

FREE PRESBYTERIAN VISION

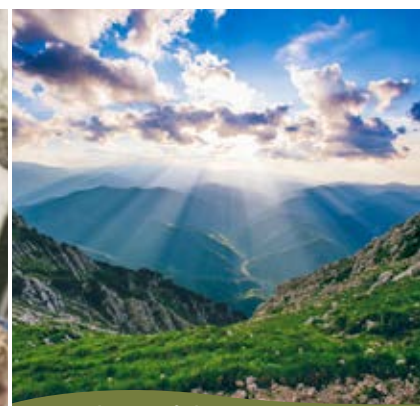


THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ULSTER

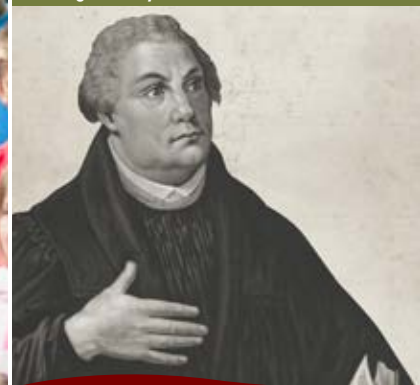


UNITED CHILDREN'S CAMP

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Seeing the Day of Christ



Reformation 500



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Ballymena: Golden Anniversary



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Editorial

Few readers will disagree with the observation that we live in the age of irreverence. A lack of seriousness and an unwillingness to show proper respect blight human conduct in well-nigh every realm of modern life. In the light of Paul's warning concerning "the last days" (2 Timothy 3:1-5), there can be no surprise that it is so.

The danger is that this spirit will infect the church. Truth be told, in many instances, the damage is done already. Take the matter of worship. True worship requires attitudes of adoration, reverence and solemnity. The Psalmist reminds us that 'God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him' (89:7). The New Testament bids us to 'serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear' (Hebrews 12:28) – where the Greek suggests that the writer has worship in mind, and indeed the word is so translated

elsewhere. Clearly, God is not honoured by flippancy, levity, carelessness and indifference in His presence.

J C Ryle is nothing if not forthright: 'People who call themselves Christians, and go to churches and chapels to stare about, whisper, fidget, yawn or sleep, but not to pray, praise, and listen, are not a whit better than the wicked Jews'. It requires little imagination to gauge what the good bishop would have made of mobile phones!

When we come to God's house, we come to worship Him in all the splendour, majesty and glory of His holy being, and we must come accordingly – sincerely, prayerfully, brooking no distraction, stilling our hearts so that when He speaks we will hear. He whom we worship is worthy of no less.

∴ Timothy Nelson, editor@fpvision.org

SEEING THE DAY OF CHRIST

"YOUR FATHER ABRAHAM REJOICED TO SEE MY DAY:
AND HE SAW IT AND WAS GLAD."

JOHN 8:56

WHILE
CHRIST LIVES
AND GOD'S LOVE IS
UNCHANGING AND HIS
COVENANT STANDS,
THE GROUND OF OUR
REJOICING IS ALWAYS
THERE.

Desires after Christ must surely fill believers' hearts with holy joy. Such yearnings as these never go unfulfilled.

Abraham, though he did not see the Messiah actually manifested in the flesh, had a sight of Him and His day that brought triumphant happiness to his heart.

The height of his desire is expressed in the words of Christ: 'Abraham rejoiced to see my day'. The word 'rejoiced' signifies an expectation so great that Abraham reached out and stretched himself forth to see. He did so because the desire in his heart was so strong. His heart leaped, he was exulted; in reality, overjoyed, as by faith he saw the day of Christ in the promises and types of the One presented to him in the revelation of God. In offering Isaac and then the ram in Isaac's place, he saw a type of the great sacrifice that would be offered in the fullness of time.

When the eternal Son of God, the glorious Immanuel was manifested in flesh, it was a day more glorious than when the foundations of the world were laid. His incarnation was for the purpose of our salvation and in fulfilment of the promise made to Abraham: 'In thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed' (Genesis 22:18). What joy that the glory of Heaven came down to earth and incarnate Deity manifested His glory through a veil of flesh to a world of sin and misery! Is this not a great and glorious thing done in the day of Christ?

Abraham's desire after Christ supposes a revelation of Him and of what was to be done in His day. It was a revelation not to the outward man but to his inward soul. He 'believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness' (Romans 4:3). He believed and he saw. Without faith, we too have no spiritual sight. Abraham believed and saw Christ's day afar off. Those of Abraham's spiritual seed today, are often not as clear sighted nor as sure footed. We read that 'he staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform' (Romans 4:20,21). We stagger so much, often at every step of faith! Yet must we not be desirous to see more of Christ? Then, just like Abraham, we will be glad. His joy was the fruit of his faith. In times of trouble and temptation we may fail to experience this holy joy. But while Christ lives and God's love is unchanging and His covenant stands, the ground of our rejoicing on which we stand by faith, is always there. Remember, the joy of faith is the most excellent of all. There is great gladness as we view His first coming and it becomes even greater as we contemplate His second coming. Fix your eyes on your coming King, for having borne the cross He is coming to wear the crown.

∴ Rev Leslie Curran, Associate Editor, is the Director of Let the Bible Speak radio ministry in N Ireland, and a regular preacher on its worldwide network of broadcasts.



WHITEFIELD COLLEGE GRADUATION & COMMENCEMENT SERVICE



The entire student body with the Principal

Tandragee hosted the 2016 Whitefield College Graduation and Commencement Service. Academic Committee Convener Rev A Smylie conducted the well-attended meeting, with contributions from Lecturers Revs Whiteside, Greer and Brown, and Mr N McElroy (Management Committee Convener). Principal Rev G Ferguson spoke of a successful college year, a wide range of summer outreach endeavours, and a healthy increase in numbers for 2016-17, before introducing graduates Stephen Miller and Julian Patterson. Both were commended for their diligence and were subsequently licensed by the Presbytery of Ulster. Moderator Rev T Murray delivered a timely message focusing on the value of God's Word and its importance in the life of the Christian.

An offering for College funds exceeded £1000. Supper was kindly provided by the ladies of the local congregation. We are indebted to Mrs Olive Russell who provided the photos.



Conveners:
Mr N McElroy (Management Committee)
& Rev A Smylie (Academic Committee)



New Students (left to right) Andrew Murray (Comber), Alejandro Bernabeu (Ballymoney), David Wilson (Clogher Valley), Bethany King (Magherafelt), Matthew Eccles (Portavogie), Andrew Foster (Comber), Raymond Morrow (Aughnacloy)



Graduates Stephen Miller & Julian Patterson with the Principal, Moderator and Clerk of Presbytery



Lecturers present at the service



Presbytery members gather for the licensing of Stephen Miller and Julian Patterson

GET READY FOR REFORMATION 500

The title above announced a special information rally organized recently by the Presbytery Reformation 500 Committee and held in Ballymena.

The programme included short addresses by Revs J Greer & I Brown on 'Justification' and 'Luther and the Primacy of Preaching' respectively. Rev D Brown outlined a project to produce a CD including

hymns by Luther, and the Moderator revealed plans for the commemoration in 2017. Various displays were in place and sample packs of literature made available to congregations. Committee Convener Rev R Johnstone pronounced the venture, attended by in excess of 300 people, a resounding success.

Watch for further details of events scheduled throughout next year.



CHURCH OF IRELAND SLIDE CONTINUES

A Free Presbyterian witness, conducted by Rev R Robinson (Government & Morals Committee), was convened outside St Anne's Cathedral on the afternoon of Sunday 25th September. Deputy Moderator Rev K Elliott preached the Gospel and affirmed Reformation principles as the Church of Ireland inducted Roman Catholic priest Edward O'Donnell to the role of Ecumenical Canon. The appointment allows the new Canon to preach occasionally in St Anne's. While there have been similar appointments to the cathedral chapters in Armagh and Dublin, O'Donnell is the first Roman Catholic to be chosen in Belfast. It has been evident for many years that the Church of Ireland has, for the most part, flouted Protestant principles, not least its own '39 Articles', and it

is incredible to think that any right-thinking Protestant can remain in fellowship with this errant body.

Meanwhile, Church of Ireland cleric Rev Alan McCann has declared that if the church's bishops "are turning a blind eye to sinful relationships amongst the clergy then they are failing in their vows as bishops" (News Letter, September 17). His comments were made in the wake of a colleague's assertion that this was exactly the position in the Church of Ireland, and that "same-sex relationships should be recognised and affirmed without qualification" (Ibid) – this despite the General Synod vote in 2012 upholding the traditional view of marriage.

All of this is in the aftermath of Anglican Bishop Nicholas Chamberlain

acknowledging his homosexuality and admitting that he was in a 'celibate' relationship. The Bishop's admission prompted the revelation that the Archbishop of Canterbury knew of the circumstances and that the incumbent's sexuality was "completely irrelevant to his office"! This appalling observation is but further indication, if it be needed, of how completely the Church of England has abandoned Bible teaching and willingly replaced it with the most perverted philosophy of the age. As "evil men and seducers... wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived", we must continue to affirm the timeless truth of God's Word, and to preach it "in season, out of season" (2 Timothy 3:13 – 4:2).

Editor

WHO WAS MARTIN LUTHER?

Martin Luther was born in Germany in 1483. His father was a mine manager who wanted his son to become a monk. Luther was a brilliant student and became a monk in 1505. He was a reformer who wanted to change the church. He was a man of great faith and courage. He was a man who stood for his beliefs. He was a man who was not afraid to speak his mind. He was a man who was not afraid to die for his faith.

I AM CONVINCED BY SCRIPTURE AND PLAIN REASON... MY CONSCIENCE IS CAPTIVE TO THE WORD OF GOD

MARTIN LUTHER TO 'HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR' CHARLES V, 18 APRIL 1521

LUTHER'S CONVERSION

LUTHER'S STRUGGLE: He attempted to make himself right with God by his good works. He was a monk who was trying to earn his way into heaven. He was a man who was not satisfied with his own good works. He was a man who was looking for something more. He was a man who was looking for God. He was a man who was looking for the truth. He was a man who was looking for the word of God.

THE DAY THE WORLD CHANGED

The Protestant Reformation brought light after the long Dark Ages. It changed the world. It changed the church. It changed the way we think. It changed the way we live. It changed the way we worship. It changed the way we relate to God. It changed the way we relate to each other. It changed the way we relate to the world. It changed the way we relate to everything.

MARTIN LUTHER'S INFLUENCE

Luther died in 1546 and was buried at the Castle Church in Wittenberg. Like every human, he had flaws – such as his attitude towards Jewish people. However, he was truly used by God to bring the Gospel of faith alone to Christ alone from the darkness of 'works righteousness'. Luther Reformation truly set the Reformation on its feet. His legacy lives on in the hearts of millions of people around the world.

LUTHER'S RELEVANCE TODAY

Even though we are 500 years on, we live in a time which is similar to Luther's. We are a people who are looking for something more. We are a people who are looking for the truth. We are a people who are looking for the word of God. We are a people who are looking for the light. We are a people who are looking for the life. We are a people who are looking for the hope. We are a people who are looking for the love. We are a people who are looking for the peace. We are a people who are looking for the joy. We are a people who are looking for the glory. We are a people who are looking for the kingdom of God.

HERE WE STILL STAND

THE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS UNBOWINGLY A PROTESTANT CHURCH. The term Protestant has been misused, misunderstood, and for other reasons, it has been used wrongly by some to label all non-Roman Catholics. Some evangelicals are reluctant to use the term and others, while claiming to be Protestants, have introduced a very serious Protestantism to the church.

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NEW MINISTER FOR PORTAVOGIE

Rev Samuel Murray has been installed as the new minister of the Portavogie congregation at a service conducted by Interim Moderator Rev A Smylie. Also participating were Revs J Hartin, P Hanna, R Johnstone and Mr C Maxwell. Moderator Rev T Murray preached powerfully and Mr S Beattie (Clerk of Session) welcomed the Murrays to Portavogie.



CORAGARRY SUNDAY SCHOOL



Coragarry Sunday School children successful in their annual examination are pictured on their Children's Day. Hannah Johnston, who completed the Child's Catechism, is shown with teacher Miss S Scott and Rev Power

New Contact Details

Rev J Morrow,
2 Crevenagh Park, Omagh, BT79 0ET. Tel. 028 8224 4519

RANDALSTOWN SUNDAY SCHOOL



Randalstown pupil Joel Ross, who recited the entire Shorter Catechism, with his teacher Mrs Vi Dawson and Sunday School Superintendent Jonathan Cahoon. Also Ben O'Hagan, Katie Ross and Isaac Cahoon, who recited the entire Child's Catechism, with teacher Lynne Rainey and Superintendent Jonathan Cahoon.

SANDOWN CAMP ANNIVERSARY



Sandown congregation has celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of its Summer Camp with a special service attended by many campers and workers, past and present, and many other visitors and parents of campers. Commenced by Bobby and the late Mrs Moore, it was then led by Paul and Jayne Kyle, and recently by Paul & Celia Roberts. Many young people have been reached

with the Gospel and many joined the congregation to mark this anniversary.

Presentations were made to Bobby Moore, Paul & Jayne Kyle and also to Miss Joyce Walsh who for 25 years has been the speaker. Many stories were retold, and happy memories relived. Rev Garth Wilson brought a closing word before supper was served to all present.



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Compiled by
Robert McConnell

The Lost Property Department

In the city of London there is a large warehouse that belongs to the London Public Transport System. But everything found inside that building belongs to someone else – it's the main storehouse for all the property left behind by people travelling on the trains and buses.

There you will find thousands of lost keys, umbrellas, phones and handbags. There are some very strange and unusual items as well, such as a large inflatable dinosaur, some wooden legs, various musical instruments and a stringed puppet! In Luke 15 there is another "Lost Property Department".

Firstly, there was a **lost sheep**. This sheep didn't come back down to the fold after grazing in the meadow. It went the wrong way and headed out into the mountains. Now although sheep are foolish animals, I'm sure this one had a sense of its lost condition. Yet being unable to get back to the safety of the fold it simply wandered further and further away. Maybe, that's how it is with you. Lost in sin, each day takes you further away from God.

Then there was the **lost silver**. It had been lost somewhere in the house, but, being a coin, it had no sense of its loss. So there it lay in the dirt, untroubled and unconcerned with regards to its whereabouts. Perhaps this coin is a picture of you. You are totally unmoved about the fact that you are lost in the filth and dirt of sin. Notice also that this coin was lost in a place normally associated with safety, that being the home. This reminds me that just because a person comes from a Christian home or goes to a good church, two very safe places, still they can be just as lost in their sins.

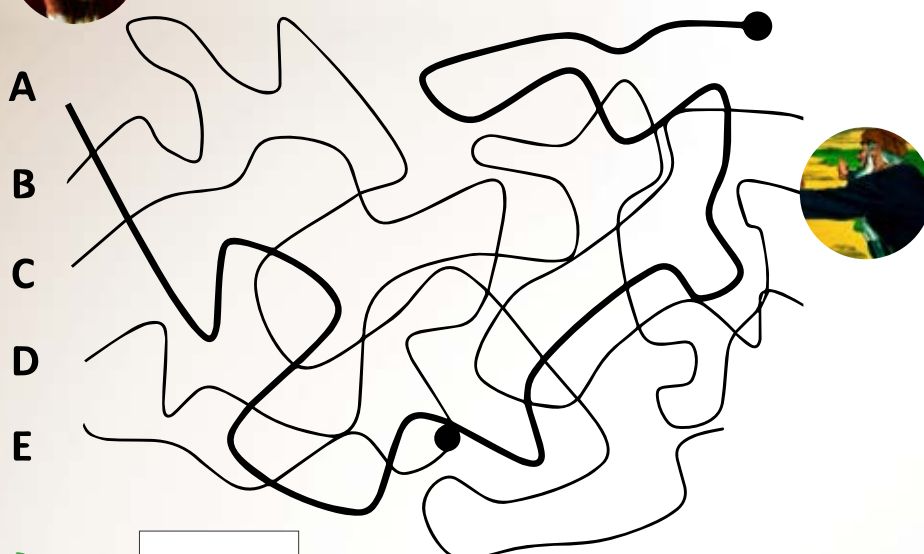
Lastly, there was the **lost son**. Through his own foolishness he found himself lost and undone in a far away land, with the memories of a better life and a loving father to add to his sorrows. Those loving memories drew him back home, where he was immediately forgiven and restored. What a wonderful picture this is of the sinner coming to God the Father and being forgiven. A success story! In fact all three were success stories because all three things were found. What about you? Is your life a success story? Have you been found and rescued from your lost sinful condition yet?



"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."
Luke 19:10



Quiz: Carefully follow the lines down below. Which one will lead the lost son back to his father?



Answer:

Images sources from "Free Bible Images.com"

PRIZES!

Are you 12 or under? Send your answer, name, address and church to:

Rev. Stephen Pollock
Email: answer@fpvision.org
15 Fernagreevagh Road, Loughgall,
Armagh, BT61 8PN

£5 WINNERS LAST TIME:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| » Ethan Brown (Gifford) | » Emily Cuthbertson (Clogher Valley) |
| » Amy McClung (Clogher Valley) | » Emelia Kerrigan (Castlederg) |
| » Julia Moore (Enniskillen) | » Mary Diekey (Newtownards) |
| » Emma Cunningham (Tandragee) | » Leah Graham (Lisburn Ind Meth Church) |



EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T WIN THIS TIME, PLEASE KEEP TRYING – MAYBE NEXT TIME!

YOUTH FOCUS

Compiled by Dr Stephen Pollock

WALK OR CRIK?

The Bible teaches that no sinner can be saved due to his best efforts at pleasing God. We are saved 'not of works' lest any of us would be tempted to boast. (See Ephesians 2:8+9, Romans 3:30) The very best of our good deeds are tainted with imperfections in motive, effort and performance. Our works cannot undo the guilt of sin any more than a murderer could hope to have his sentence quashed because he cleared the town of litter for no payment! Good works do not contribute merit unto our salvation.

Yet the Word states that all who are saved produce good works. God has created His redeemed unto good works (Ephesians 2:10). James' words are searching: "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works." (James 2:18) We have been considering conversion in recent issues. Faith and repentance are always found together. Saving faith is shown to be real in a life of works, and repentance is a turning

from evil works unto a life of good works. Hence our works are considered in God's final judgement (See Romans 2:5-9, Revelation 20:12). Our works don't *earn* salvation but they do provide *evidence* of salvation.

OUR WORKS DON'T EARN SALVATION BUT THEY DO PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF SALVATION.

The redeemed love Christ by grace and out of love for Him, love to serve Him in worship and witness. They love the lost with the compassion of Christ and seek to win them to Christ. They love the saved as they see Christ formed in them. Thus by grace it is their delight to serve one another.

Such service is a service for Christ. The sheep are noted in judgement for their works. Those works are as unto Christ: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matthew 25:40) The professing Christian who does not love to serve others has a deficiency in his love to Christ and may well not know saving faith in Christ. Don't rest in spiritual selfishness, deceived by the false doctrine that says works don't really matter.

FROM THE OLD TO THE YOUNG

Those that receive the righteousness of Christ are also sanctified by Him... 'Whoever is in Christ is a new creature.' So that obedience is not the condition of justification but the evidence... Faith justifieth and obedience approveth...

- Thomas Manton, The Epistle of James, comments on 2:24



SUMMER YOUTH COUNCIL STORIES



KENYA

Matthew Thompson's account is found in the Missionary Vision pages. I highlight it here because he pointed out one benefit of young people being involved in outreach teams – first-hand experience of the challenges of missionary life, so enhancing the burden and the content of his private prayers.

As a denomination we are blessed to have young people willing and able to serve and support our ministers and missionaries. They are gaining experience in the Lord's work, its blessings and challenges, whilst being stirred to pray. Rev Harris closed the meeting with ministry from Matthew

SEPTEMBER RALLY

The annual Youth Council Rally was held on Friday 16th September in the Martyrs' Memorial church, shared this year with the Mission Board as reports were given by young people involved in outreach and mission teams over the summer.

Our young people are growing up in times where sin is on every hand. The temptations faced in the world and through the internet are vast and subtle and dangerous. Older believers rightly fear that when iniquity abounds, the love of our young people for Christ will wax cold. While that is true for many, there are signs that God, as He does, is being pleased to preserve a remnant unto Himself. I felt it would be for the good of the church to take this opportunity to record testimonies from and about our young people as they seek to walk with God and witness for the Saviour. May their example stir others out of coldness!

9:35-38. As Chairman of the Mission Board he was ideally placed to challenge all present that labourers are wanted for the harvest field. He pointed out that 'untold millions are still untold', exhorting the hearers to pray and to go wherever the Lord would lead.

GARDENSTOWN

Stephen Nelson reported on the outreach team that worked in Gardenstown, Scotland under the direction of Rev Dennison and Mr Jonathan Smith. They sought to encourage the work there by taking part in the Sabbath Services, door-to-door work, meetings in the open air, and a service in a nursing home. What was striking from Stephen's report was his insight into a vital aspect of Christian work: the blessing that is ours when we serve God in unity with our brethren (Psalm 133:1). The church in Gardenstown has seen some early fruit from the labours of the young people. Our labours are never in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58).



MADRID OUTREACH



This summer ten young people from across Northern Ireland formed the Youth Council outreach team to Alcorcon, Madrid led by the Rev David Brown. Each day started with devotions, led by Rev Brown, encouraging us in the work for that day and reminding us of the need, purpose and aim of global evangelisation.

During the weekday mornings we had the opportunity to hold a children's club in the church. We saw the children's enthusiasm as they learned the choruses and the memory verses and listened so well to the Bible stories. In the evenings we went out into the streets to give out a gospel tract, written by one of the members from the church. This was a truly encouraging experience as it saw over 4000 gospel leaflets distributed. We were also encouraged by spending time with the young people of the church. We know that the presence of God was truly with us on this trip and that the work which was carried out there was for the furtherance of His kingdom.

"Look unto me, and be ye saved all the ends of the earth"
Isaiah 45: 22

✚ Jill Lockhart (Aughnacloy)

YOUTH COUNCIL CAMP



When you are asked to lead a camp of forty young people aged 12-17, what do you expect? Late nights? Practical jokes? Fizzy drinks and laughter? Young people stumbling to the breakfast table rubbing their eyes with one hand and covering a yawn with the other? It sounds like your typical fun camp!

But what about young people who get dressed and ready for a voluntary prayer meeting before breakfast? What about young people who then pray in those meetings with a holy reverence for the glory of God showing they really know and love the One to whom they speak? What about young people who are willing to speak and sing praises to their Saviour in testimony and song? Do you expect such maturity from 12-17 year olds? While all of the former was present on the Camp – rightly so – yet it was the highlight of the camp for me to see the latter amongst many of our young people.

The LORD has blessed our denomination and I am encouraged! Let us pray for them, for as Daniel 11:32 tells us, "The people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits".

✚ Rev Paul Foster (Camp Leader)

CALLING ALL STUDENTS

You will, by now, be settled back into the routines of term life – late nights, lie-ins and the occasional lecture and assignment. Stereotypes are shameful! However, have you been involved in the Lord's work on campus? Have you met and fellowshiped with other students? Presbytery has appointed chaplains who offer pastoral support for all our students.

Rev Paul Foster is assigned to the students in Queen's and Stranmillis Universities. The Tyndale church hosts meetings on alternate Wednesdays where young people studying and living in Belfast can gather for fellowship and

teaching from the Word of God. Many students have been greatly blessed through these meetings, receiving not only encouragement while at university, but making life-long friendships and discovering a greater love for the Lord. Meetings this November are on the 9th and 23rd with a special Table Quiz and Supper being held on 7 Dec 2016.

In Ulster University, Coleraine, Rev Roger Higginson has been running a short Bible study/fellowship time on Wednesday afternoons every 2 or 3 weeks. He can also be found in the university chaplain's office every Thursday afternoon. He would also

encourage students to avail of the fellowship on offer at the Coleraine church Bible study and prayer meeting on a Tuesday evening.

Rev Stephen McCrea would likewise encourage students of Ulster University, Belfast & Jordanstown to benefit from the weekly prayer meeting in Carrickfergus. He also hosts a short Bible Study with the students in Jordanstown every 3rd Tuesday of the month (Room 1D05 at 4:15pm).

Rev Jonathan Creane is also available to help and encourage students attending University of Ulster, Magee.

YOUTH COUNCIL EVENTS

DELEGATES MEETING

Monday 21st November Sandown FPC, 8.00pm
including Election of President and Area representatives

MISSIONARY WEEKEND

18th - 20th November, 2016. Cost: £65.
Murlough House, Dundrum
Missionaries taking part: Revs R Hall, P Gardiner, Miss Joy Gillespie, Mr Andrew Foster and others.
Booking forms from www.fpcyouth.org

CASTLEWELLAN

Advance notice:
Fri 28th April – Mon 1st May 2017

YOUTH COUNCIL CAMP

Shannaghmore Outdoor Education Centre
31st July – 4th Aug 2017, Age: 12-18, Cost: £155
See Youth Council Website for application forms. £40 deposit required to secure a place.

A WORD TO WOMEN

'THERE BE FOUR THINGS WHICH ARE LITTLE UPON THE EARTH, BUT THEY ARE EXCEEDING WISE: THE ANTS ARE A PEOPLE NOT STRONG, YET THEY PREPARE THEIR MEAT IN THE SUMMER.'

(PROVERBS 30:24-25)

We may not like ants but they are amazing little creatures. There are thousands of different species and they are found in almost every country of the world. Ours are small and relatively harmless, but in warmer climates ants can be much larger and a threat to agriculture and even buildings. Mankind has studied ants since early times. Perhaps there are still lessons to be learned.

In Proverbs, the ant is described as "little" and "not strong". While this seems a negative description yet the ant accomplishes much – it can build great anthills. As Christians we should realise our own littleness and lack of strength. The question is asked in 1 Corinthians 4:7, "For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?" We owe everything to God. It is the Lord who gave us life and salvation and "who daily loadeth us with benefits." (Psalm 68:19) In His infinite wisdom, the Lord selects insignificant people to work for Him. "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty" (1 Corinthians 1:27). It may seem contradictory, but the Christian's weakness is his strength (2 Corinthians 12:10).

The ants are described as "a people" in Proverbs. The thought here is that ants work together as a group. "The ants appear to operate as a unified entity, collectively working together to support the colony" (Wikipedia). Could any better description be given of what we as Christians should be in our local church? Within a colony there are different types of ants: workers, soldiers, and queens,

for example. The success of the colony relies on the ants working together. Young ants are often employed in the nest whilst older ants go out on more dangerous missions. If one group of ants appears more successful in collecting food then it continues to occupy that role while the less successful group is given a different role. The church is made up of differing individuals, with varying temperaments and gifts, who need to work together in harmony so that the Lord's name is glorified. In Proverbs 6:7 the ant is said to have, "no guide, overseer or ruler", yet it works and provides food for the colony. In the church we are blessed with elders and deacons who work under the headship of Christ to guide and oversee His work. Likening the church to a living body, comprised of many parts, Paul exhorts that, "There should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another." (1 Corinthians 12:25)

The ant is described as being "exceeding wise" or as the margin renders it, "made wise". Wisdom is given by the Lord. An example of its wisdom is the preparation of meat (food) in summer. If we are going to be with the Lord in heaven we must prepare on earth by repenting and believing the gospel. To be victorious in our Christian warfare we must prepare by putting on the whole armour of God (Ephesians 6:11). In our Christian service we lay up treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:20), looking forward to the day when we go to be with the Lord, knowing that the Lord Jesus has gone before to prepare a place for us (John 14:2).

¶ **Olive Maxwell** lived and worked for over twenty years in the city of Cork. She and husband Colin continue to serve with the Mission Board focusing primarily on the Republic of Ireland.

CONGREGATION CALL: BANGOR



THE BANGOR CONGREGATION HAS RECENTLY CELEBRATED ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY. A SPECIAL WEEK OF GOSPEL MEETINGS WAS HELD WITH PREACHERS, REVS WILLIAM MCDERMOTT, DAVID CREANE, GRAHAM MIDDLETON AND DR IAN BROWN.

Bangor Church developed out of a burden in the hearts of families attached to the Martyrs' Memorial Congregation. There was a longing for a separatist testimony in the seaside town. The first steps were taken on 17th February 1976 at a meeting chaired by the Rev Harry Cairns, then minister of Portavogie church. Such was the vision of those present that an outreach work was immediately formed. Prayer meetings were held in various homes and after six months it was decided to hire the local Orange Hall for Sunday afternoon meetings. There were thirty-six people present at the first service on 5th September 1976. Before the year was

out a five acre site on the Clandeboye Road was offered to Dr Ian Paisley. The sale price was £15,000, a staggering amount for the fledgling congregation to raise. However, within one year the necessary funds were raised and a building programme was planned.

Meanwhile God gave the increase and this necessitated a move from the Orange Hall to Hamilton House, a local council building. Regular services and a Sunday School commenced on 2nd October 1977. Work began in January 1980 to provide a permanent meeting house. After much voluntary labour the building was opened by the Moderator, Dr Paisley on 6th June 1981.

A significant milestone was reached in February 1982 when Presbytery placed Mr W R McDermott as a student minister. He was later ordained on 1st November 1983 and for the next sixteen years he faithfully preached the Gospel and earnestly contended for the faith.

After a vacancy of eighteen months Rev David Priestley, formerly minister in Clogher Valley, was installed as the second minister on 31st March 2000.

The vision to reach our community with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ has not diminished over the years. Today our Sunday School and Bible Club reach many children each



week, September to June. The Youth Fellowship seeks to nurture and encourage young adults in their walk with God. The evangelistic thrust of the congregation has been channelled into many Gospel Missions, some held in Orange Halls in villages around Bangor. Also our weekly door to door visitation programme systematically distributes Gospel tracts, some 10,000 per year. A copy of John's Gospel has been placed in every home in the town. In the summer time short open-air meetings are held locally in an effort to bring the glorious Gospel to others. "Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season." (2 Timothy 4:2)

The vision for the lost is not only parochial, it is international. Paul could say of the believers in Thessalonica: "From you sounded out the word of the Lord." The same is true of our congregation. Our young people have taken the Gospel to the Mainland, Poland, Spain, Kenya, China, Canada and USA. Two of our foundation members, Rev and Mrs Wesley Graham, have been serving the Lord in Nepal since April 2010. God has wonderfully blessed and multitudes have been brought to saving faith in Jesus Christ and over one hundred congregations have been established.

Another important part of the life of the congregation is our Independent Christian School which has its own

purpose built accommodation adjacent to the church property. John Knox said, "Every church should have a Christian school. Seeing that God hath determined that His church here on earth shall be taught not by angels, but by men, it is necessary to be most careful in the virtuous education and Godly upbringing of the youth of this realm." Parents persuaded about the necessity of Bible based education led to the commencement of Bangor Independent Christian School on 2nd September 1985. The thirtieth anniversary was celebrated this time last year. BICS offers a safe environment for children from pre-school to year 12 in this day of ecumenism, evolution, humanism and immorality in the state system.

Under the able guidance of the Principal, Mrs Ruth Daly BA, the pupils learn not only academic subjects but also invaluable lessons for life from the greatest text book of all, God's Holy

Word. A high proportion of students have gone on to leading universities at home and on the mainland. Others have won national awards. The 2016 GCSE students had 100% success with their results in the A - C range.

Sunbeams, our Pre-School group began in 2006 and has grown in popularity over recent years. Operating four mornings a week the children sing the choruses with gusto and listen intently to each Bible story.

We are fully persuaded that the work of the Christian School is vital today and we can truly raise our Ebenezer and say, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

To mark forty years the congregation has embarked upon a major building project, which has already extended the school building and provided new car parking facilities. Phase 2 is a legacy project to construct a new church building and related facilities. To God be the glory, great things He hath done!

David Browne





BRISTOL

RECENT BLESSINGS – AND A REAL BURDEN

In 2011 Presbytery Licentiate Maurice McCaughey was placed in Bristol for a 5-year term. After a review of the work, it is the Commission's intention to continue sustaining his position for another term. At the June Presbytery meeting a decision was taken to ordain Mr McCaughey. That will take place early in 2017 – details to be announced soon.

Bristol has a core population of 500,000, rising to one million within a 25 mile radius. The city is fast becoming a reflection of London. The ethnic mix, the high costs of property and, sadly, the godlessness, all combine to underscore this. A recent survey pronounced Bristol the third most godless city in the UK – a sad verdict on a place so profoundly affected by the great evangelical awakening of the late 1700's and the preaching of Whitefield, Wesley and others.

The Free Presbyterian fellowship still meets in the little church building on Ramsey Road (the street names in the immediate area are all named after locations in the Isle of Man!) When Mr McCaughey arrived with his wife and four children there were about

10 people in attendance. Now there are towards 30, sometimes more, and of course the McCaughey family have an additional child! Maurice is thankful for the faithful band of people who contribute to the work by their commitment and support.

Services are conducted morning and evening each Lord's Day, and a prayer meeting held each Wednesday evening. Each month a church publication entitled "The Messenger" is distributed around the local area, reaching about one thousand homes. This often produces conversations: pray that it will bear fruit. People occasionally visit as a result of reading the leaflet.

Recently there have been little encouragements. A few young people have begun to attend who are studying or working in Bristol. Some live in the vicinity of the church, which has been an answer to prayers offered. A visit to a local nursing home is arranged monthly, with varying numbers, but a faithful core who attend regularly and are very interested in the Gospel. It is also an opportunity to witness to staff members.

Maurice asks that you continue to pray for him in the work. Pray specifically, that the saints would be built up in their faith, and that the lost would be converted.



FINANCIAL NEEDS



WOULD A CHURCH CONSIDER GIFTING TOWARDS THIS MINISTRY?

WOULD YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL CONSIDER COVENANTING?

The income of the Bristol church has managed to rise to just over £30,000 last year and is being sustained. But the cost of housing is a great drain on resources. An average semi-detached home will cost over £300,000 to buy. The church is left in a situation where it must rent property. This amounts to £15,000 per annum. Therefore 50% of the income is absorbed in housing costs. The church has been able to give £5,000 per year over the past five years towards Mr McCaughey's salary. The remainder has been shared

between the UK 20p Fund and monies raised through a series of deputation meetings Mr McCaughey held prior to going to Bristol. Apart from covenant support those funds have now been exhausted. The UK Fund is greatly stretched and rules set by Presbytery mean only 30% of a salary can be met through this means.

We are therefore making an appeal for support for the work in Bristol.

The commission estimates that about £8,500 per year or a little over £700

per month is needed for the next term. Would a church consider gifting towards this ministry over a five year term? Would you as an individual consider covenanting over this period an amount each month? No matter how little the gift, when many join, it grows. Many tributaries are only little creeks but when they all flow to the same river they form the Mississippi!

For information on how this can be done please contact Mr George McConnell, Treasurer of the UK Fund (Tel No 028 4176 5574).

OULTON BROAD

Rev Kyle Paisley has completed 25 years in Oulton Broad. His ministry there began in 1991. He is the first Free Presbyterian minister to reach this milestone on the mainland and the Mainland Commission offers him sincere congratulations and prays that he will know the Lord's blessing as he continues his labours in the East Anglian town.

20P FUND

Please remember this scheme in your giving. Look out for the 20p box in your church. If it is not thereask! This scheme currently supports the salaries of four brethren on the mainland and is vital to their continued ministry. Treasurers are asked to forward monies as soon as practically possible to: **UK Fund**, Mr George McConnell, 4 Carginagh Rd, Kilkeel BT34 4NE. (028 4176 5574).

You may also send individual gifts directly to the UK Fund and nominate where you wish the gift to be used.

BALLYMENA GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

On Friday evening 9th September a special service was convened in the J. Kyle Paisley Memorial Free Presbyterian Church, Ballymena, in celebration of the congregation's fiftieth anniversary. It was on the 4th of November 1966 that the church was constituted by the General Presbytery. At that same service, Rev James Beggs was licensed to preach the gospel. He was ordained two years later when his studies were complete.

The foundation members of the Ballymena church had been part of the Gospel Tabernacle. That congregation had been pastored for over thirty years by the late Rev James Kyle Paisley.

During the anniversary service, plaques were presented to the remaining foundation members. Gifts were also presented to Rev and Mrs Beggs and to Rev and Mrs Greer. A special book of photographs, which traces the history of the church, was launched during the course of the meeting. Taking part were Revs Beggs and Greer and the church's Men's Choir. The evening closed with a time of fellowship and refreshments.



SUMMER IN KENYA



Eric and Mona Graham and Matthew Thompson (Lisburn), Rev David and Mrs Roberta McMillan (Armagh), Grace and Sarah Porter (Markethill), Anna Priestly (Bangor), James Dane (Crosgar), Andrew Houston (Ballymena) and Stephen and Naomi Kyle (Mourne) left for Kenya early on Thursday 7th July. Our goal was to assist the missionaries and get a flavour of missionary life.

We were involved in many aspects of the work: Sunday school with Gillian Gillespie at Nyaporo, prayer meetings with Gillian and Kathy in both the Nyaporo Church and Kakamega shopping centre, evangelism around Embogat, West Pokot, with some young people from Bible Christian Faith Church. Maintenance of Kathy Walker's house was undertaken – much to her delight. Kathy also took us to the bookshop which is stocked

with excellent literature. Noreen McAfee and Margaret Russell brought us to the BCFC Christian School in Lityei where we organised a children's meeting for younger pupils.

Witnessing the work first-hand gives fresh perspective on the challenges faced by our missionaries. You cannot fail to be impacted by a mission trip! God has called every Christian to be a missionary (Mark 16:15) – not all in foreign lands, but you can be a missionary in your work place, at school and in your local church. We are called to be active Christians not idle Christians. *"Sing unto the LORD, all the earth; shew forth from day to day his salvation. Declare his glory among the heathen; his marvellous works among all nations."* (1 Chronicles 16:23-24)

✠ Matthew Thompson





SUMMER DOWN UNDER

With help from Lisburn Congregation and the Mission Board, Matthew Higgins, from the Perth Congregation who has just completed his first year in the Whitefield College, was able to return to Australia for a summer of outreach. Matthew writes...

After arriving home on the farm, I travelled down to Kingston, Tasmania and spent 11 days there, preaching twice on both Sundays and taking the midweek Bible Study. The congregation has seen growth with two new families attending regularly. I then drove to the Eyre Peninsula and preached one Sunday each in Port Lincoln and Lock, and during the week preached at the Cleve mission. The young people in Lock are active for the Lord, and both churches were very encouraging. I continued to travel west, driving across the Nullarbor to Perth, my home church. The first weekend, the Rev Gardiner and I shared the preaching at a mission in Yangebup (about an hour south of the church). A few weeks later we had a Youth weekend, at which I preached. 16 attended, and the young people really responded to the messages. The next weekend, we held a mission in the church, with visitors coming in each night. The Lord truly blessed the entire trip. Please continue to pray for the Lord's work 'Down Under'.

UNITED CHILDREN'S CAMP

We are thankful to the Lord for the blessings enjoyed at the Mission Board United Children's Camp in Newcastle during the first week of August. We are thankful for the Board's support as we minister to the children of our congregations in this manner.

This third year of camp we had a mixture of 'old' and 'new' campers. Some children have attended all three! Activities included climbing, abseiling, canoeing and Camp Olympics, and a very enjoyable visit from Aunt Sandra's Chocolate Factory. The Word of God was central - with morning and evening devotions conducted in small groups. It was so encouraging to hear children praying publicly to the Lord with simple faith. We had a daily missionary meeting focussing on Corrie ten Boom; and a second meeting where we studied various Bible passages using the theme 'One Way.' We give thanks to God for the children and their excellent behaviour, the workers for their dedication, the parents for their confidence in allowing their children to come to camp and, most of all, to our Saviour for the Gospel that we have to teach boys and girls, and for His hand upon us throughout another camp.

Rev Ryan McKee (Camp Director)



30 YEARS FAITHFUL SERVICE IN SPAIN

In September 1986 Lyle and Heather Boyd left for the land of Spain. For three years they lived in Fuenlabrada, 8 kms from Mostoles where the Hannas lived. During language study, they helped with young people's work and eventually Lyle preached once a month. They also travelled 200 miles south to Beas de Segura in Jaén, where Lyle preached in a small Spanish church. When the pastor, Juan Bascuñana, invited Lyle to go there, the Lord spoke to him through Acts 8:26 "Arise and go toward the south." Juan moved to Mallorca just two weeks after the Boyds arrived in Beas.

Originally, the church met in an old house in Beas de Segura, but eventually a site was purchased in Cortijos Nuevos, 15 miles away. This was more central for the attendees who were scattered

throughout the mountain villages. With the help of the Lord and the generosity of His people, a church was built. A Celebration Dinner was held in Tandragee on Saturday 24th September to mark 30 years of faithful missionary service. Representatives from the Mission Board, Missionary Council, Presbytery, our various churches and family members attended. Correspondence was read from Rev John Hanna on behalf of the Spanish missionaries, commending the Boyds for their example and faithfulness.

Lyle and Heather were members of Mourne and Lurgan churches respectively prior to their call to Spain. Revs Patterson and Creane brought greetings on behalf of these congregations. Dr Elliott, Deputy

Moderator, spoke on behalf of Presbytery and Rev Harris brought a word of encouragement from the Mission Board. Presentations were made on behalf of the Mission Board and the Missionary Council by Mr McConnell and Mr Dummigan, and Rev Park, Heather's brother, presented a plaque from the family, marking 30 years of faithful service. Matthew spoke on behalf of the Boyd children.

Rev Boyd responded, thanking everyone for their prayers and support, and rejoicing in the Lord's goodness which has enabled him to continue until this day. Please continue to pray for the Boyds as they labour in a land of spiritual darkness and superstition.

Rev D Park

CALLED TO UGANDA

Visiting Uganda in August for the first time I had the opportunity to work as part of a small team at Emmanuel Christian School. Each building now has a working light in every room. It was great to work with the older boys and to build friendships with them.

I have been working and studying with New Tribes Mission for 4 out of the last 5 years. When God closed that door, it meant seeking His face afresh for direction. Only one avenue was laid on my heart: our own Mission Board. I am glad for the Lord's leading as well as the experience and knowledge gained with NTM. Why this path the Lord only knows, but His thoughts and ways are higher than ours. So I willingly go one step

at a time in His plan for His glory. Mission Board has accepted me as a missionary candidate for Uganda. A year's further study beckons in the Whitefield College, with concurrent deputation meetings.

I look forward to helping with the practical side of things in Uganda. Having built missionary houses, a guest house and a medical clinic with NTM in some of the remotest parts of the world, being part of the work in Emmanuel Christian School is an exciting prospect. I look forward to helping mentor the young people and to be part of the daily school work, or in whatever way the Lord seeks to use me.

Andrew Foster



MISSION BOARD DETAILS	Office: Mr George McConnell, 3 Carrigenagh Road, Kilkeel, BT34 4NE, NI T. 44 (0) 28 4176 5574 E. gmckilkeel@aol.com	Chairman: Rev Ian Harris, 23a Moneydaragh Road, Annalong, BT34 4TY T. 028 4376 8040 E. ian.harris960@btinternet.com	Secretary: Rev David Park, 55 Market Street, Ballymoney, BT53 6ED T. 028 2766 2039 E. hebronfpc@btconnect.com
	Website www.fpcmission.org		



DATES FOR THE DIARY

NOVEMBER

**1st-2nd RASHARKIN
COMMUNITY CENTRE,
ANSWER TO ADDICTIONS**

Time: Tue & Wed, 8.00pm,
Speakers: Mr C Killen & others

**6th-20th BALLYMAGERNEY,
GOSPEL MISSION**

Time: Sunday, 3.30pm
Mon – Fri, 8.00pm

Speaker: Dr S Pollock
Rev D Stewart

**13th-27th KILLYLEAGH ORANGE HALL,
GOSPEL MISSION**

Time: Sunday, 7.00pm
Mon – Fri, 8.00pm

Speaker: Rev G Dane

**14th-25th BALLYMACONNELLY
ORANGE HALL,
GOSPEL MISSION**

Time: Mon – Fri, 8.00pm

Speakers: Revs Kenny, Martin,
Higginson, Fitzsimons
& McMillan

NOVEMBER

**23rd-25th PORTGLENONE,
MINISTRY MEETINGS**

Time: Wed – Fri, 8.00pm
Speaker: Dr S Pollock
Themes: Depression, Anxiety,
and Loneliness

**25th+27th AGHALEE,
CREATION WEEKEND**

Time: Friday, 8.00pm,
Sunday, 11.30am & 6.30pm
Speaker: Rev I Brown

MARCH 2017

**3rd-5th ANNALONG,
LADIES RESIDENTIAL
WEEKEND**

Venue: Lodge Hotel, Coleraine
Speakers: Mrs A Stewart,
Mrs V Dawson
Details: Mrs L Harris,
028 437 68040



UNITED CHILDREN'S CAMP 2017

**HUMPHREY'S AT RATHMORE, LARNE
31ST JULY – 4TH AUGUST 2017**

- Ages 8-12, Cost £120 inclusive, Limited Places
- Various Activities & Visits
- Application Details, www.fpcmission.org
- Send to: Rev Harris, 23a Moneydarragh Road, Annalong, BT34 4TY