

With over 20 years of experience in church and media relations there is one sure thing I know about the media and Church anniversaries.

No one is interested.

I have heard PR advisors use church anniversaries as examples of how not to promote something — after all, they said, it's like running out into the streets and shouting "It's my birthday! It's my Birthday!" At best people might smile, at worst think you're nuts. While there is nothing wrong with the events themselves they are really only important to congregations and those closest to them. How much attention did you pay to 'Joe's Big 50th Birthday' sheets draped on a roundabout? The general public are indifferent.

What people are interested in are stories. Stories that are unique, stories of change, hope

and obstacles overcome, stories that surprise and make you smile.

We have lots to celebrate in the 250th anniversary of our congregation and much to be thankful for but if we are to share the life of Second Ballyeaston with our neighbours what stories do you have to tell?

We have the greatest story ever —the Gospel of Jesus Christ— which has brought hope, change and surprise to millions of people across the world. How has this story changed you? As we move in to our 250th anniversary year lets start to listen to each others stories and share them with others. Stories of how God is at work in our lives and how the gospel gives us hope in a world full of bad news stories.

Perhaps we will even see you share those stories here in our news sheet.

Happy Anniversary Year!



Celebrating
250
YEARS

Your Spring guide
to worship and
witness at 2nd
Ballyeaston.



250th Anniversary Dates

16th March: Shine's Show 7pm

23rd March: BB Display 7pm

**28th March: Maundy Thursday
Communion 8pm**

31st March: Easter Day

7th Apr: All-Age Worship

**11th Apr: Presbyterian Choirs'
Festival**

21st Apr: Farming Service 7pm

5th May: All-Age Worship

**11th May: Clare Chorale
'Music in May'**

**18th May: Congregational Din-
ner**

250th Anniversary Dates

**29th May: Presbytery Devine
Healing Service**

**8th Jun: Sunday School Car
Boot Sale 10am.**

**16th Jun: All-Age Worship
Childrens Day and BBQ**

**22nd Jun: '9 to 5' Musical at
Grand Opera House**

**28th Jun: Old Tyme Dance in
The Brann Hall**

**29th Aug—1st Sept: Flower
Festival**

**15th Nov: Choir Dance in
Brann Hall**

Walking Group

**The times below are meeting times
at Second Ballyeaston.**

26th Feb: 10.15am

Castle grounds and loughshore,
Antrim.

26th March: 10.15am

Slemish Mountain and
Broughshane.

30th April: 10.15am

Redburn Country Park Holywood.

28th May: 6.30pm

Glenarm Castle.

25th June: 6.30pm

Upper Cavehill.

Further information is available in
the vestibule.