



The Light

Issue 225

June 2019

My Journey in Ministry

Rev Mervyn Ewing

The Down District Youth Choir Story

Broomhedge Flower Festival

Ministers on the move



THE MAGAZINE OF THE LISBURN AND DROMORE METHODIST CIRCUIT

Seymour Street

Rev Mervyn Ewing
028 92662303 & 07801069806
minister@seymourstreet.org

Shirley Carrington - 028 92607881
shirley.carrington@talk21.com

www.seymourstreet.org

Trinity

Rev David Turtle 028 92621282
david@trinitylisburn.com

Rev Ken Todd 028 9669848
ktoddmmms@outlook.com

Rev Jim Williamson
028 97560393
jim@trinitylisburn.com

Dromore

Rev Ross Harte
ross.harte@irishmethodist.org
028 92651072

Rev Tom Deacon
028 38153071 & 07814 496659

Priesthill

Rev Mervyn Ewing
028 92662303 & 07801069806

Rev Tom Deacon
028 38153071 & 07814 496659

Billy Bryson - 028 97532147

Magheragall & Broomhedge

Rev Thomas Clarke
tmclarke@btinternet.com
028 92651072 & 07771 918615

Rev Jim Williamson
028 97560393

*Cover Photo: Broomhedge Flower
Festival: Sacrifice on Mount Moriah*

Editor: Lindsay Easson

Send material to:
thelight@seymourstreet.org

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 4th August 2019

Contents:

02

The Rev Mervyn Ewing

03

My Journey in Ministry

Rev Mervyn Ewing

08

**Dromore expedition
Exodus Team**

09

**Ministers on the move
Christmas Tree Festival**

10

The Down District Youth Choir

16

**Magheragall Wednesday Group
From the Registers**

17

Broomhedge Flower Festival



Rev Mervyn Ewing

Lisburn & Dromore Circuit
Superintendent 2014 to 2019

The Society & Circuit Stewards

The Rev. Mervyn Ewing came to the Lisburn and Dromore Circuit in July 2014 as the Superintendent Minister. Although primarily based at Seymour Street Mervyn has been very involved across the entire circuit, particularly supporting Priesthill.

As Minister of Seymour Street, he has overseen the significant refurbishment of the church organ and the reconfiguration of the front of the church sanctuary. This has been a highly successful project and has helped to enhance worship – supporting the continued blend of traditional and modern worship, and providing a flexible space which can be utilized for drama, song and a larger communion space.

Until recently, he has also been the chairman of Damask Community Outreach. He was involved in the establishment of the relationship with Youth Initiatives. From this partnership, the Saturday Night Youth has evolved and is recently attracted over 100 young people per week.

He has been extremely supportive of our local preachers, using their talents throughout the circuit in leading regular Sunday worship. As a circuit we are very blessed that our ministers are supported in this way.

Mervyn was instrumental in establishing the 'Imagine' group which brought together representatives from each of the 6 societies. This has helped to give an improved understanding between the societies within the circuit and facilitated the discussions which will see the changes to staffing within the circuit from July. We have also seen an increased number of opportunities to come together to worship as a Circuit – the Pentecost joint service being a particular highlight to the church calendar.

Whilst there are many obvious public occasions where the minister of any society is seen, it is in the quietness, and sometimes sadness of a family situation, where their presence is most needed. Many across the circuit will be able to testify of the support, care and ministry that Mervyn has provided at these times and how much that has been a comfort to them.

We would like to thank both Mervyn and Helena for their ministry and service. Mervyn has a tireless work ethic and will hopefully enjoy a measure of well deserved rest. As we know from the many examples across the circuit, you never 'retire' from the ministry but we would want wish them both God's richest blessings for their future as they seek his guiding. ●



My Journey in Ministry

Rev. Mervyn Ewing

Easter March of Witness, Mervyn with
the Lisburn city centre ministers

When I was 18, I sensed God's calling towards ordained ministry. I applied and was accepted on to a three-year Diploma in Biblical Studies course at Cliff College, Sheffield, England. Between the letter of offer from Cliff and the start date I allowed myself to be persuaded that this wasn't for me, so I abandoned the idea. I instead continued my apprenticeship as a joiner/carpenter and started studying as a Local Preacher under the tutelage of our then minister Rev John Dowse.

The sense of call never really left me, although I managed to avoid it for a number of years. I met and fell in love with Helena and our two children Laura and Stephen were born. I focused on family and church and carried on as usual. It wasn't until I was 45 that this sense of call intensified and began to unsettle me. Although I was preaching quite a lot on our home Circuit, I never did get around to completing the Local Preacher training.

In order to candidate I needed to be a Fully Accredited Local Preacher and hold 4 GCSE certificates 'C' or above. This was quite a challenge for a person who left school with no exams to my name. My quest began with studying at evening classes for GCSEs in RE, Psychology and Sociology in Omagh Technical College. I was working in Belfast at the time,

so I enrolled for an evening class at Belfast Metropolitan College in English Literature GCSE and Edgehill College for an evening class studying for my Local Preachers Certificate.

These all took two years to complete. I now was ready to apply to the Methodist Church in Ireland to be a candidate for the ordained ministry. I filled out the application form and began what became quite a daunting process with many 'hurdles' along the way. This process lasted just over a year and the disappointing conclusion was a 'not yet' decision by the Methodist Church Examinations Board. This decision left me a bit lost and dejected.

I still had a strong sense of call and knew I needed to be trained before I could ever fulfil this calling. I applied to and was accepted on a three-year Diploma Course in Biblical Studies in Belfast Bible College while Helena stayed in Omagh as the 'bread winner'.

During my first year an opportunity presented itself that mature students could apply to Queens University Theology Department to enter the Theology Degree course. I was encouraged to do an A level in RE and once I completed that I applied and was accepted. I remained at BBC and took classes and tutorials in BBC and Queens.

It was during my third year at BBC/Queens that I had this urge to re-candidate for the Methodist Church. This time my candidacy was successful. I studied for one year in Edgehill completing my Theology Degree and was commissioned as a Probation Minister at Conference in Cork in 1999. I was stationed to Castlederg Methodist Circuit where I remained for 6 years. I was ordained at Conference in Darling Street Methodist Church in 2003.

We settled in quite quickly. I was now minister for four Church families – Castlederg, Cavendoragh, Lisleen and Aghyaran, approximately 125 families spread over 18 square miles of hilly and windy road terrain. I left the manse at 9:30 am on Sunday morning returning at around 1:30 pm. By this stage the Aghyaran service at 3:30 pm had stopped and the congregation were worshipping in Lisleen, although they still identified as a congregation.

This was a steep learning curve for me; there was so much I didn't know and so much I needed to learn. I made many mistakes and I'm grateful for patient leaders who graciously helped and guided me along the way. I was blessed with a wonderfully patient Superintendent the late Rev Peter Good who never made me feel inadequate or stupid but patiently taught me and led me.

Pastoral ministry brings many challenges, opportunities and encouragements. I wasn't long in Castlederg when I had my first death and funeral. I baptised my first baby in Altnagelvin Hospital. She was premature and not expected to live but thankfully she survived. 'Connexions' had just been launched and the Circuit was grappling with new structures. We had TOM for a whole week when some of our young people gave their lives to the Lord. We saw revival in one of our Societies, Cavendoragh, where a whole family gave their lives to the Lord and where the



With the Seymour Street Society Stewards and Lay Pastoral Assistant during the recent President's visit

Church family were renewed in faith and fervour for God.

In 2005 I was stationed to Jennymount in North Belfast. Jennymount Methodist Church was a newly re-built Church. Jennymount was very different from Castlederg, being a one church Circuit with a separate community outreach centre and a church community of approximately 470 people who lived by and large within a 5-mile radius of the church building. I soon realised my ministry was to extend beyond the walls of the church building into the surrounding community.

As church we embarked on a journey through a variety of initiatives to engage more intentionally with our neighbours. The Church Council took the courageous step to release me so I could engage with our neighbours on their behalf. There were huge risks attached to this kind of ministry. As I made friends with our neighbours in Tigers Bay and started conversations with those on the fringes of working-class Protestantism, I got involved in the local Policing Partnership and other



Mervyn and Helena being welcomed to the City by the Lisburn Lord Mayor

community initiatives with other church and community leaders.

I was reminded of John Wesley's words: *'The world is my parish'*. That was how it was for me and I'm eternally grateful to the courageous leaders in Jennymount who took this radical decision. We opened the church building up and offered it to community organisations as a community space. I said yes to community baptisms (*baptising babies from the community with no church connection*). We soon became a very eclectic mix of diverse people gathering to worship God.

Then the bottom dropped out of our world; two young people from our outreach work took their own lives. This was a devastating blow to our church family and local community and heart-breaking for their families. We offered what support we could showing God's indiscriminate love in whatever way we could.

One day I was walking into our building and I met the mother of one of those boys, Dean, and her best friend who had a son seriously caught in the snare of drug addiction. We chatted and Dean's mother Alison asked me if I would give a group of concerned mothers a room so they could meet and discuss the issues facing their children and young people. I said yes and 'Hear To Help' was born, a

group whose sole purpose was to better the lives of the young men and women in Tigers Bay and surrounding community.

Together we began our quest to rid the streets of addiction and abuse. Lots of initiatives were planned and training in Drug Awareness, Suicide Awareness, teaching parenting skills was facilitated and supported by other community organisations. I helped to launch the Dean Clarke Foundation which was set up to gain funding and provide bursaries for young people to learn skills to help better their lives. We witnessed first-hand enormous transformation as we watched young people learn new skills and begin to articulate their feelings, hopes and aspirations. It was during this time that I was invited to be the Methodist representative on a working group exploring mental well-being and suicide prevention that later became known as Flourish.

Another door opened when we were approached by a parent of an autistic boy if we would give them space to provide a parents and children's space on a Saturday morning specifically designed to help parents with autistic children. We agreed and this amazing initiative continues to this day.

It was during my time in Jennymount when Rev Dr Heather Morris was President of the Methodist Church in Ireland and Máirtín Ó

Jennymount
Methodist Church,
Belfast

Muilleoir was Belfast City Mayor that big things began to happen in Belfast. I remember meeting with Heather and my good friend Father Martin Magill really early one morning in Starbucks on the Lisburn Road and discussing the brokenness of Belfast. We began to discern that perhaps creating a prayer that could be used throughout the City might bring breakthrough. We wrote the prayer that morning in Starbucks, offered it to the Mayor who got it translated into the Irish Language and it was prayed at every council meeting and other public meetings during his mayoral year.

Church evolved too. We did church differently inviting community organisation leaders to come and share on a Sunday morning and took time to pray for them and their organisation. I was blessed to have four Local Preachers and we created team and used a more collaborative model for ministry. We did 'café' style church where we sat around tables, drank coffee and chatted about the Bible and its message for us in our local context. The Church Council applied to have my appointment extended which was granted. We continued to see growth and blessing as we endeavoured to live out the gospel of Christ among our neighbours

It was during this time that we began to have a conversation with Cavehill Methodist Church and Rev Thomas Clarke with a view of creating a new Circuit. These conversations continued culminating in the formation of the Jennymount and Cavehill Methodist Circuit. This journey continued and later Joanmount Methodist Church joined, and the North Belfast Circuit was formed.

It was in 2013 in my second year of a three-year extension that I got a call from the



Belfast Stationer to ask me to go to the Lisburn and Dromore Circuit. My policy has always been 'to go where I am sent' so my response was: "Just tell me what you want me to do and I will do it". We moved from the Antrim Road to Mount Royal in July 2014. We settled in quite quickly and were made very welcome with many well-wishers calling at the manse bearing gifts and cards.

Ministry on the L&D Circuit is very different from anything I had experienced before. Moving from a single church Circuit to a six Church Circuit, whilst similar to my time in Castlederg, was different in that I was now the Superintendent supported by three other ministers and one Lay Pastor.

As I settled into Seymour Street church family and got to know the many services offered by Damask Community Outreach and the breadth of ministry offered in the life of the church it soon became apparent that whilst the two Circuits are very different there were similarities with what was evolving in Jennymount. Staff meetings were a new departure for me and whilst I was quickly appreciating the collegiality nature of my ministry here my responsibilities were becoming increasingly apparent. I soon realised why we had a Pastoral Assistant in Seymour Street in that I was no longer able to

My Journey in Ministry . . . continued

visit as much as I would have liked to. I have really valued Shirley's collegueship and support.

I had the privilege of leading the Seymour Street Church Council in their desire to fulfil a long-held dream to reconfigure the front of the Sanctuary and refurbish the almost 100-year-old organ. This took both imagination and tenacity and I commend the Church Council of the time for their forward thinking and courageous leadership in planning and executing Project 16, creating a more user-friendly space which is more fitting for 21st Century worship.

As Circuit Superintendent I have enjoyed leading worship and preaching across the Circuit. In more recent years I've been really blessed to be working more closely with Priesthill congregation and Church Council, and prior to that Magheragall.

I have always appreciated a team approach to leadership and find being part of team both rewarding and fulfilling. Meeting as regularly as we do on the Lisburn and Dromore Circuit has allowed for discussion around vision and mission and enabled us to take action as we sought to help the people called Methodist in this community grow in their faith and awareness of God.

I have been thoroughly blessed with colleagues - our retired ministers Rev Winston Good, Rev Dr Edmund Mawhinney, Rev Ken Todd, Rev Tom Deacon, Rev Dr James Williamson and Mr Ken Best all of whose counsel I've truly appreciated and valued, and my stationed colleagues Rev David Turtle, Rev Thomas Clarke and Rev Ross Harte whose collegueship has meant a great deal to me. Shirley particularly has been an amazing colleague and friend and I am indebted to her

for her support and collegueship during my five years in Seymour Street.

During my ministry I have sought to birth new disciples, help existing disciples grow deeper in their understanding and awareness of what it means to be disciples and bring the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit to bear in all the ways we transact our lives. As I look back over my ministry to date, we have seen God at work – lives being changed, and families nurtured and strengthened in the Christian faith. There is no greater privilege than being allowed to come alongside people in the joys and sorrows of life. Ministry is not something that you can walk away from and as I look forward to retirement, I've been invited to take on a part-time appointment by a Circuit that will have no minister stationed this year.

I can honestly say that there hasn't been a moment that I have not known or felt God present. His abiding presence has covered me especially in moments of discouragement and loneliness. I have known God to be faithful and true.

As I prepare for retirement it is reassuring and comforting to know that I am being succeeded by Rev David Turtle as Circuit Superintendent. This has been a good decision for it allows for continuity on the Circuit. I know David shares my passion for Circuit ministry and collaborative leadership.

I want to wish him and the Lisburn and Dromore Methodist Circuit well as you journey on, and that each of the Societies will grow – grow numerically, grow in your relationship with God in Jesus and grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).





The 2019 EXODUS team from Seymour Street worked hard to prepare and serve a tasty 'Big Breakfast' for members of the church and raised over £1300 towards the project they will be working on this summer in a South African township. The team are once again under the leadership of Michaela Johnston (on the left).

Dromore Fund-raising Walk

Some members from Dromore recently went for a walk round Hillsborough Lake together; one purpose was to raise some money as we work to clear the debt on our hall, but even better was people across the generations engaging in exercise, good conversation and eating ice cream!



Ministers on the move!

Rev David Turtle is already a familiar face on our Circuit as the Minister of Trinity, since 2012, but is now moving to Seymour Street. He is from farming stock in Stewartstown and after studying Agriculture at Queens went home to run the dairy farm in 1990. As his faith grew he felt called to something more and in 2002 was ready to answer that call to candidate for the Methodist ministry and was ordained in 20007. He met Pamela, his wife, while they were teenagers, and they have three children, Stephen, Amy and Sam.



The Rev Alan Craig is married to Ruth, also a Methodist minister, and they have three children: Tanya, Alana and Kyle. Alan's home church was Sydenham Methodist and this is where he and Ruth came to faith under the ministry of the Rev Brian Fetcher in 1991. He felt the call to be a local preacher while Ruth was training in Edgehill College in 1994. He served in the British Army for twenty-five years and retired in 2004, became a house husband but after three months was 'sacked' by his wife and told "that I was absolutely useless at housework", before being given an application form for Translink.

Until June 2010 he drove a bus to Dublin four days a week until God ignited a fire deep within him to candidate for the ordained ministry. He enjoyed college life and sharing his faith and experiences with the other students and completed a Foundation Degree in Theology. He comes to Trinity from Primacy where he was stationed in June 2014.

SAVE THE DATE

Christmas Tree Festival

13-15 December 2019

at Dromore Methodist Church

Viewing Times:

Friday 2pm to 8pm

Saturday 10am to 6.30pm

Sunday 2pm to 4pm

View a selection of trees created by local businesses, groups and church members on the theme:

"Christmas Joy!"

Festive refreshments, and crafts for children, available throughout

Groups welcome:

Contact Des 07746 091655

Suggested donation:
£5 (children £2)

Craft Fair: Saturday 10am-12.30pm

Gatherings:

Opening Prayer
Friday 2pm

Worship Night
Saturday 7pm

Morning Worship
Sunday 11am

Carol Service
Sunday 4.30pm

Find us at
2 Maypole Hill, Dromore BT25 1BQ
www.dromoremethodist.org

DromoreMethodistChurch

The Down District Youth Choir Story

Dr Lindsay Easson



The Starbright cast in 1990

It was never easy to develop any sort of 'corporate' identity for the Methodist Down District which spans from Lisburn and Dromore to Newcastle, Bangor and Holywood, but the Down District Youth Choir achieved that, and brought together over 100 young people from the four corners of the District to take part in three Christian productions, 'It's a Gift', 'Transformer' and 'Starbright' with over 30 performances from 1984 to 1991.

It's a Gift

In the early 1980's at the Down District Youth Committee I represented the Lisburn and Dromore Circuit and Ashley Boggs the Bangor and Holywood Circuit, and together we developed 'Worship Workshops' which brought together District young people on a Sunday

afternoon who worked together in drama, dance, art, prayer and music teams to prepare worship material for the Evening Service in whichever Church we were meeting at. It quickly became apparent that there was considerable talent, enthusiasm and commitment from our young people to take part this way in worship.

In 1977 the Youth Fellowship I had previously led in Edinburgh had prepared a Christmas Service called 'It's a Gift' based on a short story by Joseph Bayly in which children find a Christmas present each side of which is a different colour, representing a different facet of the Christmas story. Having realised the gifts of the young people of the Down District Ashley and I asked them to come together for a series of Sunday afternoons to



Steven McCrea singing his own composition, 'It's Midnight over Bethlehem'

develop a production with drama, music, a choir, dance team and audio-visual elements for Christmas 1984 based on this story. The first 'It's a Gift' presentations were in Seymour Street, Lisburn, and in Wesley Centenary, Bangor and included several original songs, along with entertaining interpretations of the Shepherds and the Wise Men. Dancers turned the 'Gift' to reveal each colour and we then developed that aspect of the story in music and drama.

There is no doubt that those first presentations had many rough edges. I remember too that the first performance took much less time than I had anticipated and so we ended up repeating much of the show so that everyone would feel that were getting their money's worth! In addition to our own young people we also invited a group from the Lisburn Gateway Club to perform a dance to 'Angels from the Realms of Glory'. They loved taking part and were included in all the subsequent performances. It's a Gift was so warmly received by those first audiences, and enjoyed by the choir members that we knew we had to go ahead with a bigger and better production in 1985 which was performed in larger venues in Lisburn and Bangor and also in Ballynahinch Methodist Church. Several

new songs were written and the drama further developed with the introduction of Herod and also a more sombre reflection on the red side of the box representing Jesus sacrifice on the cross. A novel element was the use of a dual-projection synchronised audio-visual system used in several scenes.

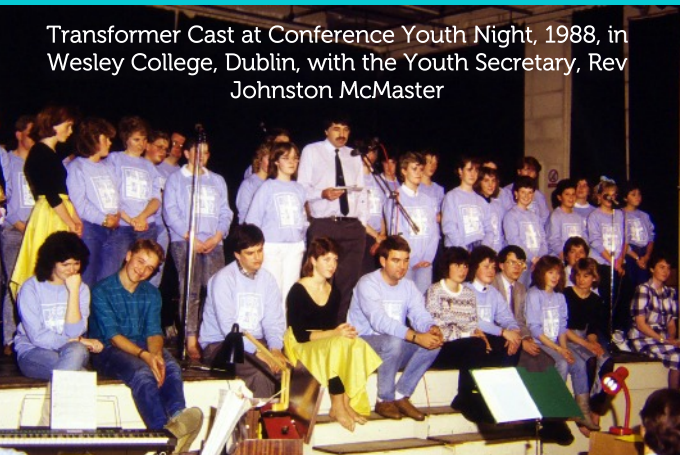
For the 1986 production our aim was to take It's a Gift across Belfast. We soon arranged venues at the East Belfast Mission and North Belfast Mission but were also keen to find a way of taking it across the community divide into West Belfast. We were invited by the Clonard Monastery to use their hall, and this was an amazing evening for us all as we were welcome with enthusiasm by their



One of the Shepherds does not want to "Dance with the Angels!"

community. The 'troubles' were still very real at that time so we were apprehensive about bringing so many young people to the Falls Road, but to the credit of our Methodist people, not one parent of our 60 Choir members raised any objections. The good relations that were established through that performance of It's a Gift led to our Choir being invited to take part in ecumenical services in Andersonstown and also in St Anne's Cathedral at which we performed a song and worship dance from It's a Gift.

Transformer Cast at Conference Youth Night, 1988, in Wesley College, Dublin, with the Youth Secretary, Rev Johnston McMaster



Transformer

During 1987 we were approached by the Methodist Youth Department to consider developing a completely new presentation to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the conversion of John Wesley and his experience in Aldersgate Street. The idea was to launch this production at Conference Youth Night in Dublin in 1988 and then take it on tour round Northern Ireland at venues arranged by the Youth Department.

Our young people took on this challenge enthusiastically and using a combination of songs (some original), drama, dance and audio-visual presentation we told the story of John Wesley, very ably acted by John Unsworth, and imagined him interacting with a group of young people in today's society, played by various members of the choir! At the time

'Transformer' toys were all the rage and so we chose Transformer as the title as it reflected not just the effect that Jesus had on the life of John Wesley but also the subsequent impact of John Wesley on the spiritual life of the nation.

The lead up to the first performance in June 1988 saw many practices held in Lisburn, Bangor and Ballynahinch with young people ferried from all over the district from Glaslough to

Broomhedge but the support did not flag and Transformer was well received at Conference, being described in the Methodist Newsletter as 'Visuals, drama, songs and hilarity all combined to communicate a powerful message. A tremendous achievement, dynamic, brilliantly portrayed.' From September 1988 to March 1989 seven performances took place in Newtownards, Enniskillen, Belfast, Ballymena, Dungannon, Londonderry and Lisburn.

Just when we thought Transformer was over the Youth Department revealed they were proposing the we should take Transformer to the IMAYC London Weekend, attended by thousands of young Methodists from all over the UK. Finance was found to support about 40 choir members flying over and presenting a shortened version in the Methodist



The Transformer cast at the IMAYC London Weekend at the Methodist Central Hall audience

Central Hall to an extremely enthusiastic audience! It was a wonderful experience as we were able to fully enter into the whole weekend including a march through Hyde Park and a worship celebration with everybody in the Albert Hall. It was a fitting climax for all the effort put by our young people into Transformer.

Starbright

Even before that final Transformer event we were approached by Ken Duncan from Lisburn who was a freelance musician with his own recoding studio. He had an idea for a new Christmas musical for which he had already written several songs. Would the DDYC take on turning these in a new presentation called 'Starbright'? His music was much more contemporary than *It's a Gift* and Transformer and our choir members were enthusiastic about taking it on. Now in the 6th year the choir, under the direction of Audrey Boggs was able to tackle the more adventurous musical arrangements and the dance elements reflected the more upbeat tempo of the music. Over the 1989 and 1990 Christmas seasons productions of Starbright were performed in Larne, North Belfast Mission, Methodist College Belfast, Wallace High School and Bangor Grammar.



'Jules' Hamilton as Professor Starsky

The impact of the DDYC

From relatively simple beginnings the DDYC touched lives over 100 young people, and their families, over the seven years of its life and gave them an appreciation of the vitality being a Christian can bring and a realisation that we all have gifts that God can use to share his message. By taking our presentations not just across the country, but also across Northern Ireland's fractured community at that time, and across the Irish Sea, we showed that our faith can be used to bring together rather than divide. One former member said *"Such great memories! Those days were such a great blessing to me and you were such an encouragement. I felt valued even though I thought so little of myself. I have such happy memories of It's a Gift and Transformer; I learned so much!"* and

Starbright Choir and Dance Team



another reflected *"The choir and the church were very much our social life growing up. I'm so grateful for this and having such a full social life meant we were never into the pub/club social life. I pray for my kids that they would find a life in Christ and the church as we all did."*

In these productions and in the Worship Workshops our young people were not just staying within their own world and talking to themselves, but making a real contribution to the whole life of the church and the community. Although after Starbright circumstances led to the Down District Youth Choir ceasing, there were further opportunities for young people and in fact all ages to take part in the Rob Frost productions of 'Hopes and Dreams' and 'Here and Now' which were performed in the Waterfront Hall with a largely local cast. Perhaps today we could give young people more of a voice in the life of our church than simply playing in a praise group!

Many members of the DDYC are today's leaders in the Christian communities in which they worship, four are Methodist ministers and one a Presbyterian minister! Sadly we are aware of five who have been taken from us at an early age through illness or tragic accident and we remember with affection Michael McBratney, Naomi Crothers, Andrew

Ferguson, Christian McKinstry and Helen Anderson.

The DDYC comes together in 2019 to celebrate the Down District

At a recent Service in Lisburn to celebrate the Down District before it is subsumed into the new North East District of the Methodist Church former members of the DDYC were called together to reprise our productions. Old videos and photos brought back memories not just to the choir members but also to the congregation, many of whom had watched the original shows, and we laughed at the dated hair styles and fresh faced youngsters who were our former selves of 30 years ago!. Several members travelled significant distances to join us again and others sent messages from Australia, Bahrain, England, Ireland and Scotland, and also closer to home regretting that they could not be there too. We were pleased to have Ashley and Audrey Boggs with us as they had played such a prominent role leading the DDYC, and Ken Duncan joined us again as we sang a selection of Starbright songs.

Whether or not the DDYC will have future opportunities to gather we don't know, but all who were part of it look back with gratitude for all we shared, enjoyed and learned together and that we were able to contribute to the witness of the church. ●

DDYC members 30 years on!





Magheragall Wednesday Group Outing

On Wednesday 27th March our group travelled by mini bus to Alexander's of Markethill for lunch. No journey would be complete without some retail therapy and the members enjoyed pursuing around the different departments. We then travelled through the city of Armagh and on towards Moy stopping to admire the Church of Ireland building which was built

in the 1800's and cost £1500. Our next stop was The Linen Green at Moygashel and again everyone enjoyed looking around the various shops and of course a wee cup of coffee refreshed us for the journey home. I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who come to our meetings so faithfully month by month and those who help with the catering.

We are deeply indebted to Miss Roberta England for playing the organ in Magheragall Methodist Church over the past 33 years. Roberta has decided to retire from this position from 1st June 2019. **We are looking for a replacement organist and/or someone who would be willing to help on a rota basis.**

Please phone Clem Gilbert on 07732160417 for details.

The Registers

TRINITY

THANKSGIVING

Zach McIlroy, son of Perry & Emma

DEATHS

Rev Dr John Stephens
Mrs Isobel Moore

BROOMHEDGE

DEATHS

Mr Norman Foote
Mr Ernest Clydesdale

SEYMOUR STREET

BAPTISM

Hannah, daughter of Natalie McConnell and James Elliot

Ava Nicola, daughter of Graham and Nicola Smith
Georgie Peter, son of Marc and Emma Braniff

DEATHS

Mrs Jean Roddis
Mrs Joyce Hall
Mrs Margaret Hutchinson
Mr John Lewsley

MAGHERAGALL

DEATH

Mr Albert Wright

Broomhedge Flower Festival



The recent Flower Festival at Broomhedge was very successful with over 800 visitors over the three days and over £8000 raised. This was quite an achievement for a small congregation who have put more than a year's planning into the event.

The flower arrangements by Joan Lockhart and her award winning team were on the theme of 'Walks in the Bible' and showed amazing imagination, creative ability and skill in creating such expressive arrangements on the eight themes of:

- Walking in the Garden of Eden
- Abraham's Sacrifice
- The Exodus
- The Walls of Jericho
- Peter walking on the water
- The walk to the Cross
- The Road to Emmaus
- Paul's Journeys

At the opening service on Friday afternoon the Brookfield choir sang pieces and the Major of Lisburn officially opened the festival. The District Superintendent, the Rev Andrew Kingston, brought the festival to close on the Sunday evening.

Thanks are due to the Rev Thomas Clarke & his wife Yvonne for the vision that Broomhedge could host a flower festival to bring together the church and community. Also a big thank you to the congregation & helpers for their dedication to bring it all together over the whole weekend and for all those who contributed to its success, including local businesses.



Adam and Eve walking in the Garden of Eden



Abraham's sacrifice on Mount Moriah



The water at Marah during the Exodus of the Children of Israel
across the desert



Walking round the walls of Jericho



Peter walking on the water



The walk to the the cross

Broomhedge Flower Festival



The Road to Emmaus



Paul's journeys