



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

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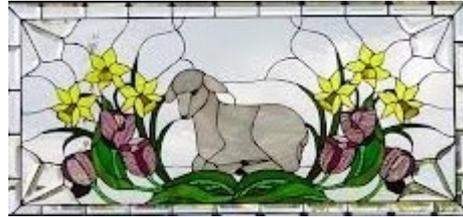
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Special points of interest:

- How you can help build a complete history of our church life.
- Events in our 250th Anniversary year
- Charity donations and how you can help
- Contact details of key members of our congregation.



WELCOME TO OUR SPRING EDITION

A busy year for our congregational life has begun in earnest. Our rededication service took place on the 20th January led by both the Rev. Chris Glover and the Very Rev. Dr. John Dixon.

A big 'thank you' must go to the Tractor Club who donated their takings from their Gospel Concert on the 14th February. This donation was shared between 1st and 2nd Ballyeaston Churches with each receiving £1000.

Shine presents 'A Medley of Musicals' on Saturday 16th March at 7pm in the Brann Hall. This promises to be an evening of fun, fellowship and drama for all ages! The Shine leaders and members would greatly appreciate the congregation's support for this performance. Admission £3 payable at door.

The Presbytery Choir Festival will take place in our Church on 11th April.



A concert evening by The Clare Chorale will be held on the 11th May in our refurbished halls. The Clare Chorale is a local choir with an impressive reputation. They have an extensive repertoire and the evening promises to be popular and enjoyable. Tickets will be available from committee members from the beginning of April. Admission £10.

Our congregational dinner to celebrate the 250th Anniversary will be held in the Brann Hall on the Saturday evening of the anniversary weekend (18th May). Members, their family and their friends are invited to an evening

of celebration and fellowship. The meal will take the form of a hot buffet: the cost will be £10 and, to facilitate catering, tickets should be purchased from members of committee before the end of April.

We will also be hosting a flower festival on the weekend of 29th August—1st September with the theme being 'Glory to God'.

As always this is your newsletter and we welcome any information and suggestions for our next edition. This is planned to be incorporated into our annual report.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

(John 3:16)

Welcome Word From the Manse

With over 20 years 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 into 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!

Your Minister,

Chris.

It’s that time again for collections for charity. Can you help with the following:

- 1: Books and professional journals for Book Aid (with a donation for postage).
- 2: Books for Hydebank particularly novels and children’s books.
- 3: Redundant games consoles and games for charity re-use.

Church Aid Romania now collect through Blythwood Care who sort and pack on their behalf. Should you still require assistance with collection of any items for donation such as clothing etc, please contact Michael Love.

Michael can be contacted on 02893340198 or 07885107452.



2ND BALLYEASTON HISTORY

Steady progress is being made on the history of our church. The early history has been completed but does anyone know exactly where the original Rashee Church (1763-1787) was at the Five Corners?

I still require assistance with historical information regarding the following organisations :

- Sunday School
- Indoor Bowling Club
- Presbyterian Women
- Girls' Brigade
- Young Adults' Group
- Galactic Blast Holiday Club
- The Walking Group
- Shine
- Junior Youth Club
- 4 CYT
- Crèche

Hopefully anyone who has been particularly associated with these organisations would be willing to put together a short history, including photographs etc. for inclusion. Please contact me. Acknowledgement for any assistance will naturally be listed.

Assistance is also required to list Office Bearers e.g. Elders, Committee Members etc over the years. I have already completed early Office Bearers.

Wilbert Garvin, 07816752166 or
wilbert@leaghtland.fsnet.co.uk

WALKING GROUP

The Group walks on the last Tuesday of each month, leaving from the church car park. Throughout the winter the walks are in the morning (leaving at 10.15am); in May and June we take advantage of the lighter evenings and leave at 6.30pm. Walks are varied in length but are

suitable for even the slowest! The tea and coffee stop provides an opportunity for chat at the end of the walks. Copies of the schedule are available in the church vestibule and new walkers are always welcome.
Yvonne Hollinger.



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.

“Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”
 (1 Peter 1:3)



Contact Details:

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250TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR EVENTS

Here is your up to date list of events for the coming year. This list is not exhaustive and continues to develop as the year progresses. We will keep this list updated in each edition of our news letters and news sheets.

If you know of any events not listed below then do let us know and we will update the list.

We look forward to your support at these events which enhance our congregational life.

- 16th March: Shine's Show 7pm
- 18th May: Congregation Dinner
- 22nd March: GB Display 7pm
1st Ballyeaston
- 29th May: Presbytery Devine Healing Service
- 23rd March: BB Display 7pm
- 8th June: Sunday School Car boot Sale 10am
- 28th March: Maundy Thursday Communion 8pm
- 16th June: All-Age Worship Children's Day and BBQ
- 31st March: Easter Day
- 22nd June: Tractor Club Rally Celebrating 40yrs of the club.
- 7th April: All-Age Worship
- 22nd June: '9 to 5' Musical at the Grand Opera House
- 11th April: Presbytery Choirs' Festival
- 21st April: Farming Service 7pm
- 2nd August: Old Tyme Dance in the Brann Hall
- 5th May: All-Age Worship
- 29th August—1st September: Flower Festival
- 11th May: The Clare Chorale "Music in May"
- 15th November: Choir Dance in the Brann Hall.