

TheLight

Issue 224 March 2019

From Despair to Hope
A family of Paradoxes
Imagine

Conquering the Great Wall of China
BB Digital Award Scheme
Broomhedge Flower Festival
Christians against Poverty



THE MAGAZINE OF THE LISBURN AND DROMORE METHODIST CIRCUIT

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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 5th May 2019

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The Hand that Nailed My Saviour to the Cross

By Hilary McCauley (Trinity Methodist)

*I sat and pondered as the preacher spoke
of how they crucified my Lord.
How cruel men mocked and beat Him
until His face could not be recognised.
How they laughed and pressed a crown
of twisted thorns upon His head.
And I flinched at the thought of the blood
which flowed out from His many wounds,
as with intent He walked the crooked road
that led unto His death
carrying His cross upon His torn and bleeding back.*

*With eyes half closed I saw wicked men
stretch His body out upon that cross.
My mind's eye watched a nail
placed into His palm
and a hammer placed in readiness to strike.
It hit the nail which pierced through flesh,
sinew and bone.
I wanted to look away,
but my gaze was fixed
on the face of His executioner.
This was not the face of
a wicked persecutor or assassin.
It was not the face of a betrayer
worse than any other man.
No, the face was mine
and the hand that nailed the Saviour to the cross
was none other than my own.*

*It was my sin put Jesus on that cross.
My unbelief that caused His suffering.
With sorrow for my part in His death
and with gratitude for His sacrifice in my place,
I poured out my heart in thanks
for His gifts of salvation, forgiveness and love.*





A Family of Paradoxes

Introducing the Rev Ross Harte and his family

Hello, I'm Ross Harte. I was stationed to the Lisburn and Dromore Circuit in July 2018, with responsibility for Dromore Methodist Church as a Minister in a Part-Time Appointment. I'm married to Kathryn, and we have four sons: Timothy (12), Micah (8), Samuel (7) and Ethan (2). As we introduce ourselves to you, I'm using a collection of paradoxes to describe who we are, some of our journey to this point, and how we see the world: a collection of 'seemingly contradictory statements that may nonetheless be true'.

Local and Global:

I grew up in Aghalee, a village not too far from here. Kathryn grew up in Derry/Londonderry, and after her Mum and Dad moved to Lisburn we worshipped together as part of Craigmore Methodist Church. We were heavily involved in Craigmore Youth Club as part of a great team of youth leaders during an exciting time of growth and change. Our hearts were for the young people of Aghalee and Ballinderry, but we also invested

ourselves in leading worship at all-island Methodist gatherings like Autumn Soul and Castlewellan Holiday Week. We led teams of young adults to London, America and Brazil, and Kathryn was a member of the youth committee of the World Methodist Council for a season.

Following my training in Edgehill College, we were sent to the Dundrum, Newcastle and Downpatrick Circuit, and then to Ballynahinch before moving to Dromore. Kathryn now works for the Irish Home Mission Department and the European Methodist Council.

John Wesley wrote, "I look upon all the world as my parish" - we too have found ourselves ministering at home and overseas, within church buildings, on the streets or in the homes of people who don't belong to any church.

Noisy and Loving:

Perhaps it goes without saying, but from quiet beginnings our house is now often noisy! Even when all is calm, it's only a matter of time before someone explodes over a misplaced item in Minecraft, a

Netflix session shifted to CBeeBies, or finding onions in the spagbol sauce. However, clashes of personality and preference are always resolved by the end of the day - as a family, we have tried to live by 'don't let the sun set on your anger' - and evenings end with hugs and prayers. It is possible to disagree and still fully love one another!

Melancholy and Joyful: Probably the most significant event in our life together so far, apart from our wedding day and the boys' birth days, has been Timothy's battle with blood cancer.

He was admitted to hospital when Ethan was two days old and eventually diagnosed with a condition called Myelodysplasia, which is incredibly rare in children. It can be cured by a bone marrow transplant, which Timothy underwent in Bristol in April 2017. This involves intense chemotherapy followed by transfusion of bone marrow cells from a matched donor, and a very long recuperation when the immune system is compromised. The graft was successful and he gradually recovered strength, returning to school full time after six months. Timothy celebrated being one year post-transplant by dancing the night away at his uncle's wedding party!

Unfortunately, six weeks later a blood test indicated that the graft had failed and very quickly he had to undergo a second transplant, again in Bristol. These past years have been times of worry and distress where our whole family (and many friends) have known a lingering sadness. And yet it's also been a time of joy as we have learnt to take one day at a time, and enjoy the good moments when they occur.

Isolated and Accompanied: Timothy's lowered immune system meant that he needed to be kept apart from other



people, especially children, for long stretches of time. Our sphere of social activity became incredibly limited, often not even risking going to church. I spent eighteen months without pastoral responsibility and Kathryn stopped working. But in the loneliness we also discovered that we were being accompanied on the journey - hundreds if not thousands of people committed to praying for Timothy, and we could sense the 'lift' from the Holy Spirit's presence and peace. Families in the CLIC Sargent 'Home from Home' in Bristol became good friends and formed a close community sharing a common purpose: beating cancer! Friends, colleagues and strangers shared encouraging words and brought food because God had put us on their hearts. This whole experience has reminded us of the importance of being part of an extended family of faith, both to give and receive care and love.

What if the six of us could learn to be a family on mission that included other people into healthy rhythms of worship, community and mission?

Part-time and Full-time:

Our enforced time off work gave us space to consider how we wanted the second decade of ministry to look.

Caring for Timothy was going to eat into future work time for a year or two, but we also realised that our encounters in the past with mission-focused communities who treated one another as extended family had whetted our appetite for more. We had seen children and adults study the Bible, sing and pray together; we had experienced love and kindness that was so encouraging, and we had seized the opportunity to nurture seeds of faith in young people and older folks alike.

What if I could be the minister of one church in a small town for half my time, caring for people, preaching and leading worship consistently, partnering with other church leaders in Kingdom work in the area; but also have time to, with Kathryn and our boys, pray and notice where God is at work in the people we might meet every day? What if the six of us could learn to be a family on mission that included other people into healthy rhythms of worship, community and mission? Even better, what if we could help our church to do the same?

With these sorts of questions in our minds, we asked the Stationing Committee if I could be appointed to

'Ministry in a Part-Time Appointment', so we could exert a family full-time ministry - which led to our arrival in Dromore last year!

Some final paradoxes for you:

Healed and Recovering - Timothy's second bone marrow transplant has, we trust, dealt once and for all with his Myelodysplasia. However, the intensity of the treatment means his body will continue to feel the effects for years to come. He finally got to start his new school in February but won't be able to use public transport, go to the swimming pool or have a trip to the cinema for months yet. Now and Not Yet - this classic description of God's Kingdom, that is already with us but only as a glimpse of the glory to come, both encourages and frustrates us at the same time. When life is tough and full of difficulties we can look ahead to the time when there will be no more tears, and all will be well. But when the miraculous and beautiful things of God's kingly presence touch us as individuals, families or even churches, we find ourselves asking, 'why can't it always be like this?' Maybe it is at these times that we need to be reminded of our main learning from the last three years - take life one day at a time, recognise God at work in it, give thanks, and be kind. 🍊

Rachael Murphy aims to conquer the Great Wall of China

Support Rachael of Magheragall as she walks the Great Wall of China to raise funds for brain tumour research



On 28th March 2018 my precious Dad passed away and my heart has been completely broken. My Dad was diagnosed with a Grade 4 brain tumour on 1st July 2017 and he fought a very difficult battle for 9 months. His strength and positivity during this time of heartache was a credit to the amazing man he was.

By becoming an ambassador for the brain tumour charity, I pray that one day no other family will ever have to go through the pain and suffering of a brain tumour diagnosis. Every donation is a little step forward in finding a cure and that is why I have chosen to raise money for this charity.

I wanted to do something big, something that would test my strength and endurance and push me out of my comfort zone, something that would be worthy of peoples donations. This is why i've decided to swap the high heels for trekking boots and head off for 9 days to conquer the Great Wall of China! This trek is extremely difficult, due to the number of steps upwards and downhill. I will also be lending a hand to repair a section of the wall that is currently being reconstructed...the perfectly manicured nails won't last long.

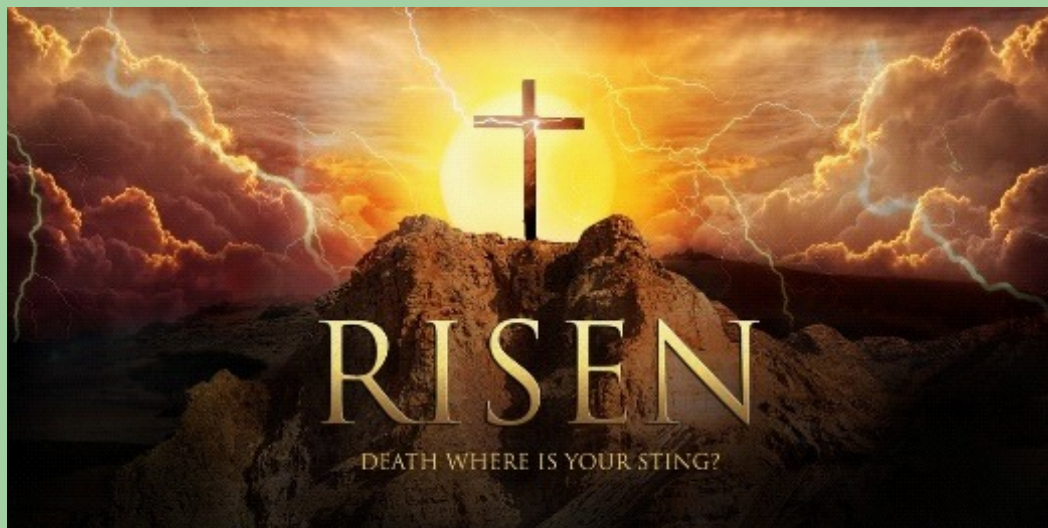
I miss my Dad every single day and every step of this journey is for him. I know that he would be so proud of what I'm doing.

Thank you for taking the time to visit my JustGiving page and thank you for your support. Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Your details are safe with JustGiving - they'll never sell them on or send unwanted emails. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to the charity. So it's the most efficient way to donate - saving time and cutting costs for the charity. 🟡



Despair to Hope

Rev Mervyn Ewing



I was listening to Frank Mitchell on U105 during Holy Week last year and was really heartened and uplifted to hear him talk on the radio about Easter weekend as being **THE** most important weekend in the life of the Christian Church and making no apology for including conversations around Jesus' journey towards Calvary in his show. Easter, most essentially for me is about the hopelessness of lost disciples in the wake of their dead leader transformed to a band of enthusiastic church planters who forged ahead with a message full of hopefulness. Easter Sunday breaks the power of gloominess and hopelessness and focuses our minds on the message of hopefulness. As we hear again those eternal words of the angel "*God has raised him to life, and he isn't here.*" (Mark 16:6) we are lifted from despair to hope because Jesus did not stay dead – he is risen!

After Jesus' death we're told that the disciples gathered in an upstairs room to consider their next move. (Luke 24) This band whose hopes were shattered, gutted and shocked beyond words, this despondent group of men and women clung to each other for comfort and

reassurance. Their sobs and despair filled the gloomy room. Jesus had been dead for more than 24 hours. It seemed like the world had stopped. You can hear Peter thump the table and shout at the others "*I was there. I saw it. I heard him call out, 'It is finished'". I watched as his head dropped down and his body become still. No more painful agonising breaths. It was all over. Finished.*"

But Easter Sunday changed all that. Easter really does mean new beginnings and a fresh start, for Peter perhaps more than the others really did get a fresh start. On Good Friday Jesus made the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world. He paid the price, for Peter's forgiveness, for your forgiveness, for all the world's forgiveness. He offers new life and eternal life to all who will put their trust in him. Because of Easter all of us can experience new beginnings and hope beyond words.

Because of Easter, Christians have this audacious hope that eternal life is God's great gift to all who will believe in Jesus. We believe that death is not the end of the story. We believe that stroke, heart disease or cancer is not and will not be the final



word. We believe that just as Jesus was raised from the dead so he will also raise from the dead everyone who believes in him. Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."* (John 14:6)

For Peter these words took on more poignant meaning, for he was the one Jesus identified that would desert him, he was the one who once under pressure would deny ever knowing Jesus. Of all the disciples Peter is the one I most identify with for his faith is lived out in the ordinariness of faltering humanity.

On that resurrection Sunday Peter's life was changed for ever, his mistakes forgiven, his despair turned to hope; he's totally restored to Jesus' side. Jesus has defeated death and gives eternal life to all who believe in him. Peter's ordinary faltering faith didn't bar him from being restored as one of Jesus' disciples again. Nor will our sin bar us from being forgiven and welcomed as part of God's family. Paul tells us: *"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household"* (Acts 16:31). So, it's not too late for any of us, all we need to do is believe! Easter can be a new beginning for us too!

A Church of Ireland colleague once told me about a young man who walked into her church and sat in the back looking very despondent and discouraged. He was out of work. Drugs had messed up his thinking. The authorities had stripped him and his

partner of their children, and he had been diagnosed as having mental health issues. Life seemed hopeless but he decided to give church a chance and see if perhaps God could fix the mess. He and his partner met with the minister each week and studied the Bible together. They asked Jesus to come into their lives and bring healing and new life. With God's help he stopped the drugs and alcohol. God began to bring healing to his mind. He is now back at work and doing well. Their children are back home again, and new life has come to a troubled family.

The resurrection is not just a Bible story from long ago. Jesus is alive and he answers prayer. Where we came from - and the problems, mistakes and failures of our past - are not as important as where we are going and who we are walking with. Jesus changes lives and brings healing and new life to those who will ask him.

Because of Easter you and I here, now can start our lives over again and live from now on in the hope that is in God!

May we too know first-hand transformation from despair to hope, given to us only through 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



Lauren Allen shares her experience of working as a volunteer with Christians Against Poverty

Christians against Poverty (CAP) is a service that literally saves lives. It keeps families together, relieves stress, restores health, keeps families in their homes, provides friendship and can connect people to church and to the God that loves them. When financial trouble hits, it's easy to feel alone and like no one can help, however CAP really can help, and is already helping hundreds of people who call up every week.

Since November 2018 I have been volunteering for CAP as the Community Links Coordinator in Lisburn, which involves publicizing the services CAP offers amongst key referral agencies and the local media. I have been blown away by the work of CAP and its many staff and volunteers, who are seeking to follow Jesus' example of practically caring for the poor and needy and sharing the love of God with them.

Combining CAP's expertise with the love and message of the church, CAP has a life transforming mix. Last year 2575 individual adults throughout the UK became debt free through CAP, and were able to move on with enjoying the lives God has given them without the burden of debt hanging over them. CAP visits people in their own homes, negotiates with creditors and supports people right up until they are debt free.



In 2018, 5931 people took part in a CAP Money Course, learning how to budget better and take more control over their money. CAP also runs Job Clubs nationwide and has supported hundreds to secure employment. Others are finding total freedom from their addictions through CAP Fresh Start groups, and with the recent launch of CAP Life Skills groups there are now many who are learning how to live well on a low income. By means of these various services CAP is supporting people to deal with the root cause of debt or to avoid debt altogether before any debt begins. On top of this, all of the services are free of charge and available to anyone regardless of age, faith, gender or background.

**CAP visits people in
their own homes,
negotiates with
creditors and supports
people right up until
they are debt free.**

As well as supporting people to become free from financial debt, CAP also seeks to share the spiritual freedom we have in Jesus. Praise God that, last year, 885 people made a response to Jesus following engagement with one of the CAP services. Colossians 2:13-15 says, *'And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by cancelling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.'* Our debts have been paid by Jesus blood on the cross, and instead of despair, darkness and defeat, we can live in hope, light and victory because of Jesus. I love that we serve a God who is not only able to take care of all of our practical needs, but who has taken care of our greatest need of all.

If you'd like to find out more about CAP and the various services it offers you can call Christians Against Poverty's freephone number on 0800 328 0006 or visit www.capuk.org. ●



Damask is not able to provide debt advice to clients and so we refer those with debt issues to CAP for help. The local chairman of CAP in our area was invited to speak at the DAMASK AGM. He spoke highly of the work of Therese and the Damask Advice Service



IMAGINE...IMAGINE....

An update on the Lisburn and Dromore Methodist Circuit

In the March 2018 issue of the Light, I reported that a series of meetings were planned between the Circuit Superintendent, the Society Stewards from each of our Societies, the Circuit Steward, and the ministerial staff. During the past year this group met a number of times to discuss and imagine how the Lisburn and Dromore Methodist Circuit might evolve over the next five years and how we could best use the resources available to us to ensure equity across the Circuit.

We concluded that to achieve a more collaborative and cohesive approach to mission and witness across the Circuit that we should pair Societies thus sharing resources. To this end we decided that Trinity would be paired with Magheragall, Priesthill would be paired with Broomhedge, Dromore would remain as a Part-Time appointment allowing its minister to explore new ways of doing mission locally and that Seymour Street would remain on its own with the Superintendent of the Circuit being stationed there. These changes were agreed by the Circuit Executive at our December 2018 meeting.

In practice this will mean that Rev Thomas Clarke will have ministerial responsibility for Priesthill and Broomhedge assisted by Rev Dr James Williamson, Rev Ross Harte will have ministerial responsibility for Dromore and subject to Conference 2019 Rev Alan Craig will have ministerial

responsibility for Trinity and Magheragall assisted by Rev Tom Deacon and Rev David Turtle will have ministerial responsibility for Seymour Street and will be the Superintendent of the Circuit assisted by the Seymour Street Pastoral Assistant.

One of the strengths of the Methodist Church is our '*Connexionalism*'. Societies are grouped in Circuits, Circuits are grouped in Districts and Districts constitute the Conference – we are one big family! It therefore seems both logical and sensible that to utilise and share our resources across the Circuit will help us to more intentionally and effectively impact our local communities.

During our '*imagine conversations*' we explored vision for the Circuit and how this would impact on each of the Societies. What kind of strategy should we employ that best suits our needs and delivers across the Circuit? As Circuit we want to grow our membership numerically and spiritually – we want to see new people come to faith and we want to see existing members grow deeper in their relationship with God. We recognised that we as a Circuit are heavily reliant on retired ministers and on our very faithful band of Local Preachers to ensure that every Society has a Sunday service.

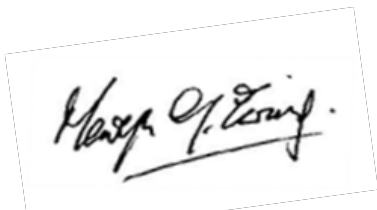
We also recognised that greater demands are being placed on our Circuit ministers

IMAGINE....

from the local community and from the connexion. These demands inevitably impinge on a minister's time to do pastoral visiting and the other essential administrative responsibilities they must do; not to mention time for preparation and how all these important tasks impact on any potentially new strands of local missional engagement. We are blessed on this Circuit to have so many retired ministers and more specifically to have Rev Tom Deacon and Rev Dr James Williamson who assist with the pastoral visiting and Sunday services. It's important too that we recognise that Rev Thomas Clarke is a Non-Stipendiary minister with a restricted number of hours.

As we discussed and shared together it became more apparent that an extra member to the staff team would make an enormous contribution towards achieving our vision for the Circuit. It was felt that we should recruit and employ a full-time Family Worker to work specifically with Trinity, Magheragall, Broomhedge and Priesthill Societies. A budget for this appointment was agreed at our December Circuit Executive and we are currently pursuing a funding application with the Joseph Rank Foundation to help pay for this.

There is such enthusiasm across the Circuit as we see God already at work – lives being changed, and families nurtured and strengthened in the Christian faith. God is faithful and has led us thus far, he has plans for us that are for our good ***"...plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*** (Jeremiah 29:11) Jesus tells us in the clearest of terms that our reason for existence is to ***"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'*** (Luke 10:27). This will involve us being his ***"...witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*** (Acts 1:8). It's interesting to note that Jesus begins in Jerusalem, the place where they were. We too must begin in our 'Jerusalem' the place where we are; and ***"Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you."*** (Matthew 28:19) This is why we exist as disciples of Jesus organised in Societies and Circuit. It's up to all of us to employ the best and most efficient and effective methodology to accomplish this vision. ●



A challenging view from the Chair of DAMASK

Dr Lindsay Easson

Recently appointed as the chairman of Damask



Normally a chair is a comfortable place to be, but being in the chair of DAMASK is maybe more of a challenge than an easy-chair! Damask Community Outreach has been running in Seymour Street now for over seven years and has a well establish and highly regarded Advice Service for local residents at its core. Alongside that we now have a very lively youth programme led by 'Youth Initiatives' who fund 2 staff to run an outreach and leadership training programme which draws in young people some of whom are socially disadvantaged with significant behavioural problems. Running that programme also requires considerable voluntary input from the church and its own young people.

Damask as a Charity is not restricted to these activities as we also have a sizable 'Mother and Toddlers' group, a regular afternoon Tea Dance, offer professional counselling, health coaching and befriending, provide armchair Pilates, support the Storehouse Food Bank and share in the organisation of annual activities such as Fallfest and the Refresh summer programme.

How we are funded

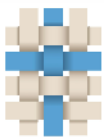
Over the first few years Damask was able to secure significant grant funding from a wide range of bodies such as The Rank Trust, Lloyds TSB, Tearfund, Children in Need and a number of others, and these provided ring-fenced funds to support specific projects. Alongside these Seymour Street has offset the rent that we pay the Church by donating 50% back to Damask while the Lisburn Council funds some of our overheads. Other bodies such as 'Safe and Well' and the Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) also provide grants from time to time. Fund raising events such as our very successful Car Boot Sales run by Shirley and Jonathan Carrington are a key income source, alongside regular giving by some church members.

However in recent years we have failed to secure new grant support particularly for our Advice Service. This is one of the biggest challenges Damask currently faces as over the 2019/20 financial year we need to raise an additional £10,000 to maintain this highly regarded service.

The value of the Advice Service

In his recent Chairman's report at the Damask AGM the Rev Mervyn Ewing highlighted the valuable work of the Advice Service *"Our Advice service is unique, it's personal . Our staff really do care beyond their paid hours. This is evidenced in a number of ways – through footfall that is primarily due to word of mouth where people have told others about our service; and through letters and cards from clients who have benefited from Therese's advice.*

Last year a lady presented to Therese with serious health issues and financial need. It soon became



DAMASK
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

apparent that she had no money at all for food or her electric metre. We agreed to give her a small cash donation. Here's an excerpt from a letter she sent me: "I really do appreciate your kindness towards me, your donation enabled me to buy electric and some food..."

As chair I am privileged to access the behind the scenes stories. There have been phone calls from the NI Housing Executive and other Housing Associations informing us that 'appeals' submitted by Therese on behalf of clients have been successful. In some cases, these claims relate to rent arrears where tenants are not able to make ends meet. They may not amount to huge sums of money, but Therese's intervention has helped to reduce their outgoings which has made a significant difference and has been described by some as 'life changing'.

The Youth Programme

Two years ago we announced a new innovative partnership with Youth Initiatives and Seymour Street Methodist Church which has enabled us to develop detached youth work in our local neighbourhood. What started as a 'Pilot' has overtaken us and developed into a strategically significant outreach initiative.

For example a group of 10 young people have completed the "Transform" programme which focused on Personal and Social Development, Good Relations and Citizenship. They are now volunteering and engaging in new opportunities that have renewed their hope that they can make a difference in this world.

Youth Initiatives



As the project grew and developed, the young people enabled the partnership to operate the first **Life Summer Scheme** in the Lisburn area for almost 30 new young people. Out of that has emerged a Saturday Night Club which in recent weeks has been attracting up to 150 teenagers from all over Lisburn. These young people who might otherwise be gathering in areas like Wallace Park are posing a significant challenge to manage safely as some have to be turned away drunk or for being abusive. Although we are supported by the PCSP and LCCC in this work it is proving difficult and **we do need your prayer support as we seek to manage this programme safely and effectively without disturbance to our neighbours.**

Taking the work of Damask forward

It is clear that Damask is working in strategic areas of need within our community, and there is so much more that we could do. No other agency provides such a wide range of support and advice to clients who call for help. As well as the excellent advice and personal support provided by Therese we can offer clients up to six counselling sessions paid by Damask, support through health coaching and pastoral care from the church if requested. We would like to expand all of these services if we had the finance to take it forward. For those being moved onto Universal Credit, they need access to a computer

and the Internet to complete their monthly claim and this is something Damask may be in a position to offer if we are successful in future grant applications.

Although the Mother's and Toddlers have sought and obtained planning permission for a 'Soft Play' area next to the church we currently don't have the funding to proceed with this, but it remains a long term goal.

Damask is at the beating heart of the life of the Church - but we need your help!

Many people ask - 'How can we make the gospel relevant to the life of the many people who don't come to church?' I believe Damask is fulfilling the example of Jesus as he showed care for the outcasts, the ill, the disadvantaged and the poor. Jesus challenged us that whenever we go out of our way to help such as these - "You do it unto me!"

Could you do something to support the work of Damask? Some are already giving regularly to support our work, others have held fundraising or sponsored events. There are volunteering opportunities in various roles. Just get in touch - we would love to know we have **YOUR** support for our work in the name of Seymour Street Methodist Church. 🍊



Magheragall Update



Our Group met on 30th January 2019 . We were looking forward to a cookery demo and talk by Wiltshire Farm Foods but unfortunately due to heavy snow falling in Coleraine the speaker had to cancel his visit.

At short notice Rev Bobby Loney stepped in and gave us a wonderful insight into his journey with The Lord. He revealed how The Lord had been with him through many situations some of them serious and how He had sustained him, even allowing him to go to Indonesia with his wife to Serve The Lord there. His main topic for the meeting was his work as a Chaplain with the Knockbracken Health Trust visiting patients in the Mental Health Unit. Through his work he is able to get along side with them and win their confidence to be able to share The Love of Jesus with them.

Thank you Bobby for a most inspiring meeting.

We were expecting food for our bodies but instead got food for our souls! 🍊

Boys' Brigade iDEA Award Scheme

Laptop computers needed!

The 2nd Lisburn Boys, Brigade Company (Seymour Street) has been selected as one of seven companies in the UK to pilot a new digitally based award scheme which has been developed under the auspices of the Duke of York.



Much of the work for these awards, which are for Bronze, Silver or Gold, has to be done online and so the BB is looking for donations of unwanted laptop computers which would be suitable for supervised access to the Internet during BB at the church. If you might be able to donate a laptop please contact Ian on 07970 667306 🍌



The Register

TRINITY

BAPTISM

Hannah Evans, daughter of Andrew & Karen

DEATHS

George Allen

Nancy Hall

Rosemary Crawford

DROMORE

DEATHS

Ruth Belshaw,

Gloria Mills,

Renee Alderdice

Alfie Graham

SEYMOUR STREET

BAPTISM

Harper Ruby-May, daughter of Andrew McBride and Toni Porter

DEATHS

Mrs Florence Millar

Mr Will Truesdale .

Mrs Eileen Martin

Mrs Irene Starrett

Mr Jim Bell

Mrs Margaret Ellis

Mr Joseph Fisher

Broomhedge Flower Festival 10th to 12th May



Flowers

Throughout the world in almost every religion and culture flowers are used in local and national celebrations. In the Christian tradition flowers are used as decorative art and as a point of focus in most places of worship on a weekly basis. The Flower Rota is an area of ministry greatly appreciated by many but at the same time often overlooked in the weekly ministry of a worshipping community.

The idea of a Flower Festival in Broomhedge emerged out of our discussions on creating a vision for our future. Looking for an event that would give us a focus on our identity as part of a rural community, would develop our Christian witness within our community and also provide a source of much needed fundraising for our church hall refurbishment programme; a Flower Festival ticked all these



boxes. We also had the advantage of a member of our congregation who was a member of NIGFAS (Northern Ireland Group of Flower Arranging Societies).

Theme

A Christian Flower Festival is more than artistic art using the medium of flower arranging. It is using the medium of floral art to tell a spiritual story. Hence, when a Flower Festival is most effective it is communicating a spiritual message through the medium of floral art. A reflective visit to a flower festival is more than pleasant experience to see beautiful displays. It is a spiritual encounter with the story being told unfolded across the displays.

The theme for the Broomhedge flower festival is ENCOUNTERS through the 'Walks in the Bible'. Eight floral displays will be created to tell the stories of eight different walks in the Bible when God was encountered and a life was changed. From the walk in the Garden of Eden when Adam met God himself and discovered sin in his own life, to the walk along the road to Damascus when Saul encountered the Risen Christ and discovered a new life of service in the Kingdom.

The Team

Mrs Joan Lockhart from Lisburn is an internationally recognised flower arranger. Having been part of the team from Northern Ireland that won Silver at the Chelsea Flower Show, Joan has been invited to arrange flowers internationally in Japan and Canada. Joan will be the artistic director for the Broomhedge Flower Festival and has put together a team of arrangers from Northern Ireland Group of Flower Arranging Societies to create the displays at Broomhedge.

Hospitality

As at any event in Broomhedge hospitality is important. Tea and coffee will be provided for all visitors during the weekend and the Broomhedge catering team has already taken bookings for over 140 meals for groups of visitors.

The weekend will commence with a short opening programme at 1.00pm on Friday 10th May when the Mayor Lisburn and Castlereagh will open the Flower Festival and will close with a Circuit service of celebration on Sunday evening at 7.00pm when preacher will be the District Superintendent the Rev Andrew Kingston. Do plan and visit us for what promises to be great weekend of celebration in Broomhedge. ●



HOLY WEEK

The preacher at our Circuit Holy week services this year (Tuesday 16th to Friday 19th April) will be Rev Jim Rea former President of the Methodist Church In Ireland who will speak on the Theme of **ASPECTS OF THE CROSS**.

All services will be at 7:30 pm. And The Circuit worship band will provide the music

The services will take the usual form of travelling around the Circuit as follows

Tuesday 16th April: Priesthill Methodist Church; led by Rev Tom Deacon.

Wednesday 17th April: Magheragall Methodist Church; led by Rev Thomas Clarke.

Maundy Thursday 18th April: Seymour Street Methodist Church;
led by Rev Mervyn Ewing and we will share together in Holy Communion.

Good Friday 19th April: Trinity Methodist Church; led by Rev Dr Jim Williamson.

All Easter Sunday Morning Services at the usual times.

Lisburn Walk of witness

will take place at 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.



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!'