

TheLight

Issue 194: September 2011

Seymour Street Uganda Project

This Issue:
**Are you
ready for
change?**

Interview
with:

Tom Millar
- the new Circuit Steward

The Launch of DAMASK

Trinity Community Initiatives

Working successfully with the local community

Singing the Faith

The new Methodist Hymn Book



THE MAGAZINE OF THE LISBURN AND DROMORE METHODIST CIRCUIT

Editor's Letter

September 2011

Are you ready?

It was my privilege to attend my first Church Service in Africa this summer. It was in a tin hut, it started when everybody had arrived, coming from all directions across the open countryside, and everything was ready. It finished when everybody had played their part. It did not matter what time it started or finished - it just happened when we were all ready.

Much in the issue of the Light is about being ready to change and move on. A new Circuit Steward; a new community outreach, 'Damask', a new Hymn Book for Methodism; new experiences for our team in Uganda which will change how they see things from now on, and a poem reflecting on how much of life has changed over the last 60 years!

But are we ready for change? Sometimes we need God's help to just to cope with change, but more than that to make the most of the opportunities that change can bring to express our faith in new ways and to be the Salt and Light that Jesus asks us to be.

As the waiters now say - 'enjoy!'



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If you have material or photos for the next edition of The Light please send them to the address above or give them to your church representative by Sunday 30th October.

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A Special Word of Thanks

If this issue of the Light is not quite up to the high standard of the previous issues it is because we have lost the services of Stephen Pierce! Stephen created the new design and layout for us and we thank him for the many late nights he put into getting each issue to the printers.

Around the Circuit

Magheragall 10th Anniversary



Magheragall celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the opening of the new church in June with a Family Fund Day on the Saturday and a special Service on the Sunday. The Fun Day included assembling and disassembling wooden cannons, and firing wet sponges at those brave enough to volunteer. There was the usual supply of food, and also a journey down memory lane, viewing old movie footage of Magheragall from the 1950s, old photographs and Sunday School registers. The special preacher at the Service was the Rev Bobbie Loney and the soloist Clover Watts.



Rev Dennis and Mrs Bambrick

Seymour Street to Broadcast RTE Christmas Day Service

RTE has invited Seymour Street to record the studio based service which is broadcast on Christmas Morning and receives the highest viewing numbers of any religious programme in Ireland. About 50 members of the congregation including the choir and musicians will travel to Dublin in early December to record the 40 minute Service which will be led by the Rev Brian Anderson.

Miss Ina McBratney

of Seymour Street celebrated her 95th birthday on 10th June and received a gift of flowers from Christine McCafferty, Shirley Carrington and May McCrea to celebrate the event.



New Craft Club at Maghagall

A Craft Club has been started over the summer with the aim of creating four banners to be hung in the church, based on the text which forms part of our mission statement. By the time you read this, they should be completed. So far, those meeting have enjoyed the fun, the chat and of course the supper, and great credit must go to Nathalie Scott and Hazel Mercer for their vision, their design expertise and their detailed preparation for the club meetings. No plans have been formulated yet as regards how we might continue the club; it is a case of 'watch this space'.

Angela Sofley

After 9 years as part-time Pastoral Assistant at Trinity, Angela Sofley has stepped down from that role due to a large increase in the other activities (principally in music teaching and examining) in which she is involved. Angela will be missed greatly by those with whom she had regular pastoral contact, especially older people. She will continue to have an active role in many aspects of the life of Trinity, but we express our thanks to Angela for all that she has done in this role. A fuller tribute will follow in a future edition of the Light.

New Methodist Hymn Book launched

'Singing the Faith' is the new authorised Methodist Hymn Book being published during September. From the start of the process in 2004 it has taken the Music Resources Group much hard work to pour through many hundreds of hymns and songs to draw together this important new resource for the Methodist Church.

The new hymn book aims to draw together the best of traditional hymns while encompassing the broad range of musical styles which are enriching modern Christian worship. There is a Lisburn connection in that eight of the great new hymns coming from the pen of Keith Getty, a former pupil of Friends School and founder of the New Irish Orchestra are included along with many of the popular praise songs of Graham Kendrick and Matt Redman.

The inclusion of much new material will no doubt have resulted in the loss of some older treasured hymns and only time will tell if the editors have made wise choices. The Methodist Church in Ireland was represented on the editorial panel by the Rev John Alderdice, currently Chaplain to Queen's University.



We wish James and Laura Nelson every blessing in their life together following their recent wedding.

Introducing Tom Millar

(does he need he need any introduction?)

Our new Circuit Steward shares his thoughts with the Editor

Tom, you have just been appointed Circuit Steward – have you had a long association with the Circuit?

Yes I'm fortunate to be getting a second chance to make a first impression for I was also Circuit Steward from 1980 -1986, in fact someone remarked recently that we are now recycling Stewards! Actually I've been on this Circuit for as long as I can remember. I was brought up in Magheragall which I still consider to be my spiritual home. I've such happy memories of the place and I can think of several individuals who had a great influence on my life and who became my mentors.

What experiences brought you to a living faith in Jesus?

As I said I attended Magheragall Church from childhood and was very involved in many aspects and activities there. Those were special times during which the claims of faith were clearly presented and it was during what we would now call an old fashion mission campaign that I responded and my faith journey began.

You have had many years developing a successful business in Lisburn. Was it difficult to apply your Christian principles in the business world?

The short answer is yes and no, in fact it's just like every other aspect of life and the greatest challenge is to be consistent. I think there is sometimes a feeling around that infers that Christians are 'soft' or 'an easy touch'. Good general standards are important and I think ones attitude to others and quality of life carries a lot of weight.



You have also been involved in many aspects of the life of the Methodist Church. What do you think are its strengths?

I've been privileged to have had the opportunity to undertake some jobs and assignments for the Connexion and two benefits spring to mind when I think of that – the first is the great number of friends I've made over the years and the second is how much I've enjoyed seeing what's happening throughout the county – north and south. For all the square miles on the island we are a small and intimate community with a great diversity of approaches. The Church has to strike the balance of being true to its ethos whilst being relevant to 2011...and beyond. For my own part I think there are areas it needs to review although I don't think

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this is the appropriate channel through which to air my ideas – I've plenty of other direct opportunities.

As Circuit Steward what will you be making your priority for our Circuit? Are there aspects of the our Christian life you would particularly like to see developed?

I'm only recently into the role so I'll be taking things steadily, not least because there are a great number of Stewards and Officials who have been doing a first rate job in many areas and I'm just one of the newest team members. One of the issues I've been thinking about is communication within the Circuit, which, given the logistical and geographical spread of Churches isn't always easy. Each Society has a unique style and set of activities which is very important, yet it's easy to be inward looking and not think about the others and there is so much we can learn from each other and perhaps do together. So I think I'll be trying to encourage more interaction between the Societies and try to generate an even greater awareness of the Circuit concept. One of the ways this can be achieved is through having more news from each society in this publication. I think the area of witness I would like to see developed is Community Ministry. This is happening to some extent already and I think there is still scope for us to make a real impact on our local communities by showing the gospel in practical ways to those around us.

You keep yourself very up-to-date with the latest technologies – emails, facebook, twitter etc. Do you see these as having any relevance to the Church?

You're right – I'm a big fan of technology which of course can be a great tool in the area of communication within the Church at all levels. That said, I also believe we must be careful not to lose personal contact, because relationships are a vital ingredient if we are to work together as a Circuit and so often that can only be achieved with one to one contact - so let's not forget the visit, the phone call or the letter.

You have to cope with having 4 ministers to look after on the

ircuit – do you see that as posing any particular problems???

Not if I can get them trained quickly!! – seriously though, the greatest privilege of the job is the opportunity to work closely with the Ministers on the Circuit and be supportive to their families. Of course there are also a number of retired ministers and families on the Circuit and I'm looking forward to regular contact with them – I see it as a team ministry.

What other interests have you outside Church activities?

One way and another I manage to keep fairly busy. I'm a keen walker – to help keep fit, I'm an enthusiastic – if poor golfer, I enjoy photography, play the piano and am interested in bonsai trees...and would you believe I enjoy meetings...especially when they are going my way.

You've obviously been involved in a number of things at any one time over the years – how did you manage to fit everything in?

It's been a bit of a juggling act sometimes and I've to work on my time management skills for I believe we can always fit in a few extra things if we really want. The main reason is the wonderful support I've always had from Sheila in everything I've done. She has provided a solid base and I couldn't have done the various bits and pieces with which I'm been involved without her involvement – I often say most of my best ideas come from her.



Priesthill Young People's Christian Endeavour

My name is Andrew Matthews and I would like to tell you about Priesthill Young People's C.E. We meet every Sunday night, play games and have sweets - that's very good - but really we are there to learn about God. A leader or a visiting speaker talks to us about something in the Bible and then we ask questions and pray. Each week we are in charge of the meeting, as someone leads, opens in prayer, picks the songs, lifts the collection and reads the bible reading. In the meeting we pass a Bible around for a time of chain prayer and when it is our turn we can pray out loud or in our head. We pray about things that are troubling us in our lives or something that has happened and you want to pray about it, or just thank God for anything. God will listen, no matter what it's about.

CE is lots of fun and if your church has one and you are 11-18 then I'd recommend that you go as you will enjoy it.

**God will listen,
no matter what
it's about.**

This year I decided to go to the Irish C.E. camp which was at the beginning of July in The Brownie house at Lorne outside Holywood. I was in the dorm called Black Jacks along Richard, Craig, Graeme and Matthew. We had quiet time groups every morning with 2 leaders, well our group was extra special and we had 3!



The Leaders were great fun. We did different activities, some of which were a flag hunt, water fights (they weren't really planned!) and a carnival night. The theme for our worship was Totally Transformed, and we learnt about different things that can be totally transformed with God's help. One thing that really spoke to me was totally transformed relationships, which talked about if you're a Christian, you should only go out with other Christians or your faith will fall with God.

At the end of the week we had a 'Night at the Oscars', where we dressed up and were awarded prizes for different categories e.g. Biggest Drama Queen, funniest camper, Culchie in the big smoke. Overall C.E. Camp was a very good week - it was one of my best weeks ever! I would recommend it to any young people who want to go.

C.E. at Priesthill restarted on Sunday 11th September from 7pm to 8.30pm. It takes place in the upstairs room in the big hall. Everyone is welcome from 11 years up. If you want more information contact our leader Carole Dillon 07712804494.

Shirley Carrington tells us all about **DAMASK** Seymour Street's new community outreach programme



Many people ask me 'what is Damask Community Outreach?' – I usually reply 'A work in progress' – watching it evolve is very exciting, but as an outline of what our current vision of and for Damask is I would say:-



holding and hosting numerous events and programmes over the next number of years. Some of our thinking is the provision of 'benefits advice', computer training classes, health related programmes, debt and money management classes, com-

munity pharmacy sessions. Many of our programmes will, it is hoped, work hand in hand with existing organisations within the life of Seymour Street. These plans are based on the details that we collated following an analysis of the 'Community Audit' carried out by our congregation in order to ascertain the communities requirements, not just Seymour Street's idea of what the community needed. This audit information has been vital to our forward planning for community needs.

Why the name Damask?

This name is picking up on two concepts, firstly 'Damask' is a very well known, reversible figured fabric of silk, wool, linen, cotton, or synthetic fibre's, with a pattern formed by weaving. With the area of Hilden steeped in the Linen industry we thought this was a very good connection to our area. Secondly, Damask has an association with

We in Seymour Street want to make a difference to lives both within the Church and in our community, an experience and encounter that will change lives forever.

Damascus – and on the road to Damascus, which we read about in the Bible, the apostle Paul had his encounter with Jesus, an experience that changed his life forever. We in Seymour Street also want to make a difference to lives both within the Church and in our community, an experience and encounter that will change lives forever - So Damask Community Outreach was formed.

The aims of DAMASK

It is the vision of the Damask committee that we will provide outreach into our community by

How DAMASK is organised

Some ask the question, why not Seymour Street Community Outreach? – a good question and answered by saying that Damask Community Outreach has to be a separate legal entity to allow us to access the funding and resources required, and to enable us to work with a range of other agencies to provide the help and support that has been highlighted in the community audit. However, Damask Community Outreach is, and will remain, inextricably linked to Seymour Street Methodist Church, forming part of its work in social outreach, and will work in very close partnership with the church serving the community. Damask Community Outreach has its own management committee – Rev Brian Anderson, Jane Dawson, Harold Baird, Derek Noble, Chris Greer, Tom Millar and Shirley Carrington - and all activities and programmes will be under the direct control of this committee. As the work of Damask Community Outreach grows help will be required in many roles and members of Sey-

mour Street are very much encouraged to become involved in this work through volunteering.

Launching Damask

On Saturday 24th September 2011 from 10am – 1.00pm we are going to launch 'Damask Community Outreach' and the Health Minister Edwin Poots MLA will officially launch the project at 11.30am. As part of this launch we will incorporate a 'Health and Advice' Event. At this event, representatives from a number of agencies will be in attendance i.e., Health Board, Cruses Bereavement, Benefits Advice, Ulster Cancer Foundation, Community Safety Team, Chest Heart & Stroke. These agencies will be on hand to give advice and assistance to those attending the Launch morning. As a special promotion, Dental Health representatives will be there to give Dental advice, with a 'Tooth Brush Amnesty'

available – bring your old tooth brush and have it replaced with a new Free Tooth Brush!!

This event is for the church and community and we hope many will come along and learn more about the vision & work of Damask Community Outreach." Some of the agencies hoping to work along side of Damask will also give an outline of their potential involvement with the outreach.

Details about the launch are being distributed via a 'leaflet drop' to each home in the area, inviting all to call into our premises.

There are no limits to the vision for Damask Community Outreach – as Seymour Street often says 'There's more!!!'

REFRESH

What do you call 80 primary school children in one place during the summer holiday? No smart answers please.

Here in Seymour Street we call it **REFRESH**.

From 22nd - 25th Aug the Refresh team welcomed over 140 kids and teens to Seymour Street for the 2nd year of Refresh. It started at 6.30 with an hour of non-stop activities for the primary age group- "Refresh Minis". They were offered dance, football, hockey, tennis, basketball, team games and craft! Phew!- enough to keep even the most active 5 year old busy! Shortly before the finish at 7.30 we all sat down for juice, biscuits and a talk from one of the coaches of our activities.

A quick change over of half an hour allowed the team to prepare for "Refresh Nights." This was aimed at Year 8 and above. Around 50 teens turned up to play dodge-ball, football and volleyball. A big hit this year was having the coach of the Northern Ireland Volleyball team come along to give some tips and referee a couple of games! Of course, no evening at Seymour Street is complete without food, so, in time honoured tradition, we



provided juice, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, biscuits, buns and even ice cream!

The finale was held on Thursday 25th- a family BBQ. 300 sausages were eaten, team games were played and the dancers from the 2 groups showed off their newly acquired moves! Chris, our volleyball coach chatted about his life, work and faith. We all went home happy, well fed and **Refresh-ed** for the year ahead.



Stuart Black reports on the Seymour Street Uganda Project



So, it all began with Louise Monroe's vision

Back in 2009 after her mission trip to Tanzania God had shown her a trip to Africa with young people from the church coming together in a team to help in some description of building work out there, as an act of kindness to the locals. She relayed the vision to the Rev Brian Anderson and it materialised in 2011 with the Seymour Street trip to Uganda.



Getting there!

Our preparations kicked off with an email from Brian to the Rev. Amooti, Jinja, Uganda. We waited a long time for a reply. This was a frustrating time for the team because the details of the trip were still very cloudy, but at a team meeting we prayed for Rev. Amooti's reply. Our prayers were answered. At the end of the meeting Brian checked his Blackberry and to our amazement, after weeks of waiting, we had a reply! Amen.

So it came to the time, all was organised, (or so we thought) cases were packed, injections complete, funds raised, flights booked and a so called schedule received. The time was 9.30am, the place Seymour Street car park and the assembled team set off for Dublin airport. There all was going smoothly until we had to check in two guitars. The attendant was having none of it, he was going to charge extortionate fees for each guitar, but the lead-

ers sweet talked their manager into allowing the guitars to go the whole way to Uganda with no charge, praise God!

After 30 hours of travelling via Heathrow and Addis Ababa we arrived in Uganda, only to find that 5 cases didn't arrive. While the cases were being dealt with the guitars and sing song of Seymour Street was unleashed on Entebbe Airport. Then onto the bus. It took us a while to get used to the African way of driving, a bit scary at start, but after an hour's drive to Kampala, the capital city, we had tea and headed to the guest house.

Day 3 - Seeing what needs done

After our first Ugandan breakfast of omelette and toast we proceeded to the churches and manses that we would be working on, about 30 and 45 mins drive away. Both churches looked to be quite worn and mistreated. The people who met us at both were glad to

see us and the children were all fascinated by these white people. As we headed into town to get supplies for the work we walked down the street as one big group of muzungu (white people). It was weird having everyone look at you like you were so different from them. That evening Brian led powerful evening devotions followed by worship. All the young people in the team decided to work through the whole song book that we had brought. It was amazing. And that night we were introduced to their rainy season with a thunder storm.

Day 4 - A visit to the Nile

We started the day on a high when Louise and Daphne returned from the airport with 3 of the 5 lost bags. Spirits were lifted. We also moved to a better guest house where we found the staff were very friendly AND we had internet! We sorted ourselves out then headed down to the source

of the Nile. At the gates we were greeted by some monkeys! After feeding them banana we took a boat to the source of the Nile, an island beside a large natural spring in the middle of the river, where it meets Lake Victoria. It was fantastic and we saw lots of wildlife on the way. A good meal in a nearby hotel cost less than a McDonalds would cost at home! .

Day 5 - Church and Prison

The sickness began. Three team members, Chrissy, Craig and Nadia took tummy bugs and stayed behind. We then split in two and headed to the two churches we would be working on. The churches were small but powerful, there was a real spiritual presence there that almost scared me at first. Louise led at my church and Brian at the other. Next up were



prison visits with "Carpenter John," who co-ordinated the services. The prison consisted of big rooms and a courtyard. We had a time of worship with the prisoners, they sang for us and us for them. Michael Maze shared his testimony followed by David's. We shared out football shirts,

soap and gave some things to the ladies.

Days 6 to 10 - Getting on with the work

We woke at 7.30 for our first day of work. We had to sand, undercoat, polyfill, sand, paint and paint again every wall inside the manse and church. So our day's routine became, up at about 8, breakfast then out to the sites with a packed lunch, worked all day then back to get showered and fed. Then devotions followed by bed. One day rolled into another and the work really started getting done. Team spirits were high and all was well.

On day 8 we visited a school just down the "road" from the church. It was mad! We pulled in and the children flocked to the bus, all very happy to see us. The teachers split them into lines of age groups. Matthew Good had been assigned to organising games. We took a group each and started our games. Myself and Craig Manley were assigned to 'duck duck goose'. Well, it took a good 15 mins to get them into a circle, then we demonstrated the game, and when we ran around they all got up and ran away from us! GREAT! It was all good fun though and we finally got them playing something resembling 'duck duck goose'.

Unfortunately our second school visit a few days later didn't go so well, because the children had just left for holidays! As the muzungu out there say, TIA (This Is Africa). That term was used a lot



with the bus driver being a few hours late on Sunday, bringing us to church... TIA. A man with a bed on his bicycle.. TIA, Geckos everywhere at tea time.. TIA.

Day 11 Seeing the work of the Church

This was an exiting day, we visited two kids clubs. The first was at the main Methodist Church in the region, Bugembe. All the kids in the club danced and sang for us which was great. We then did a good Samaritan sketch and sang for them, and arts and crafts were led by Michaela. It was all good fun. The second place we visited was an orphanage. Here the kids were all orphaned by AIDs. They sang a song that went something like "away from the positive, back to the negative". This had quite an impact on the team, coming from those who were directly affected by AIDs. We played with the kids, blew bubbles - which they loved, threw balls around and played football. We left all the equipment with them for their club.

Day 12 Africa Time!

This was the second Sunday. We were very late for our churches. This week Louise and Simon went to another church in Jinja and Brian and Daphne went to Bugembe Methodist Church. All

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went well enough for Brian's group but by the time Louise had got to her church with half the group most of the adults in the church had gone leaving about 10 adults and lots of kids. TIA. After our church services we went to another prison travelling through a sugar factory that had its own supporting town. It was a contrast seeing good well kept roads, bikers with compulsory helmets and wealth.

Day 13 - A visit to the equator

It was a long day. Daphne had a sharp word the Ugandans after yesterdays bus antics and we woke to find an on time bus. It was a fantastic 4 hour drive to the equator. We saw so much more of Uganda and what it consists of, mainly sugar cane fields split with villages of outstanding culture and landscape. When we stopped at the equator, there it was, the big yellow line. We all spent some time in the cultural shops before taking a few photos and heading back towards Kampala.

Days 14 to 16 Finishing the Job!

SO back into work, this week we concentrated on Muguluka church because plastering work there had finished from the previous week, well nearly finished. So we came to pile on the paint. We made very good progress over the next few days having learnt from working on the previous church. The end was in sight. It was a spiritual experience painting the churches and build-

ings, knowing that what you are doing is a pure and good act of kindness to the people there who could not afford to do any such work. With the work on Muguluka pretty much finished it was time for..

This was the last day we could work on the churches. Muguluka was finished and it was now



time to blitz the outside of the second church. We had our routine down to a T, with Matt's iTrip going on the bus, our local friends were amazed that we could send music from our iPods to the bus! At the second church we set to work to get everything done by the end of the day but, one more challenge. - it rained, a lot. But us Northern Irish ones were well used to that so we plodded on through the mud and streams off the roof (no gutters). We applied undercoat in a flash (under 1 hour), next with supplies of tangerine running low we finished it off with 1 and a half coats of love-

ly tangerine stretching it as far as it would go. DONE. We could finally stand back and look at a finished church and manse, fantastic, no more tangerine paint ever, ever ever ever!

Day 17 - Sad Farewells

This was our final day of Uganda, it was Jennie's birthday and the girls had made a banner to put up in the middle of the night while the boys played monopoly. The work was done, spirits were mighty high in the team and there was a party later, fantastic! We visited both churches and met the Pastors, we presented the banners made by the ladies of Seymour St and some new benches that the team members bought for the churches, said prayers and blessings at each church and said our farewells to the local people. Then on to the party that our local hosts were giving for us. Although late (TIA) we got there in the end and it was great. Our local friends danced and sang for and with us and we performed for them as well. They also had a great Ugandan feast for us! It was a fantastic night but unfortunately we had to say our farewells. There were a few tears from the girls and even more from the boys.

It was finally time to pack up and start the long journey home, although many of us were looking forward to getting back to family, friends and creature comforts, **we will all miss Uganda very much - and always will.**

Have you replied to the wedding invitation?

Chris Dillon - a postman's perspective

I love spring time and summer with the brighter mornings, sunny days and longer evening so being outside delivering letters/packets with my sunglasses on and in my shorts is a pleasure.

Before the summer there are lots of wedding invitations to deliver and you would be surprised how many are not fully addressed, for example the name of the person and only the village or road name or townland. so knowing all the people on my run, it makes it a lot easier. However, postmen on new runs, or covering runs they don't know due to sickness or being short staffed, struggle with these invitations. In Dungannon we really try to get all wedding invitations delivered as we know how just important they are.

It is amazing that one third of the world's population watched the Royal wedding and with the media, TV and internet coverage very few people would not have heard or seen some of the wedding. I cannot believe its 4 years from our wedding day, time has gone so fast and with our second child, Noah born on the 19th April we feel very blessed to have our wee family and have so much fun with them as they grow up.

We are all invited to a wedding, the invitation was given freely by Jesus 2000 years ago when he died on the cross for our sins and all we have to do is accept the invitation, repent and join him at the banquet. The banquet is being prepared at the moment and your seat at the banquet table has your name place set already. It will be the most wonderful wedding ever celebrated, there will be no need for you to bring a present and the after party will last forever. Can you imagine the scene? Would YOU want to miss it?

Read Revelation Chapter 21.



Trinity Community Initiatives

David Twyble tells the story of how Trinity has developed its role in the local community



How it began

It is hard to believe that our Trinity Church is now 17 years old. Established in the spring of 1994, work commenced on our initial building in May of that year, and amazingly, the completed building was handed over on Christmas Eve 1994.

From the outset there was a desire in the leadership to engage with the local community. Under the enthusiastic guidance of the Rev Bobby and Mrs Hazel Loney a good range of youth and adult activities was established, all seeking to serve the rapidly growing local community.

As we entered the new millennium, the need to extend our premises became urgent. With the sale of part of our site, the support of the Methodist Church and with EU funding through the Lisburn Partnership, sufficient capital was raised to proceed with Trinity Phase 2. The EU funding was possible because of the strong commitment from Trinity to take forward its role in the community and this led to the birth of 'Trinity Community Initiatives'

The Trinity leaders set up a community outreach committee, to find additional and innovative ways of engaging with our community. A constitution, aims and programme were debated and agreed, and on 5th. February 2004, with the support and inter-

est of the congregation, an inaugural General Meeting was held, a committee was elected, and "Trinity Community Initiatives" (TCI) formed.

The story so far

While TCI had a first class suite of premises at its disposal, this was not matched by an equally large pool of volunteer helpers and finance, and therefore what we could do on our own was limited. Relationships were therefore established with service providers already active in our community where Trinity could make a contribution towards meeting pressing community needs. Two of our early initiatives illustrate this strategy.

Citizens advice Bureau

In 2005 the Citizens Advice Bureau, was seeking to extend its range of 'Outreach Clinics', and

we were delighted when they agreed to establish a session in Trinity. Since then, by simply dropping into Trinity on a Wednesday afternoon and chatting in confidence to the C.A.B. adviser, hundreds of people have been helped.

Positive Futures

'Positive Futures' is a province wide organisation seeking to meet the needs of people living with a learning disability. In Lisburn, one of their main programmes is directed towards young people with a disability and their siblings. In 2005, this service was experiencing difficulty finding suitable premises for their activities. Thus our relationship with Positive Futures was established and to the present day many of their young people, their parents and carers are regularly welcomed into our premises.



'ASCERT' drug awareness training group

Since 2005 a number of other voluntary organisations working in the area of disability have been supported in this way.

'Prospects' is an organisation which supports adults with a learning disability living in our community and also provides opportunities for worship and relevant Bible teaching through the ministry of its 'Causeway Groups'. We are delighted to host the meetings of the Lisburn Causeway Group and certainly Monday evenings in Trinity are enriched by the joyful worship of up to 30 adults and their carers.

A recent development has been the establishment in Trinity of a monthly lunch and social activity group, run in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Society for those in the earlier stages of their illness and their carers. All enjoy a simple lunch followed by a time of friendship and stimulating activities.

Other voluntary organisations that have been or are supported from time to time in Trinity include Autism N.I. (Lisburn Branch), Lisburn Childminders Branch, Kids in Control (physical drama for young people of all abilities), Homestart - Lisburn/Colin, and many others.

Congregational involvement

At the heart of Trinity is a worshipping congregation which actively supports through prayer and involvement all that takes place in our premises. Members of our congregation continue to provide faithful service in our own church organisations and some also support a number of the groups working with TCI.

Mention must also be made of the 'Trinity Welcome Home' project, in which members of our congregation provide weekly donations of non-perishable food items which are distributed to needy families in our community through 'Storehouse' (a ministry

significant benefit to our local community and beyond. But what's in it for Trinity? Sometimes that is more difficult to measure. But then moments of feedback come - the joy in the face of child with Down's Syndrome, the grateful thanks of a



The TCI Committee chaired by the Rev Ed McDade

of Belfast Vineyard Church). This project has also helped a number of families through the home decorating and other practical skills of our volunteers.

Some Final Thoughts

Trinity is not only a very busy church but through TCI has become a well used and respected venue for a unique mix of community activities. Space does not permit mention of the Ladies Exercise Class, the Pipe Band meetings, Slimming World classes, drama groups, and the many commercial, statutory and church groups that hold conferences, concerts, and meetings in Trinity, all of which bring benefit to our community and provide Trinity much needed revenue.

Undoubtedly the presence of Trinity Methodist Church brings

parent, the pleasure shared by an elderly friend, and the privilege of welcoming community contacts to Sunday worship. Undergirding it all is the assurance that we are being true to our Methodist calling and that in everything God is with us.

Our Methodist Heritage

In the 'New Room' in Bristol, the first preaching house built outside London by the early Methodist movement, a notice explains that the pews there now were not part of the original building, as they could not easily be moved to allow the room to be used as a preaching place on Sundays and as a pharmacy and a school room during the week! Trinity is not the first Church to make sure its buildings can benefit the community in more ways than one!

Conference 2011

Roberta England shares her first experience of Conference

The singing

Nothing beats the singing at the business sessions of Conference; ably led by the Presentor, the unaccompanied singing achieves that rare thing: a couple of hundred people singing as one voice. Even when the words to a hymn, obviously unknown to the majority but set to a well-known tune, failed to appear on the screen, members cheerfully 'la-la-ed' through four lines till the technology sorted itself out.

The bad news! This came during the report on the Connexional Finances; Conference has tried to have no increase in the assessment, but this comes at a cost elsewhere. This session threw up more questions than answers, but some serious cuts may have to be made in the future.

The lighter moments

Along with very serious issues there were the lighter moments. No doubt our English visitors were bemused by the Kingston family tree, and may have left thinking that everyone was related to everyone else in Irish Methodism. Comparing our Lay Leader and the President to Ant and Dec (I think) rather than Jedward produced some hilarity, only to be bested by the relevant pictures appearing on the screen within seconds. Sometimes the technology works very well!

For me, the saddest part of Conference has to be the service remembering the ministers who have died during the year, and the happiest is hearing of those candidating for the ministry and those being ordained.

Finally - a word of advice

Anyone who is asked to attend Conference next year - just say 'yes', but check out the church pews in advance. I was glad I was forewarned to bring a cushion. I should have brought two! For a full report on Conference, you really need to read the July issue of the Methodist Newsletter. My comments only very briefly cover a few aspects.

The President of the Methodist Church in Ireland

The Methodist President for 2011/12 is the Rev Ian Henderson. Born in Carrickfergus, he moved to Dublin, completing his education at Wesley College and Trinity College before candidating for the ministry. From 1973 he has been stationed on seven circuits, all in the Republic of Ireland.

Following Conference 2011 one of his first duties was to attend the 20th World Methodist Conference in Durban, South Africa from 1 to 8 August. The World Methodist Conference brings together representatives from 132 countries who represent 75 million Methodists & Wesleyans across the world.



Mervyn and Claudette Kilpatrick to serve as Mission Partners in Sri Lanka

Ten years ago Mervyn and Claudette returned from serving the Church in Zimbabwe and now, after being stationed in Banbridge and Newownabbey, they are returning to mission field, although this time it means separation from their grown-up family Lydia, Luke, Miriam and Daniel.

WE ARE SURVIVORS (for those born before 1940)

We were born before television, before penicillin polio shots, frozen food, Xerox, contact lenses video and the pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball point pens before dishwashers, tumble dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip dry clothes and before a man walked the moon.



We got married first then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought fast food was what you ate in lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat, and 'crumpet' was something you had for tea. We existed before house husbands, and computer dating, and sheltered accommodation was where you waited for a bus.

We were before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We'd never heard of FM radio, tape decks, artificial hearts, word processors or young men wearing earrings. For us 'time sharing' meant togetherness, a 'chip' was a piece of wood or a fried potato, hardware meant nuts and bolts and software wasn't a word.



A big mac



Sheltered accommodation

Before, 1940 'Made in Japan' meant junk, The term 'making out' referred to how you did your exams, 'stud' was something that fastened a collar to a shirt, and 'going all the way' meant staying on a double decker bus to the terminus.

In our day cigarette smoking was 'fashionable' 'grass' was mown, 'coke' was kept in the coal-house, a 'joint' was a piece of meat, and pot was something you cooked in. Rock music was a fond mother's lullaby, 'Eldorado' was an ice cream, a 'gay person' was the life and soul of the party, while 'aids' just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.



Rock Music



A joint



Pot

We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder there is a generation gap today.....BUT

Contributed by a member of the Luncheon Club

By the Grace of God.... we have survived.

Champion's Challenge - Trinity Holiday Bible Club

Every afternoon, from Monday 24th to Friday 29th July, Trinity's halls were full of noise and excitement as our annual Holiday Bible Club took place. We were really encouraged that over 50 children joined us each day to take part in "Champion's Challenge". During the course of the week we shared stories from Luke's gospel using a sporting theme. Stories included the Wise and Foolish Builders where we saw that Jesus is our Trainer teaching us the best way to live, the story of the Crucifixion showing that Jesus was our Substitute and culminating in the story of the Resurrection which demonstrated that Jesus is the Champion.

Every day, teams of "Cheeky Champions", "Rowdy Racers", "Groovy Gladiators" and "Amazing Allstars" enjoyed a varied programme of games, songs, stories, quizzes and craft. One of the highlights each day for the children was a visit from our puppet friends, Bob and Archie and the funny duo, Ready (Jonny Hill) and Steady (Angela Sofley) who performed sketches relating to the day's message.

Continuing the sporting theme, our memory verse, which we learnt over the whole week was:



"So we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially the sin that just won't let go. And we must be determined to run the race that is ahead of us. We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete."
Hebrews Chapter 12 v 1

A team of almost 30 adults and teenagers ran the programme and enjoyed the fellowship of working together, as well as having great fun with all the children.

Our Holiday Bible Club concluded on Friday evening with a Celebration Barbecue which was attended by over 80 people. Here family members got a flavour of "Champion's Challenge" for themselves and each little champion received a gold medal to show they were all winners!



From the Registers...

Seymour Street BAPTISMS

Polly Anna Rose, daughter of Alistair and Samantha Morrison

WEDDING

James Nelson and Laura Bush

DEATHS

Mr Richard Keag, Rose Lodge Nursing Home

Mr Sam Dickson, 27 Parkland Drive
Mrs Anna Twinem, 10 Crossan Road

Dromore

DEATHS

Ethel Beattie

Dorothy (Dot) Elizabeth Brien

Births

Harry Thomas Parr to Joanne & Philip

A visit to Stormont



SEYMOUR STREET LUNCHEON CLUB OUTING – JUNE 2011

Following a lovely lunch in the Church hall, over 60 members and helpers of the Luncheon Club boarded a bus and went to Stormont for the afternoon. Upon arrival Mr Trevor Lunn welcomed the group, who were then provided with tea and scones before having a guided tour of Stormont Buildings – (unfortunately our Daniel O'D 'look-a-like' Jeffery was not about!!!).



It was a great visit and we were made most welcome. After the tour was over we drove to Magheragall Methodist Church Hall for our tea. The ladies of Magheragall provided a beautiful meal (calorie free desserts included!!!!) and the bus left us back to the Church for about 6.30pm. It was a great day out and really appreciated and enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Anne and Dorothy as well as all the helpers of the Luncheon Club.



NOCT

Youth | events, study & culture

INTRO

Hey hey! I trust all is well, and you have found something to keep you busy this summer. If you haven't been busy... you have MISSED OUT!

One of my highlights this summer was fuel festival, up in Ballymena, it was crammed full of great artists from Nathan Jess, Brian Houston, Starfield and the amazing duke special to name but a few! My favourite of the festival being Lisburns own, Ram's Pocket Radio fronted by Peter McCauley. Always a great show, if you haven't seen him already I strongly suggest checking him out! Until next time!

Jamie xx

WHAT'S ON?

AUTUMN SOUL



The theme they have chosen this year is 'SPEAK TRUTH LIVE LOVE' It is based up in Bangor, during the 28th - 30st October. It is always a great event with lots to do in various seminars. This year the speaker is David Rock, and match this with the great music. It's a bargain-get down! It will be a great weekend!

details: www.dycw.info

LOL!

This fundamentalist Christian couple felt it important to own an equally fundamentally Christian pet. So, they went shopping. At a kennel specialising in this particular breed, they found a dog they liked quite a lot. When they asked the dog to fetch the Bible, he did it in a flash. When they instructed him to look up Psalm 23, he complied equally fast, using his paws with dexterity. They were impressed, purchased the animal, and went home (piously, of course). That night they had friends over. They were so proud of their new fundamentalist dog and his major skills, they called the dog and showed off a little. The friends were impressed, and asked whether the dog was able to do any of the usual dog tricks, as well. This stopped the couple cold, as they hadn't thought about 'normal' tricks. "Well," they said, "let's try this out."

Once more they called out to the dog, and then clearly pronounced the command, "Heel!" Quick as a wink, the dog jumped up, put his paw on the man's forehead, closed his eyes in concentration, and bowed his head.

LESSON

7

Our Competence

Proverbs 8-9, 2 Corinthians 3

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:5

Some 'help wanted' ads sound like only Superman should apply for the job. The job description may include the required education and the amount of experience in the field, plus the abilities that are expected of the person filling the position. We may look over the ad and wonder if anyone would be up to the job.

In 2 Corinthians 2:16, Paul asks a question that is not answered until the next chapter. It is a little like an advertisement in the help wanted section. After describing believers as the "aroma of Christ" (v. 15) and how we are to the one "the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life," he asks, "And who is equal to such a task?" (v. 16).

We certainly aren't! It is important for us to recognize that confidence in self alone is insufficient to accomplish what God wants us to do. It is also vital that we do not excuse ourselves from our God given responsibilities by highlighting our inadequacies either. At this point we need to keep reading. "Our competence," Paul writes, "comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant" (3:5-6).

DEVOTIONAL

We may feel like the overwhelmed candidate for an overwhelming job, but we have this assurance God can make us competent for the task. The only real question is not if He can but if we will. Will you let Him so mould and make you that He can effectively use you?

"God, help me not to be overly confident in myself but properly dependent on You. Help me see how You are moulding and making me to serve as Your witness."