

TRINITY & GILLYGOOLEY NEWS



Issue 80

www.trinitypresbyterianchurchomagh.co.uk

February 2020

Inside this issue:

Gillygooley Harvest	2
Trinity Harvest	3
Children's Page	4
Gillygooley Primary School	5
Trinity Choir Christmas Supper Bible Class Outing	6
Boys' Brigade	7
Wittenberg	8
Gillygooley YCDA Carol Service Births Deaths Marriages	9
Trinity Finances	10
Sunday School Outing	11
Emily Irwin in Japan YCDA Senior Citizens Party	12
Stan the organ man	13
Gillygooley Carol Service	14
Trinity & Gillygooley Women	15
You took me in	16
Elders at Gillygooley	17
Trinity Carol Service	18
Trinity Carol Service	19
Malcolm McKinley @ 80 Sgt David McIlwaine Children's Page winner	20

New Moderator Elected



Banbridge-born 62-year-old Rev David Bruce has been elected 175th moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland following a meeting of the church's 19 presbyteries on Tuesday 4 February 2020 where he received 14 of the 19 votes.

Mr Bruce, who lives near Lisburn and worships at Elmwood Presbyterian Church on the outskirts of the city, will be the denomination's first moderator in more than 20 years to come from a position outside of parish ministry.

Speaking following his election, Mr Bruce said, "I am hugely honoured to be invited by the Church to fulfil this role, and humbled that anyone should imagine I am able to do it. I will approach the role with prayerful excitement as we face the great task of commending Christ to Ireland, north and south in a year of major change on this island and beyond."

Mr Bruce added: "With the UK having left the European Union last week and we enter this transition phase, a new set of political relationships will be formed, both on this island and beyond. As members of an all-Ireland church we will remain fully committed to our people and their witness on both sides of the Irish border. The formation of the Northern Ireland Executive in Stormont, and Ireland's General Election this week indicate the importance of careful conversations with politicians, something I will be keen to continue during my year in office."

Baptised in Scarva Street Presbyterian Church in Banbridge, Mr Bruce was brought up in First Lurgan Presbyterian Church and attended Abercorn Primary School in Banbridge, before going to Kings Park Primary in Lurgan and on to Cabin Hill Preparatory and Campbell College in Belfast.

Alongside Mr Bruce, this year's nominees were Rev Dr Trevor McCormick, minister of First Kilrea Presbyterian Church (1 vote), Rev Richard Murray, minister of Drumreagh and Dromore Presbyterian Churches (3 votes) and Rev Mairisíne Stanfield, minister of First Presbyterian Church, Bangor (1 vote).

Rev Bruce is married to Zoe, who is a former school teacher, and they have four adult children and one granddaughter. A keen sailor when weather permits (he has a traditional 20 foot sailing boat, complete with red sails) he and his wife also enjoy touring in their ancient VW campervan!

He will be officially nominated to this year's General Assembly in Belfast on Monday, 1 June when he will succeed the current moderator, Rt Rev Dr William Henry. Dr Henry will continue in office as the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's principal public representative until then.

Gillygooley Harvest



Harvest preparation at Gillygooley l-r
 Front row, Ivan Graham and Archie King
 Back row - Rosemary King, Wilma Porter, Irene Brown, Rebecca Scott
 and her grand-daughter, Jessica.



Irene Brown and Rebecca Scott

Linda Sproule.

Harvest at Trinity

Trinity's annual harvest service was held on Sunday 20th October 2019. The congregation sang "All people that on Earth do dwell", "We thank you", "For the fruits of His creation" and "We plough the fields and scatter". The choir performed "He will hold me fast", "Only God", "Peace in the valley" and a lively "Lord of the Dance" which were all superb and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. A special thanks must go to Stanley and his choir for all their magnificent musical work and to all those who helped decorate the church in such a lovely manner!

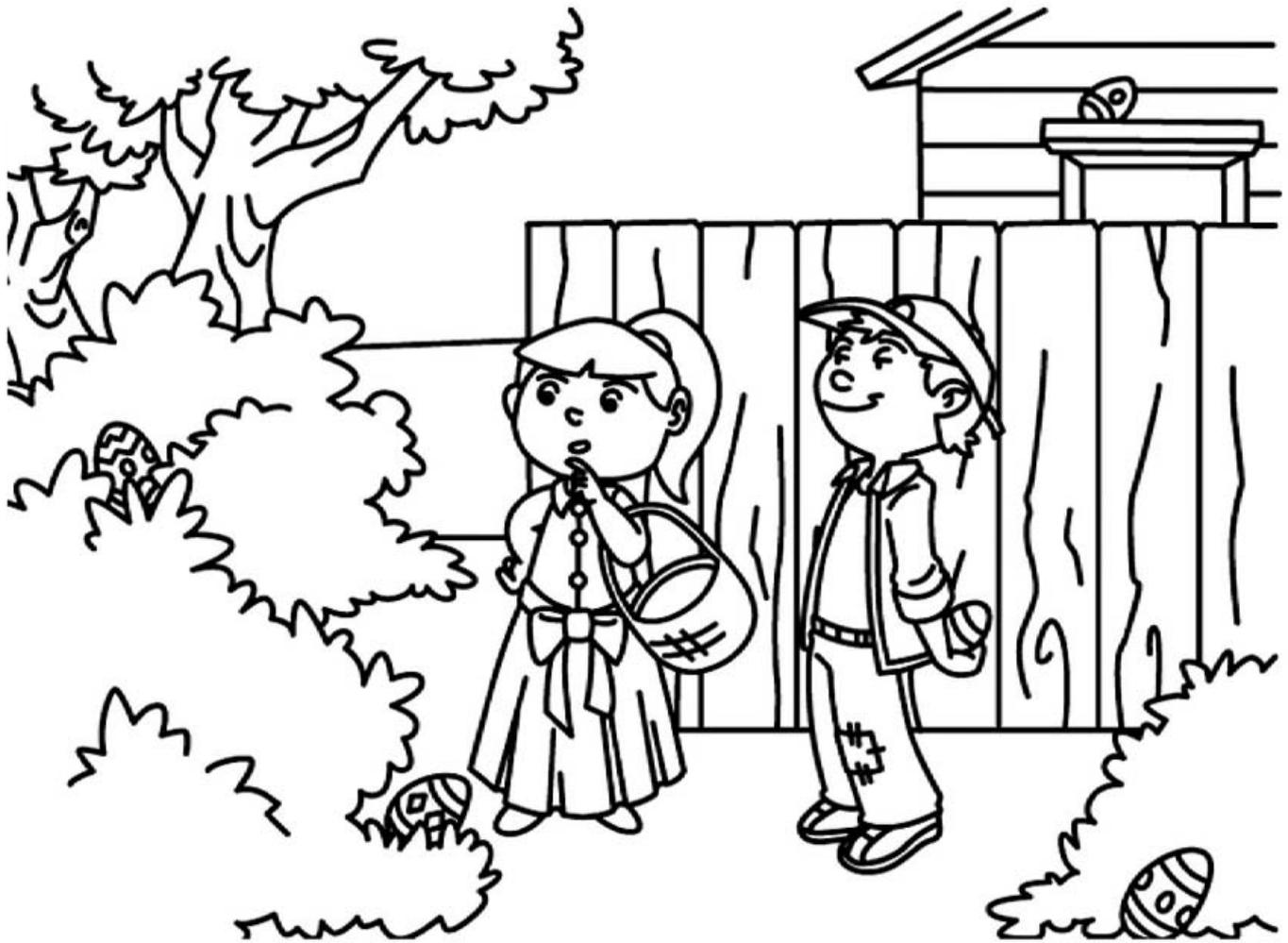




Children's Page



Colour in the Easter Egg hunt picture and count the number of eggs you can see!



Number of eggs in the picture: _____

YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR AGE: _____

Please Note: We can only accept Primary School Entrants

Please leave your completed page in the box in the main church entrance, no later than 4 weeks after publication.

If more than one correct entry is received from either church a draw will be made.

One prize for each church.

Last issues winner from Gillygooley was Caolan Magee and the winner from Trinity was Matthew McFarland

Gillygooley Primary School



Mrs Brown shows Anna Elkin and Poppy Barrett how to shape the butter they have just made.



Leah Hamilton helps to mix the ingredients to make the scones.

Gillygooley Primary School along with Gillygooley Second Youth are working on an inter-generational project. They will be sharing various skills such as old time dancing and computers. The first week saw them making butter, scones and pancakes.



Once again the stars from Gillygooley PS shone brightly as they put on a fantastic Christmas performance called "The Inn-Spectors"

Trinity Choir at Christmas

The Trinity choir had their annual supper before Christmas. A lovely time was had by all, relaxing and enjoying a bit of fun and good food. The choir is a great team who really enjoy the experience and Stanley is brilliant. Feel free to come along and join in the choir craic!



Bible Class Outing

On Saturday 18th January the members of the Bible Classes from Trinity and Gillygooley travelled to the Brunswick Moviebowl, Londonderry. A fun night was had by all, especially the prizewinners. Taking first prize for the girls was Lauren Hunter with a score of 105 with Julieann Hemphill coming second scoring 95. Harvey King claimed first prize for the boys scoring 98 and Tom Bell came second with a respectable score of 93. Not to be outdone Rev Herron also scooped a prize on the night, that of 'the wooden spoon'. To save embarrassment his score was not revealed. There will need to be more practice done before next years trip! Thanks are expressed to all the leaders who accompanied the group.



Robbie and Paul Bell



Trinity members with Tyler at Moviebowl



Andy, Rosemary, Julieann and Rachel



Archie, Oliver, Harvey, Timmy and Andrew



Karen and Lauren

Boys' Brigade



The members enjoyed a Model Making session on a non-uniform night.



Boys and leaders enjoyed a Christmas Jumper Party Night at 9th Avenue Pizzeria.



Members ready to take part in the Remembrance Day Commemorations.

WITTENBERG – HOME OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

Our son Andrew lives in Dresden where he teaches English in a private language school. When we were visiting him this summer we decided to include a visit to Wittenberg where Martin Luther lived and preached.

Dresden is in the former East German part of Germany. It was heavily bombed at the end of World War Two when 2.5 square miles of the city centre were destroyed and more than 22,000 people were killed. The most prominent building in the city centre is the Frauenkirche (Woman Church) which became a Protestant church during the reformation. The church lay in ruins for 50 years after the bombing before restoration work was started in 1994. Much rebuilding of Dresden has taken place since German reunification in 1990 and the city is now a popular tourist destination.



Martin Luther's statue in front of Dresden's Frauenkirche

We travelled to Wittenberg by car enjoying stop-overs in Leipzig and at Colditz Castle, the famous World War Two prison camp which viewers of the 1970s TV series will be familiar with. Wittenberg is around 100 miles from Dresden, or a one-hour train journey from Berlin. We arrived early evening and decided to stay overnight in the aptly named Luther Hotel.

The following morning after a relaxing cup of coffee at a sunny outdoor café we set off to see the sights. Wittenberg is a charming old town with brightly painted buildings which attracts visitors from all over the world who come to see where the Protestant reformation began. All of the Luther attractions are within easy walking distance of each other in two parallel main streets which meet in a central town square.

Our first stop was the Schlosskirche (Castle Church) which is the famous church where Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door. The original wooden doors were replaced by bronze doors in the 19th century and these are engraved with the 95 theses. Luther preached in the church and is buried under the church pulpit.

He also preached in the Stadtkirche (Town Church) and was married there. We were surprised to see nuns in the building, however it appears that there is an order of Lutheran nuns in Germany.

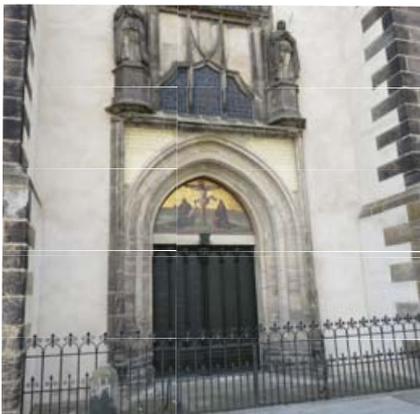


The Stadtkirche where Luther preached and was married in

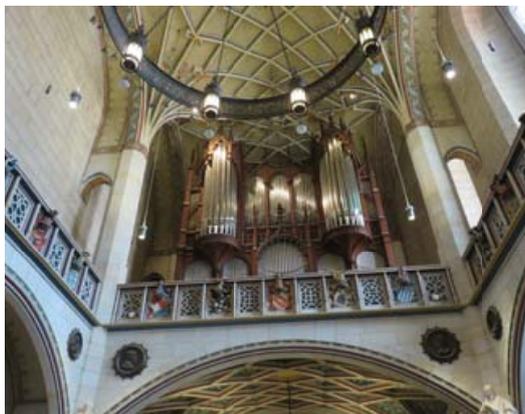
At the far end of the town his home is now a museum, which is open daily, while Luther's Oak is planted in the location where his supporters burned writings of church doctrine and where he burned the Papal Bill threatening him with excommunication if he did not recant his writings.

If you are interested in the history of the reformation, Wittenberg is certainly a very interesting place to visit.

Gary and Mandy Milligan



The doors of the Castle Church where Luther nailed his 95 theses



One for Stanley – the organ in the Schlosskirche (Castle Church)



The pulpit of the Castle Church where Luther is buried

Gillygooley YCDA Carol Service



Robert Fyffe, Chairperson of Gillygooley Youth & Community Development Association, presenting a cheque for £650 to Susan Smyth of Omagh's Care for Cancer charity. Also in the photo is Alison Hemphill the Treasurer of the YCDA. The collection was made at the annual community carol service on Sunday 8th December at Gillygooley Presbyterian church.



Gillygooley Primary School at the Community Carol Service



The Community Choir



The readers from the Community Carol Service

Record of Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths

(until 3 February 2020)

Baptisms in Gillygooley	Marriages in Trinity	Deaths in Trinity
26 Jan Thea Rose Smyth	14 Sep John Bradley and Margaret Murray	23 Sep Fran Young
		8 Nov Isobel Beattie
	Marriages in Gillygooley	23 Nov Betty Gaston
	28 Dec Andrew McWilliams and Amy Alexander	6 Dec Robert McKean
		Deaths in Gillygooley
		19 Sep Jean Creery
		30 Oct Pansy Creery
<i>"Let the children come to me..."</i>	<i>"Love one another as I have loved you..."</i>	<i>"I am the resurrection and the life..."</i>
(Mark 10:14)	(John 15:12)	(John 11:25)

Trinity Omagh Recorded Giving 2010-2019 (Gift Aid is not included in the figures below)

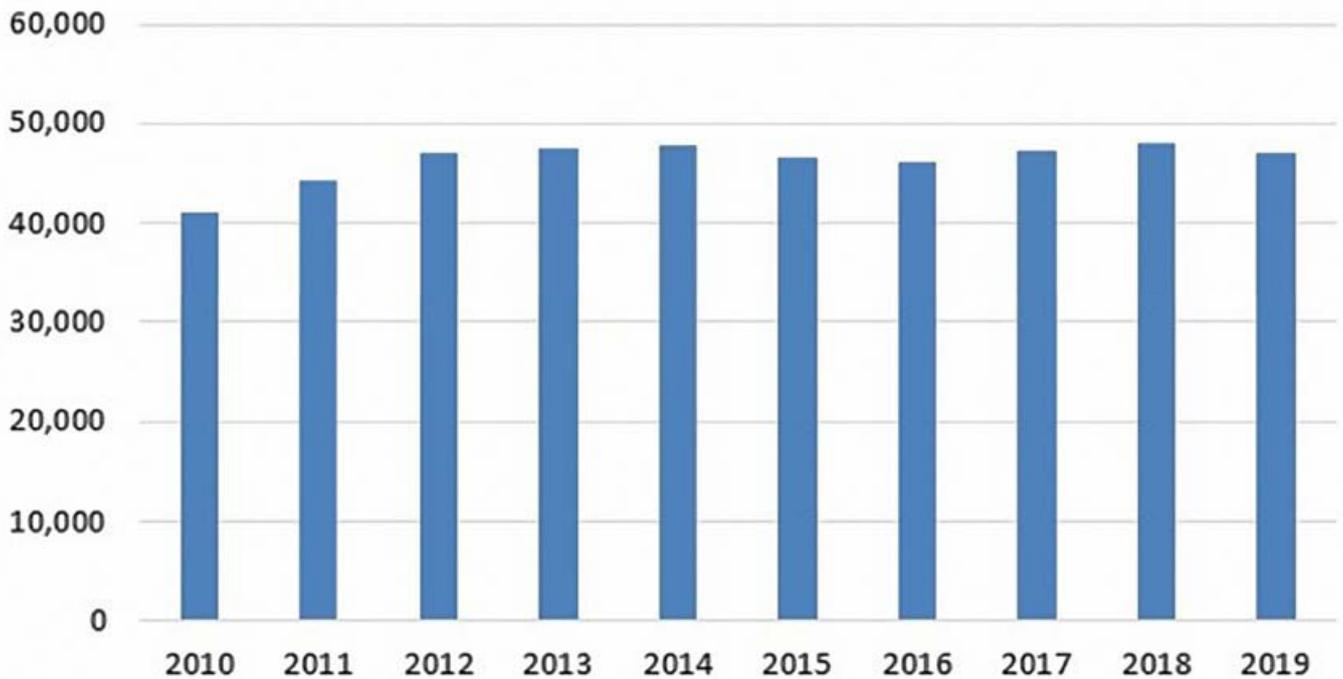
The charts below show members’ contributions to the various funds of the church through the envelope system between 2010 and 2019. During this period the number of contributing families has decreased from 253 (2010) to 200 (2019). The main reason for the decline has been due to the ninety deaths that have taken place during this period. Looking at the trends in the charts it is remarkable that the contributions have continued to remain at the levels shown and members are to be congratulated.

As the overall income has remained fairly static, inflationary and other pressures have meant that expenditure has increased considerably over the same period. In the 2019 Financial Report members will see the details of our expenditure. In the summary pages, members will also see that the overall balances in our funds remain healthy, especially the Property Fund. What is not so clear is that for the last two years we have been eating into our reserves in the general running costs. The main reason for this situation is the level of giving to Weekly Freewill Offering.

Patterns of recorded giving show that most members review their giving every few years. It is still early in 2020, and the Church Committee is asking members to review their contributions to weekly Freewill Offering. 200 contributors is a significant number and a small increase per week per contributor can result in a substantial overall increase.

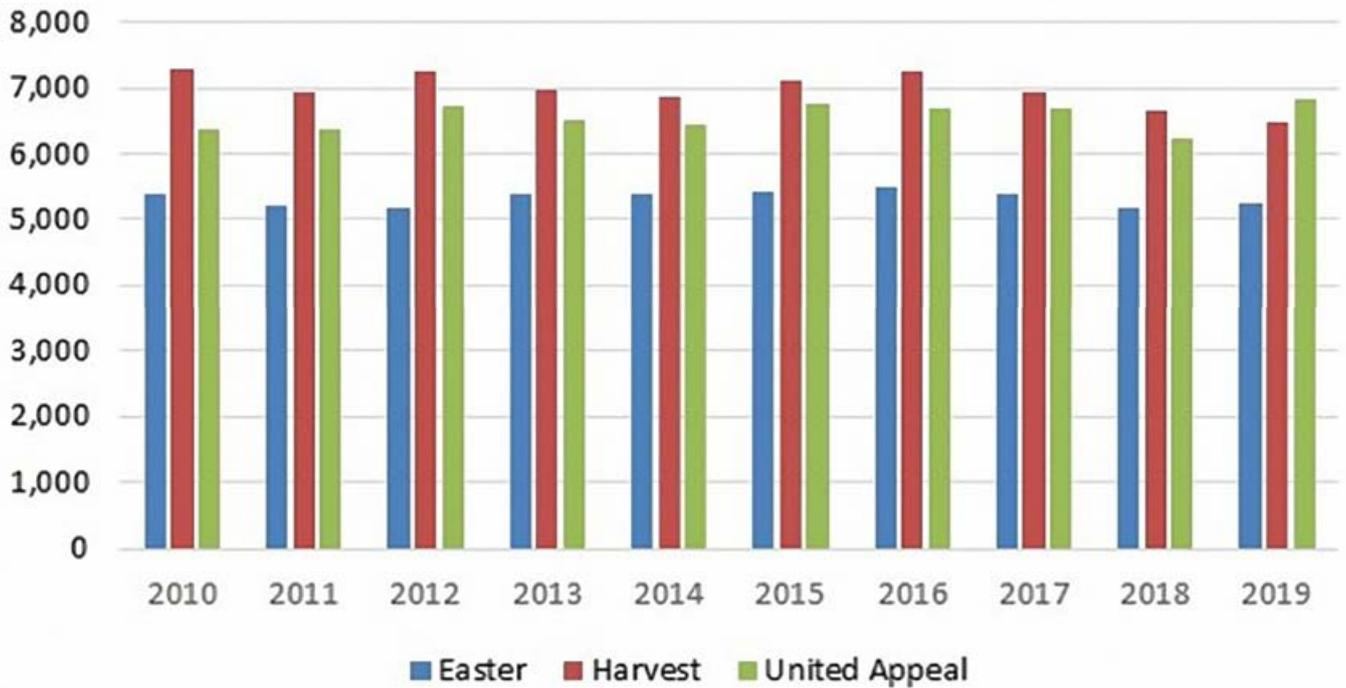
For example: an increase of £1 per week per contributor to Freewill Offering would increase the Freewill Offering by £10,400 in one year.

Trinity Recorded Giving to Freewill Offering



Recorded Giving	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
FWO (£)	40,993	44,395	47,137	47,652	47,872	46,528	46,088	47,388	47,917	47,007

Trinity Recorded Giving to Easter, Harvest and United Appeal



Recorded Giving	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Easter (£)	5,369	5,225	5,170	5,373	5,372	5,418	5,492	5,391	5,174	5,250
Harvest (£)	7,272	6,940	7,244	6,983	6,846	7,120	7,237	6,919	6,645	6,485
United Appeal (£)	6,368	6,370	6,719	6,493	6,424	6,739	6,678	6,670	6,241	6,840

Sunday School Outing

Junior Sunday Schools from Gillygooley and Trinity came together for a very enjoyable outing to Cooley Castles in January as a late Christmas treat!



Emily Irwin at the Rugby World Cup in Japan

After winning an online competition organised by the delivery firm DHL to deliver the match ball to the Ireland v Scotland Rugby World cup game in Yokohama stadium, Emily set off on her travels to Japan on Thursday 19th September with her family: Dad, (George), Mum (Wendy) and brother (Oliver). After being met at the airport by DHL officials, who had a good luck video message from retired rugby international Jamie Heaslip, her first stop was Dubai before finally landing in Tokyo on Friday evening (Tokyo time). More DHL officials met the Irwins at Haneda airport and transported them to their hotel where they were met by Emily's aunt Catherine who had flown in from London for the occasion.



Saturday was spent exploring the sights and sound of Tokyo and experiencing Japanese life before preparing for match day. On Sunday 22nd September Emily and Wendy were transported to Yokohama International Stadium in their very own chauffeur driven car. After exploring the stadium and practising for the big event, including getting a tour into the changing rooms, walking up the tunnel and around the pitch, they were met by the rest of the family in the fan zone to experience the build up to the match with all the other supporters.

Just before kick off, Emily was presented with the ball she needed to deliver and proudly led the Irish and Scottish teams onto the pitch in front of 72,000 rugby fans. She experienced standing on a pitch alongside the two teams and officials for the national anthems before shaking hands and presenting the referee with the match ball. Emily enjoyed the rest of the game sitting in the VIP zone. 'It was an amazing opportunity which I will never forget,' exclaimed Emily.

Since returning home, Emily has received the original match ball she delivered, signed by the team captains and match referee, and more recently was invited down to the Aviva Stadium to be interviewed by members of the Ireland rugby team about her experience. This has certainly been a once in a lifetime opportunity and something that Emily will never forget!



YCDA host Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

Gillygooley Youth and Community Development Association held a very successful Senior Citizen's Christmas Party in December. A firm favourite now in the Christmas calendar for everyone from Gillygooley and beyond!



THE NAME OF THE ROSE



Great title! Wish I had thought of it but I didn't - it's best known as a medieval monastic murder mystery novel by the Italian novelist Umberto Eco and later made into a film. This Eighties version starred Sean Connery and an emerging actor called Christian Slater – I loved it! The BBC bought a serial version of it which was shown just before Christmas – some of you may have stuck with it to the bitter end which differed slightly from the film but, because of the BBC's obsession with attention to detail and snail speed development of plots, actually clarified some of the mysteries of the film version! I think I might read the book one day when music for me is no longer perfumed like a rose – see what I just did there?! [or of course if/when Trinity tires of an ageing and noisy uncle who no one remembers ever being

appointed - actually it's all [Emeritus] Bill Clarke's fault – but I'm still dining out on the fact that my contract seems to have got lost in the post, circa 1975 and technically, I'm still under probation! [Oh no – tell me the old, old story again – haven't you got any post decimalisation stories then?-the Ed!]

So, we are told in the consumer world in which we live, that attending church is no longer trendy – attendance is dropping in all denominations. Even in Trinity when in the past at our big services at Harvest and Christmas additional chairs had to be brought in, say, up to 20 years ago this is no longer the case - and advanced booking your seat [Ha ha – the Ed!] is no longer necessary. Some of you may find this hard to believe but I can assure you when you've sat on the organ bench as long as I have it was the case back in the day! Actually, it used to be one of the recruitment slogans for new organists that it was the only location in the church [apart from the pulpit that is] where you were guaranteed a seat every week!

But hold on one minute, as the population has abandoned going to church in droves in favour of being couch potatoes, watching the alternative prophets of high definition and catch up TV, the number of programmes with a religious theme [many comedic] has actually increased exponentially ie the above, the Vicar of Dibley, Father Ted, Grantchester, etc. etc., and my favourite of the moment The New Pope.

So in fact it could just possibly be argued that - Someone does indeed move in mysterious ways their wonders to perform! [The views expressed here do not necessarily represent that of this publication or indeed the Presbyterian Church! – the Ed]

Moving on, swiftly, to a record of musical activity in Trinity since the last T and G, we were joined by many good friends of the choir both for Harvest and Christmas when on each occasion [including the Harvest evening service which continues to survive against all the odds] we added to the beauty of the occasion by singing three pieces to the delight of the congregation [well anyway that's what Niall Henry told me!] Lucy Reid gave outstanding performances at the carol service, and Heather Watson sang a beautiful solo at our January communion service. Sheena Herron played a blinder at both BIG services by accompanying the choir in a very artistic and sensitive way.

Once again Trinity hosted Omagh Music Society's Christmas charity concert and in excess of £940 was raised to support the great work of the Alzheimer's Society. Through this event many people entered Trinity church for the first time and remarked what a truly wonderful and beautiful building it is!

At the time of writing the church is preparing for a radio Ulster Sunday broadcast towards the end of March which should be a very inspiring Service for all involved.

Sometimes, this column seems like a musical version of the Martin Lewis money programme trying to get everything in before the page runs out so that's it for now!

Best wishes from

Stan the organ man!

Christmas Carol Service at Gillygooley



The Bible Class hosted a very successful coffee morning after the service when £415 was raised for the Presbyterian Children's Society



Senior choir



Junior choir



The Caldwell family with friends



Craig Boyce and Joanne Fleming



The Smyth family

TRINITY AND GILLYGOOLEY WOMEN



The PW members were welcomed to the September meeting by leader Gladys Cuthbertson. The theme for the 2019 – 2020 season is “RESTORE” which is taken from Psalm 23 - “He restores my soul”.

Gladys began the meeting with a prayer which was followed by the Lord's Prayer. The hymn “Tell me the old, old story” was sung and Dorothy King read from Isaiah 52 verses 7 – 10. Invitations from 1st Castledearg and Omagh Methodist were received and a number of members will attend in due course.

The speaker for the evening, Elaine Johnston, was introduced by Gladys. Elaine thanked her for the invitation to speak to the ladies. Elaine's topic was “Beautiful Feet”. Elaine lives in Fintona and had gone to school there. Further education followed and she qualified as a Podiatrist at University. Elaine told the ladies of the best kinds of footwear/shoes and how to wear them. She also gave details about creams for dry skin on feet. Elaine was presented with a token by Annette Moore. Supper was served by the ladies.



The October meeting was held on Tuesday 8th at 8.00pm in the Wee Johnny Room. Gladys gave a warm welcome to those present, especially Colin Tinsley. Gladys opened the meeting with prayer. She prayed for the family of Jean Creery (member) who had passed away in September and for those in hospital. The Lord's Prayer was recited by those present. Hymn 515 was sung and Beatrice read from Matthew 7 verses 24 – 27. Catering arrangements were made by the ladies for the Visitors Night on 12th November in Trinity Hall.

Gladys introduced speaker Colin Tinsley from Dundrod. Colin has six brothers and lived on a farm. Colin became a Christian and at 21 years of age left the farm and began missionary work. He met his wife in Poland and they travel to many countries where they teach children about Jesus. Colin showed videos of Jamaica, Australia, Vanuatu, Israel, Isle of Man, Lithuania, Canada, Asia, Swaziland, the Phillipines and many other countries. He also showed a video of children from Northern Ireland. Audrey Clements presented Colin with a gift and the meeting closed with prayer. Supper was served by the ladies.



Visitors Night was held on Tuesday 12th November in Trinity Hall at 8.00pm. Leader Gladys welcomed all the visitors, especially the speaker for the evening, Jeannie Graham. The hymn “I will sing the wondrous story” was sung. Beatrice Alexander read a portion from John 1 verse 29 – 34. Claire McElhinney sang “Softly and Tenderly”.

Jeannie Graham was introduced and she told the ladies about her life as a teenager in Portadown. Her life was very harrowing due to alcohol abuse and she told of how this affected her family life. Jeannie gave up drinking but her son ran away from home because of his drug habit. He eventually ended up on life support in hospital and had a breakdown. Jeannie talked of the mental health situation regarding young people in Northern Ireland and the many suicides that are happening.

She is hopeful that parents and other people can help in the future to alleviate such distress.

Claire presented Jeannie with a token of thanks. “There is a Redeemer” was sung and Gladys closed with prayer. Ann McBain replied on behalf of the visitors and supper was served to everyone present. Over sixty ladies enjoyed the evening.

The December meeting was held on Tuesday 10th at 8.00pm.

Gladys opened the meeting with prayer and then a quiz (Books of the Bible). The theme was Christmas “Season of Restoration”.

The following hymns were sung : “O little town of Bethlehem”, “As with gladness men of old”, “The first Nowell”, “Hark the herald angels” and “Still the Night”. These hymns were interspersed with Bible readings suited to the occasion. A festive supper was enjoyed by members who were there. Our next meeting was to be on 11th February 2020 when the speaker was to be Naomi Dudgeon.

“I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU TOOK ME IN?” Matthew 25:35

I am not usually ‘an eleventh-hour’ type of person and when Richard’s email arrived on 3 January looking for contributions for the next magazine, I already had a good idea of what I was going to write about. In fact, I had it all composed ‘in my head’ very quickly and my best moments of inspiration came in those silent hours of darkness when sleep left me, but I didn’t actually put my thoughts on paper and only now (yes, at the eleventh hour) I am typing this out.

You see, our household had a new arrival on Christmas morning. Now, I have to be honest and say that I knew about this new ‘person’ but I had forgotten all about the arrival until my husband’s excitement could not be ignored any longer as he proudly displayed ‘her’ on his knee while the rest of us excitedly opened our Christmas presents.

‘She’ already had a name – Alexa! Sort of a foreign kind of name and may be the reason why Jack’s questions to her in the first few days were met with the same reply each time, “I’m sorry, I don’t know that!” or “Hmmm, I don’t understand”. However, it wasn’t long until he had ‘her’ installed beside him at the kitchen table – a task that my ‘very tech-savvy’ son-in-law Aaron accomplished at record speed. We all fell about laughing as Alexa was subjected to one question after another by the said Jack and poor Alexa, possibly not understanding Jack’s accent, and some of his adjectives, never answered one of his questions correctly, going off at a tangent on something entirely unrelated. Even telling her she was ‘stupid’ brought her calm reply “I’m sorry I don’t know that!” He even used to tempt her with questions like, “What does ‘keep-her-lit’ mean?” and other Ulsterisms, but Alexa, ever the lady and not getting in a fluster, still replied “I’m sorry, I don’t know that!”

Well, all relationships take awhile to bed down and after a few days of frustration, Alexa and Jack were getting on like a house on fire and now when he appears at the kitchen table in the morning (make that mid-morning) it’s a cheery “Good morning Alexa” to her and a nod of his head to me. Out of my earshot he must have been perfecting his communicating technique and now the majority of his questions to Alexa are answered correctly. She plays all the music he asks for, tells him the latest football results, the weather, gives details on certain news items, and slightly worrying for me, he is inclined to ask her, after his initial morning greeting, “What’s my name, Alexa?” to which she answers “Your name is Jackie”. Is this a sign that his memory is failing? Should I be concerned? There is no doubt that Alexa is well thought of by Jack and he spends a lot of time either staring at her or engaging in a question and answer session. I think he is really drawn to her because she doesn’t ‘speak back’ to him and only answers when spoken to. Not like the real woman he lives with!

At a birthday party for my nephew a few weeks after Christmas, I discovered that my brother had one of these ‘wonder women’ too, also with a foreign-sounding name – Siri. She sat quietly during the party and knew never to speak until spoken to and as the night wore on and Jack was holding forth, I said in a joking way to Siri, “Tell Jackie to go home” and lo and behold Siri said, “Jackie, go home!” Now, I might need that woman in my house. She would soon put Jackie in his box!

As I said, he is greatly taken with his Alexa and doesn’t much listen to what I say or if he does it is only with ‘half an ear’ which has resulted in a lot of crossed-wires. Just a few weeks ago, I telephoned to make a hair appointment, unaware that Jackie overheard some of my conversation. Later in the kitchen, he suddenly said to me “Molly’s getting her hair cut tomorrow” (Molly is one of our dogs). “Is she?” said I. “What time?” “Eleven o’clock” said he. “When was all this arranged?” said I. “This morning” said he. “Well, Jackie, I wish you had consulted with me, as I have a hair appointment tomorrow at 11am too and I can’t be in two places at the same time”. His answer to that problem (without asking Alexa) was, “Go early, drop the dog off first and then go on to your hairdresser”. And that is exactly what I did, only the dog groomer was not at home and when I phoned back to Jackie to ask him to phone this lady and tell her I was standing outside her house with a reluctant dog on a lead he told me he didn’t have her number. Didn’t have her number!!!! “You phoned the woman yesterday to book Molly in”. “I didn’t phone any dog woman. It was you who phoned her!” “I did not” said I. “You did!” said he. “I overheard you on the phone making the appointment”. Suddenly the penny dropped!

If my name was Alexa I would probably have said, meekly and calmly, “I’m sorry, I didn’t know that” or similar words, but I did take a leaf out of her book and without saying another word pressed the red button on my phone. A journey back to Clanabogan with a relieved dog made me half an hour late for the hairdressers and when I phoned to explain, she thought the whole story was hilarious. An hour or so in the hairdressers gave me time to reduce my annoyance and the Sixth Commandment “You shall not murder” finally won through, along with the realisation of what the newspapers would make of it - headlines of ‘Presbyterian Clerk of Session murders husband!’ floated past and by the time I got home I was a bit calmer. I say, a bit, as ‘Alexa’s boyfriend’

was still of the opinion that it was me who got the whole thing wrong!
 Corinthians Chapter 13 is the well-known passage often read at weddings on the theme of love. The Message Bible gives this translation: 'Love never gives up.' 'Love doesn't fly off the handle', 'Love doesn't keep score of the sins of others', 'Love isn't always "me first"', 'Love doesn't revel when others grovel' and 'Love never looks back, but keeps going to the end'.

"Alexa! Make Jackie's dinner tonight!" "I'm sorry, I don't understand that". Thought not! CM

Change of Elders at Gillygooley

Following the election of new Elders in Gillygooley some of the existing elders changed roles or became Elders Emeritus. Raymond Smyth has now replaced Bill King as Clerk of Session. Bill King, Gerard McAuley and Harold Moore became Elders Emeritus. Harold and Anne Moore very kindly donated new collection plates to the Church on Harold becoming an Elder Emeritus.



Dorothy, Bill & Rosemary King



Gerard MacAuley & family



Harold and Anne Moore with Raymond Smyth



Patricia & Raymond Smyth

Christmas Carol Service at Trinity

Trinity's annual Readings & Carols for Christmas took place on Sunday 15th December 2019. Stanley provided both the pre and post service music to his usual very high standard. After a 'Welcome' and prayer from Rev Herron the service proceeded much under its own steam. The congregation sang "Once in Royal David's city", "O little town of Bethlehem", Crackers and turkeys and pudding and cream", "Away in a manger", "Silent night, holy night", "Hark! the herald angels sing" and "O come, all you faithful".

The choir sang "The advent carol", "Fear not!" and that catchy number "Run Shepherds"! Rev Herron took the children's address and at the end of it was surprised by a rendition of "Happy birthday to you" as it was his birthday!

Readings were done by members of the Bible Class and Rev Herron.

A massive thank you to Stanley and the choir for all their effort, which was greatly appreciated by all who were in attendance. Thanks also to all those who helped decorate the church for the festive season.



Heather Watson sang a solo verse of "Once in royal Davids city"

The senior choir who sang three excellent Christmas pieces



Oliver Irwin



Adam Magee



Luke McFarland



Mark Fenwick



Happy Birthday to you!



Thomas Winters



Tom Bell



Rachel Patterson



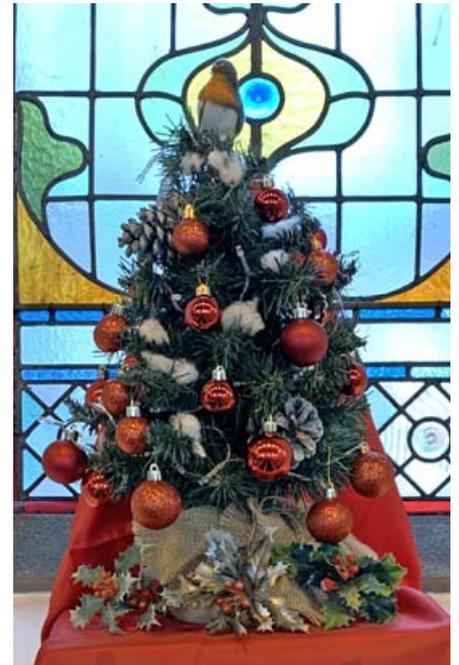
Rev Robert Herron



Lucy Reid sang "In the bleak mid winter"



A nice treat for the children!



Looking towards Easter 2020 Dates for your diary

Sunday, 5 April 2020
Palm Sunday Service

Friday, 10 April 2020
7.30 pm - Good Friday Service in Gillygooley

Sunday, 12 April 2020
Easter Sunday
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
and Reception of New Communicants

Children's Page winner



Caolan Magee was presented with his Children's Page prize from Patricia Smyth, Judge, during the Christmas Carol Service at Gillygooley.

Happy 80th Birthday Malcolm McKinley



Malcolm McKinley, a very popular gentleman from Gillygooley, welcomed over one hundred of his friends and family to his home to help him celebrate his 80th birthday in style! Over the course of his BIG day on 31 December the McKinley family played host to so many people who wanted to wish him a Very Happy Birthday!!

Sgt David McIlwaine QPM



Sergeant David McIlwaine has been recognised with a Queen's Police Medal (QPM) in the New Year's Honours List. David has over three decades of service and has been influential in enhancing relationships and building community confidence in policing. David was surprised and humbled to receive such recognition and can now look forward to a trip to visit Buckingham Palace with his family. Congratulations from Gillygooley and Trinity Church Members!!

contributions from members

Anyone from Trinity who has an item they would like included in the magazine should contact either:
Richard McClung Tel: 028 82245150 Email: trinitynews@knocksilla.plus.com or

Anne Parke Tel: 028 82242598 Email: anne.parke@btinternet.com

Anyone from Gillygooley who has an item they would like included in the magazine should contact:

Sandra Magee Mob No: 07990541966 Email: sandramagee1@yahoo.co.uk

Please include as much written detail as possible and send the **full original** photos in your articles!

Thank you to all who supply material or take photographs!

A colour version is also available on the Trinity Church website at www.trinitypresbyterianchurchomagh.co.uk

The deadline for submission of articles for the next edition, due out in June, is Monday 20th April 2020.

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Omagh: Registered Charity NIC105580

Gillygooley Presbyterian Church, Omagh: Registered Charity NIC105607