

# The Light

Issue 191: Dec 2010

## Fashion Fix?

Dromore as you've never seen them before...  
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## Journey to Bethlehem...

Rev Brian Anderson on the journeys we'll take this Christmas

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Broomhedge  
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# Editor's Letter

## December 2010

We are all so used to travelling by car, booking our hotel over the internet and eating at one of the many food outlets on the way that we have little sense of how difficult it would have been for Mary and Joseph, the wise men, or even the Shepherds, to make their way to Bethlehem (perhaps it wasn't so hard for the angels). Following a star is all very well, but it can still lead you through hostile territory to a destination that is not quite where you expected it to be! This issue of *The Light* tells the stories of some who have travelled far to put their faith into action, and others who have done so much closer to home and in very practical ways!

I have to confess though, that it was not the stories from Africa or Fallfest that reduced me to tears, it was the thought of Shirley Carrington compering a Fashion Show (tears of laughter, of course). I'm sorry I was not there for the occasion, but well done to Dromore for a great night by all accounts.

While this issue does not feature a Kids' page we will in future issues feature the Children's organisations of our circuit.

With best wishes for this Advent and Christmas season,



Lindsay Easson, Editor

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If you have articles or images for the next edition of 'The Light' please send them to the address above or give them to your church representative by Sunday 8th January 2011.

Front Cover – Have you worked out where it is?  
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## Around the circuit

### Computer Classes



It's all Joan Clarke's fault! A passing comment about running a Computer Class for a certain age group was given. Little did Joan know that the next week I would be in a meeting where "FITni" told of the computer courses they could provide for Churches. After conversation with Billy McClean from FITni it was agreed that we could arrange a course if we could get 16 people. We got around 50 requests but thanks to Billy's flexible approach we have been able to arrange 3 courses. The "students" are now engaged in a 10 week introductory course which leads to a 25 week more intense course. So each class brings embarrassment, laughter, delight and surprises as these "silver surfers" find their way round their computers.

### An invitation from the Seymour Street Luncheon Club

Are you over 60? Do you want to make friends, have some fellowship and a good dinner for £3. Then why not come to the Seymour Street Luncheon Club on the first and thurs Wednesday of each Month. Lunch is served at 12.30pm in Seymour Street Church Hall. You and your friends would be most welcome. Transport can be arranged if required

## Carol Singing for the Hospice

Why don't you give your support to the NI Hospice by joining our group singing carols at a number of shopping centres. Last year nearly £1500 was raised, but more is need this year as the Hospice is having to close beds in both the adult and the Children's Hospice due to lack of funds. The venues are Tuesday 14th December, Sainsburys Forest Side; 15th Bow Street Mall; 20th M&S Sprucefield; 22nd Sainsburys Sprucefield. All at 6.45 pm. Contact Irene Maitland 92678483 for further details, or just come along!

## Introducing Alan and Margaret McIlhenny (In conversation with the Editor)



### Going back to the start...

Alan started his teaching career at Inst and met Margaret at one of the Methodist Missionary Summer Schools, the forerunners of the Castlewellan Holiday Week. A daughter of the manse, Margaret, along with her sisters Daphne, Muriel & Ruth, have all served in Christian work in Asia and Zambia (Daphne is now a minister of the Methodist Church in Ireland stationed in West Cork). The McIlhennys spent 6 years in the Seychelles, where Margaret taught English and Alan Maths, he was also organist at St Paul's Cathedral!

In 1982 they offered to serve with the MMSI and received a very clear call to Nepal where Alan trained maths teachers in the university for 4 years. However, seeing the need among missionary families, Alan initiated a new secondary school where the children of missionaries from all over the world were educated to the requirements of their home curricula. Margaret's part was to set up the library, and teach English and French.

On returning from Nepal in 1992 Alan again taught maths for a number of years before accepting the post of Tearfund Director for Ireland which he held from 1995 to 2002. When Alan and Margaret set up their home in Lisburn they joined the newly formed Trinity Methodist Church and they have played a very active role in its life. Their daughter Lisa is an optometrist now living in Cheltenham and Stephen, their son, is working in Burundi with the Anglican church to develop an outdoor pursuits centre for the disabled and those maimed in the recent Genocide.

### During a visit to Africa when Director of Tearfund for Ireland, Alan realised that the greatest need in Africa was for access to education.

Therefore, in 2002, when Christian Schools International (ACSI) offered him the opportunity to develop teaching materials and work with local groups to educate street children in South Africa he jumped at the chance. With the Support of the Methodist Missionary Society (Ireland) (MMSI) this has now developed into Open Schools Worldwide of which Alan is International Director, working not just in South Africa but also the Philippines, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

## School in a bag...

Margaret McIlhenny

### Here's an equation to ponder...

**1 radio +  
1 volunteer +  
1 dusty piece of land  
= 40 changed lives**

What about multiplying it by 1,000 or 10,000! That's what is happening in Africa. Open Schools Worldwide has now formed a partnership with Trans World Radio which will enable many more marginalised children to be given the opportunity to read and write. An Open School is a place for marginalised children who have missed out on a basic education. They may have been abandoned, trafficked, orphaned, abused or impoverished, and so they've missed out on basic literacy, numeracy and life skills training. Open Schools Worldwide exists to give them what they never had; an education. All it takes is a committed trained volunteer who loves working with children to facilitate a learning session – anywhere, anytime.



Alan (MMSI mission partner and founder of Open Schools Worldwide) and I have just returned from a 2 month trip to South Africa working with the Open Schools Team there. We saw groups of vulnerable children being taught by our volunteers in many different places: in shacks, schools classrooms, church halls, on rubbish dumps, under a tree..... In Hammanskraal we saw what one volunteer is doing with the little she has. Maria is doing a lot!

Her contribution is changing the lives of 40 children just by using a dusty piece of ground next to her corrugated iron shack. The 40 children are split into their different age groups and come to the Open School at 3.30 on their scheduled days. Then Maria takes them through a series of lessons, activities and the Bible story for the day, using our specially designed workbooks. The purpose? To enable older children to reach the level to enter school for the first time or to get back into school.



A young American visitor with us that day reflected, "My biggest impression was just, "Wow!" This woman has nothing, yet she's investing her life into these children so that they can have a better future. It's incredible!" Maria isn't making excuses, about the recession or her lack of a university education; she's just getting stuck in and making a difference with what time and resources she has.

Now thanks to our partnership with TWR, at an Open School, a volunteer tutor and the children can gather around a radio or a windup MP3 player, and go through our specially developed literacy and numeracy workbooks and listen to our Bible-based dramas teaching life skills. The advantage of the radio is that there is a common pronunciation for all the children, the lessons can be taught to a consistently high standard, and we can recruit and train many more tutors. So on the dangerous streets of the cities, in dusty shanty towns or in remote or isolated areas, many marginalised children will no longer be denied the hope that comes with education and the opportunity to hear the Gospel.

For more information visit [www.oswww.org](http://www.oswww.org)

# Journeying towards Bethlehem...



## Have you noticed how many journeys are involved in the Christmas story?

There is the journey of Mary to Elizabeth to share her good news, the Wise Men's journey is a powerful symbol of the world's search for an answer to unresolved problems. Then Joseph and Mary and their journey to Bethlehem, a place of promise, back to the past, one could almost say back to certainly his roots. Then the shepherds and their journey to Bethlehem, into the unknown following the spectacular. After the birth of Jesus we have the Wise Men's escape under cover with the element of fear, which echoes in the last journey of Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus escaping as refugees to Egypt.

One of the common features of these journeys is they travel into the unknown, in some the destination and in others the outcome is to be revealed. Our Circuit, in conjunction with Ballynahinch and the Newcastle collection of Churches, is exploring a journey into the unknown. We have been given permission to explore a journey into Collaborative Ministry. It is a task to find a new model of how Ministerial and Lay people can work closer together in this geographical area representing Churches of different sizes and backgrounds. While we see Ministers working closer together, sharing their gifts across present circuit boundaries, what this collaboration will formally look like we do not know but our attitude is to discover God's plan on the journey.

**"A child's simple attitude of excitement is a joy to be around."**

Then there is the journey of the heart. Christmas takes us back to our childhood, to Christmases as they used to be. As I get older I crave the unbridled excitement that children and young people have at Christmas. The excitement in a child's eyes with the magic of the Christmas story lifts me beyond the tragedies and sufferings of today's world, a world

where we forget about each other, a world in which people are neglected.

Wouldn't it be a contrast if we were not annoyed that there is Christmas music playing in the stores in November, that we enjoyed the hustle and bustle of your town centre rather than seeing it as a chore, that we looked forward to writing our Christmas Cards and that we really did welcome all those guests who are going to call. In other words, that we had a lovely attitude of gratitude that we have all these opportunities to bring love around us at Christmas. I know many of those things don't reflect the true meaning of Christmas, but are we not people who take things as they are and by the Grace of God in us transform them.

**"There is too much bah Humbug! and not enough Joy to the World."**

So as we journey into Advent, some of it known, some of it unknown, may the Methodist Community be recognised as those who do so with a smile on their face and excitement in their eyes, looking forward to the busyness of this Season, remembering that Jesus Christ was born for us & our salvation. May we arrive at our journey's end this Christmas having enjoyed Advent, caught up in wonder and worship and as we travel with the people of the Christmas Story to whatever lies ahead.

Rev Brian Anderson



# Is there a place for Christ in our Christmas?

by Janine Mayes

As I write this, Christmas still seems a relatively far off prospect, but by the time you read this we will be in the midst of the hectic and pressurised season we have created for ourselves.

**"When all the trappings are stripped away, the truth of Christmas is the birth of a baby in simple humble surroundings, which would change the history of the world."**

We get caught up in the perfect tree and decorations, the lovely meal with all the trimmings, having a "perfect" day. However for many Christmas is the loneliest and most difficult time of the year. Where is Christ in our Christmas? What is our focus? What do our celebrations say about our attitude to Christ and His part in our lives?

I love to decorate the house for Christmas, but I don't want the décor and food to become what it's all about.

We have a number of traditions in our family at Christmas, but probably my favourite is when we as a family light our "Christmas Pyramid" which was a gift my parents brought home from Austria. It is a wooden carved nativity with candles and rotates when the candles are lit. Our son prefers to call it the "Jesus Helicopter"! Each Sunday of December we light a candle and sing a few Christmas carols as a family, and finally on Christmas Eve all the candles are lit, and we sing some more. It gives us a few moments amid the craziness to focus on Christ and to remember others who may be struggling.

What does Christmas mean to you?  
Do you make room for Christ at Christmas?



You can find Janine on Facebook JanMary Janine Mayes or read her blog at [www.janmary.com](http://www.janmary.com).

# Priesthill

...in my experience, by Jamie Watson

Our Church has existed for over two centuries. It first opened on the 1st April 1786 before moving to the site we know today, which opened on Christmas Eve 1885. Over time our church has grown to the expansive site we now have, with the Vestry and Outreach Hall being the newest assets. Along with the main church, hall and back field, all are used throughout the church life, with groups such as the BB, GB, MWI, Friendship Lunch, Parent and Toddlers to name but a few.



**There is always something happening, giving the Church a real vitality, centered in Christ.**

Through these groups, strong connections and friendships are built among the church community, across both young and old, age never being a dividing factor. As a result I have found the youth have always been supported. I have been at Priesthill longer than I can remember, and through each stage of my life I have received support, teaching and valued guidance, from Sunday school right up to a bible study group where we have been able to form lasting friendships.

Priesthill has a history of faithful prayer leading to spiritual revival. Today, the numerous activities provide a great potential for the future. I have found that

Priesthill cares for all ages and groups. Being too old for Bible Class a group of us, all in our early 20's, have started meeting with friends to share in fellowship in an informal open way using the Outreach Hall were we can chat and follow the gospel openly. These meetings have helped me learn more about my faith and helped me to become more open, strengthening and developing my relationship with God.

There is a strong focus on reaching out into the greater community and welcoming all. You could walk through our doors and it would be like returning home, greeted with a smile and instantly welcomed into the church. The Outreach Centre and the Youth Club play a vital part in this, both led with a real passion to reach out to people who do not yet know God, and help them find a relationship with their Creator. We also help out across

the waters, in Tanzania, where we provide aid and have helped to build a church.

Sunday services include the best of both traditional and contemporary worship. The music can consist of anything from piano, organ and drums, to including a flute and a cajon, and this along with spiritual teaching from our minister, Colin Gracy, and the other Circuit ministers, make for a fresh service week in and week out.

I am sure that through our faith the church will continue to grow, reaching out to the wider community and building stronger connections and friendships. The Church is not just the mere building. It is God's people experiencing God's power through prayer, worship and following His guidance. There is great hope for the future, as with Him all things are possible!

## What we really need for Christmas?

I am really looking forward to Christmas this year as it's our daughter Joy's first and it will bring us so much happiness to help her open up her presents and visit family and friends.

Now that Santa will have a new child to deliver his gifts to it is time I told a secret which I have carried with a heavy heart since I was 6 years old - and it involves Santa.

My twin brother and I visited family friends and the boy our age had a drum kit. We had so much fun that I wanted one for Christmas, so I prayed for one. I could not stop thinking about it so I wrote a letter to Santa and posted it, and just in case I wrote another letter and put it in the fire to go up the chimney to Santa.

That Christmas Eve I sat up watching out the window for Santa's sleigh with Rudolph but I got sleepy and I went to bed. The next morning I ran downstairs to play the drums only to discover a blue bicycle!! Well, I felt like crying. Soon it was all Santa's fault, and some other child had stolen my present. As time went on I realised what a great gift a bicycle was and that Santa had actually brought the gift that was best suited to me.

This story reminds me that everyone is looking for a special present at Christmas but how many of us don't accept the present that our Heavenly Father sent us on that first Christmas morn, his Son Jesus Christ. Can you imagine how upset Santa or your family or friends would be if you don't accept the gifts they give this Christmas. In the same way our Heavenly Father longs for you to give your life to him and accept the wonderful gift of Salvation that He offers.

**We need to remember not to use prayer as a wish list, but thank God for the blessings He has given us.**

Instead of wishing for more gifts this Christmas why not thank God for the blessings that you have in your life that money can't buy, and remember that God will always provide us with all our needs, and He knows best.

Chris Dillon

### Luke 12v22-31

*Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"*

*"Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well."*



# FALL-FEST

an alternative celebration  
for all the family...

Faced with the question, "Dad – can we go trick or treating?" what would you say? For some it is maybe viewed as innocent fun – something they did as children! For others it is a no-go zone, on the fringes of this pagan festival. With its roots in America, I attended a Fallfest event in a Belfast church and was blown away by how we as the Christian church could take the Halloween festival and turn it on its head!

Pumped, I texted Brian our minister, described the event and in a moment of madness typed, 'If you'll let us run a Fallfest in Seymour Street – I'll head it up!' (I made this offer in the knowledge that I was part of a very gifted team of Shell Club leaders who could bring this dream to reality!)



On reflection it is amazing to think back at where God was planning to go with the event and I certainly couldn't have written the script. On 31st October 2009, as a Church Family we ran a free family event for our local community! The event was a success in two clear ways. Firstly our halls were filled with families many of whom were unconnected with the church and secondly the sense of accomplishment among our church members in pulling off such an event laid foundation for a January Fun Day and a summer 'Refresh' programme – both of which were aimed at reaching the community.

A year later our enthusiasm had grown and as a congregation we embarked on Fallfest 2010. Almost 400 children and adults wandered through



our church halls during the two hour period, many dressed in fancy dress and enjoyed a free family fun evening!

Parents as well as children came in fancy dress with painted faces and many brought pumpkins which were adjudicated for the best carvings. Tinkerbell came through the doors alongside Frankenstein and Count Dracula! A Tin-man daddy, covered in silver paint arrived and someone commented that it was a good job it was not raining outside!

**398 buns were eaten!  
Over 200 goodie bags  
were handed out and  
250 bags of popcorn!!**

Inside the hall an energetic all-age army of 50 helpers from the congregation were meeting and greeting and providing various programmes and shows. In the main hall there was a bouncy castle, badge making, bean bags throws, crazy golf, free family portraits and our own live band on stage bringing many of the 80s and 90s classics back to life. Fancy dress competitions were being judged in the main hall and some were heard commenting, 'We don't know where to go first?' A real hit on the night was TACT who brought live animals to be

shown and petted including a barn owl, an eagle owl from Norway, a young fox, and a ferret.



The church was showing that Halloween doesn't have to be scary to be fun. The whole evening was free. Many from the locality around our church came and felt at home as they met their neighbours and church members. Some had attended last year and came back this year with friends and family. There was no preaching but a simple copy of the Pumpkin Prayer bookmark was placed in the goodie bags. It was an expression of pre-evangelism and friendship evangelism.

**We have no doubt that people who came felt that they were included in a church where friendships are made and we pray that one day all will experience the friendship of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**



Was it a lot of work? Yes – but as the saying goes, 'Many hands makes light work!' Was it worthwhile? Yes – ask those both inside and outside our church! Will we do it again? If the man from de manse says yes then you can count me in! As a church our aim is to know Christ and to make him known and at Fallfest 2010, God's people in Seymour Street rose to the challenge, stepped out in faith and were once again blown away as God did immeasurably more than all we had asked or imagined. Does it beat trick or treating...from my childhood memories of knocking doors on a cold autumn night for Black Jacks and Fruit Salad sweets – there is no comparison.

Is this something other churches could consider? Absolutely - and if we can help by sharing our experiences in any way – give us a call.

*Stephen Gray*



# The First Children's Hospital in Uganda

## A Life Long Project

Sylvia Gallagher  
Magheragal Methodist Church

On Tuesday 19th May 2009, Eleanor Hayes, Former Health Service Director was discussing her trip to Mbarara, Uganda with me, I casually enquired if I would be of any help, and she excitedly assured me that I would be. By June 20th, after a whirlwind of vaccinations, booking flights, organising training for the staff and gifts for the children- I was on my way to Entebbe.

### The Facts

In Uganda, 1 child in 7 dies before the age of 5. The Mbarara District has a population of 268,323. Each year approximately 13,000 of this population under the age of 5 die, the leading cause is malaria. Thousands more aged 6-12 die from malaria, respiratory infection, dysentery and other treatable diseases.



### The Hospital

When the first child received treatment at the new Holy Innocent Children's Hospital (HICH), Mbarara, in July 2009 it was the realisation of a long held and carefully nurtured dream. It is a collaborative project between the Arch Dioceses of Mbarara, Uganda and the founding members in San Diego, United States. The hospital opened with the assistance of a team of volunteers from Northern Ireland who have continued their involvement through fund raising and working along side the staff in Holy Innocents Children's hospital. This is the first children's hospital to be built in Uganda

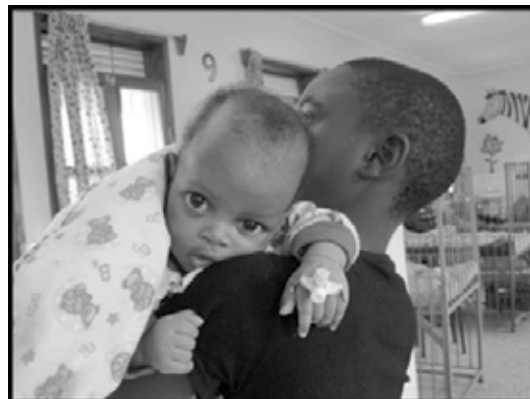
with 60 inpatient cots/beds and urgent care/review outpatient facility. The mission is to develop a regional referral hospital specialising in paediatric care for children from birth to twelve years old.



### The Experience

Eleanor, her son John, his friend James and I had the "Herculean" task of preparing the hospital for use and ensuring it opened on time! So we cleaned and re-cleaned and re-cleaned!

The furniture and equipment was in storage off site - some distance away. We explained our problem to Father Bonaventure who provided us with a Toyota four wheel drive for 4 days. I drove the vehicle back and forth along dirt roads trying to avoid huge pot-holes until everything that was



required was safely transported to the hospital. We furnished the rooms with curtains, positioned beds and lockers, made up beds and set up the nurses' stations, the tasks were endless! In the evenings we prepared job descriptions, training manuals, colour coded notices (translated into their own language). A few days before the hospital was due to open staff began to arrive - we really appreciated their help.

Patricia O'Callaghan a retired health service director travelled to Uganda on June 28th 2009 to open the newly built children's hospital. Accreditation was obtained within an unprecedented six months. Already over 20,000 patients have been treated with less than 1/2 % mortality rate.

### The Memories

As I stood at the top of the hill gazing down at the hospital through the lush vegetation of banana trees and crops I took a deep sigh of satisfaction. There were goats grazing and I was thrilled to see a couple of crested cranes (the national emblem of Uganda) just wandering along. As scraggy cattle with huge horns were being driven home by herdsmen the silence was broken by loud reggae music from a lorry passing along the road.

I continued my journey to the dirt road at the top of the hill where children were returning from a long day at school - it was 6.30 pm! Many of these children have no parents as they have died from Aids or other diseases. All their heads were shaved, all had big brown eyes and some were barefooted - they were giggling at this "masouka" (white person) in the theatre greens!!

These are some of my cherished memories of Uganda. The Ugandan people are warm, strong and resilient.

### The Story Continues...

The hospital continues to be funded entirely from donations from the United States and Northern Ireland. A team of volunteers from NI are involved in fundraising, working alongside local staff in the hospital.

Last summer due to the over whelming generosity of our church members, friends and family we raised funds to install a hospital hot water system and piped oxygen. This is the only hospital

in the region with these facilities. In addition, by making contacts with former health service colleagues a container of medical equipment and other items was gathered and sent to Uganda. In February I travelled to Uganda to oversee the distribution of the contents, complete hygiene audits and train support staff. Another container of medical equipment including an ambulance was shipped on the 8th of October 2010.

We have organised a sale in Trinity Methodist Church to raise much needed funds. The committee are also organising a Gala Ball in February in Belfast City Hall. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the children of Mbarara to thank the Circuit, family and friends for their continued support and generosity.



**When initially becoming involved in this project, I assumed it would last a number of weeks, but this amazing experience has led me to believe that this is..... a life-long project!**

# From the registers...

## Seymour Street:

### BAPTISMS

Isaac David, son of Neil and Nicki Rollins  
Lexi Erin, daughter of Aaron and Gillian McMullan

### WEDDING

Darren James Porter and Linda Margaret Crawford

### DEATHS

Mr Fred Jackson  
Mrs Jackie Belshaw  
Mr Jack Evans  
Mr Michael Quinn  
Miss Winnie Buchana

## Dromore:

### DEATH

Eileen Agnew

## Trinity:

### BAPTISM

Joshua Ryan Hagen-Wills, son of Ryan and Fiona.

# About the Seymour Street Wall

## Isobel Law

Users of Seymour Street car park will have noticed that recently it has been resurfaced and also extended by the inclusion of what was the manse garden. Just over twenty years ago the garden was separated from the car park by a wooden fence but during the Rev Dr Hedley Plunkett's term of office the fence had suffered the ravages of wind and become unfit for purpose. Stanley Orr was asked if he could suggest a substitute. The ever-resourceful Stanley was willing to help in whatever way he could, and after proper consultations he mustered up a band of men (some retired and some not), who came together during the year 1990 to build a sturdy wall, using six-inch concrete blocks. This wall had to be demolished recently to incorporate the church garden which is a much-needed addition to the car park. Understandably this situation has aroused in Stanley feelings of sadness and nostalgia. He is the only member of the squad left as the builders are all deceased. He recalls Alec Hanna who was a bricklayer and who, along with Billy Bennett, Jim McCrea, Bob Malone, Alec Acheson and Griffith Black played their part in the manual work.

Amongst those who acted in an advisory capacity were the architect Sydney McCready and estate agent Trevor Ferguson. The young John Maze and Stanley were responsible for clearing away trees in readiness, and valuable help was given by Drew



Mr Stanley Orr

Maze, whilst Jim Wills carried out the important work of plastering the wall. Stanley recalls that Rev Edmund Mawhinney's son David, who was living in the manse, loved to come out after school and help the builders. The wall was finished with a

terracotta colouring and was a good job. Stanley tells of how he would be out and about early, getting the cement mixer going, and work would commence at nine o'clock. His wife Kathleen came across to the site at 10.30 am and 3.00 pm with refreshments of sandwiches and hot tea, and at the blast of a whistle work would be suspended for the breaks and for return to work. Occasionally Billy Bennett would go to a local ice cream shop and they all would "down tools" again. Altogether the building of the wall was a jolly time for all concerned. Stanley has abiding memories of the lovely blooms of sweet peas and roses in the manse garden - grown by Mrs Margaret Best.

# Dromore Strikes a Pose

**"Members of Dromore church like you've never seen them before!"**

That would be one way to describe the glamorous models who strode down the cat-walk at Dromore High School on October 23rd.

It was an evening of fun and high (street) fashion and those in the audience were in for a treat as clothes for all-ages and for males and females were paraded before their eyes. The outfits were kindly supplied by Donaghy's, Internacionale, M & Co., McColl's, Okaidi, Reflections and Vogue. All occasions were catered for to cover glamorous parties, business suits and casual fashion. As for those Radley handbags....!

Mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, took their turn down the runway and the pre-show nerves didn't show under the glare of spotlights and camera flashes. The commentary was supplied by Shirley Carrington whose humour and sense of fun showed her to be a "natural"!

**The grand finale was the "wedding" where all were treated to the spectacle of a bridal party complete with blushing bride and even more blushing groom!**

As with any such fund-raiser, there had been many people working "behind the scenes" to organise the clothes, the refreshments and the publicity as well as set-up the hall that morning. However, the hard work paid off and the comments made as people left the building reflected that it had been a "good night out". To date around £1,200 has been raised for the New Hall building fund and there is still money coming in.



# WINTER NIGHT

youth | events, study and culture.

## INTRO

As I write this now, we can see the build up to Christmas has begun with the Christmas market arriving, shop windows littered with an array of Christmas offers, people scurrying around in a buying frenzy and of course the bitter cold of the Northern Irish winter. The cold weather we can not forget but the true meaning to Christmas, we can. It often becomes dissolved in this frenzy of consumerism and preparation of our own Christmas celebrations, of course it is easy for us to forget the true meaning with so many things to prepare! But let this not be the case, do not become polluted by the commercialism that overpowers Christmas in today's society instead remember the true meaning, the gift of our Saviour Jesus Christ 2010 years ago.

Have a good one!  
Jamie x

## AUTUMN SOUL & ME

If my bed had not deflated I would have had a great time at Autumn Soul! I went along to have a good time with my friends from Seymour Street, and to enjoy the activities, but I have to say that the speaker, Patrick Regan gave well thought through talks which were challenging, and gave my Christian faith a real boost. He works with young people in London through the organisation XLP and his theme 'The Inconvenient Truth' was about how we should be ready to inconvenience ourselves for God. He talked about the everyday issues that young Christians face today.

Of course food was important – I enjoyed the lunches and the opportunity to go out and buy a Chinese! Other activities I took part in were playing some badminton (always fun) and a Prayer Walk round Bangor. Although I don't really like singing I though the praise was great with proper praise songs rather than boring hymns really well led by the Band.

In spite of having to sleep on a much harder bed than expected I did manage about 9 hours sleep in total. I would encourage young people to go – it was a good bant!

Jack Easson

## LESSON

# 04

Key Verse: Isaiah 9:2

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined. – Isaiah 9:2

Before the birth of Christ the world lay in darkness. Isaiah 59:9-11 describes it this way: "Justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows.

Like the blind we grope along the wall, feeling our way like men without eyes. At midday we stumble as if it were twilight; among the strong, we are like the dead.

We all growl like bears; we moan mournfully like doves. We look for justice, but find none, for deliverance, but it is far away."

But when Christ was born a great light was shined in the darkness.

Jesus said in John 8:12 "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." Whoever calls to Christ will have the darkness of their sin removed and replaced by the light of His righteousness.

This Christmas we give thanks because God has not left us alone in the deep shadows. Through Christ we receive the light of His salvation, guidance and love.

