

The Light

Issue 192: March 2011

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Magheragall's lay-
witness weekend**
Find out inside

Pyjama Party

**Bringing a new
meaning to your
'Sunday Best'!**

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Editor's Letter

Serving others...

If there is a theme which runs through this issue of The Light it is 'being a servant'. When Jesus chose to wash the disciples' feet he made it clear that when it comes to service it is our actions that tell the story and not our words. And that is true of those mentioned here who lead our Youth Clubs, work with the Belfast Central Mission, raise money for vital charities and clean our halls. But it is also true of the President of the Methodist Church who travels far and near to serve the wider interests of the church, to be there when it matters, and represent the voice of church in the community.

Janine reminds us in her column not to take essentials like water for granted - and the same applies to our spiritual life. The Magheragall Lay Witness weekend has refreshed their spirit, and the visit of the Methodist College musicians refreshed the soul. Seymour Street and Trinity have appointed Prayer Ministry teams, and special series of Bible teaching events have been planned.

I hope that you too find this issue of the Light refreshing. Even if you don't class yourself in the category of 'young people' take time to look at the Insight page too - there's some good stuff on it!



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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 15th May 2011.

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Around and About

Prayer Ministry Team dedicated at Seymour Street

A new form of Prayer Ministry has been initiated at Seymour Street with the training and appointment of a team of 14 members who will be available to visit and pray with those who would like to receive prayer. The team was dedicated at the morning service on 6th February. They will also be available during communion services to pray with those who wish to share their prayer needs and spend a few minutes with a team member. Requests for home visits should be made through the Rev Brian Anderson, Shirley Carrington whose contact details are opposite, or the Rev Winston Good.

The Rev Winston Good has taken the leadership in developing the prayer ministry in Seymour Street and a series of training events for members of the team were organised by the Connectional Training & Development Officer, Louise Wilson.

A prayer Ministry team has also been trained at Trinity and they are available to pray with those who wish support in this way at the end of the service on the last Sunday of each month.



Some members of the Seymour Street Prayer Ministry Team after the Service of Dedication.

Trinity Bible Schools in 2011

With Biblefresh in mind three Bible Schools are being held in Trinity during 2011. During March Desi Maxwell led a series entitled 'A Friend in High Places' on Jesus in the New Testament. The second series with Rev Donald Ker on "Shocking Stories from the Parables" is on Thursdays 5 May to 26 May, and finally Rev Heather Morris will lead a series "John Wesley: Relevant for today?" on Thursdays 10 November to 1 December.

The Light is now available online...

on the new Seymour Street Website. You can read this quarter's issue online, or view previous versions.

seymourstreet.org

Castlewellan Holiday Week

The increasingly popular Castlewellan Holiday Week is being held from 30 July - 6 August 2011. This is Christian, family, holiday, faith-centred event for all ages. Early booking is advised. The theme this year is "Sharper than a two-edged sword" with speakers David and Mairisine Stanfield from Ballynahinch and Dot Tyler. Full details and booking information can be found at castlewellanholidayweek.org

Seymour St Website

A completely redesigned and revamped website for Seymour Street was launched on Sunday 6th March. The site has some fantastic new features including the ability to listen back to sermons and see this and past issues of 'The Light' magazine



www.seymourstreet.org

2011 Methodist Conference in Down District

This year's Conference is taking place at Movilla Abbey, Newtownards, from 9th to 13th June. A District Choir is being formed under the leadership of Richard Wright from Seymour St who can be contacted by those willing to join the choir, 90826905.

PYJAMA DAY AT TRINITY

Sarah Crawford

On Sunday 17th October 2010 there was a strange version of "Sunday Best" as several members of the Trinity congregation attended the morning service dressed in their pyjamas.

My name is Sarah Crawford, and I am a member of Trinity Methodist Church in Lisburn. I came up with the idea as I wanted to raise funds for the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society in Northern Ireland, and after seeking permission from Rev Ed McDade it was full steam ahead. My dad (Alan) is one of the 4,000 sufferers of MS in Northern Ireland and he was the inspiration behind my novel idea.

The MS Society is close to my heart, but I did not want to do anything extravagant like shaving my head or jumping off the Empire State Building as my Mum, Julie, would kill me. So I came up with the idea of wearing my PJ's to church! I was touched by the number of the congregation who turned out in their nightwear to support me including the Praise Group of which I am a member, and Ed, our Minsiter, who caused a stir as he stood in the pulpit in his night shirt and night cap.

To date I have raised £653 for the work of the MS Society all of which has been donated by the congregation at Trinity, my family and my friends.



Sarah Crawford, centre, with her parents, Rev Ed McDade and Tom Mallon of the MS Society.

Chocolate Fondue Party

The promise of an evening of indulgence attracted about 60 ladies to a Chocolate Fondue Party at Seymour Street.



Following from the popularity of a similar evening held during the 'There's More' programme in 2010 the evening was an opportunity to welcome along friends who have contact with the Church through our various organisations. Heather Morris, Director of Ministry at Edgehill College was special guest for the evening.



Rev Heather Morris with Shirley Carrington at the Chocolate Fondue.

Trinity Car Boot sales

are being held on Saturdays 7 May, 4 June, 2 July and 6 August. 10 am to 12 noon each day. Details from Church office 9260 5335 (Mon - Fri 10am - 1pm)

My Year as President

... of the Methodist Church in Ireland

The Rev Donald Ker talks with the editor...

What was the most encouraging or exciting development you found in the life of the church?

I have to say that I enjoyed the whole year, and found many things to encourage – most of all the way in which, despite all distractions, there are many in our churches who are faithfully living up to their calling as disciples of Jesus. I was particularly encouraged by the lead offered by our young people in 24/7 prayer and the passion they have for Jesus. The other great encouragement was to see so many churches living not just for themselves but for others, by reaching out into the community to show Christian care.

Who was the most remarkable person you met during the course of your year?

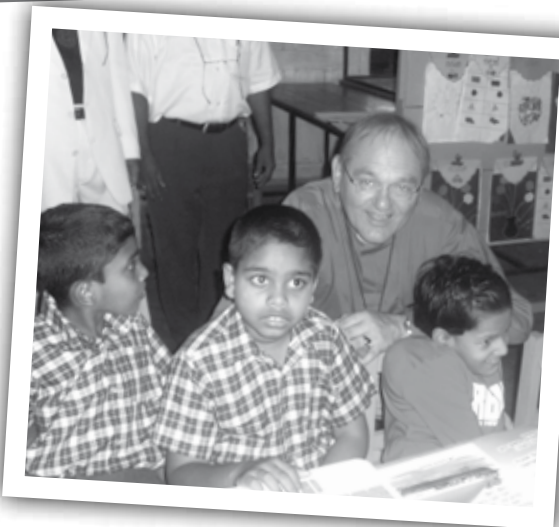
That's a hard one! We met many remarkable people. There were ministers and lay leaders with passion and vision in all parts of Ireland. Our local politicians and councilors are often seeking to serve the community in ways that are easily overlooked. Maybe pride of place should go to Mrs. Daisy McBride, from Derry. I was invited to her hundredth birthday party, and shared in conversation with her over lunch. She was bright and interested in all the world around her.

What made you laugh the most?

A somewhat rueful laugh when it became clear, on a dark Saturday night in November on the Fermanagh border, that Methodist Presidents do not have the power to part flood waters. I smile now at the thought of Sandra and myself rolling up trouser legs to push our defunct car out of the flood. We weren't smiling quite so much at the time!

Did the opportunity to visit the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka give you a different perspective on the Methodist Church here?

We enjoyed our Sri Lanka visit, although it was tough work. The Sri Lankan church is working hard to be a reconciling influence in a country where people are still divided from each other.



Rev Donald Ker with children in Sri Lanka, at a Church project for children with special needs.

They have difficult problems to face as they care for those who have been refugees, those who still feel oppressed by the government and those who are rebuilding their lives after the Boxing Day Tsunami of a few years ago. They do not have much in the way of money, and we were shown a number of projects which they hoped we might be able to help. But in the midst of all these difficulties they were planting churches and taking courageous steps to share the Gospel of Christ. Sandra and I particularly recall the time we spent with a young minister who had been placed in a difficult circuit but was fizzing with ideas of how the Gospel could be shared and the love of Christ made known. So the perspective we gained on Ireland was of how privileged we are, how many resources we have despite current financial pressures, and how as a church we need to learn more about being passionate for Jesus.

What challenges did you find the Church is finding it most difficult to face up to?

It's clear that many people here in Ireland are very distanced from the Church. They do not really understand what Christian faith is about. They don't know the story of Jesus, and have no idea why we do what we do when we come together to worship or to pray...

(Continued over...)

My Year as President

... Interview with Rev Donald Ker

(Continued...)

I think the most difficult challenge for us is to explore ways of making Christian faith mean something to people who just don't get it. And this will mean initiatives beyond the doors of our church buildings. Most of all we need to show that we are a community that cares for people and seeks to serve. The media story line throughout last year centred on how Christian Churches (not Methodist, I'm glad to say) had hurt their people. We need to demonstrate much more clearly that we are for healing, not hurting, and that we understand human need.



The President in Waterford Methodist Church, illustrating the international nature of Irish Methodism.

What opportunities did you find that you think the Church should now be grasping?

We are a very fortunate Church. We have great resources both in our buildings and in our people, and we benefit from a heritage in which we are held in high esteem as a caring and reconciling people. So I would want to encourage every church to undergo the sort of thinking that a 'Clearing our Vision' programme would help us with, and then move on to think about how we can best serve the community that God has placed us in. During my year as President I opened a number of Church Halls, including the new hall in Dromore. I have a strong desire that as a Church we would use our premises, which have been given us by God, to find ways of serving the community and telling the story of Jesus.

What did you find that the Methodist Church is doing right – and that it should do more of?

Historically Methodism grew because of the quality of its lay leadership. We say in our Constitution that lay people and ordained have equal spiritual value and therefore share together in the leadership of the Church. If the Church is going to undertake new ventures of faith and explore new forms of Christian witness it will be because our lay members are leading the way. So I think we could do more in thinking through how to encourage lay leadership and enthuse people in taking risks to share Jesus in fresh ways.

What moment will you treasure most?

Not so much a moment, more an ongoing experience. The prayers and support of God's people in many places, but particularly here in Lisburn, have been very special. I've learned afresh that prayer really does make a difference. The service of Installation in Dublin in 2009 was for me scary and thrilling all at the same time (including the sense of relief when you get to the end of the inaugural address without mishap!), but I was aware during that service of God giving strength which I knew wasn't mine. Those divine reserves carried me more than once, but they were tied up with the prayers of God's people. So Sandra and I want to say 'thank you' to all in Seymour Street and the wider Circuit. We have treasured your love and care over the past year, and now we are glad to be back home with you.



The President at Donaghadee Methodist Church, with (left to right) Brian Douglas, Rev Ruth Craig, Mrs Sandra Ker and Joe Wright

The Music Society of Methodist College Belfast visits Seymour St

Article by Barbara Black

On a wet blustery February evening, Seymour Street Church was full to capacity for a Musical Evening performed by the Music Society of Methodist College, Belfast. The evening was organised by Seymour Street MWI to raise much needed funds for Mission Aviation Fellowship and the President of the MWI, Heather Guest, welcomed Kirsty Hrabousky of the MAF to the event.

The music included a variety of challenging pieces with demanding technical elements and all beautifully executed. Two of the Methody Choirs participated: - Methodist College Girls Choir and Methodist College Chapel Choir. The Girls Choir consists of 64 singers aged 14-18 years of age and they appear regularly on local and national radio and television. The girls are selected after competitive audition and rehearse three times a week. Both choirs had toured to the United States in 2010.



Award winning choirs from Methodist College.

The Chapel Choir concentrates mainly on liturgical music and has established a strong reputation through frequent radio and television broadcasts. Recently the Choir had the great privilege of travelling to New York, where they sang in the Carnegie Hall in the premiere of Karl Jenkins' Gloria. The Chapel Choir travel and sing in many Cathedrals all over the UK and Ireland.

The first pieces sung by the Chapel Choir and conducted by Ruth McCartney (musical director) were "Be Thou My Vision" and "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" by John Rutter. The melodies filled every corner of the church

and were sung with assurance and beauty of tone. The enjoyment of singing from the choir shone out to the audience, captivating them in the wonderful words and harmonies of the composer.



Heather Guest thanks the Methodist College Musicians.

Liam Crangle then played J S Bachs 'Fugue on The Magnificat'. This difficult tuneful Fugue on Organ, built to a wonderful crescendo towards the end and must have blown every cobweb that may have been lurking in the Organ pipes away for another while. Liam has been accepted to study at Oxbridge. Other pieces included Solos by Shamarid Bennett (alto) and Ayesha Akkari (mezzo-soprano), a solo on the Trumpet and a Duet for Violin and Viola. Ken Jordan (director) playing Tuba led the Brass Quintet with three different pieces.

The Girls Choir (directed by Lynda Robston) sang a variation of tunes including 'Lift Thine Eyes', 'Wishing you were somehow here again' and 'Angels'. Again the singing was excellent and was thoroughly enjoyed by all those in attendance. Both Choirs combined in a finale of Amazing Grace. The wonderful melodious singing filled the church and lifted our hearts. At the end of the last verse the audience leapt to their feet in thunderous applause in recognition of the brilliant performance of all the singers and musicians who had taken part in a wonderful evening.

Kirsty Hrabousky gave a short talk and showed a video on the work that the Missionary Aviation Fellowship does throughout the world. Every three minutes their help is needed somewhere in the world and Haiti is one of its main priorities at present and in the future. A total of over £1500 was gathered that night.

One More Step in Magheragall

Article by Roberta England

This title was chosen for our Lay Witness weekend because the aim was that, regardless of our current position, we would all move closer to God and deepen our faith. We wanted this weekend to be relevant to the whole church, and to families in the church. We therefore arranged separate programmes for Sunday School aged children, the 11-16 age group, and the rest. The youngest to attend was 3, the oldest in their eighties.

To free up our members for the meetings friends from neighbouring churches looked after the children, stirred the soup, and provided meals. Broomhedge Methodist, Magheragall Parish and Vic-ryn receive high recommendations from us for your catering needs, but you might need to 'go light' for a few days afterwards!

The Lay Witness Team Members were from all over the province, the youngest 18 years old, others in their 30s and older. They brought us great encouragement as they shared their testimonies.



Lay witness team with Peter and Hazel Mercer

All reactions to the weekend seem to be very positive. A lot of hard work was needed to organise it, but those involved believe it was well worth it. To paraphrase the old hymn by Arthur Penrhyn Stanley:

*Lord! It was good for us to be
High on the mountain here with thee:....
Here, where on eagles' wings we move
With Him whose last, best word is love.*

'Prayer was a vital ingredient as we concentrated on the weekend both in routine meetings and an extra prayer meeting. This drew us into the Lord's plan for the weekend. Relaxed meals and coffee mornings enabled church members to get to know each other better and share their concerns. There was a great sense that the Lord was speaking as testimonies were shared and seed was sown in our hearts that will come to fruition.'

Margaret

I found the "One More Step" weekend to be worthwhile, spiritually uplifting and encouraging. It was very exciting to hear how God is working in people's lives.

James

I thought the whole weekend was something very different for Magheragall. The youth programme was well planned and the leaders got on really well with us. After the first night, I looked forward to the rest of the weekend.

Ross

Sunday morning brought a rather special service, in that the children's message reminded us that each individual has a very important duty to perform within our daily living. The children performed a simple exercise: they were asked to give any adult two sweets, one to be eaten, the other to be passed on to someone else. The message is simple: when we receive Jesus into our lives, it becomes our responsibility to "pass it on" to others.

Jim

Listening to the members of the Team as they related their varying experiences to us was both inspirational and challenging, and for me a time of deeper commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. Whatever our circumstances, whatever our background, whatever we have been through, God loves us and forgives us, and wants to be involved in even the smallest detail of our lives on a daily basis.

Nancy

I felt uplifted and spiritually moved by the personal experiences brought to us by the team members. I feel my own faith has been strengthened and I thank God that I was able to be part of the weekend of fellowship and praise. I trust and pray it will be lasting blessing to us all.

Anne

BELFAST CENTRAL MISSION

Working throughout the year to help those most in need

by Ian Wells



Staff of the BCM have written to express their gratitude for gifts that enabled them to help needy people from the inner-city communities. Once again, Christmas 'Toy Services' at Seymour Street, Trinity, Broomhedge and Priesthill included the opportunity for children and their parents to give toys, clothing and food parcels. These were gratefully included in the 954 Food Parcels and 1960 Toy Parcels which were handed to people who otherwise receive few presents at Christmas. Despite the severe cold on Christmas Eve, the annual Belfast street collection raised almost £7600, and the intrepid collectors are thanked also.



Sorting Presents donated by churches



BCM Giving Tree

Though Christmas brings a special effort to meet people's needs, the work of BCM continues throughout the year. There is an ongoing programme, in Belfast and other towns, which includes advice on social and economic issues and several kinds of support services. Kirk House is a residential home for the elderly run by BCM, and through the 'LITE 60 plus' and Befriending project many others are given the support they need to remain living in their own homes. There is community care for young people and for families, support for people leaving care programmes and advice to underprivileged people of any age. The very successful Anderson House project, for example, now operates in four areas of Northern Ireland providing sheltered accommodation for young people coming out of care. The disappearance of the winter weather should remind everyone of the annual cross-community holiday programme! There are more specialist initiatives too, such as the support that is given to families with an autistic child.

BCM is one of Northern Ireland's oldest charities, being founded in 1889 as part of the Methodist Church's concern for the problems that were especially acute in inner city life. Over the years, such problems have persisted and the church's response is still needed. At the start of 2011 the BCM launched a programme to increase awareness of the work that it does, and also refreshed its image with a new logo. BCM is involved with all sectors of the community, irrespective of religious or political affiliation and their aim is to support those most in need in our society and enable them to reach their full potential.



Delivering presents in the snow

Naturally, this charitable work is only possible when resources are made available. The BCM staff are grateful for the special effort which was made across the Lisburn and Dromore Circuit at Christmas-time, and they will be delighted to have our prayers and gifts at any time during the year. People need help in all seasons, and the BCM staff will continue to respond - given the necessary support from their friends.

Broomhedge Youth Club

The club in the country with a faithful following

When Maudie Boals responded to a request in 'The Light' for someone to take on leadership of the Youth Club at Broomhedge little did she know that more than 10 years later she would still be leading it with the same - or perhaps even more - enthusiasm and dedication that she started out with. Following on from the good work of Angela Grant, Maudie, a member of Priesthill, took on to continue the club which attracts up to forty 8 to 12 year kids on a Saturday night from 7pm to 9pm

Boyes, who is a favourite amongst the young people - and also with the leaders because she makes their cup of tea every week! The programme includes special nights either with a visiting guest or an activity such as crafts. This year the session will end on 14th May with a barbecue bouncy castle and competition night.

Through the epilogue she leads most weeks Maudie shares a Bible thought with the young people most of whom have no other link with a Sunday School or Church. The children are also encouraged to think of giving and through a 'Mission Box', in which the children put their change, a donation is gathered up and given to a good cause.

As the level of knowledge about Jesus amongst young people is declining Maudie, and her team of leaders, get a real sense of fulfilment from sharing the love of Jesus in a real and practical way.

to take part in a relaxed programme of games such as football, air hockey and pool along with Wii console computer games. Of course the kids can also choose to just chat with their friends and take advantage of the tuck shop!

Although the club membership is only up to age 12, many are reluctant to leave and stay on as junior helpers.

Maudie recounts how when she was looking after the young daughter of a friend who was ill she brought her along to the Youth Club. Rachael enjoyed it so much that she persuaded her Dad to bring her along every week all the way from Banbridge. Now, aged 18, Rachael is a leader and looks after the tuck shop (a very important role!). Another faithful member and helper is Rosemary



Photos:
Maudie enjoying and game of netball with the kids.
Some of the Broomhedge Youth Club members.

Looking back... on Christmas 2010

2011

Postman Chris Dillon (*Priesthill*) looks back on Christmas 2011!

It was a big surprise when I discovered that the 6th of January is Christmas Eve for some people!

I am writing this because of what happened to me working in January as a Postman in the Dungannon area, which has the highest percentage of immigrants in Northern Ireland at 10% of the Dungannon population.

The severe weather this winter meant that a small amount of mail and parcels just could not reasonably reach the more rural areas by December 24th and I felt so bad delivering Christmas cards and parcels after the Christmas break and into the New Year.

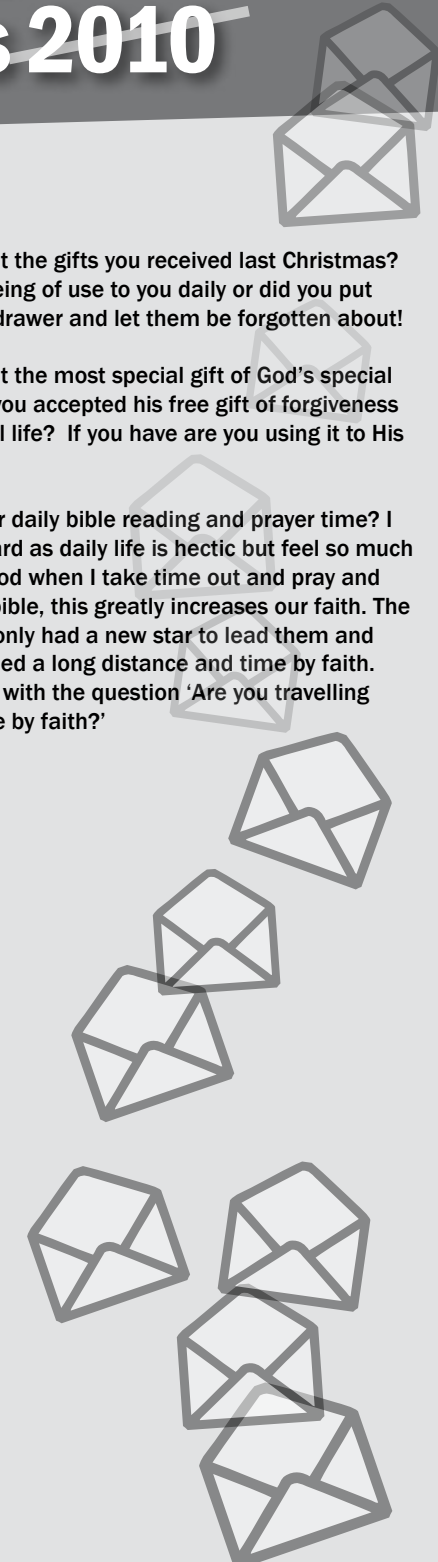
I was surprised, however, when a Russian gentleman was overwhelmed and delighted when I gave him a Christmas wrapped parcel on the 6th January. His drive was full of cars and the house crammed with people chatting and laughing together, obviously having a celebration. He explained that the present I delivered was from his homeland and that his culture specially celebrates Epiphany, the visit of the wise men to Jesus bearing precious gifts, and this gift coming on January 6th was extra special to him.

I do enjoy meeting so many different people in my job and seeing their delight at receiving gifts makes it all worthwhile...

What about the gifts you received last Christmas? Are they being of use to you daily or did you put them in a drawer and let them be forgotten about!

What about the most special gift of God's special son, have you accepted his free gift of forgiveness and eternal life? If you have are you using it to His glory?

How is your daily bible reading and prayer time? I find this hard as daily life is hectic but feel so much closer to God when I take time out and pray and study the bible, this greatly increases our faith. The wise men only had a new star to lead them and they travelled a long distance and time by faith. I leave you with the question 'Are you travelling through life by faith?'



Water!

Column by Janine Mayes

I doubt anyone will forget this past winter. With all the snow, the sub-zero temperatures for days, and then of course the frozen pipes and lack of running water (or perhaps running water through your ceilings and out your door because of the frozen-then-burst pipes!) it was certainly a memorable one.

We were fortunate to only be without water for just over 24 hours, but it certainly made our family appreciate running water when it returned. A simple task like flushing the toilet, washing hands, making a cup of tea became an issue.

When the water DID return, we were SO appreciative of the simple pleasure of running the tap! Soon the washing machine was running, the shower was running, and finally we had clean dishes again.

It made me recall the story of the Tuch family from Cambodia featured in the Tear Fund Harvest pack which we shared with the old kids in Children's Church in October 2010. The father of the family took 300 trips each day carrying 2 buckets on his shoulders using a bamboo pole. He started at 5am each morning. Thanks to help from Tear Fund, working with the local church, they started a co-operative rice bank, to help



the village through the times of drought when there was no water in the pond to fill the buckets. They also started planting other crops such as watermelon so they were not so dependant on the rice and they could get more of the essential nutrients to help prevent malnutrition.

My challenge from all of this is to give thanks when I run the tap, fill the kettle, or turn on the washing machine, to think about how I use this precious life-giving resource of water, and to support charities who helping families such as the Tuchs.



Making a clean sweep of the Lisburn Churches

How Terry and Judith Lilley came to be the master cleaners for Seymour Street, Trinity, Broomhedge, Magheragall, Cairnshill and even Maze Presbyterian churches!

If you have reason to call at Trinity or Seymour Street churches during the day you are likely to find Terry and Judith Lilley hard at work cleaning and tidying, washing floors, hoovering carpets and removing the detritus left by the hundreds who use our premises for a vast range of activities. You will be greeted with a friendly smile, for Terry and Judith enjoy their work, but enjoy even more taking time to chat to folk.



When asked if their Christian faith and active involvement in Broomhedge Methodist Church affects the way they view their work they said, 'not really - we just enjoy getting on with the cleaning - a job that needs done,' but in the next breath they are saying how many times folk who come into the halls have shared their problems - and how valuable it is to feel you have got the time to stop for a chat and a cup of tea with someone for whom that can make all the difference. For them their role as church cleaners is not so much a job - it is more of a calling!

And that calling can all be blamed on the Rev. Bobby Loney. Having owned a shoe shop in Banbridge, and then worked for many years in shoe shops in Lisburn and Bangor, Terry found himself out of work in the early 1990's. As an active member of Broomhedge Bobby was well aware of Terry's gifts, and suggested that instead of looking for a job, he should set up business doing

something he really enjoyed. First it was Broomhedge Church, and then after a grilling by Rev Ken Best and James Dumigan, he was taken on by Seymour Street to be followed by the new church at Trinity and then Magheragall.

For Judith and Terry romance had blossomed amongst the shoe boxes of Bangor...

where Judith was the assistant and Terry the new Manager. Judith had moved from England with her parents, and after attending school in Newry took up her job in Bangor. They moved to Lisburn in the 1980's working in Wright's Shoe Shop. Unfortunately Seymour Street did not put its best foot forward at that time, for when Terry came as a newcomer and took a seat he was told 'Oh - that's my husband's seat!' Terry was so mortified that he quietly walked out and went straight to the Service at Broomhedge.

Seymour Street's loss was Broomhedge's gain for Terry became a class leader and has been Broomhedge Society Steward since 1998. But the story does not finish there, for the indomitable Mrs Kelly and her sister were at the door of his shop the very next day to enquire what had happened - her eagle eye had not missed anything and she was determined that Seymour Street should not be seen in an entirely bad light!

"She (Mrs Kelly) is a hard act to follow!"

It is therefore not without irony that Terry - now joined by Judith in the Church cleaning business - should succeed Mrs Kelly's role in Seymour Street, at least in part. In Terry's words, 'She is hard act to follow!', but in many ways Terry and Judith are cast in the same mould as Mrs Kelly...

(Continued over)

Making a clean sweep of the Lisburn Churches

They are always ready to go that extra mile to be of help and to ensure that everything is just right. When the brass handles of the church are polished before a wedding they are wrapped in kitchen roll – and woe betide any minister who dares to remove this protective layer too early. There is a special supply of scented hand soap only put out for weddings and special occasions. Asked if they do not become frustrated that every time they have the place looking clean and tidy an organisation comes in and messes it up they reply 'If they did not dirty it we would be out of a job!'. Always looking for ways to be helpful, Terry and Judith try to fit in with the routine of the various organisations. The Praise Group practising on Saturday mornings at Trinity used to be treated to a cup of tea courtesy of the Lillies, and they have a soft spot for Seymour Street GB because Karen makes sure they are treated to a little party before the Display to make up for all the inconvenience suffered. There are some hassles – particularly when not kept fully up-to-date with special events happening on the premises (Property Stewards and Ministers note!).

Their role came under the greatest pressure when the Methodist Conference was held in Seymour Street. Cleaning had to start at 7am every morning for nearly a week to ensure everything was right for the start of the Conference meeting – but Terry enjoyed meeting many ministers and delegates to the Conference.

Terry and Judith's latest move has been into 43 Seymour Street, the former Manse. 'It used to take three hours to mow my lawn – now it just takes 5 minutes' was Terry's

article continued...

comment, and Judith loves the house because 'it's so warm and homely'. Not put out at all by the loss of the Manse 'Garden', they have set about transforming the back courtyard with potted plants. The Lisburn Circuit is fortunate to have the services of people who put into practice the principles of Christian service in such a straightforward and practical way. Of course I should really be calling them 'Mr and Mrs Lilley' – for they insist on talking to each of us as Mr, Mrs or Miss, but that is a measure of the respect they wish to show everyone. Perhaps it has come from years of helping their customers find just the right shoes, and echoed in Jesus words... 'Let him who would be greatest among you become the servant of all.'



From the registers...

Seymour Street: BAPTISMS

Rachel, daughter of Robert and Janice Anderson
Ben John and Lucy Ellen, twin children of Martin and Nicola Walsh

DEATHS

Mr Crawford Minford
Mrs Marjorie Williamson

Mr Billy Belshaw
Mr Mark Greenan
Mr Tommy Ferguson
Mrs Eileen Patterson
Mr Mervyn Dowling

Magheragall:

DEATHS

Mrs Nan Lamb, formerly Mrs Nan Connor

Trinity:

DEATHS

Valerie Gray

Dromore:

BIRTHS

Joshua Clarke to Stephen and Lee.

A place to chill!

There's a very relaxed atmosphere at Seymour Street Youth Club...

Under the youthful leadership of Andrew Wright, who took over this year when John and Carolyn Hinds stood down after several years of dedicated service, the club has continued to flourish. While most of the members are young people from Seymour Street families, many of them have brought along their friends and there is an open door to all young people. Everyone has their own reason for coming - 'I've made new friends' - 'Each week is different' - 'The tuck shop' - 'It's like a big family' - 'The Centre-spot is interesting and doesn't put people off' - 'The outings are great' - typical comments when you ask Youth Club members what they like about it.

A whole evening spent with 30 or 40 teenagers might not be everybody's idea of fun, but that's not the view of seasoned Youth Club leaders such as John Hutchinson and Michael Rutledge who feel that the Youth Club does a great job by providing a safe and welcoming environment where young people can socialize and enjoy light hearted activities without the more formal structures of other organizations.



An additional leader this year has been Kenneth Pervaiz from Pakistan. He is a Belfast Bible College student with a placement at Seymour Street for this year. Kenneth has been impressed with the Youth Club and commented 'I would like to take this concept back to Pakistan and use it to try to introduce young people there to Christianity.'

Junior leaders Courtney Allister, Alyson Clarke, Catherine Easson, Holly Hutchinson who have been members of the youth Club for several years, provide 'service with a smile' at the tuck shop, and keep well in with the more senior leaders by plying them with hot chocolate or cups of coffee! The boys can generally be found competing with each other on the games consoles or a game of football. The girls are more likely to be in groups of friends sitting chatting. Keeping the programme fresh is always a challenge, but Andrew has brought new ideas with themed nights, crafts and visiting groups. He has encouraged junior leaders to take more responsibility.

Each week Andrew calls everyone to order for the Centre-spot at which an invited guest shares their own insight into an aspect of their Christian faith. While only for a few minutes, this is at the heart of what it is all about – making the Christian faith relevant to the lives of our young people. While the words may be interesting and the activities fun, it is the lives, attitudes and consistent Christian living of the leaders which will bear fruit in the long run.

Photos (from top):

- Boys on the games console
- Craft night
- Junior Leaders looking after the tuck shop
- Andrew Wright (right) with a group of the leaders

INTRO

Hello and welcome to the March issue of insight! I trust you all had a good Christmas and I hope you didn't eat as much as I did!:/

Each issue I cover a different theme in the study part of this page, if there is any thing you want covered get in touch! Even if you have a story, a tale, an experience or even just a joke let me know. Send a quick email to the light and we will share your wisdom on a page!



What is Spring Swell?

Spring Swell is a Youth Event based on the sport and culture of surfing. The event aims to bring young people together for a weekend, to have FUN, SURF and learn more about GOD in an unforced, creative and culturally relevant way. Over the weekend there will be lots of fun activities and exciting things happening. There will be Speakers, Music, Workshops, Surf Lessons, Chill Out Time and Great Food!

28th MARCH 2011 - CLOSING DATE FOR TOM TEAM APPLICATIONS

Team on Mission is the Methodist churches gap year programme for 18-25 year olds. Get signed up!

LOL!

In the beginning, God created the earth and rested.

Then God created Man and rested.

Then God created Woman. Since then, neither God nor Man has rested.

HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?

Numbers 23-25, Mark 7:14-37
Key Verse: Numbers 25:3

The opening verses of Numbers 25 describe a scene of immorality, idolatry and judgment. When the entire story is known, the scene is even sadder than it appears.

Earlier, Balak had sought to hire Balaam to curse Israel. When initially rebuffed, Balak upped the ante and made the offer too good to refuse. He tried, but Balaam could not curse those whom God had determined to bless.

But Balaam still wanted the gold. If he could not get it by cursing, he would try to get it by counseling. He counseled Balak to entice Israel to immorality and idolatry (Num. 31:16). Then they would bring God's judgment on themselves. By so doing, Balaam accomplished the task for which he was hired.

Balaam's "epitaph" in the New Testament is that he "loved the wages of wickedness" (2 Pet. 2:15). He went for the gold and is remembered for it. In Jude 11 there is another New Testament reference to Balaam. Jude writes of those who "have rushed for profit into Balaam's error."

The error of Balaam continues today. A person may not be hired to curse another, but the willingness to put personal gain over others remains. The world places its emphasis on getting. The Christian's worldview should emphasize giving. Do not follow the way of Balaam.

DEVOTIONAL

How important are material things to you? Don't let possessions distort your values. Some things are not worth the cost--a lesson Balaam did not learn.

Author: Tony Beckett and Woodrow Kroll

A Woman went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards.

"What Denomination?" Asked the clerk.

"Oh, my goodness! Have we come to this?" said the woman.

"Well give me 50 Baptist and 50 Catholic!"