

TheLight

Issue 220 March 2018

Your are
never too
old to get
moving!



**The TOM29 Team on our Circuit
Walking the Camino Way
SNASS team to head for Romania
DAMASK Youth Project
Holy Week Services**



THE MAGAZINE OF THE LISBURN AND DROMORE METHODIST CIRCUIT

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Contents:

02

Were you there?

04

Changes on the Circuit

05

The Connexional Year of Prayer

06

TOM29 on the Circuit

08

Walking the Camino Way

11

Damask Youth Project

13

SNASS goes to Romania

15

Around the Circuit

16

Trinity Quiz & more

17

Data Protection changes

17

Register

18

Holy Week Circuit Services

19

Carols (not) on the green!

Pilates for Seniors

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

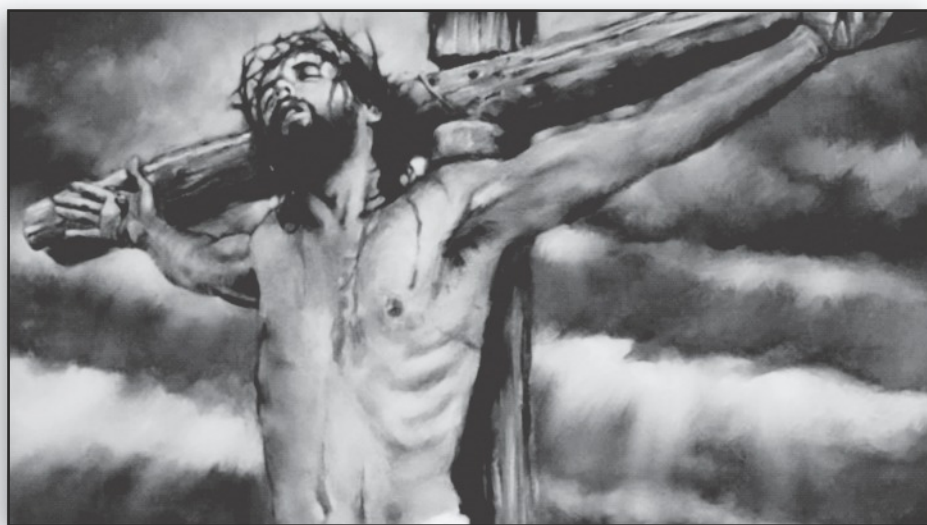
Rev Mervyn Ewing

As I started to think about this article for the Easter edition of The Light magazine I found myself humming the hymn 'Were you there when they crucified my Lord' which is attributed to African-American slaves who knew their fair share of suffering. The song describes Jesus' last days from the cross to the resurrection. The honest answer to the question is 'No - I wasn't there.' But is that true?

While Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane

and his followers and actually, if truth be told, I'm not so sure that I would really want to have been 'there when they crucified my Lord'.

But to focus on the failures of Jesus' disciples in this instance may be to miss the point. The Apostle Paul tells us in his letter to the Philippians "I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will



he confesses, 'My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death' (Mark 14:34). Mark is very detailed in his descriptions of what followed. Jesus sweats drops of blood, his soul is in agony, he is tormented. The disciples fall asleep and during his arrest, his trial, his whipping, there is a suffering beyond the physical.

The grief of aloneness is real. Where are his companions? Are they there? Yes, they are, at least they are in the vicinity. But Judas has orchestrated a betrayal, Peter is denying any knowledge of him and the other friends can't be seen for dust. This was an awful time for Jesus

experience the resurrection from the dead!" (Philippians 3:10-11).

For Christians, the suffering of Jesus on every level - spiritual, emotional, social and physical, speaks to us in a deeper way than perhaps we first think. It tells us that God is not an 'out there God' distant and remote, but that he is 'here with us'. He knows pain and suffering. He knows rejection and denial. He knows humiliation and shame. He knows grief and heartache.

The Easter season calls us to the deepest level of reflection regarding Jesus' suffering for it

draws us into his suffering and beyond, contemplating the pain he endured; by doing so we come face to face with our part in his suffering. No wonder the hymn says, 'Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble...' Whether we realise it or not, we were there when they crucified our Lord. With all our sin, with all our shortcomings, with our rebellion, we were there all right.

But this is not bad news. Again to focus on the failures of Jesus' disciples or our shortcomings is to miss the point of Jesus' death and resurrection. The good news, the best news is that Jesus' death and resurrection is the demonstration of the sheer love of God: 'in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us' (Romans 5:8). The Cross is not the end. It is the beginning.

When Christ died he bore the sin of the world (Hebrews 9:27-28). He suffered for sins that others had done, so that they could be free from sins. He took your sins and my sins so that we could be free from sin. Now we share his life in a new way. Because Jesus is alive we are alive too!

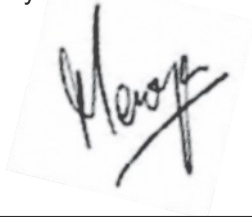
This is a story of God with us and God for us. Christ's death is an offering "to bear the sins of

many." (Hebrews 9:27) He lifted our sins and carried them to the cross and died there the death that we deserved to die. Once we understand that, it gives inestimable grace, value and dignity to the least of us. And what a wonderful thing! God doesn't merely love "the world" in general. He loves you. He loves me. For him it's very personal, the way he knows and loves each one of us.

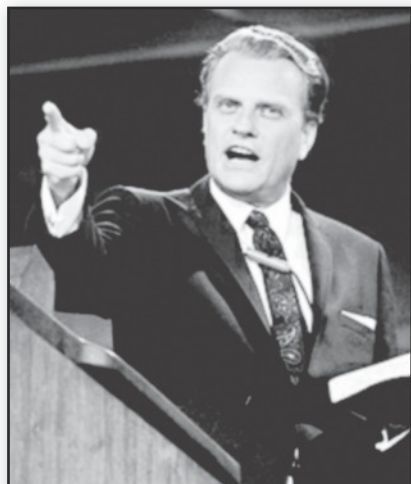
Jesus died to bring us eternal life, not just when we die, but now! "Eternal life," Jesus said to his Father, "means to know and experience you as the only true God, and to know and experience Jesus Christ, as the Son whom you have sent." (John 17:3 TPT) Salvation isn't only something we wait for when Christ returns, but it is a present condition of our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ to be enjoyed now!

As you reflect on the death and Resurrection of Christ this Easter may you know him as Lord and Saviour and find fulfilment and purpose to every aspect of your life.

Happy Easter



The Rev. Dr. Laurence Graham, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, on hearing of the death of the Rev. Dr. Billy Graham issued the following on behalf of the Methodist Church in Ireland



"Along with Christians around the world, the members of the Methodist Church in Ireland are saddened to hear of the death of Dr. Billy Graham. We offer our prayers and sympathy to his family and many close friends.

Through his ministry many of our members came to faith in the Lord Jesus and we firmly believe that Dr Graham will have been received by our Lord with the words, "Well done good and faithful servant."

The founder of Methodism, the Rev. John Wesley once declared "The World is my Parish" and this has been true for Dr. Graham. He went to the four corners of the earth to share his Christian faith and so from shore to shore many will have had reason to thank God for his ministry.

In the exercise of this ministry Dr. Graham cooperated with all branches of the Christian Church.

As he once remarked that when people hear that he is dead, he would remind them that he has simply gone to a new heavenly address." ■

Changes on the Lisburn and Dromore Circuit



This year (2017-2018) the Stationing Committee was not able to provide a minister to succeed Rev John Corrie who retired from our Circuit. The Circuit Superintendent Rev Mervyn Ewing assumed responsibility for Priesthill (Zion) Methodist Church in addition to Seymour Street Methodist Church and Rev Thomas Clarke, Dromore Methodist Church in addition to Broomhedge and Magheragall Methodist Churches. This arrangement together with the services of Rev Tom Deacon (Retired Minister) and Mrs Daphne Hanna (Ministerial Student), and the support of our retired ministers and Local Preachers, has allowed the Circuit to function as normal.

Following much discussion over the past six months between our District Stationer Rev Fiona McCrea and the Dromore and Priesthill (Zion) Society Stewards with the Society Stewards from the other four Societies, Mr Ivan Barr Circuit Steward and Rev Mervyn Ewing Circuit Superintendent we have accepted the Stationing Committee's proposal to appoint a part-time minister to our Circuit from Conference 2018. In practice this will mean that the part-time minister will work mainly in one Society (Dromore) with some additional duties across the Circuit, and he and his family will reside in Dromore Manse. To make up the shortfall we will retain the services of Rev Tom Deacon and Rev Mervyn Ewing will continue to have responsibility for Priesthill (Zion) Methodist Church.

Whilst we recognise this is not by any means the ideal, we do see it as an opportunity to reflect on the overall vision and mission of the Circuit. This change also gives us the opportunity to reflect on the challenging times facing the Methodist Church throughout Ireland and how these challenges affect us on the Lisburn and

Dromore Circuit. With fewer candidates offering for ordained ministry new models of ministry are being explored and new methods of training ministers for the ordained ministry considered.

Inevitably these challenges will affect churches and Circuits throughout Ireland. We foresee a reduction in ministerial staff on the Lisburn and Dromore Methodist Circuit, so the Society Stewards together with the Circuit Steward and Superintendent Minister have begun a series of conversations considering how we imagine the Lisburn and Dromore Circuit functioning with three ministers. As part of this 'rethinking the Circuit' we'll want to consider the impact practically this would have on each Society and on the Circuit overall. This 'rethinking' will require imagination, courage and a spirit of cooperation that will necessitate all of us listening to one another and responding to the others point of view with love and respect.

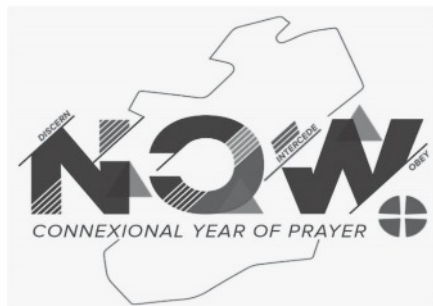
One of the most heartening and uplifting parts of our Circuit Executive meetings is when we share what God is doing in 'our' part of the Circuit. It is so encouraging to hear testimony from each Society to lives being touched and changed by God's loving grace. There is much to be encouraged by as we reflect on how God is using each Society to further his kingdom in the hearts and lives of families, friends, work colleagues and neighbours.

I am confident God is with us and leading our Church in these days and believe it is incumbent on each one of us to pray asking God to help us discern what He is saying to us. We must responsibly and intelligently use the resources available to us as we journey on in faith serving his kingdom purposes as we serve one another on this Circuit. **Rev Mervyn Ewing**



Connexional Year of Prayer

The Methodist Church in Ireland



Throughout the history of the Methodist Church in Ireland, God has called us to significant times of prayer, we believe that this is another of those pivotal moments. We are undertaking this year of prayer that we might

- 1 Hear what God is saying,**
- 2 Pray for the Church, our local church and the community in which we are placed and**
- 3 Commit ourselves to do what God asks.**

*Loving God,
as our minds focus on Jesus' journey to the Cross,
we bow our lives in awe before you.
Stir our hearts with longing for Your Kingdom,
make us restless for Your ways.
Where we are tired,
where the future looks uncertain
and we don't know what to do,
may your Holy Spirit breathe life and hope.
Root us deep in you.
Sweep away anything in us which does not speak of You.
Set our hearts on fire with Your love and joy.
Open our eyes that we might see Your vision
for Your church and for our communities
We pray for Your blessing
on the Methodist Church in Ireland;
give us courage and boldness as we walk with You.
We pray for Your blessing on our communities
and for protection from all that harms.
We celebrate the wonder of your love
which creates and forms all that is,
which is seen supremely in Jesus,
and which is brought home to human hearts
as the Spirit breathes.
May this love make us catch our breath
and turn our lives upside down.
In the power of Your Spirit
send us out to share that love with others.
We pray in Jesus' Name.
Amen.*

TOM Team on the Circuit

During February the TOM team spent time at both Trinity and Seymour Street where the Editor caught up with them

Who is on the team? Along with Anna Farrelly from Seymour Street and Andrew Matthews from Priesthill are Amy McSharry from Sligo, Gavin Taylor who grew up in Sligo but now lives in Dublin, and Rebekka Snoek from Lurgan.

What does a TOM team do: Over their year each TOM team spends time with many different Methodist Churches across Ireland working mostly with young people and children, but the team also get involved in a wide of of church activities, groups and services. They also provide a lead in larger scae events such as Autumn Soul, Soul Mates and the Castlewellan Holiday Week. During their year the team members also qualify for an OCN level 2 qualification in Youth Work Practice.

The Team's busy program in Trinity and Seymour Street



Anna Farrelly

Throughout the Team's time in Trinity they had a packed schedule with several activities every day. They started off the week by leading the kids spot during the service and then heading to Trinity Zone and YPOD to lead the groups with the children and young people. They were big hits! We then had a "Get to know you Night" with TOM 29 where they lead us in worship, were interviewed and where we shared in desserts in fellowship.

During the week they had a full programme from Monday evening to Friday in which they had sessions with the Causeway Group, Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade, Shell Club, Trinity Craft Club, and Trinity Toddlers. They also led several assemblies and classes in Laurehill Community College and Ballymacash Primary, had a music session at Parkview Special School and took Wallace High School Scripture Union. They also led an assembly at Killowen Primary School and joined in with 'Open Doors'

At the end of a busy week the Team then had to get ready for the Big Weekend that was organised by IMYC and held in Trinity, where they continued to give their all in leading worship, small groups and modelling God's character Is to all who attended the weekend.

While at Seymour Street during the weekend after Trinity the TOM team linked up with the DAMASK after school Drop in, led an assembly at Pond Park Primary, and led youth activities on Friday and Saturday evenings. On Sunday they led two Sunday School groups, took the morning service and also the SNASS fellowship group in the evening.



Andrew Matthews



Gavin Taylor



Rebekka Snoek



Amy McSharry

The editor talks to the TOM team:

Before coming on the Team what were your fears and concerns?

Anna: Being pushed out of my comfort zone. - But God has taught me to lean on Him.

Amy: That I would not be good enough - but God has given me boldness and I learned it is not about me, its all about God and that took my fear away

Rebekka: Not getting things right or feeling confident. Now I know that I do have a part to play in God's plan.

Andrew: That I would not fit into the team. But found we all get on really well together - so much so that people comment on it!

Gavin: Fitting in with people. God has taught me people skills through spending so much time with people.

What roles do each of you have (in the view of the other team members!)?

Rebekka: Practical person who gets things done. Caring and mother figure.

Amy: Challenges issues and asks good questions. Deep faith and a good listener.

Andrew: Breath of fresh air. Helps the team to

CHILL and relax. Always helpful and an encourager.

Gavin: Sensitive to peoples emotions. Deep thinker and great Bible knowledge.

Anna: Good at chatting to people. Identifies issues in team and gets them sorted. Encourages people

What have you discovered about yourself?

Anna: That I love being with young people (not just children) and get very attached to the churches we have worked in. Some churches are really encouraging but others are small and struggling.

Rebekka: I love working with children and doing kids talks

Amy: I've enjoyed the opportunities to be creative in lots of different ways

Andrew: I have gained so much more confidence than I expected and feel much more relaxed leading groups.

Gavin: I love doing stuff and being practical, preparing talks and learning about people. I'm much more of a people person than I thought and have come out of my shell! ■



The TOM Team leading two of the Sunday School groups at Seymour Street



Walking the Camino Way

Extracts from **Rev David Turtle's** blog written while undertaking the Camino Walk during his period of Sabbatical leave

DAY 1 The beginning of the journey...

Today marked the beginning of two journeys. A walk to Santiago and a walk through Psalms 120-134. Both are difficult! I'm thankful that someone advised me to break up the first 25km and to stay overnight in the Pyrenees. Not only is it beautiful but it spreads the climb over two days. Even so, it is a steep walk and my legs are already sending me a message that I fear might be stronger tomorrow morning.

I've met many people along the way, and spent time with people I may or may not see again. Some have shared the joys and the struggles of their lives with me, even in these first hours of walking.

Psalm 120 is difficult as well! The psalm offers us the opportunity to choose one way or another. To challenge us to move from complaining about how bad things are, to actually pursuing "a rugged pilgrimage of discipleship".

Days 3 and 4: Onwards and Upwards...

Today, shortly after 7.30 am, something was beating down upon me, but it was not the heat of the sun! A huge weight of rain fell over the 6 hours it took to make the journey to Roncevalles, rising from around 800m to 1450m and then back down again. Still there were wonders along the way, and more opportunities to share this journey with others. Conversations of increasing

The Camino de Santiago is a medieval pilgrim route from the Pyrenees to Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain, where tradition is the body of Saint James the Apostle (Spain's patron saint) is buried. Pilgrims return proudly wearing on their hat or cloak the scallop shell traditionally associated with this pilgrimage - Saint James' body was reportedly found covered in scallops. Today the shell can still be seen all along the Camino, carved on ancient buildings and painted on modern-day road signs. Many follow its routes as a form of spiritual path or retreat for their spiritual growth.

depth and substance, about life and faith. To me to be a pilgrim, is to go forward each day, not knowing what it will bring. Because of this, in an attempt to resist my tendency to want things safely organised in neat boxes, I have decided that I won't book anything in advance. So my two friends and I queued, anxiously, outside an albergue. When those before us were received, we were given the wonderful news that we could have the last 3 beds.

Psalm 121. Today as I slithered down the final few miles to Zubiri, I was hoping that God meant, in a literal sense on that day, that He wouldn't "let me stumble". I also realised that as a pilgrim, our strength comes from "God, the maker of heaven and earth". I think as a picture of discipleship, that's the main point of the psalm. We are not constantly seeking to be stronger so we can walk in our own strength, but are to become more and more dependent on the One who "guards us now, who guards us always".

Day 7: Now we're suckin' diesel!

Today I think I may have turned a corner. After



a few days where my legs started to let me know that I wasn't well prepared for this pattern of walking day after day I feel I'm coming through that again. I ended up introducing one of the precious pearls of Ulster speech to my fellow travellers, 'Now we're suckin' diesel!' Now people from many different nations have a new mantra as they find fresh energy for walking the Camino "Now we're suckin' diesel!"

Psalm 124 is an instance of a person who digs deeply into the trouble and finds there the presence of God who is on our side". Today, as



I thought over a period of more than 30 years since I began the journey as a disciple of Jesus, with all of the highs and the lows along the way, I believe I can truly say with the psalmist (with all my heart) "Oh, blessed be God! He didn't go off and leave us."

Day 11: A Community of Strangers

Today at 6am the sound of monks chanting played loudly from downstairs, and the smell of incense wafted upwards. After an early breakfast, the day led a small group of us out to walk into yet another spectacular sunrise, with a real sense of the newness of this morning.

Tonight at our albarque many nations were represented, many philosophies and religions adhered to, many languages spoken or attempted, but in a unique way there was a sense of community, love and respect for each other. Strangers together, who walk this way together.

Psalm 128: The path I am walking is a path that many pilgrim feet before me have trodden. Yet for each one, their 'way' will be different! The one constant for each one remains that for those who truly 'fear' God - fear Him enough to not try to contain Him in the box of their own religion, theology, philosophy or view of the world, real happiness and real life is found in knowing His

'Yes!' Today I stand in awe of my Heavenly Father's 'Yes'!

Day 15: In Burgos

Today I have 'released' a day to take in some of the sights and atmosphere of the beautiful city of Burgos, while giving my feet a little rest before completing the final 117 km of the Camino Frances. Getting up at 7.15 am seemed positively like a lie-in. I visited the amazing San Juan Cathedral, explored the world renowned museum of human evolution as well as just seeing the sights and sounds of the city.

Throughout the day today I have said goodbye to a number of friends who will be walking different stages of the Camino when I move on tomorrow. When I first began this walk, only 2 weeks ago, I had not foreseen that bonds of friendship would form so quickly, and that there would be such a sense of loss as fellow pilgrims parted ways.

Day 19: Plodding on - reaching for the prize

As I waken this morning, I know that today should be the last day of my walk! Rather foolishly I now believe, I took the decision to try to push myself, and complete the final 117km of



the Camino Frances in 4 days rather than the recommended 5. I manage to quietly gather my belongings and go downstairs to a social space to pack. After I discover a new blister on my toe and get my pack on ready to go, a few Australian ladies appear who seem to be more interested in chatting than walking. So a little later than I had hoped, I get on the road, and there is no-one else to be seen.

By 10 am my legs have started to ache (something which hasn't been a problem for several weeks now), my feet are pounding, and I feel like I'm ready to collapse. My pace has dropped from 5 km/hr for the previous 2 days, to less than 4 this morning. With slightly over



40km to cover, I start to think I may have bitten off more than I can chew. I've been so focused on my lack of pace this morning that I hadn't even started to think about the psalm. The final psalm of ascent, for this final day of walking.

So I take out my phone and read these words from Psalm 134 as I start walking again after breakfast: "Come, bless God, all you servants of God! You priests of God, posted to the nightwatch in God's shrine, Lift your praising hands to the Holy Place, and bless God. In turn, may God of Zion bless you- God who made heaven and earth!"

Sometimes we look upon praise, and look upon worship as something we do when our hearts feel right. When we feel like praising God, blessing God, then we'll do it! What I perhaps need to learn afresh, as I did today, is that sometimes we need to praise God when we don't feel like it, until we do feel like it! The psalm doesn't just offer an invitation to bless God, it issues a command! This is what people who are pilgrim disciples do! They sing songs of praise! They lift their voices to bless God! And as they do, they perhaps discover that their heart rises to bring worship.

Today I plodded, but I praised God inside!

Journey's End

I reached the courtyard in the front of the Cathedral and gathered with many tired but thankful pilgrims, and there soaked in the atmosphere of celebration of many journeys that were completed. These boots have finished their journey for now; 61,280 steps today; a total of 620,770 since I began. I queued for almost an hour and a half to receive my 'Compostela', the certificate to say I had completed the necessary distance on the Camino.

Day 21: Pilgrim or Tourist?

Today was another different day! This was the day which I had pushed hard to finish the walk more quickly for!

Part of the tradition of the Camino is that 'real' pilgrims, not only walked to Santiago, they also walked on until they reached Cape Finisterre (Finis Terra – Land's End) where traditionally they burned their clothes to mark the end of their pilgrimage. Sadly time prevented me from walking there and I took a coach - feeling more like a tourist than a pilgrim. Tourists do not do long obedience in the same direction! They flit from one attraction to another; one source of entertainment and enjoyment to the next. Pilgrims do long obedience in the same direction! Day by day they get up, put on their boots and their pack, and they follow the path before them; a path that is both old and well-trodden by pilgrims of the past, and which is entirely new and filled with fresh possibilities as they step forward.

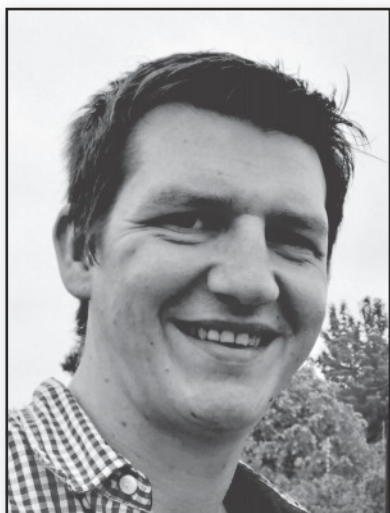
I suppose this whole journey has been a little bit like that. The physical challenge of a 'long walk' I'd never done before; I'd never travelled to somewhere where I didn't know even one person I'd never engaged with this idea of pilgrimage; or been in close contact with people of so many different cultures and spiritual understandings for such a prolonged period.

Life-changing is a term we bandy about too often in our world, but, if I allow the things learned in these weeks to shape my days to come, then it is an adjective that I'd be content to apply to these weeks. ■



DAMASK's expanding youth programme

Ryan Lilley reports on new developments



Over the last two years Damask has been fortunate to have the support of the Northern Ireland wide Christian youth organisation 'Youth Initiatives' who have committed Ryan Lilley to support the work of DAMASK. Starting from the base of the after school Drop-in running during the week in Seymour Street he is now developing an exciting programme that is providing activities along with community and leadership training to young people of different age groups, and giving an opportunity for young people from our church to engage in various form of outreach.

In 2017 Ryan was appointed by Youth Initiatives as full time Youth Officer for the Lisburn Area. He continues to lead the programme with DAMASK but is also developing and coordinating links with other churches and Lisburn-wide outreach. Youth Initiatives has now also appointed David White, who is a member of Seymour Street, as the Youth Led Transformations (YLT) worker with DAMASK.

All Age after school Drop-In

On Wednesday afternoons we continue to run the All-Age Drop In (for 11-18s) with a focus on providing a safe, informal space for Personal and Social Development. This term our challenge has been to provide something that engages all the different levels our young people are at - from those who just want a space to relax and have fun, to those who still want to do something they can really get stuck into! We're excited about what this will become.

Michael Croft continues to lead this programme well and is supported by David White, Matthew McCrea and Ryan.

"STRETCH" (10-14s)

Our Thursday afternoon programme is well established with a new name that encompasses exactly what it does - provides a fun community for young people to experience new people, and activities that will challenge and stretch them as they grow and learn.

We have covered important topics such as Relationships and Bullying, as well having five of the group complete their OCN Level 1 in Practical Youth Leadership Skills. One of the

girls (Sarah Noakes) has even gone on to become part of our leadership team!

This programme is well led by our volunteer Judy Jamison and supported by David, Adrienne, Ryan and 'Peer Leader' Sarah.

15-18's - Big Questions

The 15-18's group on Monday afternoons has grown to a steady and regular group of 7, with one new member coming off the back of the Tuesday Night Football 'Programme' run by Sam Beckett. Since the start of the group we've been looking at some of the big questions facing these young men with a programme called "Big Questions", each week asking things such as "Are Men and Women Equal?", "Are Young People The Future?" and even "Does God Exist?" as we encourage thought and discussion about how we really do community, realise our own identity, and consider how these things impact our lives. This group love being here, love talking through tough issues and being honest with a group of leaders who they know they can talk to and trust.

Thanks to the partnership with **Youth Initiatives**, **Youthlink** and the **Youth Led Transformations (YLT) Programme** this group



The 15s to 18s group with leaders Michael Croft, David White and Johnny Swain

alongside Jake Grant and Ryan, with a couple of others now interested in getting involved.

Schools work

In November and December we were privileged to be able to run one of our Community Relations Programmes in Fort Hill College with a Year 10 class. This initial opportunity was well received and there is hope that we will be able to continue working with their Pastoral Team to deliver programmes that will encourage young people to engage positively with the communities around them.

New Peace IV 'Transform' funding

Recently Youth Initiatives, in partnership with Youthlink, Include Youth and Mencap, secured funding for four years to run the **Peace IV Transform** programme here in Lisburn in Damask alongside Youth Initiatives in West Belfast.

This programme involves one full-time worker in each area and in Damask that will be Ryan Lilley. This programme seeks to support 14-25 year olds to get involved in Community Relations, Citizenship and Personal & Social Development programmes that will help them to better understand and fulfil their potential. Practically in Damask, it will involve some current programmes and the establishment of new ones as each year we provide about 10 participants with 6-9 months of involvement in our programme work.

Being such a large project with many parts the programme is still getting off the ground. From now until the summer we will be focusing on establishing the programme and getting a first year intake, aiming at late Feb/early March as the start time. ■



are now in the middle of completing a qualification in Diversity and Good Relations.

As the new YLT worker David White is now heading up this programme with Michael Croft, Jonnie Swain and Ryan.

Street Outreach

Our Street Outreach has taken on a new identity this term, with our night changing to a Saturday to reflect the need of the area and involving a whole new team!

After November's training we finally started getting back out and are regularly meeting between 20-40 young people each night (even during the cold winter nights!).

We have sought to become an advocate for the young people, liaising with the PSNI and becoming an important resource for them, as well as keeping people safe, building relationships and creating a Kingdom community. We would love to see this grow and be able to link in with other groups to provide safe spaces for these young people in places such as the Damask Centre and Trinity Methodist where they spend large parts of the night nearby. We hope to link in with PCSP and see if there is a way to get further support to do this.

As a Youth Leadership Transformations project this is now led by David White

For further information or if you would like to help please contact Ryan 07572 078376 or ryan@youthinitiatives.com

Ryan (on right) with Leaders David White, Michael Croft and Matty McCrea



SNASS Team heads to Romania

Michaela Johnston is leading a group of young people from SNASS who are forming an EXODUS team going to Romania

Seymour Street in partnership with Exodus Lisburn are sending a team out to Romania. This means that I, alongside David White, have the massive privilege to be leading a team of seven fantastic young people not only to have an incredible experience out there but to also journey together for the weeks up until that point.

The Preparation Begins Now!

As with all exodus teams we will be meeting together for the next sixteen weeks as we follow a specially designed small group programme. This will help us to grow both spiritually and personally as we find out how we can grow deeper with God and what it truly looks like to live life as His disciple.

When we reach the end of our sixteen week course, on the 13th July, we will pack our bags and head off to Romania for ten days putting all of this into practice. Out there we will be partnering with the local Romanian church and local villages to run kids programmes, church services, practical work and visiting poor families, impacting their communities with the love of God.

How it all started for me

Many people ask how this journey started and the answer is, it was started by God. I believe that God has called not only myself to lead the team but called us as a church to step into this amazing opportunity in which we will not only bless the lives of others but bless the lives of our own young people.

Travelling to Romania this summer will be the sixth mission trip I have been involved in over the past seven years. Each experience that I have had has been one that has shaped me into the person I am today. It has been through sitting with the broken, loving those society deems unloved and watching those who have nothing express joy as though they have everything that has taught me who I am and who God is in all of it.

We are all called to these experiences; "whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" called not only to help others but in turn to help ourselves. These experiences have been invaluable in shaping me into who I am and it has been a dream of mine to be able to offer those same experiences to young people, that they may gain a deeper understanding of God and then come back and put those experiences into practice at home. Partnering with Exodus has made that dream a reality.

Are Summer Mission's worthwhile?

Some people say summer mission trips aren't the best way to help people, that they are a small drop in a massive ocean, problems run too deep and too wide to be fixed in ten days on team. In many ways they are right, we will never go out to Romania and fix all the problems that need to be fixed in ten days, but what we can do is go out and love people and tell them about Jesus. It may look like we have only bettered their lives for one short visit, sometimes even one day but

life. A life on Earth which was once broken is now full of unconditional love and the promise Eternal Life where they may worry no more. Mission trips aren't just about helping or fixing things, but about living for Jesus and sharing His

love. To go and make disciples. The beauty of partnering with exodus is that we are being disciplined right alongside them. This is how our journey has started, through taking up the calling; to follow Jesus and love people.



Journey with us in prayer

We would love for you to journey with us as we Abandon Ordinary and prepare to go to Romania. Please remember to pray for us. To find out more or support us financially please check out our team page.

<http://www.exodusonline.org.uk/team-38-seymour-street-methodist-ex-change-romania-2018/> ■

The First meeting of the Romania Team (complete with pizza!)

The Team members are: Jane Mayes, Sophie Kinghan, Peter McCrea, Lucy Nettleship, Jessica McClean, Kate Moorhead and Laura McCullough.
Team Leaders: Michaela Johnston and David White

The Lisburn Walk of Witness

12:30 pm on Good Friday. Participants are invited to meet outside Nero's coffee shop to make the short pilgrimage to the Cathedral where there will be a short reflection led by local Ministers and Rev Dr Noble McNeely Moderator of the Presbyterian Church will give the address.



Easter Sunday Dawn Service

Please come along to the bandstand in Wallace Park at 6.30am on Easter Sunday morning and share with others as we celebrate again 'He Is Risen!'

QUIZ CORNER . .for our younger readers

Here is a word square - see if you can find all the words on the right. Remember they can be back to front and diagonal as well! Then have a go at the quiz below. Answers are on Page 17.

N	L	P	T	K	V	C	L	H	C	K	J	F	R	B	C	V
M	K	J	E	S	U	S	G	P	R	D	W	K	N	M	R	K
Z	E	J	D	W	T	K	M	G	O	W	P	I	M	L	J	R
T	B	S	L	R	L	R	Q	J	S	B	L	N	L	X	C	I
G	H	N	S	L	E	L	N	E	S	E	R	G	V	R	H	S
V	M	I	Q	I	C	S	C	T	G	L	T	L	O	O	K	E
H	T	L	R	M	A	I	U	N	Y	M	C	W	L	P	T	N
C	Y	X	H	D	F	H	A	R	R	R	N	Y	P	N	Y	T
W	M	L	B	I	D	G	D	Q	R	O	A	N	H	B	N	S
H	J	B	R	P	L	A	R	Y	F	E	O	M	P	X	A	M
T	W	C	E	F	M	E	Y	T	A	I	C	B	L	V	C	Y
P	A	P	L	V	T	K	H	T	T	D	G	T	I	Q	H	T
S	N	Q	R	S	O	O	M	A	Z	X	N	O	I	P	G	V
H	N	N	A	K	R	L	V	R	W	R	U	U	W	O	W	C
Z	N	E	L	N	N	L	N	J	W	R	T	N	S	L	N	K
N	V	J	S	V	A	E	M	P	T	Y	T	O	M	B	W	K
H	O	P	E	S	K	G	O	O	D	F	R	I	D	A	Y	W

- Angel
- Holy
- Cross
- Hope
- Resurrection
- Third Day
- Crown of
- Thorns
- Jesus
- Risen
- Easter
- King
- Sacrifice
- Empty Tomb
- Love
- Good Friday
- Salvation
- Holy
- Messiah
- Saviour

- 1) When Jesus entered Jerusalem during his Triumphal Entry, what was he riding on?

A. Horse

B. Camel

C. Donkey

D. Chariot
- 2) What did the soldiers offer Jesus to drink while on the cross?

A. Fruit Juice

B. Water

C. Vinegar

D. Wine
- 3) Who carried the cross for Christ?

A. Simeon

B. Simon Peter

C. Simon of Cyrene

D. Thomas
- 4) In what was Jesus wrapped in before he was buried?

A. Sheep Skin

B. Linen Clothes

C. Golden Robes

D. Goat Skin
- 5) What was the name of the man who owned the tomb that Jesus' body was placed in?

A. Titus

B. Nicodemus

C. Jonathan

D. Joseph
- 6) How many times did Peter deny knowing Christ?

A. Two Times

B. Three Times

C. One Time

D. Four Times
- 7) What was the name of the Jewish Feast being celebrated the week of the Crucifixion?

A. Pentecost

B. Passover

C. Firstfruits

D. Unleavened Bread
- 8) For how many pieces of silver did Judas betray Christ?

A. 10

B. 20

C. 30

D. 40
- 9) Who rolled away the stone?

A. Soldiers

B. God

C. Disciples

D. Angels
- 10) For how long was Jesus on earth before he ascended into heaven?

A. 7 days

B. 14 days

C. 40 days

D. 49 days

ANNUAL TRINITY QUIZ - Friday 26th January

This Quiz has now become a recognised Social Event on Trinity's Calendar and was attended by over 100 Quizers making up 18 teams.

The most recent winner, in November 2016, was Reverend Ken Todd's team, and he returned, with reinforcements, in an attempt to retain his title. (Included in his team were Sam and Reverend David Turtle.) It was also a welcome sight to have representatives from other Churches on the Circuit as well as many Trinity members with their relatives and friends.

The format of the Quiz was 10 rounds each with 7 questions, and an option at the end of each round to forgo the 7 answers and take a "Flier"! A correct answer to the Flier gave 7 points – Incorrect answer – ZERO!

There was a selection of General Knowledge, Music and Picture Rounds. In one Music Round, maximum points were scored by all teams when everyone sang out the Titles after the music had stopped!!

The Results were declared after Supper and the winning team, just by one point, was "Kekedean II" –YES – Ken, David and co. had done it again!

Was there heavenly intervention!?

If you think, you can win, Why not come along and have a go? We look forward to seeing you.

January 2019 beckons!! ■



Magheragall Wednesday Night Group

The Magheragall Wednesday Group met on Wednesday 31st January 2018 at 2pm. Our special speaker was Mrs Rabia Kaunda, a member of Magheragall Methodist Church.

Rabia has a Masters Degree in Pastoral Theology from Chester University. She is currently studying for a degree in Counselling and Psychotherapy from Ulster University and is in her final year.

She spoke about her experiences in her Christian Counselling Work and with the aid of powerpoint was able to explain the various methods of extracting information from those seeking advice. Part of her expertise was being a good listener and many people have been greatly helped by her advice.

We wish Rabia Gods Blessing in her final year as she endeavours to help those who seek counselling.

Her husband Hudson is on the preaching plan and we wish both they and their family, Jeremiah, Joanna and Joy Gods Will as they await news about their visas.

The meeting which followed by a beautiful Afternoon Tea. ■



Holy Week Services

March 2018 18

Tuesday 27th to Friday 30th March



Theme - People around the Cross

Preacher - Rev Dr Jim Williamson

Tuesday 27th March: Dromore Methodist Church;
service led by Rev Tom Deacon.

Wednesday 28th March: Broomhedge Methodist Church;
service led by Rev Thomas Clarke.

Maundy Thursday 29th March: Trinity Methodist Church;
*service led by Rev David Turtle and will take the form of a
Passover Meal.*

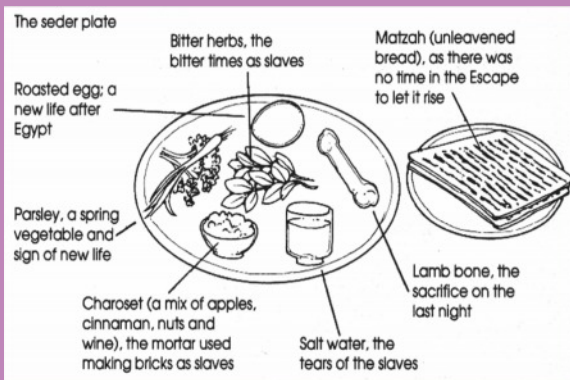
Good Friday 30th March: Seymour Street Methodist Church;
service led by Rev Mervyn Ewing.

All services at 7:30 pm.

Praise led by the Circuit Praise Band

Easter Sunday Services as arranged by each Church

The Passover Meal



On Maundy Thursday Rev Jim Williamson will lead us in a Passover Meal. This meal is probably the most celebrated and beloved of Jewish home rituals. Most Jews have cherished memories of past family times spent sharing this meal.

It is believed that the obligation to tell the story of the Exodus was observed by Jews' ancestors ever since the actual Exodus itself. The scriptural command (Exodus 13:8) to tell the story of the Exodus to our children is interpreted as a positive commandment.



Photo: John Kelly

Forthill Primary School Choir

'Carols on the Green' moves indoors!

Due to icy conditions Seymour Street's Community Carol Service had to be moved into the church. The congregation enjoyed Christmas pieces sung by Forthill Primary School choir and Seymour Street Choir and lessons were read by community, school and PSNI representatives.



YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD TO GET MOVING

Gwyneth Hinds is providing chair based **Pilates** exercises for those attending the Seymour Street Luncheon club in a project funded by the Safe and Well program of the SE Health and Social Care Trust. In addition there is a Pilates class on Tuesday mornings at 11 am for all ages and abilities, designed to improve balance, strength and posture.