyone for their support and attendance and invited everyone to the Orange Hall for refreshments and fellowship.



L-R Robert and William Smyth and Noel Hemphill following the Community Carol Service.



Charlotte and Andrea Rennie and Twyla Moffitt enjoying their refreshments following the Community Carol Service.



L-R Zandra Walker, Lorna Graham and Wilma Porter.



Sisters Myrtle McKinley and Greta Glass who supported the Community Carol Service.



L-R Linda McIlwaine, Errol Thompson, David O'Neill, David, Linda and Jessica Sproule and Sandra Magee enjoy the fellowship following the Community Carol Service.



Rachel, Ivan and Amanda Graham at the Community Carol Service.



Some of the younger people who attended the Community Carol Service L-R Keeva McIlwaine, Megan Harpur and Nicola Hemphill.



Peggy Fyffee centre with Stanley and Doreen Armstrong, from Ballymoney who attended the Service.



Members of the Community Association serving the supper following the Carol Service L-R Andrew Scott, Dorothy King and Lorraine Elkin.



L-R Lyndsey Scott and Karen Hannigan following the Community Carol Service.

Record of Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths in the Congregations

Baptisms in Trinity	Marriages in Trinity	Deaths in Trinity
23 Nov Adam James David Magee	15 Nov Ashley David Donald & Bronagh Margaret Rodgers	29 Nov Kathleen Heaney
8 Feb Madison Minnie McGrew		29 Dec Mary Jane Aikin
		16 Jan Jean Coote
		17 Jan May Baillie
		26 Jan Georgina Duncan
Baptisms in Gillygooley		
18 Jan Aaron James McKinley		
<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)

Graffiti - by Emma Mills

Graffiti, the Gillygooley Youth Club Young Enterprise Group, attended the Sperrin & Lakeland Region Trade Fair at the Strule Arts Centre on 11th December where we were placed 2nd overall. The team now will be attending Graduation Day in the South West College, Omagh on 27th March 2009. Comments from the judges on the day were very complimentary with quotes like "The team showed tremendous enthusiasm and their presentations were very professional showing great confidence" and Kieran McCrory (one of the judges) said the Graffiti calendars were, "Topical local images with good links to the business sector."



Back L-R Emma Mills, Aimee Gault, Grace O'Neill, Jayne Donaldson, Front L-R Ashley McIlwaine, Kirsty Elkin and Laura-Jane Wallace at the Strule Arts Centre.



L-R Kirsty Elkin, Emma McFarland, Ashley McIlwaine, Morgan Semple, Lorraine Elkin and Grace O'Neill at Gillygooley Christmas Fayre.

We had very successful nights at Gillygooley Y.C.D.A and Omagh County Primary School Christmas fayres – Calendars of the Omagh Area, our main product, were in high demand on the night. We decorated Gillygooley Hall for the Senior Citizens Party and recently we helped put horse jumps away at the R.D.A. on Saturday evenings for 6 weeks. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our leaders, Sandra Magee, Lorraine Elkin and Yvonne Armstrong for all their help and for making this year very enjoyable and successful.

Editors note: A team from the club have been participating in Young Enterprise since 1997. The leaders and tutors are to be commended for their commitment which has enabled so many young people to gain valuable experience in this U.K. wide Enterprise which is supported by Invest Northern Ireland, B.T, Northern Bank, I.F.I, Coca Cola, H.S.B.C and N.I.E.

Report on Trinity Church Accounts as at 31st December 2008

By the Treasurer, Ronnie Keys

You may recall that I wrote to you at this time last year stating that the Freewill Offering contributions had been declining over the past two years.

Well, you responded wonderfully and I can now report that for 2008 the Freewill Offering has increased by over 8%. This is a truly great result and I thank all who contribute but especially those who increased their givings. However, the economic climate is dismal so it may be difficult to maintain this growth; with people being paid off work continually and little interest being paid on money invested.

Repairs and improvements are always needed to our Church so it will take a sustained effort to keep our finances at their present level.

TRINITY & GILLYGOOLEY SUMMARY OF FINANCES FOR 2008

TRINITY		
	2007 (£)	2008 (£)
Freewill Offering	43,911	46,639
United Appeal	Paid in 2008 £8,720 (target) 6,472	6,604
World Development	3,265	3,112
Easter	5,963	5,544
Harvest	7,949	8,005
Gift Aid (Income Tax)	14,858	16,031

Donations from Trinity to charities included - £265 to the Earl Haig Fund; £660 to orphanages in Sri Lanka; £494 to Sunday School Project; £254 to RAF Wings Appeal; £441 to the Presbyterian Orphan and Children's Society. World Development received a total of £10,881, including £6,953 interest on a memorial from the Duff family.

GILLYGOOLEY		
	2007 (£)	2008 (£)
Freewill Offering	19,849	21,207
United Appeal	Paid in 2008 £2,781 (target) 2,071	2,167
World Development	970	920
Easter	9,565	6,045
Harvest	9,860	8,445
Gift Aid (Income Tax)	13,151	9,884

Donations from Gillygooley to charities included - £340 to the Presbyterian Orphan Society; £200 to the Sunday School Project; £130 to the Earl Haig Fund; £125 to Christian Aid; £300 to the African Appeal

Thank you to all who contributed to church funds in 2008

Money from Income Tax Covenants is distributed to the various accounts.

In the current economic climate, 2009 will be a challenging year for both congregations.

It is also predicted there will be significant reductions in income from investments (including bequests).

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT TRINITY

On Sunday 21st December 2008 Trinity had their annual Christmas Carol Service with the usual selection of Carols and Readings. The Junior Choir sang three lovely pieces, "*It was on a starry night*", "*The virgin Mary had a baby boy*" and "*He's a fat man, scarf and hat man*" during which a couple of Snowmen were seen walking about the Church! A big Thank You to Wendy Irwin who put many hours into teaching them and then accompanied them on the day. The Senior choir sang "*People look east*", "*Put memory away*", "*The straw carol*" and "*Come all you worthy gentlemen*" although no Snowmen were observed during these performances!



Chelsea Johnston reading
Isaiah 9 v 2, 6 & 7.



Emma Moore reading
Isaiah 52 v 7-10.



Sarah Moore reading
Micah 5 v 2-4.



Katie McCay reading
Luke 1 v 26-35.



Emily Buchanan reading
Luke 2 v 4-7.



Reece Kerrigan reading
Luke 2 v 8-16.



David Moore reading
Matthew 2 v 1-11.



Members of the Junior Choir performing "*He's a fat man, scarf and hat man*".

FUNDING SUCCESS FOR 2ND YOUTH



Gillygooley 2nd Youth have enjoyed noted success in obtaining substantial funding in recent months.

Lloyds T.S.B presented a cheque for £5000 for the purchase of chairs and to assist in providing a tutor for computer classes.

Turkington Community Foundation have awarded a grant of £893 to add a loop system to the P.A. system already in the hall. Funding has also been received from Omagh District Council.

L-R Angela Colhoun, Iris Moffitt-Scott and Dorothy King, chairperson and secretary respectfully of Gillygooley 2nd Youth receiving a cheque for £5000 from Angela Colhoun local representative of Lloyds T.S.B.

Gillygooley Walking Club

Commences Wednesday 22nd April at 7:30pm

@ Gillygooley Orange Hall

Adults £1 per night, Children Free (All children must be accompanied by an adult)

Light refreshments on your return to the hall

Everyone Welcome!!!!

For further information contact Iris Moffitt-Scott on telephone: 8224 2895 or Diane Mills on telephone:8224 6553

Gillygooley Affected by A5 Transport Corridor

Gillygooley Presbyterian Church and adjacent Orange Hall in addition to several private dwellings would appear to be one of the transport corridors for the proposed new A5 dual carriageway. Additionally all four proposed route corridors will impact severely on the agricultural sector with several farms being divided by the proposed new road and some fields being turned into little more than gardens. For some farmers it may make their farms unviable and lead to a movement of population from the area. No-one will dispute that the proposed new road is urgently needed but to those in its path it comes at a high price.

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

Andrew Scott, Editor, Tel 8224 2895. E-mail: irisscott41@aol.com

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

Childrens page will return in the next issue.

Winners of last issues competition are Trinity: Amy Patterson and Gillygooley: Adam Porter

GILLYGOOLEY LESSONS AND CAROLS

The annual service of Christmas lessons and carols was held in Gillygooley Presbyterian Church on Sunday 21st December. The Rev. Robert Herron opened the service with prayer and welcomed everyone present. Amanda Graham accompanied and trained the junior choir who sang "Away in a Manger" whilst other carols were accompanied by Sheena Herron. The lessons were read by members of the Bible class, they were Emma Mills, Stephen Hemphill, Graeme Walker, Aimee Hannigan, Bryan Fleming, Alex and Kyra McKinley.

Following the service everyone was invited to the Orange Hall by the Bible class for tea/coffee, mince pies and short bread. A retiring collection in aid of Sunday school funds was generously supported. Beverly Fleming, Sunday School Superintendent has expressed thanks to everyone for their support and generosity.



Beverly Fleming and Graeme Walker take time out for our photographer at the Church Festive Coffee morning.



L-R Alex McKinley and Zara-Jayne McCauley busy in the kitchen.



The King Family, Melanie, Archie, Oliver and Mervyn at the Church Festive Coffee morning.



Members of the Bible Class who assisted with the time of fellowship following the Carol Service.



Laura and Joanne Fleming assisting at the Festive Coffee morning.

Presbyterian News in Brief By Gillygooley Correspondent

Church House Refurbishment Update.

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland is to receive a £1million grant from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency to assist in the restoration of its century – old headquarters. The money will be used to restore and replace decaying stonework, crumbling parapets and the roof of Church House. The restoration which is already underway is estimated to cost £4million, and it is hoped work on the exterior will be complete by next summer. This is the largest grant ever paid for work to a historic building under the “Historic Building Grant Aid Scheme.”

For those who have never had the opportunity to visit Church House they should plan to do so. The three storey building was constructed in 1905 and opened by the Duke of Argyll. It is built in the style of a Scottish Baronial castle the crown on top of its tower was based on St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh. The building was renovated in 1992 to provide more space and includes a 1300 seater assembly hall.

New Moderator Elect

Rev. Dr. Stafford Carson minister of First Portadown Church will be the next Presbyterian Moderator. Dr. Carson will take over on 1st June at the General Assembly from Rev. Dr. Donald Patton. Dr. Carson was nominated by 10 out of the 21 Presbyteries.

Service for Victims and Survivors

Rev. Dr. Donald Patton Moderator organised a special service of reflection and healing in the Assembly Hall Church House on Thursday 22nd January. The service was for Presbyterians who suffered trauma and loss as a result of the Troubles. Dr. Patton said he was conscious of the stirring of emotions for those who had suffered following the publications of the report by the “Consultative Group on the Past.” The service reflected a theme of remembrance healing and hope. The Moderator was assisted by Dr. Jack Richardson and Rev. William Henry. A high percentage of over 3000 people who were murdered by republican terrorists were Presbyterians which included civilians, members of the R.U.C and U.D.R.

Youth Counselling Support

“Youth Counselling Support” is a free 24/7 helpline in Northern Ireland for young people who are from 11-25 years of age. Callers to lifeline are connected directly to a trained counsellor who will try to find the specific help and support the individual requires. If a caller is in imminent danger of self – harming or suicide, the telephone counsellor will offer immediate intervention and arrange rapid crisis support for the individual. Over the Christmas period almost 4500 young people in Northern Ireland called the helpline - an alarming statistic.

“The free 24/7 helpline for young people is 0808 808 8000.”

GILLYGOOLEY 2ND YOUTH (50+ CLUB)

The club continues to provide an opportunity for social witness for older people providing them with information, training, social and leisurely pursuits to a membership which embraces people from an area far beyond the realms of Gillygooley. In addition to the monthly meetings held in Gillygooley Orange Hall on the last Monday of each month other activities include armchair aerobics, new age kurling, soup lunches, exchange visits, Theatre outings and residential trips. New members are always welcome, pay us a visit with no obligations to join and make new friends. Further information available from Iris, Tel 8224 2895.



Irene Brown and Beatrice Alexander take aim.



Above and below, members of 2nd Youth develop their artistic skills at a recent meeting.



Seated L-R Chloe and Beatrice Alexander, Sandy and Irene Brown. Standing L-R, Violet Crosbie, Ethel Caldwell, Eric and Lila Crawford in the Lough Erne Hotel following the Pantomime in the Ardowen Theatre.



Dorothy King, Claire White and Lily Nethery following their meal in the Lough Erne Hotel.



Drew Hamilton, back left, with some members of 2nd Youth who participated in the archery demonstration.



L-R Stanley Sayers, Gerald McCauley and Robbie Alexander "The Flowerpot Men".

Presbyterian Women at Trinity

December 08 Meeting

Leader Annette Moore opened the December meeting with a prayer. Annette and Joan Cummings had visited Rev and Mrs Clarke and brought them a basket of fruit. A letter of thanks had been received from Bill and Alice which Annette read out to the assembled ladies. "Still the Night" was sung by the ladies with an accompaniment by Claire McElhinney (speaker for the evening). Sadie Clements read a poem written by the late Tommy Strain called "Christmas". Claire McElhinney sang about Jesus from his birth to His coming again, "Seeking for me" and "Mary's Boy Child". Claire then read some reflections from the letters of her great uncle who had emigrated to Canada in 1890 and returned home in 1924. Many laughs ensued about her great uncle's antics. Annette then read a poem called "Messiah". A Christmas supper was served by the Committee and a Christmas quiz followed which was enjoyable. Annette wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

January 09 Meeting

Leader Annette presided and wished all a Happy New Year. The meeting began with the singing of "What a friend we have in Jesus" and then Annette led in prayer. Dorothy King read from Phillipians 4 and Hazel McCay read from Daniel with a reflection on "Now is the time to pray". Rev. Robert Herron was introduced as the speaker for the evening. His topic was education and his role as Governor in schools of the area. His responsibilities included looking after £320 million in the Western and Education Library Board when he was Chairman. Rev. Herron mentioned the decline in the school population, school closures and redundancy of teachers throughout the educational system. New ideas about schools may include the building of educational outlets on the recently vacated Lisanelly site in Omagh.

Claire McElhinney then presented Rev. Herron with a token of appreciation for his interesting talk. Supper was served by the ladies of the committee.

February 09 Meeting

Leader Annette Moore opened the meeting with prayer. The hymn "My times are in your hands" was sung and Beatrice Alexander read Galatians 6 verses 7-10. Annette introduced the speaker for the evening Twyla Moffitt (Clinical Specialist Dietician) based in the Renal Unit in Tyrone County Hospital. Twyla gave details about healthy eating and how to prevent diseases; for example heart disease, obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure and some cancers. It is recommended that five portions of fruit and vegetables should be eaten daily to be healthy. Twyla recommended that we should all make a conscious effort to make changes in our diet. Twyla had a quiz on the subject of the evening which was won by the "Eggheads". Mavis Jardine presented Twyla with a gift of appreciation and supper followed.

GILLYGOOLEY YOUTH CLUB

The youth club which meets in Gillygooley Orange Hall on Monday and Friday nights under the leadership of Jennifer O'Donnell continues to provide a programme of activities where young people can meet in a safe environment with their peers and release their energy. Such has been the demand to enrol in the Senior Club, enrolment of new members had to be closed in October.

Forthcoming special events for members will be a trip to Dundonald ice-bowl and Residential week-end from 17th – 19th April in Gortatole Outdoor Pursuits Centre. The clubs success creates serious problems for management in providing adequate leaders to fulfil their legal requirements. Club membership extends far beyond the realms of Gillygooley, anyone wishing to assist should contact Jennifer tel 8224 1831. In addition to Jennifer, the current leadership team are Bernie Liggett, Linzi Smyth, Stacey Hemphill, David McKinley, Raymond King and Sam Harpur to which parents owe a sincere expression of gratitude for their dedication and time on a voluntary capacity for the benefit of our youth.



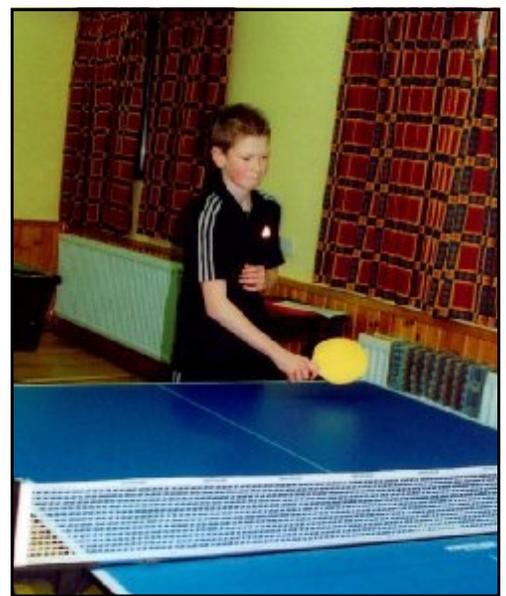
Obviously enjoying the Youth Club activities are L-R Rachel Armstrong, Jessica Sproule and Carol Fleming.



Junior members of Gillygooley Youth Club who participated in raising £1030 for Children-In-Need.



Some members of Gillygooley Senior Youth Club who were involved in raising funds for Children-In-Need accompanied by leaders left, Jennifer O'Donnell and David McKinley, right, Sharon McFarland and Bernie Liggett.



Stephen Hemphill improves his skill at table-tennis on Youth Club night.

MAINTENANCE WORK AT TRINITY

Over recent weeks the back gates at Trinity Church have been removed in order to have them restored to their former glory. The double gates have been sand blasted, galvanised and repaired. This has included the hand making of new decorative spikes (see photo below) to match in with the existing railings at the back of the Church. A new single gate was made because the previous gate was off balance with regards to the rails and spike heads. Prior to the gates being repositioned the pillars needed some repairs. This included the chipping of the old plaster, which had become cracked, followed by the replastering of the pillars. The photographs show Jason and Chabba hard at work at the pillars. The other photographs shows Steve putting the finishing touches to the rehangng of the gates. Missing from the photographs is Charlie "The Gateman" Bradley who at the time of going to print was working on the front gates of the Church.



SIMON DUFF RUNS THE LONDON MARATHON

Simon Duff, a final year student at Stranmillis College and a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church, is running in the London Marathon on the 26th April 2009.

He is running on behalf of the Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB) and has been asked to collect sponsorship of approximately £1,500. He has been doing a lot of fund raising at Stranmillis College and street collections in both Belfast and Omagh and has raised quite a considerable amount to date.

Simon would appreciate any donations that anybody would like to give him. Collection boxes will be left at both Trinity and Gillygooley Churches on the last Sunday in March and the first Sunday in April.

Any other donations can be given or sent to Simon at his home address of:

26 Lisanelly Park, Omagh, BT79 7DE (Telephone 028 82246031)

TRINITY BOWLING CLUB NEWS

Trinity and Omagh Methodist Bowling Club had a combined "Fun Night" before the Christmas break. Kenny Allen, on the behalf of the Methodist Bowling Club welcomed the visitors to the hall and Ronnie Orr responded after the supper, on the behalf of Trinity Bowling Club. Good craic was enjoyed by all and Target Bowls were played over four ends on two separate mats and there were prizes for the overall winner, the average score and the person with the least points. The scores were kept by Liz Moore and a lovely supper was provided by the ladies.



Willie Porter and Jack Henderson.



Billy Hannigan presented with a prize by Kenny Allen.



Maureen Allen, Jeanette Sproule and Pat Rainey with Isobel Hannigan behind.



Isobel Hannigan, Liz Moore, Daisy Foster and Maureen Allen.



Isobel Hannigan, Willie Porter and Isobel Porter.



Willie Watt and Liz Moore.



Gordon Duff, Alan Duff and Bertie Oliver.



Gordon Duff presented with a prize by Kenny Allen.



Jack Henderson presented with a prize by Kenny Allen, (Methodist Club Captain).



Alan Duff, Bertie Oliver and Mervyn Allison.



Ronnie Orr and Billy Hannigan.



Pat Rainey, Maureen Watt and Willie Watt.



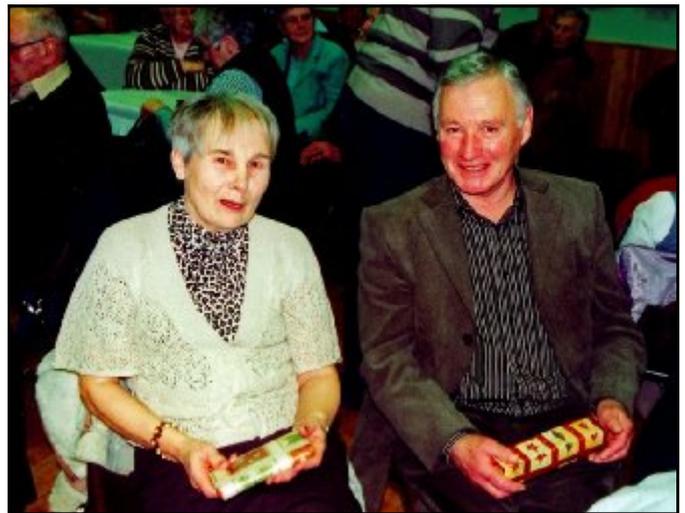
Pat Rainey, Maureen Watt and Derek Gillespie.



Isobel Hannigan, Desmond Preston and Daisy Foster.

COMMUNITY PARTY AT GILLYGOOLEY

In the autumn of 1999 Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association decided to have a community party for older people in the Orange Hall. This was to be a one off event to celebrate the arrival of the new Millennium, ten years later this has become an annual event eagerly awaited by members of the extended community. This annual event is now firmly marked in the diary for the first Saturday afternoon in December. In later years the Association have pooled their resources with Gillygooley 2nd Youth (50+ Club) and the event is now organised on a joint basis. On arrival guests partake of a wine reception followed by entertainment and afternoon tea and the event would not be complete without the arrival of Santa to distribute presents. Artists who performed were Liam Moore, Fergal & Alice Hughes, Lindsay Scott, Fred Chambers, Joe King, Gillygooley Community Choir accompanied by Amanda Graham, Jessica Sproule, Jack & Andrew Stevenson and the compere was Andrew Scott. The Association wish to acknowledge the financial support for this event received from Omagh District Council.



Gladys and Jackie Hamilton open their gifts at the Community Party.



L-R Phyllis Donald, Thelma Harkness and Hazel McKelvey receive their presents from Santa.



Jean Rae, above and Sadie Clements, below smile for our photographer.



Having fun are L-R Audrey Clements, Olive Dunlop, Beatrice Alexander and Muriel Bell.



Rev. Herron brings festive greetings to L-R Mary Cooper and Sally O'Donnell.



Beatrice Alexander and Georgina Walker enjoying the Community Christmas Party.



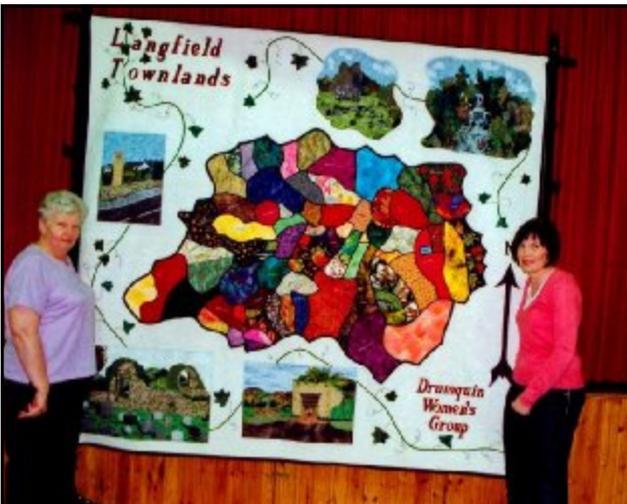
Gerald and Irene McCauley enjoy Santa's company at the Community Party.



Artie McFarland doesn't want to see Santa give his wife Meta and Ellen McConnell an embrace.

Floral Art at Gillygooley

The tenth annual Christmas Floral Demonstration held by Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association continues to grow in popularity with a larger than ever attendance. To set everyone in the Christmas spirit guests were welcomed with a glass of mulled wine on arrival. The several trade stands in attendance offered a range of Christmas Fayre, gifts and cards. Festive supper was served at the conclusion of the evening.



L-R Margaret and Allison Hemphill of Gillygooley with the quilt of Langfield Townlands which they assisted in making as part of a project by Drumquin Womens Group.



Anne Robinson, centre front, who was the demonstrator at the Christmas Floral Art evening organised by Gillygooley Youth & Community Association accompanied by the winners.

Looking towards Easter

Dates for your diary

Sunday, 5 April

Palm Sunday Services in Gillygooley and Trinity

Friday, 10 April

7.00 pm - Good Friday Service in Trinity

Sunday, 12 April

Easter Sunday

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and Reception of
New Communicants in Gillygooley and Trinity

If anyone from Trinity has an article they would like included in the Trinity & Gillygooley News please contact me on 028 82245150, email me at: TrinityNews@knocksilla.plus.com or give it to a member of The Magazine Committee.

Please include full details of any photographs you want included ie who, what, why, where and when and also provide the author of the article along with contact details in case of any problems.

Yours sincerely,

Richard McClung