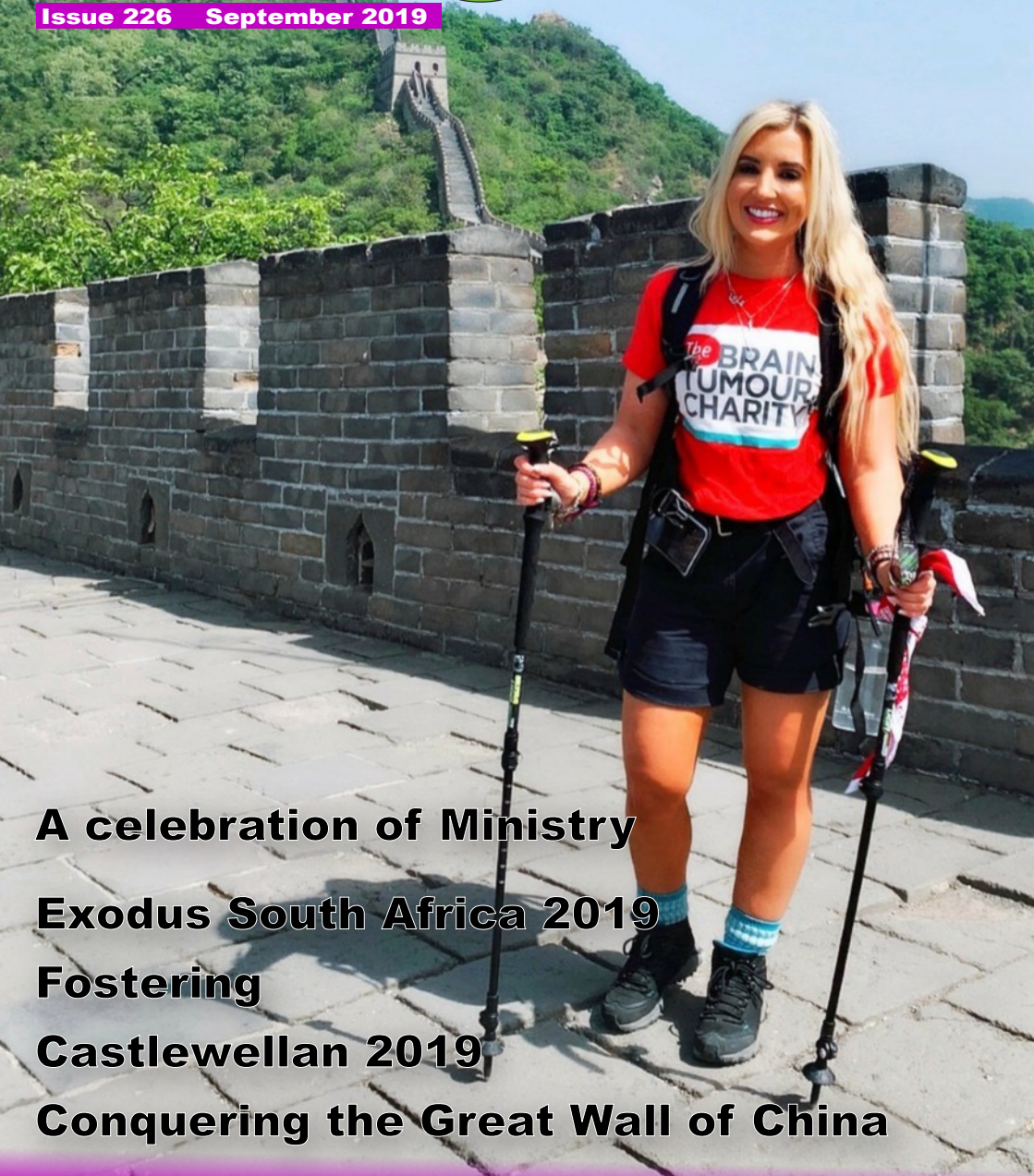


The Light

Issue 226 September 2019



A celebration of Ministry

Exodus South Africa 2019

Fostering

Castlewellan 2019

Conquering the Great Wall of China



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 3rd Nov 2019

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Exodus South Africa Mission

'Hello, hello, it's me again'

The Rev David Turtle writes:

'Hello, hello, it's me again' is the opening line of 'Follow You', the popular worship song from Hillsong Kids.

In the context of the song it's an encouragement to repeatedly come to God in every aspect of our lives to talk, listen and respond to Him. In a completely different way, that opening line seems appropriate as I begin a new role within this circuit, having already been here for a while.

We, as a family, have greatly enjoyed our time of ministry on the circuit over the past 7 years when the primary focus was in Trinity, and are excited to be remaining as part of Lisburn and Dromore in this new and different role. I would deeply value both your prayers and patience as I make that adjustment. I am very conscious that, more than ever, I will be greatly reliant on God's grace to work through my weakness in the days that lie ahead.

As I write, we have just moved into the new manse in Belsize Lane and are adjusting to the changes that a new home brings with it. In our circuit we have changes to adjust to in the coming months as well.

Mark Twain is often quoted for his comment that *'the only person who likes change is a wet baby!'* Whilst that may not be universally true, he does reveal something about our human tendency to cling to what is familiar and well tested, and to resist new and different patterns and ways of doing things.

It is but a cliché to say that we are living in times of unprecedented change, and yet it is profoundly true. Great change is taking



place within the social and political context in which we are called to live as faithful disciples of Jesus, and as a church we seek to live and minister in that changing setting.

Within the Methodist Church in Ireland we have seen significant structural change at our last Conference, with transition from 8 to 3 districts with District Superintendents specifically appointed to resource and encourage mission in these new larger districts. Further changes are being worked through to enable our connexion to be more 'nimble' and able to minister effectively in the new world in which we find ourselves.

Over the past few years on this circuit, leaders from each of the congregations have gone through a process of re-imagining how our 6 societies might be structured, staffed and resourced and we are at the beginning of the implementation of those changes. I am tremendously grateful for the vision and commitment which, in particular, Mervyn, as past superintendent, and Ivan, as circuit steward, have given to this process.

Yet, as I said at the close of our Celebration of Circuit Ministry service last June, all of

3 this change and realignment at connexional and circuit level could end up being nothing but change for change's sake if each of us as members of our congregations don't actually take opportunities to step out in Jesus' Name and live in ways that bring Him glory and honour in our daily lives.

There has been a lot of prayer, planning and thought put into these changes. As a circuit and as a Connexion we believe that we have made arrangements that provide a great opportunity for us, as a Methodist people, alongside others, to play our part in seeing the Kingdom of God flourish and bring transformation in the lives of many in our local communities.

However, that won't happen through focusing on the discomforts that change may bring us or on holding to personal preferences that may hinder the growth of

that Kingdom. Rather, it will come when we as disciples of the suffering Saviour unite around the common goal of living our lives for Him and in Him and allowing that to overflow in all of our relationships, inside and outside our church doors.

Change is all around us, but in the past months I have had a strong sense of God speaking something simple, familiar and constant about our way forward on our circuit. In chapter 12 of the letter to the Hebrews, the writer encourages us as believers to throw off everything that hinders, the sin that so easily entangles and to run the race marked out for us. We are to do so, *"fixing our eyes on Jesus"*. As we encounter the opportunities, frustrations, joys and challenges that change will undoubtedly bring us in the coming months, may our first instinct be to fix our eyes on Him. ●

New Members at Trinity

On Sunday 26th May, 2019 three young people Matthew Coulter, Catherine Larmour and Reuben Barr were received into membership at Trinity. Matthew and Reuben shared short testimonies with the congregation about their Christian experience. Nigel Fowler, Society Steward and Bethany McCarthy, Youth Intern also took part in the service.



The Challenge of Fostering

The Editor talks to Richard & Julie Dougherty

It was when she started as a P1 teacher that Julie became aware of children coming from difficult home backgrounds who were being unfairly criticised by others, instead of being given the support they needed. That thought turned into the feeling that she, and Richard, were being called to foster such children and give them the love and understanding they were missing.

Before becoming foster parents there is an assessment process with training over a period of about three weeks to assess your skills, aptitude and qualities. If both you and the fostering agency are happy to proceed then there are training interviews over several months in how to handle different behaviours and situations.

For Richard and Julie their Christian faith was never an issue in the assessment process and they feel that fostering is an outworking of their faith. In placing children with them the fostering agency attempt to match the religious and ethnic background, but in practice Richard and Julie have had several Catholic children and have even helped one through their First Holy Communion.

Over their 13 years of fostering they have had 29 placements with 28 different children, the shortest being for one day - that was all that was needed, and the longest for 3 years and 9 months. Ages ranged from 4.5 months to 15.



***Richard and Julie with their own family
Hannah (15), Chloe (12) and Joshua (9)***

As I was chatting to Julie and Richard the 'baby alarm' for their current 2 year old foster child went off! She duly appeared down with us to size up this latest visitor and demand a little attention. Julie explained one of the most common characteristic of foster children is 'hyper-vigilance' in which the child is extremely aware of what is going on around them. It is a self-defence mechanism because they have probably had parents rowing or fighting or have been in other stressful situations and they have learned when to get 'off side'.

The majority of the children have been basically well behaved, but of course some have been real 'Tasmanian Devils'! Over their time there has only been one child that was beyond their ability to deal with. Of course their own family has had to come first, but they too have learned to be empathetic with the foster children being welcomed into their family, and Richard and Julie have clearly managed this balance with patience and consideration.



1 Could YOU foster?

2

3

4

The drive to recruit foster carers in the five Health and Social Care Trusts for children and young people continues; "don't rule yourself out".

For information go to the internet at adoptionandfostering.hscni.net/

Julie has remained a P1 teacher while fostering. Richard worked for a number of years as youth worker across Northern Ireland but for the last three years has managed supported housing for 16 to 21s by the Belfast Central Mission working in the Northern Health Trust region.

There is no doubt that fostering can be very rewarding. In one case a child came who was in P2 and did not know how to read or write her own name. After a few months in their care she had caught up rapidly in school. She was able to return to her own parents and then continued to flourish, giving Richard and Julie a real sense of achievement.

Some think that fostering will be difficult because giving up the children must be painful. They acknowledged that parting could be difficult, but commented that young children accept things and move on, and most will not even remember their foster parents in later life! The important thing is that they move back with their parents when that is possible and safe. "It's all about the children and not about us" said Richard and Julie.

Fostering is always managed in close partnership with the Fostering Agency, in their case the Health Trusts. They are often on emergency call, ready to take in

a child who needs to be taken out of dangerous situation rapidly.

Although their fostering role is funded things have not always been easy for Richard and Julie, and as with any official system today the bureaucracy can make life very stressful. They have always valued the support of their church and friends in both prayer and in practical ways. On one particular day which had been very stressful there was a knock on the door and a friend from church arrived with large pasta bake, which was a real encouragement to them.

Richard and Julie remain enthusiastic about fostering and for the last few years have been involved in both promoting the opportunities to foster and also training those who are being considered for fostering. What is more Richard and Julie are thinking of developing a network that will enable foster carers to link up with and support each other.

Many people do not realise that fostering is not necessarily a full time role. It can be short term or even at weekends only. For Richard and Julie fostering has been a real calling that they would like others to consider, and help to meet a real need.. If you would like to find out more they would be happy for you to ring them on 0788 591 0473. ●

Seymour Street MWI Fund-raising Lunch

On Sunday 25th March Seymour Street MWI hosted a soup lunch to raise money for two very worthwhile projects in Kenya and Myanmar.

Kamatunga School

The project in Kenya is well known to many, the school for deaf children at Kamatunga established by Helen Moorehead, former mission partner. After completing her time in Kenya Helen continued her support for the school and church, and returned often to oversee more building. There have been several new buildings to re-house people in brick homes which are watertight and have solid floors. Latrines have been built which are private and enclosed. Help is being given to senior boys who having left the school went on to have vocational training. Building workshops enable the boys to set up their own carpentry businesses and provide them with a livelihood. The school now receives government funding but there is ongoing need to buy school uniforms, toiletries, mosquito nets and bedding.

Myanmar Project

The second project is the MWI project in Myanmar to fund the purchase of a paddy field, the profits from which will be used to support people in the community with disabilities by paying for education and improving living standards. Money raised will also help to purchase wheelchairs, hearing aids and medical supplies.

We were delighted at the large attendance at the lunch and were glad to have prepared enough soup, bread and cheese to meet the demand. Rev Mervyn Ewing was very supportive of



Mrs Margaret Hutchinson

the event and felt that it brought the church family together. Our final total raised was £2000 and we are grateful to many in the church who gave their support and were so generous.

Mrs Margaret Hutchinson

On that Sunday a much loved MWI member was busy as ever assisting in the kitchen, Mrs Margaret Hutchinson, making sure things ran smoothly. We were all deeply shocked and saddened at her sudden passing three days later. Margaret was a most valued member of MWI, a committee member. She was involved in so many aspects of church life, in the bowling club, luncheon club, a volunteer with Damask and organised the catering at church funerals. She also found time to help at the community Christian Aid lunches in Lisburn.

Margaret was a woman of strong Christian faith who believed in helping others. She was always quick to offer help, not waiting to be asked. Her passing leaves a great void in the life of our church. She is greatly missed by so many friends in the church. We extend our deepest sympathy to her husband Wilton and son Nigel. ●

Thank you David

From your friends at Trinity

The Turtle family's ministry in Trinity Methodist Church ended this summer when they moved on to minister to the congregation at Seymour Street Methodist.

The Trinity congregation has much to thank David and his family for. David came to Trinity as a mild-mannered and self-effacing man but it was not long before the congregation realised that his humility came with a great gift to interpret difficult passages of the Bible in a fresh and enlightening way, simplifying them so that all could understand their meaning. His messages always contained the importance of Jesus and His centrality to our relationship with our Heavenly Father. He often reminded us that we could do nothing to improve our status with God because Jesus has already done that in His death and resurrection.

On one occasion the children got to hear about another important turtle, Anancy, and learned from the follies of this little creature. The children's talks often included sweet treats and were as much fun for the adults as they were for the children so that anyone who dozed off during the sermon (as if that would happen!) got to take home something to ponder on.

A few years into David's ministry, the Turtle family and the congregation got the wonderful gift of the first baby to be born to a family in Broomhedge Manse. A lovely baby girl called Ellie. As she grew into a toddler, Ellie proved to be something of a Daddy's girl and often joined him in the pulpit and when he gave the children's talk, peeping through his legs and absolutely stealing the show.

The congregation got to watch the three older children, Stephen, Amy and Sam grow and change as they progressed through the different stages of their education and development. They joined in the children's and youth activities in Trinity during their time there and are a credit to both David and Pamela.

None of the congregation knew that David had an alter-ego until he appeared at a fashion show in the church, looking very dapper and taking everyone by surprise. He entered the





It could be said that the Turtle's ministry in Trinity was characterised by journeys or journeying. Pamela had her own journey while at Trinity as she continued with her recovery from a life-threatening illness. She told the Trinity Women's Group about the goals she set herself and how with courage and determination, supported by David and the children, she was able to achieve them one by one culminating in her journey to base camp at Mount Everest. Those who knew Pamela well appreciated her honesty and authenticity while at Trinity.

David too showed grit and determination when he went on his Camino pilgrimage during his sabbatical. Everyone at Trinity agrees that David, Pamela and the children provided us and led us on a journey over the past seven years and all hope that it was as inspiring for them as it has been for us. Space does not allow for a full account of the Turtle family's ministry at Trinity so here are a few words to describe it from the congregation themselves.

David is: 'inspiring, encouraging, humble, warm, earnest, refreshing, relevant, thought provoking, clever, knowledgeable and insightful.' Pamela is: 'friendly, fun-loving and family orientated, honest, real, unique, straight-forward, humorous, sincere, faithful, dedicated and gentle.'



David taking on the challenge of the Castlewellan water slide

Rev Thomas Clarke's farewell

On Sunday 20 May 2019 the congregation of Magheragall Methodist Church bade farewell to their minister Rev Thomas Clarke and his wife Yvonne.

Thomas was appointed to us three years ago as a part-time non stipendiary minister. During that time he faithfully preached God's Word and he was very sympathetic towards those who were ill and to those who suffered bereavement, nothing was too much bother for him. He was very methodical in his preparations for council meetings and the bible study.



After the service a soup lunch was provided for everyone and a gift was presented to Rev Thomas by the Society Steward Clem Gilbert on behalf of the congregation.

Unfortunately during this event news came through that Yvonne's mum had taken unwell and passed away.

We wish Rev Thomas every blessing as he takes over the ministerial duties in Broomhedge and Priesthill Churches.

Magheragall Wednesday Group commences its programme with a visit to the Galgorm area for lunch on 18th September 2019 ●

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 KINGDOM OF KERRY

Seymour Street Methodist Church May '19 Bus Trip

On a beautiful morning in May, a bus load of Seymour Street folk and friends, pulled out of the church car park to begin another wonderful week away. We headed to Killarney and Kenmare, staying at the lovely Kenmare Bay Hotel.

Our week included sailing on the Lakes of Killarney, Garnish Island, a tour of Muckross House and the Traditional Farms. Not to forget the fabulous views from Molls Gap and around Killarney National Park. The

National Stud at Kildare was wonderful and provided a lot of exciting experiences showing us some of the most beautiful (and expensive) animals in the world.

We ate, sang, shopped and laughed our way around this most gorgeous part of Ireland – naturally accompanied by the beautiful voice of the one and only Daniel!!

Once again – a great time was had by all – roll on next year!!! 🟡



A Celebration of Ministry

on the Lisburn and Dromore Circuit

On the evening of Sunday 23rd June, a special Circuit service was held in Trinity to reflect on various aspects of ministry across our Circuit.

Circuit Steward, Ivan Barr, gave a presentation explaining "What is our Circuit and why does it matter?" pointing out the rich and many diverse ways the Methodist people in Lisburn and Dromore are serving God. This was followed by a tribute to the Reverend Mervyn Ewing to mark his retirement, with a gift from the Circuit presented. Reverend Ross Harte led prayers of blessing for Mervyn and Helena.

Michael Croft, Youth Intern in Seymour Street and Bethany McCarthy, Youth Intern in Trinity, have both completed their internships and gave short reports reflecting on their work over three

years whilst completing their Biblical Youth Work Degrees.

During the service, praise was led by a joint Dromore and Trinity band. Scripture readings were led by Patricia McCarthy and the Reverend Mervyn Ewing preached reflecting on how the church is the body of Christ and that everyone has an important part to play.

The Reverend David Turtle brought the service to a conclusion with some thoughts about the changes that are taking place on our Circuit this year, encouraging us to embrace the new opportunities that these will bring. In addition thanks were passed on to Glynn Capper who has completed his term as Circuit Treasurer, and a number of other circuit officials stepping down. The evening concluded with a cup of tea, some biscuits and plenty of chat!



Castlewellan Holiday Week 2019

Ivan and Lynne Barr

Castlewellan Holiday Week takes place every year around the first week of August. It's a programme of teaching, worship and fun which is attended by people from all over Ireland and sometimes even a bit further afield! The Barr family from Trinity have been attending for many years and Holly Martin took part this year for the first time. Here are some of their impressions of the week:

Why we attend Castlewellan Holiday Week

When Rev Ed McDade encouraged us to go and try Castlewellan Holiday Week (CHW), little did we realise that it would become such an integral part of our Summer Holidays and 10 years later we'd still be going. This year was a little different for us though because our eldest son, Reuben was away in America with the Scouts so there were only 3 Barrs attending this year, instead of the usual 4.

At Castlewellan you can stay on the campsite in a caravan or a tent but we have always stayed in the Castle. Each year it's good to reconnect with the Castle regulars and share a meal together and also to meet new people. Andrew and the staff in the castle look after us very well, providing us with delicious meals every day; a real break from the normal household routine! It also means we have a dry base whatever the weather!

The Programme

The meetings at CHW used to take place in a large marquee on the hillside but last year the committee made the decision to move all the programme down into St Malachy's High school so now we get to use the fantastic



facilities there. Each morning we made our way down the hill to the hall for All Together Worship which is fun and lively with action songs led by the TOM team, drama by Play It Ear and prayers, which this year were led by different families or Youth groups. Then the hall emptied as the children and young people headed to their age specific programmes and the adults participated in Morning Worship. The CHW band led us thoughtfully in praise and worship and it's always a great opportunity to learn a few new songs to bring back home to Trinity.

The main speakers this year were Sean and Ana Mullan who live in Dublin, although Ana is originally from Argentina. The theme for the week was Life: Designer Made. Each morning Ana shared either a piece of art or music to help us reflect upon God and our relationship with him. I know when many people heard this was going to happen, they were initially





a bit sceptical, feeling it might be a bit arty or way out. However, Ana led us in a very contemplative way, connecting the art or music to our everyday experiences and encouraging us to see how God is with us in the small mundane things as well as the big things. One of the paintings she showed us was of the Prodigal Son but instead of focusing on the son, she drew our attention to the loving father. With a series of quiet questions, appealing to all of our senses, she drew us in and helped us focus on how much the father loved the son, reminding us of God's tremendous love for us, no matter what. These reflections helped us to connect with God



Ana Mullan

in a way which was perhaps a bit different to normal for us but they were very powerful and helpful to everyone.

Sean then spoke about some of the conversations which Jesus had with people in the Gospel of John for example with Nicodemus, the woman at the well and Mary and Martha. He reminded us each day how we can become the person God intends us to be, living the unique life He has prepared for each of us. Each talk

showed us how trust in the Master is essential as we become apprentices to Jesus, always learning from Him, noticing how God is at work amongst those around us and then becoming apprentice makers by sharing our experience of God with others. Sean spoke simply yet profoundly and the talks were very beneficial.

After a short time for a coffee break and a chat, small Fellowship groups met to discuss the day's talk and its impact upon them. These small group times are always a good way to think more about the message and its relevance in our day to day lives. They also enable us to meet new people and share ideas together.

Afternoon and Evening Activities

Afternoons are free for activities if you want to attend them or to just take time to enjoy the beautiful surroundings. We enjoyed afternoon of playing some board games which were new to us and Nathaniel enjoyed the water sports. As a family, we enjoy walking and always like to explore the park, clocking up a few miles round the lake and up into the hills.

In the evenings, there are a variety of meetings or seminars which you are free to attend. We were particularly interested in the seminar which was led by Keeva from a charity called ROC which means Redeeming Our Communities. They work with churches to engage with the communities they minister in to find out from the ground level what the needs are and then to work together with individuals and other agencies to begin addressing these needs. She shared examples of different ways churches in Northern

Ireland had started upon this journey by holding a public meeting for members of the community in which they look for all the good things already happening in the community then prioritise the most important needs. Churches had opened after school clubs, carried out a social history project with young people or started a befriending project for isolated older people: the important thing was that the community had identified their own needs and were also involved with the church in addressing them. This is something we think could be useful in our own context.

Castlewellan Holiday Week is important to us as it gives us time away from our busy daily lives to focus on God. The week is always well planned with lots of prayer



Send a Cow held a Seminar at CHW featuring a photo display and discussion of their 'African solutions' bringing new hope to African farmers

underpinning it and we always feel God's presence when we're there. The Youth and Children's programme has helped our two boys, Reuben and Nathaniel to grow in their own faith and the leaders are good role models for them.

If you haven't already experienced CHW, you can come down on the Wednesday Open Day to see what it has to offer or why not take the plunge and come for the whole week. You won't regret it! ●

A perspective on the Youth Programme

Nathaniel Barr

I have been going to Castlewellan Holiday Week since I was three and I really enjoy it. This year I was part of Sector One which is the Youth programme for 12 to 14 year olds. Every morning we were part of the All Together worship time, then when we sang the theme song, "Ask, Seek, Knock" we left to join together for our own programme. This involved a Praise time, a missionary slot, a talk and then small groups where we discussed the talk. This year, the Youth Speaker was Rev Nigel Mackey, chaplain for Wesley College, Dublin. His talks were all based on the story of David and Goliath. He used the story to encourage us that God is with us while we fight our battles in life, like exams, worries and hardships that we may face. Nigel was really interesting and he got his message across clearly. My favourite illustration was when he used a hammock and a large ball as a slingshot. He said that if he'd been in David's position he would have used large stones and a big slingshot to attack Goliath but God was with David and protected him, allowing him to use the skills he had learnt as a shepherd.

At night time, we met again most evenings for Praise and Worship and also some fun activities like games or a movie. On Thursday we gathered at the lake at 9pm for Lakeside worship.

Castlewellan Holiday Week isn't just all meetings. I also enjoy doing activities in the afternoon. This year I did canoeing and kayaking which was great fun. My family and I also spent an afternoon playing some different board games. Each year on the Wednesday, Open Day takes place with inflatables, a petting farm and the water slide. I loved the Water Slide and managed to slide further than I have done in previous years. I have made friends at Castlewellan over the years and always like to meet up with them again.

I really enjoy Castlewellan Holiday Week and if you can, you should go next year. ●



My experience on the Youth and Children's team at CHW 2019

Hi my name is Holly, this year I had heard a lot of good things about Castlewellan Holiday Week so I decided to apply for this year's team for CHW. At first I was a little bit nervous as there were so many leaders that I did not know but there were some people I did know from previous IMYC events.

Each morning we would have breakfast together and then later go in and have morning devotions and worship. We also had a prayer group together so we would talk about how we were feeling towards the week and what we wanted prayer for. I found this really nice as it really made me feel closer to God and just be ready to teach the children about his Word. The prayer groups were really helpful for things going on in our age group and also personal prayer sometimes came up as well which was so nice and really helpful throughout the week. Leaders were put into different age groups, I was in the Nanos which is the youngest age group for those about to start Nursery School. We would set up toys for them coming in, and then we would have circle time with

them. Firstly we had a tiger that we passed around and we would ask them a random question, for example, 'What did you have for breakfast?' and we would pass it around and they would answer. Next we would then do our story, and then they would have snack time. I really enjoyed interacting with the Nanos, some were a little shy but some came out with some really good answers and did some really good prayers and it was really encouraging to see.

Also being on the team I made some wonderful friendships. The week can be really intense, but people are really there for you on team which I find so encouraging. I also found just so encouraging everyone's love for each other on the team and I made some really good friendships for life. This experience made me feel even closer in my faith and just ready to dive all in for Christ. I can't wait to experience it all again next year.●



The Registers

SEYMOUR STREET BAPTISM

Hunter John Scott,
son of Lauren Hunter and Aaron Scott

DEATHS

Mr Noel Poots	15 Greenburn Way, Lambeg
Mr Leslie Hamilton	56 Magheralave Road
Mr Ronnie Herron	23 Monaville Close
Mr Arthur Norwood	22 Old Manor House
Mr Raymond Payne	32 Glenmore Drive

TRINITY BAPTISMS

Emmie & Thomas McCaughan, twin
daughter and son to Ryan and Michelle

WEDDING

Megan Porter to Ryan McMillan

TOM 30 on Mission in Trinity

Trinity had a tremendous week together with TOM 30 from 11th-18th November. Ben, Jodie, Natalie & Peter had a busy week with involvement in both church and community. They led assemblies in Ballymacash and Killowen Primary Schools, and some classes in Parkview Special School. In Trinity, they joined in with Causeway Group, Craft Club, Evergreens, Toddlers and Open Door. Over the week they also led Trinity Zone, yPod and Connected on Sun 11th, all sections of BB and GB, a Pizza Praise Party, Saturday Night Takeaway, as well as bring the message at the GB Enrolment service on Sun 18th.

All in all, it was a great week where the team brought encouragement and challenge to many people. We pray God's blessing and anointing on them as they continue in this year of mission! 🟡



Rachael conquers the great Wall of China and raises over £5000 for Brain Tumour Charity



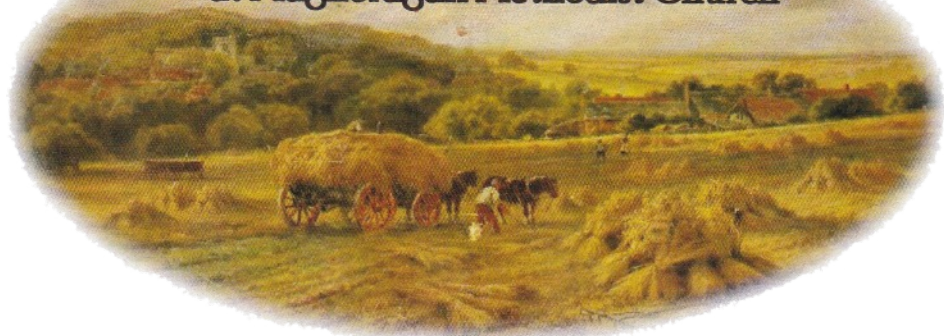
Rachael Murphy writes: I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone from Maghergall Methodist for your support towards my great walk of China walk.

It was the most difficult but incredible experience. I met amazing people, saw unbelievable views and climbed more than I ever imagined. £5042.77 was raised for the brain tumour charity and I want to thank you all so very much for your kind donations.

Every step was for my Dad and I know he would be very proud of what you've all helped me achieve. 🟡



Harvest 2019 at Magheragall Methodist Church



Friday, 11th October 2019 at 6.45 pm

Harvest Meal by Mulberry Tree *

in the Church Hall

followed

by

Christian Lessons

from

The Highland Piper And His Instrument

George Conn (Faith Mission)

in the Church at 8.00 pm



Sunday, 13th October 2019 at 11.00 am

Morning Harvest Service

Speaker: Mr Tom Saunderson

Sunday, 13th October 2019 at 6.30 pm

Evening Harvest Service

Speaker: Rev Alan Wardlow



* To reserve a place please contact Clem Gilbert . £16 per person

REFRESH



An update from Anne Patterson who is stepping down after 10 years leading this innovative programme

So another year of Refresh is over. There were many changes this year, not least of which was our change of logo. Instead of Refresh we updated to Refresh^{ten}, with a cross between the word Refresh and the suffix "en" to make Ten. If that doesn't make sense take a look at the team t shirt and all will be made clear!



The reason we have had a make over is our 10th birthday celebrations. Refresh started in 2010 with a packed week of morning club, afternoon games and evening club. As the years progressed so did Refresh. We believe that change is inevitable and fundamental to any progress. To quote the old adage - 'Nothing changes if nothing changes'.

So, responding to the needs of the community and the beliefs of our church family, Refresh became a mainly outdoor club, meeting "at the green" at Roseville Gardens each evening

The Refresh leadership team 2019



for primary aged children- "Refresh Goes Green" and in the coffee bar later in the evenings, at church, for teens- "Cafe Refresh". And so the years have sped through and we are still passionate about following the simple command of Jesus-love. Out of Refresh, and hand in hand with Damask and Fallfest we have added other events over the years including "Carols on the Green". We want to see and be seen by our local families.

This year, after 10 years in charge, I have decided to step down as leader. It has been a privilege to have been part of the team and I'm excited to see where our kids programme takes us next!

And to set the record straight - I'm still not 50, despite starting Refresh as a 40th birthday faith challenge! ●

Anne Patterson in action





Seymour Street Exodus Team South Africa 2019

In July 2019, eleven of us from Seymour Street travelled out to South Africa as part of a 16 day summer mission team in partnership with Exodus.

The build up & preparation

Although the physical journey of travelling to South Africa began on the 3rd July, the overall journey of getting there started way back in February. Once our team members were all confirmed in mid-February we started the process of weekly team meetings. These team meetings involved team building exercises, following a discipleship course in which we gained a deeper understanding of the bible and then also a series of fundraising opportunities to help fund the projects we hoped to be working with out in SA.

Although fundraising towards a target of £5500 seemed overwhelming and daunting to begin with, it gave us an incredible platform to tell people both what we were going to do and also why we were going to do it.

In total we had 5 big "event" fund-raisers which ranged from a family breakfast, going to the cinema together, to a fashion show

in our church halls. Although very varied, each event allowed us as a team to share the heart behind our mission and ultimately gained the support of those we call family. By the time we were ready to leave we were absolutely blown away by the support our church and wider church family had shown to us – both prayerfully and financially and were able to fly to SA with around £800 over our fundraising target.

Thank you so much to every single person who supported us. We hope and pray that the stories we have to tell you will encourage you as to how much your support here has blessed communities out there.

Arriving in George, South Africa

Having raised all our money and packed our bags full to bursting with everything we thought we might need, it was time to take to the sky. In total we travelled 26 hours by bus, plane and car before reaching George, SA – and when we arrived it was cold, dark and raining so we immediately felt at home!!!

Our first couple of days were orientation days. We learnt more about the culture we

21 had just walked into and also about ourselves, our thought processes. How we looked at and the world around us was challenged.

Our host Pierre set us a number of challenges to think about while we spent our time out in SA. One was to have no expectations; to not tick boxes off an agenda but to live and act in the moment; spirit led, hands and feet of Jesus – because that is what would change us as people. Another bigger challenge was to change our reference point of how we look at the world. It was a concept we found hard to grasp at the beginning but as the days went on and we spent more and more time in the communities we started to understand more deeply what exactly Pierre meant by that.

When we look at a situation we judge, whether we are aware of that particular situation based on our personal experience. Our reference point for whether we think something is right or wrong, good or bad, comes from what we have experienced in our lives. For most of us, when we arrived in SA, we were heartbroken at the divide between the rich and the poor, we asked

how can this be ok? That those people who have houses and food are living right alongside those who are in shacks and starving with just a wall to divide the two?

Changing our reference point

Our reference point was our own experience – but who are we to say if that is right or wrong? Our reference point should never be our experience, but rather Jesus. We based the fact that we had everything we needed and they had nothing, on our experience of having “stuff”.

But who is to say they had nothing? What if they had everything?

These people, although they had nothing physical had so much more than many of us could ever dream to have. They had community, unshakeable support, loyal family, sacrificial relationships. As we watched and as relationships developed with the people, especially in Blanco we realised they have far from nothing, they have everything because their reference point was and is a life that Jesus calls us to – a life of community, of serving one another, of trusting in more than just stuff.

In every community we worked in, every child we spent time with and every conversation we had along the way, God showed up.



George, South Africa



helped with practical jobs on the run up to the move.

One of the main jobs we had was replanting their vegetable garden so they can continue to sustainably feed up to 4000 children a week. We then helped with their after school programme in the afternoon which included Bible teaching and homework classes and just showing children someone cares.

Other days we spent in the township of Blanco – a place that holds many of our hearts for so many reasons.

As a team we have come home with a new reference point – not one of experience but one of Jesus, because when Jesus is your reference point, you have everything you need.

This challenge stuck with us every single day that we went out into the mission field in SA. Suddenly these people weren't people we were there to help or to fix but people with a story and people who had potential despite their circumstance. It was this that formed the basis of the ministry of our trip, the agendas and tick box plans went out the window and left room for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus with no expectations other than the one that God would show up – and he did!

With no more agendas and planning it meant that every day for us looked a little different.

Working with local communities

There were days spent at Life Community Services (LCS) – a Christian charity that is committed to the lives of orphan and impoverished children in George SA through education, after school care, community outreach, feeding programmes, clothing schemes and so much more! LCS have been blessed to be able to purchase new land to extend the services they currently offer so during our days there we

Here we were able to support an incredible lady called Stella who blesses the children of Blanco by providing a safe space for them to play, learn and grow and also runs her own feeding programme throughout the week where she feeds and prays with and loves hundreds of children and their families.

We also had opportunities to partner with the youth of George Methodist Church and an amazing ministry by Youth for Christ called Kids Stop.

In every community we worked in, every child we spent time with and every conversation we had along the way, God showed up. Some things we as a team are still processing and putting into place now that we are home, other things still crop up and make us think every single day. We could share thousands of stories if we could about how amazing this trip, the country and its people are if we could but for now I've asked a few of the team to try and sum up their experience in a few words..

Michael Croft: *"Did South Africa look like the way you thought it would?"*

Yes and no. I went in with a very open mind, not wanting to know what it would be like! The townships looked like what I thought they would look like; people living in a small shed or what looked like bits of metal all



holding each other up. Don't get me wrong, some people in the townships were doing better than others, but most were in the same boat.

Jane Maise: *“What was the worship like?”*

We went to two different churches; George Methodist which was similar to churches in NI and then a traditional African church which was very different! The service started with 1hr 30mins of worship with a mixture of English and African songs – all spontaneous. When we came to take up the offering the whole congregation danced around the offering plate for about 5 minutes! We loved it! It was amazing to see how passionate the church was to glorify God and to experience Gods presence in a whole new way.

Peter Carrington: *“What did you bring home that will impact your everyday life?”*

I brought back the importance of prayer and the continued use of it. Prayer helped both

me and everybody else on the team in different ways, it reminded me how that is for both Africa and at home.

Sophie Kinghan: *“Have we just walked away and left things as they were before we arrived?”*

No, when we went to Blanco we met a lady called Stella who helped the kids in the community by feeding them. She would walk around the township using a pram to push a massive bucket of soup around the different areas to give out. This ministry was either self or locally funded through donations. The extra fundraising money we were able to bring out with us will now provide Stella and her ministry a steady income for the next 7 months to help facilitate the children's outreach and bless the whole community in Blanco.

We as a team just want to say thank you again for all the support we have received over the past 6 months and would love if you could continue to remember the people of Blanco, Life Community Services and our host Pierre in your prayers. Thank you! 🙏

