

TRINITY & GILLYGOOLEY NEWS



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New Tenant for the Sextons House

After a short vacancy, Trinity is delighted to have a new tenant for the Sexton's House in John Street. The new occupant is "The Works - Hair and Beauty" which is owned by Roisin McCaffrey. She has transferred her already successful business from Campsie Road in Omagh to here and we wish her well.



Christmas Floral Art

The annual Christmas Floral Art Demonstration and Craft Fayre never fails to attract a captive audience and this year was no exception. The event organised by Gillygooley Youth and Community Development Association was held in Gillygooley Orange Hall and the association was delighted to have the talented floral artist Anne Johnston demonstrate her skills. The evening commenced with a mulled wine reception and concluded with a delicious festive supper.



Harvest at Trinity 2012

Trinity held its harvest service on Sunday 21st October 2012. The church was resplendent with fruit, vegetables and flowers as can be seen from the photos and a big thank you goes to all those who helped to decorate it and to those who supplied the goods. Asides from the hymns the congregation sang, the senior choir sang three pieces on their own; 'Lead me, Lord', 'The Best of Rooms' and 'All things bright and beautiful'.



Who's in the Pews

In a new section Trinity News will highlight random members of the congregation. For this first group of photographs we feature some "regulars" from the left transept ("invisible" from the main body of the Church).



L-R: Joe McGrew, Fred Perkins & Audrey Clements.



Dorothy and Sammy Crooks.



Jean Rea.



Jim Adams.



Philip McCandless.

Mrs Hussey



(Having talked to Ross Hussey, I asked could I talk to his mother and was pleased to be able to do so.)

Mrs Hussey remembers her family moving in to John Street (to the sexton's house) when she was only 4 years old. She remembers a big black range, lead tiles on the floor which had to be scrubbed and gas.

From 4 years old, she walked with her twin brother to school in Bridge Street. They got a penny every day to buy sweets with. Other pupils got sandwiches for lunch, so Mrs Hussey and George, her twin, asked for sandwiches too. They had the sandwiches at break time and then went home for lunch as well! At primary school, on May Day (more of May Day later) they celebrated with a May Queen, who was carried on a chair and they had a Maypole which people danced around.

After primary school, she went on to the Technical College, which was situated first where the bank is now near Supervalu and then afterwards when it moved next to the

Academy. Now the Academy occupies the whole site and the Technical College has expanded and become the South West College. She hated maths and algebra but loved history and geography.

At 17, she got a job in Nestles, and at 17½, after an interview in Belfast, she joined the Wrens (Woman's Royal Navy Service). She was in Reading first, stationed and doing her training, then she went to Padstow in Cornwall (of Rick Stein fame). She landed in Padstow on May Day in the middle of the May Day Parade and it was just like the Twelfth! She got a bit homesick, but she stayed. There she met her husband (who was Welsh). Derek, Mrs Hussey's son could go to the May Day Parade in Padstow if he wished, as he was born there and you have to be born there to attend the May Day celebrations.

Mrs Hussey has learnt to be familiar with various terms for church: in Cornwall there was no local Presbyterian church – there was a Wesleyan chapel and back here, she had a friend, a member of Trinity congregation, who always used to talk of going to the Meeting House.

Mrs Hussey's life in the Wrens came to an end when she got married, not because she wanted it to but because at that time you could not live with your husband in married quarters. She would like to have seen Gibraltar where she could have been posted. After she left the Wrens, she and her husband came to Omagh and lived in John Street for a while. You could leave a pram outside the house quite safely in those days, she says, no one thought anything of it. They also spent 2 years in Leeds, as her parents-in-law were from there. Back in Omagh again, her husband joined the 'B' men, then the UDR. He worked as a nurse in the hospital, as did Mrs Hussey.

Mrs Hussey was widowed when her husband was only 46 years old. She was the mother of 6 children, non-earning at that stage, and she got no financial help because she was working. She eventually went into the UDR full-time and became a sergeant.

Ross credits his mother with his interest in politics. She wanted them all to join the Unionist Party. Her own interest in politics came from her own father and mother. They did not talk politics in the home but they backed the then Unionists. She never wanted to be anything else.

Nowadays, Mrs Hussey is greatly restricted health wise. For example, she was a very good baker and loved to bake but standing for too long is not possible for her so she has taught her children and also her grandchildren to bake! Making her own sausage rolls, mince pies and Christmas cake is a great challenge now and requires assistance.

Thank you Mrs Hussey for talking to me, it was very interesting.

Margaret Simms

Seed Time & Harvest shall not cease

By Gillygooley Correspondent

As congregations throughout the province and beyond celebrated Harvest Service & Festivals it was difficult this year to sing with enthusiasm the well-known harvest hymn "All is safely gathered in." Yes it has been officially declared as the second wettest year since records began only being slightly surpassed by the year 2000.

Providing food for our tables has been a tremendous challenge for our farming community often trying to salvage produce from waterlogged fields was a near impossible task.

Farmers are resilient people and ensured as God has promised Genesis chapter 8 v 22

"As long as the earth endures
seedtime and harvest
cold and heat
summer and winter
day and night
will never cease"

The atrocious weather combined with the exorbitant cost of feed and energy and the low returns farmers receive for their produce has led to an alarming increase in declared bankruptcies within the agricultural sector. The weather has also impacted on other businesses with garden centres closing etc. and difficulties created by the credit crunch have left some families in our community experiencing great difficulties. It is a time when compassion and understanding in our congregations must be paramount and those who are fortunate to be in a good financial position must reach a little deeper in our pockets to sustain and meet our Churches financial commitments.

Gift Aid

Gillygooley Congregation members please note, if your financial circumstances have changed and you no longer pay income tax please advise Anne Patterson, Gift Aid Secretary, so that she can make the necessary adjustments on her gift aid returns

Harvest Thanksgiving at Gillygooley

The Church was tastefully decorated with the harvest fruits, vegetables and flowers of the season for the annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service. The Rev. Herron conducted the service to a capacity congregation.

The choir accompanied by Sheena Herron, sang three anthems entitled "All that I am" "God our Creator" and "Sing to God with Joy."

Record of Baptisms and Deaths in the Congregations

(until 13 January 2013)

Baptisms in Trinity		Deaths in Trinity	
11 Nov	Niya-Rose Anne Liggett	6 Oct	Sally McKibbin
18 Nov	Zarah Ann Reid	7 Jan	Eva Knox
13 Jan	Sophie Alice Carmichael		
Baptisms in Gillygooley			
23 Sep	Caolan Stephen Martin Magee		
28 Oct	Craig David Smith		
28 Oct	Niall Ronnie Smith		
<i>"Let the children come to me..."</i> (Mark 10:14)		<i>"I am the resurrection and the life..."</i> (John 11:25)	



Children's Page

Can you find some of the plants named in the bible?



ALMOND
ALOE
APPLE
ASH
BALM
BARLEY
BEANS
CINNAMON
CUCUMBERS
DATE
FIG
FLAX



GARLIC
HYSSOP
JACINTH
LEEK
MELONS
MILLET
MINT
MULBERRY
MUSTARD
MYRTLE
RYE
SAFFRON
THISTLE

Ordinary Things

Can we learn anything from ordinary things?

This alphabet puzzle will show you how Jesus used ordinary things to explain the Kingdom of God.

In the blanks write the letter of the alphabet that follow the one given to discover the ordinary things that Jesus used.

1)

7)

2)

8)

3)

9)

4)

10)

5)

11)

6)

12)

Please Note: We can only except Primary School Entrants

Please forward entries to Andrew Scott, Aughtnamoyle House, 41 Gillygooley Road, Omagh BT78 5PP no later than 4 weeks after publication. If more than one correct entry is received from either church a draw will be made.

Last issues winners: [Trinity – Molly Buchanan] [Gillygooley – Karen King]

1st Omagh Boys Brigade and Trinity Girls Brigade News

TRINITY GIRLS' BRIGADE

Trinity Girls' resumed in September 2012. Many of the girls in the Company Section returned but sadly about half of the Explorers did not due to other distractions or interests. However those that remain enjoy good fun and enjoyment on Wednesday evenings. A big thank you to all the parents and girls who encourage us as volunteers to continue with this worthy endeavour.



A good turnout from the girls on Remembrance Day was a credit both to parents and girls. Thanks to Jolene for taking charge on the day. Enrolment Sunday was on the 18th November when a joint service with the Boys Brigade was held in 1st Omagh Church. A Christmas party was held on the 12th December when a great time was had by the girls.

Trinity Girls' Brigade need volunteers to help on Wednesday evenings from next September 2013. These volunteers would only have to help out for six weeks on a particular subject in the GB syllabus. All relevant material will be provided to the volunteers. We are certain that there are many talented people in our church congregation who will offer their services to us for this plan. All enquiries to assist in helping out with the girls will be appreciated.

Contact Mavis Jardine Tel: 028 82244630 or

Email: mavisjardine@yahoo.co.uk



Trinity Girls Brigade at their enrolment service with officers Jolene Bell and Mavis Jardine.



1st Omagh Boys Brigade Junior Section at their enrolment service with officer Andy McKernan and leader Diane Fenwick.



1st Omagh Boys Brigade Company Section at their enrolment service with officer Drew Hamilton.



1st Omagh Boys Brigade Anchor Boys at their enrolment service with leaders Orla McFarland, Joanne Hill and Amy Stockdale.



Members of 1st Omagh Boys Brigade Anchor Boys meeting Santa.



Santa and his Elf getting ready to go see 1st Omagh Boys Brigade Anchor Boys.



1st Omagh Boys Brigade Anchor Boys after their visit from Santa looking forward to their buns, cakes, crisps and juice.



1st Omagh Boys Brigade Anchor Boys who attended the West Ulster Battalion Anchor Boys Funday with leaders Orla McFarland, Joanne Hill and Diane Fenwick.



1st Omagh Boys Brigade Company Section in attendance at the Remembrance Sunday Parade in Omagh 2012.

Bible Class Outing on Saturday 8th December 2012

A good evening was had by all at the joint Gillygooley and Trinity Bible Class outing to Brunswick Bowling Centre in Londonderry on Saturday 8th December.

Gillygooley won all three of the Boys' prizes with Adam Porter coming home in 1st place with a score of 124, Matthew McKernan in 2nd place with a score of 112 and Stephen Fleming in 3rd place with a score of 108.

Trinity girls won all three of the Girls' prizes with Hannah Patterson coming in 1st place with a score of 108, Amie Patterson in 2nd place with a score of 100 and Megan Smyth in 3rd place with a score of 90.

Gillygooley leaders beat the Trinity leaders with a score of 162 against Trinity's score of 134. The Trinity leaders blamed the hard work they had been doing all day for their poor performance.



Alex and Joanne Thompson.



Leaders— Andy, Adele, Beverly and Noel.



Glen McKinley, Stephen Fleming and James Thompson.



Emma Hunter, Jack Hannigan and Calvin McKinley.



Neil Hemphill, Kellie Anderson and Chelsea Johnston.



Matthew Fenwick and Graham Carson.



Girls winners: Aimee, Megan and Hannah.



Boys winners: Stephen, Matthew and Adam.



What will mummy say??



Rebecca Donnell and Stephanie Hunter.

Where are they now?

As I journey around various locations making contact with former members of Gillygooley Congregation my journey on this occasion takes me to the bright lights of London. Wendy Aldridge nee Smyth, eldest daughter of Robert and Joyce Smyth, Culbuck.

Following her education at Gillygooley Primary School and Omagh Academy, Wendy travelled to Manchester to complete her education. Prior to her departure from home shores she was an accomplished sports woman competing in the schools netball team. Wendy's noted success however was in the Equestrian Events competing in the 13.2 class qualifying to participate and represent her class in Scotland. She also proved to be an inspiration to her younger brother Darren who was to follow in her footsteps.



On leaving Northern Ireland, Wendy attended Manchester Metropolitan University to do a 4 year B.A. Retail Marketing Degree where she graduated in 2002. Her first employment was with a marketing agency before moving to a Magazine called Dazed and Confused where she did Marketing & Events for a few years. Her current job is with War Child where she is Deputy Director overseeing all the charities major events and music projects. Wendy met James in 2005 and they were married in Gillygooley Presbyterian Church in July 2008 followed by a marquee reception on her parents' lawn on one of the few glorious days of summer.

The arrival of Ida to the family in November 2009 brought great joy to the happy couple and the patter of further tiny feet in February is awaited with great anticipation.

Wendy has a great passion for Interior Design and has bought and renovated properties including an apartment in Berlin. Living convenient to Epping Forest they enjoy family walks with their border terrier.

LONDON 2012

The logo for the London 2012 Olympic Games, featuring the word 'London' in a stylized, rounded font and '2012' in a more geometric, blocky font, both in a dark blue color.

Back in early 2010 I received an email from one of my lecturers in Stranmillis College, informing me about a wonderful opportunity to volunteer to work at the London 2012 Olympic Games. After reading the email and clicking on the attached link, I too thought that it would be a 'wonderful opportunity'!

Like the 400,000 other hopefuls, I had to fill in an application form online and wait for it to be evaluated. 250,000 were selected for

interview and three months later I received an email from the London 2012 team informing me that my application was successful and I had been called for an interview in Belfast.

The day of the interview dawned and I headed to Belfast to do my best. The interview lasted about 20 minutes and was very informal. It wasn't until October 2011 that I heard that I was again, successful, and was fully accepted to be one of the 70,000 Gamesmakers who would work at the Olympics. After reading the email, I was so excited that I did a little happy dance, by myself, in my room.

I was expected to attend three different training sessions at various venues in London including the Olympic Park. These covered Orientation, Role Specific and Venue Specific training and were held between February and June 2012. We were also given distinct red and purple uniforms, t shirts, trousers, a coat and cap, trainers and a bag. I also had to attend a test event and training at the end of April to have a trial run to make sure everything would run smoothly in July. As I was studying in Malta from February to June, as part of my course in Stranmillis, I had to fly from there to London each time for the training. This wasn't very convenient but I would have had to fly from Belfast each time anyway, so it really didn't make much difference...except to my bank balance!

Finally, two years after I applied, the Olympics arrived. All Gamesmakers were required to find their own accommodation and travel arrangements, so along with a girl I knew from Enniskillen, we rented a room in a house not far from the Olympic Park. I was a member of the Workforce Operations Team in the Riverbank Arena, the venue for the hockey. My shifts started at 6.30am and finished usually 10 hours later, however, sometimes it was quite busy so I didn't always get away at that time. My work involved checking in staff, issuing meal vouchers, distributing little treats to the other Gamesmakers and manning the Help Desk. Some days I didn't start until 1pm and finished at 11pm and even though I found the days quite long and tiring, it was all worth it.

All Gamesmakers were given lots of rewards and recognition throughout the two weeks of the Games. Every other day we received a pin badge in Gold, Silver, Bronze or multi-coloured and on our final shift, we were given a special life-sized baton inscribed with the 2012 logo. During the Games, we were also given the opportunity to spectate at a few basketball matches, handball games and even the athletics. I was lucky enough to see Jessica Ennis compete in the long jump and javelin on her way to Olympic Gold in the women's heptathlon. I also watched Usain Bolt and the other

Speedy Gonzalezes run in the 100m heats, which was a wonderful experience. The saying really does go; if you blink, you'd miss it!

These rewards and opportunities were definitely unexpected but greatly appreciated. The thanks and appreciation that we received from officials, sponsors, spectators, Lord Coe and the rest of the UK, and even the Prime Minister, who sent each Gamesmaker a thank-you letter, made the whole effort worthwhile and gave us a sense of pride and accomplishment. I would do it all again tomorrow!

Lyndsey McCay



Christmas Carol Service at Trinity



Matthew Gilmour playing the cello.

Trinity held its annual Readings & Carol Service on Sunday 16th December 2012 in a beautifully decorated church. Lovely pre-service music was supplied by Matthew Gilmour on the cello accompanied by Joe Gilmour on the piano. The congregation sang a total of eight carols whilst the Senior Choir sang three and the Junior Choir, lead by Wendy Irwin, also sang three carols. There were seven readings by children from Isaiah, Micah, Luke and Matthew while Rev Herron read last from John 1 v 1-14. A big THANK YOU to all who were responsible for decorating the church and for those responsible for the lovely music!



Rebecca Stewart reading Isaiah 9 v 2,6 & 7.



Matthew Patterson reading Isaiah 52 v 7-10.



Bonita Clarke reading Micah 5 v 2-4.



Alex Thompson reading Luke 1 v 26-35.



Jordan Smyth reading Luke 2 v 4-7.



James Thompson reading Luke 2 v 8-16.



Chelsea Johnston reading Matthew 2 v 1-11.



The Senior Choir singing 'Carol of the Magi' accompanied by Matthew Gilmour on the cello and Sheena Herron on the organ.



The Junior Choir singing one of their three pieces.

Gillygooley Festive Season

Gillygooley residents got into the festive spirit as they were treated to a Christmas party hosted by Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association and Gillygooley 2nd Youth (50+ club). The hall was buzzing as friends gathered to enjoy some festive cheer, good company, musical entertainment and a delicious home-made supper. Over 100 people attended on Saturday 1st December afternoon and after being greeted by hosts and a glass of something sparkling were treated to an afternoon of entertainment. Jointly compared by Andrew Scott and Raymond King, the show started with music from Leslie Matthews, who was then joined on stage by Alice and Fergal Hughes, Lyndsey Scott and local singer Linkbox Joe! All the acts were met with great enthusiasm and some members took to the dance floor for a waltz or quickstep.

And to really get them in the festive mood, Leslie then led a chorus of Christmas songs which was then followed by an excellent homemade buffet. As the singing once again commenced, Santa joined the party and handed out gifts to all those in attendance.

After a wonderful afternoon of entertainment, everyone said what a wonderful day out they had. Gillygooley Community & Development Association and Gillygooley 2nd Youth would like to thank all of those who helped make it such a good day.

Both organisations would like to take this opportunity to wish all their members, family, friends and the greater Gillygooley Community a Happy New Year.



Sadie Clements was pleasantly surprised when her special birthday was recognised at the Community Party.



Raymond King, Association vice-chairman, proves he can do more than milk cows as he assists at the Community Party.



'Let's have a dance.' Robbie Alexander & Violet Crosbie at the Community Party.



Audrey Clements & Muriel Bell enjoy a waltz at the Community Party.



L-R Olive McFarland, Dorothy King, Eileen Fleming, Lily Nethery and Nell Dunn enjoy the Community Christmas Party.



L-R Cis Gibson, Sally O'Donnell, Doreen Cooke, Barbara McCausland and Ruby Nesbitt at the Community Christmas Party.



A time to renew friendship at the Community Christmas Party L-R Emily Young, Mary Elkin, Myra Alexander and Nina Buchanan.



Waiting for the arrival of Santa at the Community Christmas party are L-R Mrs Cobane, Pat Donald, Beatrice & Robbie Donald.

Presbyterian News in Brief

By Gillygooley Correspondent

World Development Appeal

The theme for this year's appeal which annually raises over £500,000 is "Speak up Speak out" and is highlighting projects in Egypt that are giving local communities a voice in the decisions that affect them and their well-being. In Egypt 16 million of its people out of a total population of 80 million continue to live in conditions of severe poverty. In rural areas it is estimated only 15 percent of women are able to read. The support given by the Presbyterian Church is being channelled through Christian Aid and Tearfund. Further information is available on www.pcimissionoverseas.org/world-development.

Training for Youth Leaders

The Presbyterian Church is offering a training course for those wishing to engage in ministry to children and young people. This is a one evening per week, 10 week course that leads to a certificate in children's ministry or alternatively applicants can attend a road trip session that offers a single evening of training on several specific topics. Date and venue of the most local "Road Trip" is **First Omagh Church on Thursday 7th February**. Further information is available at www.picyac.org or Tel: 9032 2284.

Gillygooley to Niagara Falls

The Fyffee Family, Dunwish have a long association with Gillygooley Presbyterian Church stretching back at least four generations. Robert Fyffee is the third generation to farm at Dunwish and along with his wife Ellen and sons Steven and Gareth manage an extensive dairy herd on the family farm. Robert is a member of our Church committee as was his father John and his grandfather Bob Sam Fyffee was a member of session.

In addition to his farming commitments, Robert is a Farmer Director with United Dairy Farmers, a commitment which utilises much of his spare time.

Robert recently paid a memorable journey to Canada and with a little gentle persuasion from the Gillygooley Editor has agreed to share with us the highlights of his journey.

Over the past two years I have been tormented with the desire to visit my aunt Lily and her family in British Colombia and Alberta, so when an invitation to a nephew's wedding arrived on our doorstep back in July, it was just the trigger to make some serious travel arrangements.

Perhaps the first thing I should do is explain my family connection with Canada. My aunt who is my mother's sister, emigrated in the early fifties with her husband, Tom Lyold to make a new life together in what was then still considered to be a young country full of opportunities. With a lot of hard work they built up a successful business in Calgary, reared four children and then built a retirement home near the famous Shuswap lakes in British Colombia. My nephew is David Calderwood who is my sister, Sheila's eldest son. Just like her aunt a generation earlier Sheila, her husband John and family moved from their farm at Newmills, Dungannon to pastures new just outside Hensall some two hundred miles north of London, Ontario.

After some research it soon became obvious Niagara Falls would also have to be included in the itinerary due to its proximity to my main travel arrangements. So after a five hour flight my plane touched down at Toronto's Pearson airport in the early afternoon, leaving enough time to clear customs, book the Niagara Airbus for the short journey, in Canadian terms, to the ACBB Hostel Niagara. There I was made very welcome by Patrick the owner, even though I wasn't the typical hostel guest, I should have been at least thirty years younger. I got booked in and then walked the short distance down Clifton Hill to experience at first hand one of the great natural wonders of this world.



Niagara Falls

The statistics of these falls are utterly mind-boggling, the width of the combined falls is over three thousand feet with a potential peak flow of water in the spring approaching 6000 cu mts a second. But man has long recognised the energy reserves of this amount of water falling 50 metres, with the result, a treaty was drawn up between Canada and the United States which stated at least 2800 cu mts per second must go over the crest of the falls for the benefit of the tourist industry, the remainder diverted to the hydro - electric plants on both sides of the border where it generates 4.4 gigawatts of green renewable energy. So much electricity is produced in this way, in this part of the world people often refer to it as "the hydro". This intervention by man has dramatically reduced the recession of the falls from ten feet per year to about one foot.

This natural phememon is also one of the great tourist attractions of the world. Some 20 million people visit it every year, something that is easily believed when you stand on the brink of the gorge and watch the hordes of people, all dressed in their different coloured disposable raincoats, depending on which visitor attraction they were participating in. The most numerous being dressed in blue for the world famous "Maid of the Mist" boat ride to the bottom of the Horseshoe Falls, a very exhilarating experience.

Patrick, my host, was a mine of information of how to experience the Niagara region on the cheap, soon his advice I joined a small group the next morning for a trip to Niagara -on -the -Lake. Our guide, a proud Niagaran called David, explained how this town was once the capital city of Canada, situated where the river flows into

lake Ontario and was then the gateway to the rich interior of this great continent. Of course this was in the days when water was the Trans continental highways of the country. He went on to say that in the late 18th and early 19th century this whole area was in constant conflict as the new United States and the British tried to gain control of the region and wealth that flowed through it.

Niagara on the Lake and area around it was quite quaint and olde worldy, a complete contrast from the brash Disney themed touristy Niagara and well worth a visit.

As a farmer being driven through this countryside I marvelled at the quality of the soils and was expecting to see wall to wall maize but much to my surprise it was field upon field of vines interspersed with peach and apricot orchards. With many wineries offering tours the region is a wine tasters paradise and so on Derek's advice our little group made one of them our next stop. I must admit the sutelities of the various wines on offer for tasting was lost on my palate, it being unable to detect the red berry flavours of one wine or the apricot after notes in another. What I did find fascinating was how the sweetness of a wine was measured on a scale from one for a dry wine to twenty-five for an Iced Wine, a Niagaran speciality . This wine is made from grapes picked late in the season when the temperature is about 8 degrees Celsius and this combination concentrates the sugars to give a wine with liquor like properties.

Two members of our group wanted to ride the whirlpool rapids so David drove us back to the river and what is one of largest whirlpools in the world, created by the river taking a sharp right hand turn on its way to Lake Ontario. David informed us that this whirlpool turns clockwise or counter clockwise, the direction being determined by the quantity of water flowing from the power stations. Apparently the river here is as deep as the Horseshoe Falls are high. Looking down on the maelstrom of water travelling at close to 30 mph was enough to convince me to give this visitor attraction a miss.



Robert outside the Prince of Wales hotel.

The next morning was an early start as I discovered after some "googling" the previous evening there was no public transport from Niagara to London. This no doubt is due to the North American addiction to the motor car and meant going back to Toronto for the connection to London where Sheila met me. As we travelled North I could be forgiven for thinking I hadn't crossed the Atlantic at all, as we passed places like Alisa Craig, Thames Rd and Exeter where my hire car was waiting. A hesitant twenty minute drive later I had arrived at Chiselhurst Rd, the Calderwood 's new home.

It was here, after much research and soul-searching, that John and Sheila felt offered their family the best prospects for the future. This area of SW Ontario Huron county, is called the white bean capital of the world or baked beans

to you and me. Apparently if you have the soil and climate to grow this crop you have the right conditions to grow almost anything.

When John set out on this quest he was advised to pick a farm that had a corn elevator nearby as this was a good indicator of the prosperity of the surrounding area. John picked well as the nearby hamlet of Hensall has two, one privately owned and the other Hensall and district Co operative a major player in the supply of farm requisites and marketing grains and beans in SW Ontario.

This area is dominated by tillage farms growing silage or grain maize, beans of different varieties for both animal and human consumption and wheat. The soils on John's farm are clay loams with a natural ph of 6.3, and when a third of the annual rain, about 300mm, falls during the main growing season is combined with high temperatures the result is high yields from the above crops. As an example John is looking for maize silage yields in excess of twenty five tons at 35%dm and 35% starch per acre and all without plastic.

This ability to grow maize well and a guaranteed milk price of about 50ppl was the attraction for John and many other dairy farmers from this side of the Atlantic, particularly from Holland, to convert these farms to dairy. But as in most things in life where there is a positive there also has to be a negative and the big negative in this ideal dairying climate is milk quota, or rather the cost to acquire it.



New 200 cow shed.

The dairy industry in Canada is highly regulated and protected from the vagaries of the world market. The result is supply is controlled by quotas to achieve market balance within the country. This quota is traded through the milk board on a monthly basis and costs around £20000 to purchase enough to allow you to milk one cow. Even at this price demand outstrips supply to the extent that it's only possible to acquire quota for about one cow per year for every eighty owned. Not an ideal situation for John who has recently built a new cow shed for 200 cows and has a quota for 80. Quota can also be acquired by purchasing a fully operational dairy farm with quota attached, something that John has recently done, but the rules state that the quota must be milked on the purchased farm for five years

before it can be brought home. It is to this farm that David will take his new wife, Christine.

Which brings me neatly to a subject that should be of more interest to our female readers, the wedding!

David met his future wife, Christine Vanderbilt, while he was relief milking on a neighbouring farm and the relationship slowly blossomed which resulted in a visit to N. Ireland in the autumn of 2011 to meet the extended family, who took this beautiful auburn haired girl to their heart. Christine and my mother made a special connection which has resulted in much letter writing between them. I thought it strange, given the age gap, that this should be until in the wedding speeches reference was made to Christine's habit of smuggling what was quaintly called barn animals into her room. So these two people are kindred spirits that 3000 miles cannot separate.

The wedding was preceded by the obligatory rehearsal but unusually it is held during the day and the immediate family on both sides are also in attendance. After the rehearsal the entire group sit down to a "Pre Wedding Breakfast" which by tradition comes from the kitchen of the groom's mother. After the church ceremony we had a mix of N Irish and Dutch tradition at the reception which created much good natured banter. The Dutch custom of presenting the newly-weds with a gift starting with each letter of the alphabet and accompanied by a short rhyme for each of the twenty six gifts detailing why, as an example, W for wellingtons would contribute to the marriage created some really humorous and also some lovely heart-warming moments.

Gillygooley Community Carol Service

Gillygooley Community Choir welcomed their new accompanist Adeline Jobb who made her first appearance at the Community Carol Service. Gillygooley Presbyterian Church was the venue for the fourth annual Community Carol Service organised by Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association. This annual service always attracts a capacity congregation and this year was no exception. Praise was led by Gillygooley Community Choir who sang three anthems entitled "Come and Sing the Christmas Story," "This Child" and "From the Squalor." The choir was trained and accompanied by Adeline Jobb. Raymond King, vice chairman of the Association, welcomed everyone to the Service and opened with prayer. Representatives from the various organisations who use the Orange Hall complex read the lessons they were David McIlwaine, Raymond McKinley, Joan McCauley, Brenda Caldwell, Alison Hemphill, Robert Graham, John Hall, Rodger and Bill King. The junior choir accompanied by Amanda Graham sang "Oh where do you think Baby Jesus was Born" and a Christmas poem was read by Fred Chambers. Kyra McKinley accompanied by Keane Davidson was the soloist and Kyra also led a musical quartet at the opening and close of the service others who made a musical contribution to the service were Julie and Rebecca Donnell and Jessica Sproule. The offering which was towards Care for Cancer was taken up by Robbie Donald and Robert Fyffee. At the conclusion of the service Andrew Scott, Association Chairman, thanked everyone who had contributed to the event and brought the service to a close with prayer. Everyone was then invited to the Orange Hall for tea, coffee and mince pies. The choir also recently visited the Harold McCauley House to sing carols for the residents and staff. (Photos right)



L-R Jessica Sproule, Julie & Rebecca Donnell who took part in the Carol Service.



Gillygooley Community Choir with their accompanist Adeline Jobb.



The Quartet who contributed at the commencement and end of the Carol Service.



Christopher Smyth and grandmother Myra enjoy their coffee following the Carol Service.

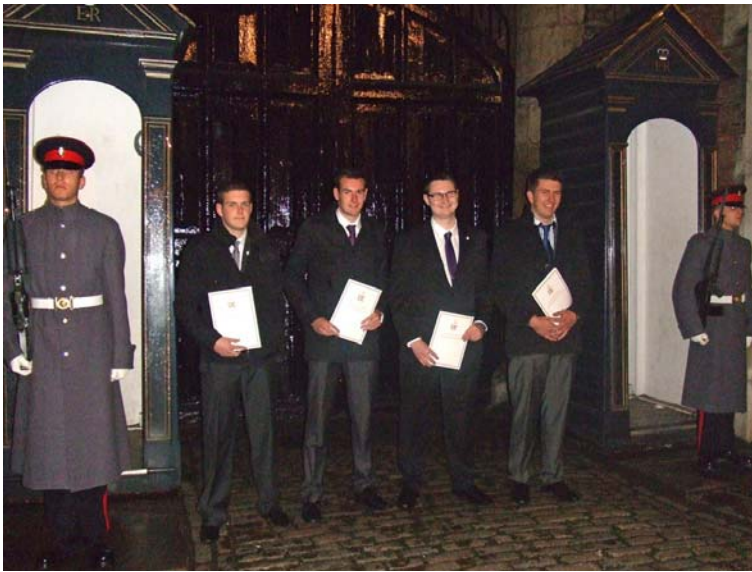


Amanda Graham with the junior choir who sang two carols at both the Church and Carol Service.



Kyra McKinley, the soloist at the Carol Service, accompanied by Keane Davidson.

Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards



L-R Adam Stevenson, Stephen Rein, Tristan Murray and Andrew Stevenson.

Four local boys recently received their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards at St. James' Palace, London. Adam and Andrew Stevenson are members of Gillygooley Congregation and they share with us the excitement of their trip to London.

On Tuesday 20th November 2012 the Stevenson family minus Jack; who didn't meet the very strict age restrictions to enter St James's Palace, London (you have to be a minimum of 16) travelled from Belfast to London Gatwick in preparation of Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards for both Andrew and Adam on Wednesday 21st November and to meet up with 2 other local families ahead of the presentation.

After checking into their hotel and getting their bearings they headed on the tube into the centre of London to see the popular sights like Buckingham Palace, The Mall and Horseguards

Parade followed by Piccadilly where they saw the show "The Lion King". After a long day of both travelling and sightseeing it was off to bed in preparation for the presentations the next day.

Wednesday dawned a very wet and stormy day but nothing could dampen the excitement or the pride of being invited to St James's Palace to be presented with awards from a member of the Royal Family. As it turned out these were awarded by Prince Phillip though it had been reported that if he hadn't been well enough that afternoon it would have been Prince Edward. Prince Phillip spoke to every recipient in the room - there were five rooms in total divided up into England x 2, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland - one of the rooms used was where Prince William and Kate Middleton announced their engagement. Even though Prince Phillip spoke to everyone there including some of the parents he did not shake hands with anyone due to arthritis. The awards themselves were presented by the UTV news reporter Claire McCallum. While Prince Phillip was with the Duke of Edinburgh recipients the Queen was presenting awards to Kate Winslet and Gary Barlow in the Palace. After a fantastic day Andrew, Adam, Tristan and Stephen went out for a meal in the centre of London with other family members to celebrate their success.



Adam, Maurice, Diane and Andrew Stevenson at St. James' Palace.

The awards were presented to Adam and Andrew Stevenson, Tristan Murray and Stephen Rein and this fantastic achievement was gained with the support and commitment of both leaders and volunteers of both Mountjoy Boys Brigade and Omagh Scouts group and a massive thank you must go to everyone involved with these 2 groups in helping them to achieve this fantastic award.

The following morning the Stevenson's were packed up early and heading once again for the tube and making their way to the London Bridge stop where they caught the train to Gatwick airport and a flight home to Belfast. On the same flight was Claire McCallum and her husband who were also returning home after the presentation and Dame Mary Peters. After a short flight home they caught up with Jack and were able to tell him all about London and meeting Prince Phillip.

Don't worry about little Jack, he went to stay with his Gran and Granda for the three days and although he didn't get to meet royalty he did get treated like a royal while he was there.

TRINITY AND GILLYGOOLEY PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The 2012 – 2013 session began on 11th September at 8.00pm in Trinity Hall. Leader Dorothy presided and welcomed all the ladies. The theme this year is “The Light of the World” and Dorothy related to this theme in the Bible reading from John chapter 8. A prayer followed and the hymn “Jesus bids us shine” was sung and then the Lords' Prayer was said. Apologies from Jean Rea. Sympathy cards had been sent to the Orr and Brown families on recent bereavements. Letters of thanks from Beatrice Alexander (sympathy), 1st Castlederg PW, Edenderry were received. A playlet in words relating to the “Light of the World” was read by Dorothy, Hazel and Mavis. A quiz followed on the relevance of Light. Team “Hannah” beat team “Ruth”. Supper was served by the ladies.

Leader Dorothy King began the October meeting with prayer and the hymn “Nearer my God to Thee”. Mark 6 was read by Dorothy. Apologies from Ann Clark. Dorothy congratulated Jean Rea on her award of the B.E.M. (British Empire Medal). Secretary Hazel outlined a varied programme for the session. The speaker at the meeting was Elizabeth Conn who spoke about the Titanic. She compared the ship to Belshazar's feast. She told us about the Captain (Smith) and the engineer (Thomas Andrews) of the Titanic. She mentioned the Titanic Wall at Belfast City Hall where 1512 names of the passengers are listed as having perished at sea.

Beatrice Alexander gave Elizabeth Conn a small token of thanks for her contribution to the evening. Dorothy closed the meeting with prayer. Elizabeth Conn said a prayer and thanked the ladies for their generosity and supper.

The November (Visitors Evening) was held in First Omagh Presbyterian Hall where we were welcomed by their new minister Jane Nelson. The special speaker was the District Commander of the Police in Omagh. She told us about her life as a policewoman from when she joined to her job in Omagh. Thanks were given on behalf of all the visiting ladies by Irene Wilson.

The Christmas Party was held in December with leader Dorothy King. Dorothy began by presenting member Sadie Clements with a gift and card on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Sadie suitably replied to the congratulations. Dorothy introduce Jean Rea to give a little talk on her BEM recognition at Hillsborough Castle in September. Jean passed around photographs and the medal to the ladies present. Dorothy said a prayer and read a passage from Luke 2 verses 1 -14. “Twas the night before Christmas” was performed by Dorothy, Hazel, Audrey and Sadie Clements, Beatrice and Mavis. “O Little town of Bethelhem” was sung with guitar accompaniment by Claire McElhinney. Christmas Carols were sung before supper was served by the ladies. Dorothy wished everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.



Jean Rea showing the Presbyterian Women her B.E.M.



Sadie Clements receiving her 80th birthday present from the Presbyterian Women.

Out and About with Gillygooley 2nd Youth (50+ Club)

Gillygooley 2nd Youth (50+ Club) commenced the new season with an excellent talk and presentation of the Titanic Story by Susie Millar from Belfast, whose great-grandfather perished on the ill-fated journey of the Titanic in 1912. There was absolute silence as she told of how her great-grandfather took employment on the Titanic for her maiden voyage, just months after his wife's death. She told how he pressed a penny each into the hands of his two young sons, asking them not to spend it until his return – when they would spend it together to celebrate their reunion. Sadly, the celebration never occurred, as Tommy perished when the majestic liner hit an iceberg.

Other activities included basket making, a Halloween Party when the club hosted members of Killycurragh and Women's Section Royal British Legion. The club also accepted an invitation from Lifford Senior Citizens to an afternoon Tea Dance. Members participated in a Making Connections programme at the Folk Park during October, November and December taking part in the different season's traditions.

The club were privileged to have as their guest speaker at the pre-Christmas meeting Bob Longwood who was the only Omagh person to have the honour of carrying the Olympic Torch in their home town. Bob enthralled the audience with his life story. He was born in London and in 1939 joined the Royal Signals and saw active service in France, was taken P.O.W. in Belgium and later escaped was evacuated from Dunkirk in a ship which sank Bob was wounded, rescued and returned to Dover. In civic street he and his wife Emma came to Omagh and established Omagh Shoe Factory. Bob at 94 years of age has had a long and fulfilling life and is still active in his Church and various voluntary committees including the Omagh Churches Forum.

After the Christmas celebrations 2nd Youth commenced the New Year with almost 50 members attending a comedy production by St Dymphna's Players Dromore entitled 'When we are Married'. Preceding the show members enjoyed a delicious meal in the Silverbirch Hotel. Our photographer was present to capture some images of the event.



L-R Carol and Harold Brunt and Lily Ewing at the New Year event.



L-R Eileen Fleming, Iris Moffitt-Scott, Claire White and Dorothy King.



L-R Audrey Blackmore, Thelma Harkness, Marjorie Hall, Audrey Clements and Pearl Sayers.



L-R Grace White, Anne Turner, Lily Nethery, Eileen Boyd and Archie Nethery.



L-R Nora Spence, Olive Dunlop, Violet Johnston, Veronica Daly and Gladys McCormick take time out for the photograph.



2nd from the left Bob Lingwood, Pearl Sayers, Philip Elkin and Victor Sayers with the Olympic Torch which Bob carried.

Gillygooley Youth Club

The youth club now in its twenty eighth year, have had a very busy season. In addition to hall based activities, members have travelled to various out of centre activities, ten-pin bowling, etc.

The club was also the principle participants in the "Beyond Borders" event which was staged in Omagh Showgrounds in October. The programme was financed

by the International Fund for Ireland and was jointly run by Omagh Youth Forum and Donegal Youth Service. Gillygooley and Fanad, Co. Donegal, provided a

programme of entertainment in the marquee which included Scottish Dancing, bagpipes and song. Other activities included face painting, bouncy castle, Sumo wrestling etc. The event concluded with a teenage disco with the proceeds going to Multiple Sclerosis.

The club have also participated in U.K. Young Enterprise scheme setting up their own company making and marketing products and attending trade shows.

Photographed, right, at one of the trade shows are four of the Directors L-R Nicola Hemphill, Emma Hunter, Stuart Ballantine and Kylie Nethery.



Enjoying a cup of tea at the cross border event L-R Iris Moffitt-Scott, Alison & Margaret Hemphill.



Jonathan Smyth, Jodie and Shannon Nethery, Kyra McKinley and William Smyth who performed at the cross border event.

LEST WE FORGET

Bright sunshine prevailed on a crisp Autumn Sunday morning for the annual Remembrance Day Service and act of remembrance at the Cenotaph in Omagh. The attendance was one of the largest in recent years with the Omagh Academy assembly hall unable to facilitate everyone who wished to attend. Acts of remembrance were



Kathy Elkin and Kyle McKinley head girl and head boy at Omagh High School lay a wreath at the Cenotaph.



Iris Moffitt-Scott and Bob Lingwood lay a wreath on behalf of Omagh Churches Forum.

observed at morning service in both Gillygooley and Trinity; both congregations were also represented at the Cenotaph. For some members this is a very poignant occasion as they remember those loved ones who paid the supreme sacrifice.

Senior members of Gillygooley Congregation will recall William Graham, Dunwish (who was known as Willie) Willie was a member of Gillygooley Presbyterian Church and during the latter part of his life farmed at Dunwish and Gillygooley, he also ran an agricultural business with a threshing mill etc. The writer has just recently learned that Willie served in the North Irish Horse. The regiment was a yeomanry unit of the British Army raised in the Northern Counties of Ireland in the aftermath of the Second Boer War. Willie's medals are on proud display in the Royal British Legion Premises, Omagh. Willie's nephew Sam Smyth now resides on the former Graham farm.



Willie Graham, formally of Dunwish.



William Graham's medals which are on display in the Omagh Royal British Legion premises.

***"They shall grow not old,
As we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them
Nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning,
We will remember them"***

Service of Readings & Carols at Gillygooley

The annual Service of Lessons & Carols in Gillygooley Church was held on 16th December. The choir accompanied by Sheena Herron led the praise and also sang four carols entitled "Angel Tidings," "A Virgin Most Holy," "Descend from Heaven" and "The Daylight is fading." The Sunday school children accompanied by Amanda Graham sang two carols "O Where Do You Think Baby Jesus Was Born?" and "Calypso Carol." The service was conducted by Rev. Herron and the readers were Rebecca Donnell, Emilie Gault, Andrew Aiken, Jack Stevenson, Jack Crawford, Jack Hannigan and Calum McKinley. Following the service, members of the Bible Class provided tea, coffee and mince pies in the Orange Hall, followed by a time for fellowship.

Ulster Project 2012

By Jemma Walker (Leader)

I don't even know where to begin...Ulster Project Salt Lake 2012 was a life changing experience for everyone involved. The mission statement of the Ulster Project is *to help young people from Northern Ireland and the United States become peacemakers by providing a safe environment in which to learn and practice the skills needed to unite people when differences divide them*. The mission statement reflects all the work that was involved within the project not just within the month in the States but also in the months leading up to our departure to Salt Lake City.

Tuesday 26th June 2012 we departed from Dublin Airport on our way to Salt Lake City. I don't think any of the teens (myself included) slept much the night before with feelings of both excitement and anticipation – what lay ahead.

Once all the Northern-Irish teens along with the leaders (Stephen and I) finally made it to Salt Lake City we were so warmly greeted by the American families, teens and American Counsellors; Les, Haley and Sean. From that point onwards we were afforded the hospitality of our new families living within a new environment. I personally would like to thank the Cushing family for their welcome and generously throughout.

All teens and counsellors met up daily to participate in pre-arranged activities, with the exception of one weekend in the month in which the host families get to spend quality time with their Northern Irish teen.

Throughout the project many activities were undertaken; volunteering, attendance at various church services, fundraisers, swim parties and fun parks, to name a few. Such activities included participating in voluntary work for local communities; working with the aged at St. Joseph's Villa Old People's Home and also the disabled at the Kauri Sue Hamilton School, sorting cans at the Utah Food Bank, serving dinner at the St. Vincent De Paul soup kitchen and planting saplings to stem erosion along a mountain stream.

Of course there was time for fun; attending Oakley rodeo on independence day (4th July), having fun on the roller coasters at Lagoon and Seven Peaks, hiking at Snowbird ski mountain, rafting along the Green River and bowling, to name but a few.

This Project has enabled everyone involved to engage in soul searching and therefore an opportunity to open minds to accepting new ideas and becoming a step closer to peace within Northern Ireland.

I would finally like to thank all the organisers of the Ulster Project in Northern Ireland and the USA for their continued hard work to make all this possible each year! I know that all the Salt Lake City teens really enjoyed this wonderful journey. We have all made wonderful friends and I am glad to say that it has really changed my outlook on things within my own life. Throughout my time as a counsellor within Salt Lake City I have gained many new friends along with treasured memories and have been honoured to participate in a project which assists in broadening the mindset of young teens in today's society.

Jemma Walker front row second from right with her Ulster Project Team.



Looking towards Easter 2013 Dates for your diary

Sunday, 24 March 2013

Palm Sunday Service

Friday, 29 March 2013

7.30 pm - Good Friday Service in Gillygooley

Sunday, 31 March 2013

Easter Sunday

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

and Reception of New Communicants

Anyone from Trinity who has an item they would like included in the magazine should contact either Richard McClung, Tel: 8224 5150, Email: TrinityNews@knocksilla.plus.com or

Anne Parke, Tel: 8224 2598, Email: anne.parke@btinternet.com

Please include as much written detail as possible and use original photos if emailing articles!

Thank you to all who supply material or take photographs.

Remember, a full colour version is available on the Trinity Church website!

The provisional deadline for submission of articles for the next edition, which is due out in June 2013, is Monday 29th April 2013.

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

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Or

Diane Mills, Assistant Editor, Tel: 028 8224 6553. E-mail: diane553@hotmail.co.uk

Photographs by Andrew Scott, Emma Mills & courtesy of Tyrone Constitution & Ulster Herald.