



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

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Special points of interest:

- Upgrade update
- BB Prize Winners
- Church Humour
- Test Your Knowledge



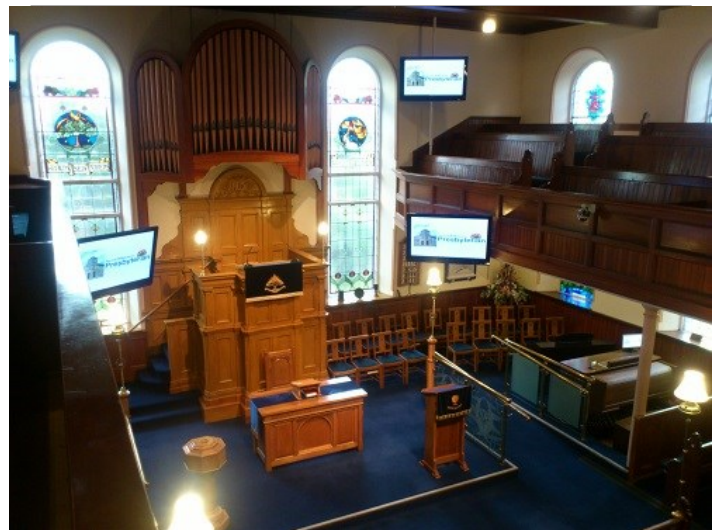
WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER EDITION

Welcome to the latest edition of our Newsletter. This edition is in time for our Summer and after the Winter we have had we hope it to be glorious, warm and long!

This edition has been incorporated into our Annual report. A key difference between the two would be our annual report looks back over the past year's events and the Newsletter usually focusses on the future.

This edition is packed with information to keep you informed on our congregational life. We are now well into our 250th Anniversary Year and recently held our Service to celebrate this with the Rt. Rev. Dr. Roy Patton.

While some of our other key events have already taken place, such as the Choirs' Festival and Clare Chorale, there is still plenty more to come. Details of our events are listed on the back page for your quick reference.



With many of our organisations having come to a close for the Summer, it is time for us all to draw breath and the leaders to enjoy a well earned rest before they resume in the Autumn. I'm sure all our leaders would appreciate our note of thanks for their hard work throughout the year.

We have included a new section in this edition showing some of the humorous miscommunications and typing errors

from other congregations. We have also added a quiz section to test your bible knowledge.

Don't forget that the Church's website contains all the information on upcoming events and the PDF files of previous publications for download from www.ballyeaston.org. Please visit and let us know your suggestions for further development.

**"BUT THE SALVATION OF THE RIGHTEOUS IS THE LORD: HE IS THEIR STRENGTH IN THEIR TIME OF TROUBLE."
 PSALM 37:39**

"As long as the Earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, Summer and Winter, day and night will never cease."

(Genesis 8:12)

UPGRADE TO AUDIO-VISUAL SUITE IN MAIN HALL

Shine requested some investment in the main hall to be used to purchase a new lighting and sound desk. This was approved and the money has now been well spent, creating a truly professional, multi-functional hall with all the refinement to be found in any theatre setting. We plan to detail what has been achieved and how this may be of use to all organisations within our Church.

In the original redevelopment of the hall, specialist cabling was installed so that the infrastructure was in place to be developed at a later date. This can be thought of as the nervous system. We already had some of the 'muscle' in the form of some lights and speakers. What we really needed was the brains to control the lighting and the sound equipment. As can be seen in the pictures we now have this equipment in place and have re-invented the upper room at the back of the hall as a control room, from where all lights and microphones, speakers etc, can be controlled.

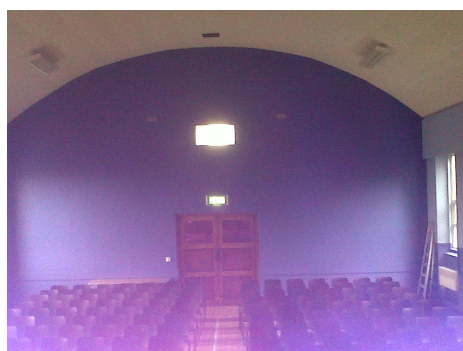


Consider a performance from Shine or a travelling Amateur Dramatics group. They will be able to run the lights and sound from the upper room and send the sound from the stage to the Coulter Hall, as a backstage area. We can also send a video feed to the TV screen in the Coulter Hall.

At Shine's recent end of year performance we were able to control a projector located before the stage, from the Control Room. Even though every knob on the board does something, the sys-

tem is relatively user friendly and equipment such as microphones are plugged in to the boxes on stage and then controlled for the projector room. The Hall could now be used for fashion shows, plays, AGM's etc. Both Gardiner McAuley and myself will be more than happy to discuss how this equipment can be used to suit your function and we will be happy to help with the event where possible. Just give us a call:

Adam (07801014622)
Gardiner (07902045416)





WORD FROM THE MANSE

When it was built 2 centuries ago, it was called monstrous by the locals, who demanded that it be torn down as soon as possible. Yet from the moment its architect imagined the structure in his mind, he took pride in it and loyally defended it from those who wished to destroy it. He knew that it was destined for greatness. He didn't give up on it. Today it is one of the architectural wonders of the modern world and stands as the primary landmark of Paris, France. The architect was a man called Alexandre Gustave Eiffel - and everyone can recognise the famous landmark of the Eiffel Tower, built in 1889, on the Parisian landscape.

Gustave's loyalty to his creation reminds us of Christ's loyalty to another structure, no mere building, but the Church - called by God as the means of proclaiming the gospel throughout the world despite its sometime follies and failures.

Jesus Christ, the architect of the church, knows that the church is destined for greatness as it carries out his call.

I have had the opportunity to work in several different churches, both here, England and the US, and have also had the opportunity to visit Churches in other countries. In Eastern Europe the women sit separately from the men. In Russia the church buildings glitter and no one sits in a pew because there aren't any. Even in Ballyeaston our two church buildings are very dissimilar but none of these differences matter.

When our own congregation called its first minister, The Revd Anderson in 1763, there was no sanctuary, no pulpit, no choir, no organ or computer screens. Like many Presbyterians the congregation faced persecution and an uncertain future. And yet here we are 250 years later thanking God for their early worship and witness.

And that is how we recognise what the Church is - a gift of God. It is a gift, the gracious and generous gift of God's presence among us in Jesus Christ.

The non-essential things will always change. Our buildings will require repair and renewal but God's loyalty to the Church will never change. To our Presbyterian ancestors who had nothing, to our congregation which had nothing, God gave them all they needed - and continues to provide for us today.

For that reason we can take courage today as we look forward to the future. Things may well change significantly on our little island, politically and socially, but we believe the Holy Spirit will continue to guide and challenge us as we seek to be faithful to God in our worship and witness.

So do not be timid. Be generous with your time, your gifts and your money because God will bless our work just as God has blessed the generosity of our congregation for 250 years who gave so much more in troubled times. And together we will work not just with our brothers and sisters of the past but also our brothers and sisters to come.

Your Minister,

Chris.

"For I know the plans I have for you' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'"

(Jeremiah 29:11)

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”
(Romans 8:28)



THE BOYS BRIGADE

The Boys Brigade have finished another great, full and active year challenged at the very end

by the blizzard that caused the postponement of the display night. We felt it was important to give credit to the hard work the boys have put in over the year. We thank them all and look forward to seeing them in September.

So onto our prize winners this year and we will start with our Anchor Boys, led by Simon Harkness.

Best Boy Cup P1-P2—**Jack Peel**

Best Boy Cup P3-P4—Shared
Andrew Leckey & Gareth Leckey

Endeavour Cup—**Drew Mackey**

We are looking forward to seeing our Anchor Boys back in September and wish our best to the boys who have progressed to the Junior Section. All new members in the P1-P4 age range will be most welcome.

Onto the Junior Section led by Jennifer Dickey and their prize winners.

Best Recruit—**Adam McAuley**

1st Year Cup—**Jack Murdoch**

2nd Year Cup—Joint winners
Ewan Wallace & Stephen McConkey

3rd Year Cup—**Adam McNeilly**

Endeavour Cup—**Ian McGookin**

O'Grady Cup—**Ewan Wallace**

Best Boy Cup—**Sam Dyson**

Group Cup—**Sam Dyson, John Cross, Adam Hall and Adam McAuley**

3rd Place in Batt: uni-hoc competition
John Cross, Adam Hall, Ewan Wallace, Jack Murdoch and Stephen McConkey

We look forward to welcoming all our new recruits to the Junior Section in September.

Finally moving onto the prize winners of the Company Section, led by Eric Cooper.

Best NCO Cup—**Grant McCullough**

Sportsman Cup—**Bradley Cahill**

Scripture Cup—**Andrew Currie**

Best Squad (No.2) Leadership Cup—**Patrick Davidson**

Best Boy Cup—Shared
David McConkey & Andrew Downey

Best New Recruit—**Ross McCullough**

Drill Cup—**Andrew Downey**

Endeavour Cup—**Harvey Davidson**

Best Squad—Squad 2
Patrick Davidson, Mark McClenaghan Rhys Wallace, David McConkey Stewart Aiken, Ross McCullough

We would like to offer our thanks to all the leaders for their time and commitment over the year and to the families of our boys for their support. After our short rest over the Summer we will be refreshed to commence again in September. Details of our start dates will be circulated nearer the time.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

CAR BOOT SALE 8TH JUNE

Every year the Sunday School contributes to the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's Youth and Children's Project. This year the project is helping two schools in Africa and one in Ireland. We are organising a Car Boot Sale on 8th June, with people donating £5 to bring their cars or to hire an indoor table.

There will be tea, coffee, juice, tray bakes and soup available all day in the Coulter Hall.

Please help us by:

Clearing out your cupboards and bringing your car along to sell your old bits

and pieces (don't forget that you keep your own profits!)

Or:

By coming along and having a look around the car boot sale—you never know what treasures you will pick up! There will be plenty to keep the whole family entertained—including a variety of stalls, face painting and a bouncy castle.

If you can help in any other way please let me know.

Emma Hanna 07920103981

Children's Day

Children's Day is on Sunday 16th June and will be followed by the congregational BBQ.

All children will be participating in some way and we will be rehearsing during May and June.

Family Fun Day

To celebrate the end of term we are planning a 'family fun day' on Saturday 29th June at White Rocks beach in Portrush. We will meet at the church car park at 10am and families can ei-

ther travel in convoy or meet at the beach at some point during the day. Everyone should bring their picnics or barbecues, buckets and spades, etc. and aim to spend the day together having fun!

If any of our older children or teenagers want to go without their parents they should let us know ASAP.

Emma Hanna.

07920103981.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present yourselves to God."
(Phillipians 4:6)

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Jesus Christ to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"
(Ephesians 2:10)



REACH-OUT COMMITTEE

A CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE OF HANDEL'S MESSIAH

On 1st December the Abbey Singers gave a memorable performance of Handel's Messiah in the Church. The evening brought a large audience from our local area and far beyond.

The choir, under the direction of John Harmar-Smith, sang familiar choruses taken from Old Testament prophesy of the coming of Christ, and the

New Testament account of His birth, life and death.

Our soloists were Lynda Barrett (soprano), Jenny Bourke (alto), Jack Kinhead (tenor) and Michael Brown (bass). Their contribution raised the performance to a level not witnessed in Second Ballyeaston for many years.

Special mention must be

made of the young trumpeter Sam Brodison whose playing brought a magical quality to the final part of the evening.

Sincere thanks are due to organist Noel Williamson, the choir, the conductor and the soloists for an evening which will be long remembered, and one which allowed us to add over £1300 to the Church Development Fund.

Music in May—A Report

As part of the 250th Anniversary Celebrations The Clare Chorale visited 2nd Ballyeaston on Saturday 11th May. The historical theme threaded through the evening as Ronnie Hassard, our compere, introduced the choir and our guest flautists, The Fleming Duo.

The Clare Chorale, a mixed voice choir, was formed in

2003 and draws singers from across the community. The choir has a wide and varied repertoire of sacred and secular music drawn from traditional, spiritual, folk and popular genres and we enjoyed examples of each on the evening.

Sheelagh Greer, the choir's conductor, is well-known in the area, and her enthusiasm

and expertise brought much to the performance. In the interval members of the audience enjoyed refreshments and chat in our newly refurbished Coulter Hall.

From the evening the Development Fund benefited by over £400.

Yvonne Hollinger.

Flower Festival

Our 250th Anniversary celebrations continue at the end of August with a FLOWER FESTIVAL in the church from Friday 30th August until Sunday 1st September.

The theme is TO GOD BE THE GLORY and will celebrate the beauty of nature and the inspiration of scripture text.

The weekend will be a further chance for our own congregation, friends and family, and the wider community to come together and recognise the part which the Presbyterian

Church has played in the Ballyeaston area in over two centuries.

The Festival will be co-ordinated by Mrs Jean Robinson but it is hoped that every family in the church will help in some way to make the event a success.

There will be an opportunity (when the Church Annual Reports are distributed) for each family to volunteer to assist in practical ways.

Some families have expressed a wish to sponsor

one of the floral arrangements in memory of a family member or a family anniversary, and again, details of how this can be done will be available with the Reports.

Please put the dates in your diary, and tell friends and family, so that they may keep free at least one of the days.

The Festival will open on Friday 30th August, teas etc will be available over the weekend, and the event will be brought to a close with a Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday, 1st September.

Have You Heard.....

In this new section we will be looking at the humorous side to Church life seen across the world. Many of us know stories and tales that can be added to this section and I'd be delighted with your input.

As a theme from what I have gathered so far, the Church Choir seem to bear the brunt of the miscommunications such as:

"Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones".....and....

"at the evening service tonight the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell'? Come early and hear our choir practice!"

With our car boot sale looming this one caught the eye:

"Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your Husbands!"



And then we have the congregational information that means well but could be worded better, such as:

"For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.".....and....

"Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased you want remembered"

Then there is the situation where the spellchecker lets one through.

"Pot Luck supper this Sunday at 5pm. Prayer and medication to follow.".....and.....

"The Church will be hosting an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility!"

Such would never be found in any communication from 2nd Ballyeaston, we hope!

Please forward on any such like humorous quips on Church life for our future editions!

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience" (Colossians 3:12)

Christian Trivia Quiz

Let's test your knowledge on the bible. The answers are on the back page. Who can get them all right?

- 1: The 10 commandments were written on tablets of....?
- 2: Who was the first woman?
- 3: What is the longest word in the bible?
- 4: She was the sister of Moses and daughter of Amram?
- 5: How many books does the Old Testament comprise of?
- 6: How many books does the New Testament comprise of?

- 7: How many chapters are in the Old Testament?
- 8: Who wished he could return to eternal darkness and cursed the day he was born?
- 9: What is the English meaning of the Greek word "Gospel"?
- 10: What is the shortest chapter in the bible?
- 11: What is the longest chapter in the bible?
- 12: What is the shortest book in the Old Testament?
- 13: Name the Twelve Apostles.
- 14: Name the four Gospels in the New Testament.
- 15: What is the shortest verse

- in the Bible?
- 16: How many verses are there in the Bible?
- 17: What is another name for the New Testament book of prophecy?
- 18: Which Gospel writer was the first of the Evangelists and wrote the gospel in Hebrew?
- 19: Which apostle was given the authority to cast out unclean spirits and to heal the sick?
- 20: Which book says, "The wages of sin is death"?

Answers are on the back page



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www.ballyeaston.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

250th Anniversary 2nd Ballyeaston pens are now available at £1 each from Yvonne Hollinger

8th June: Sunday School Car boot Sale 10am

16th June: All-Age Worship Children's Day and BBQ

22nd June: Tractor Club Rally Celebrating 40yrs of the club.

22nd June: '9 to 5' Musical at the Grand Opera House

2nd August: Old Tyme Dance in the Brann Hall

29th August—1st September: Flower Festival.

15th November: Choir Dance in the Brann Hall.

Do you have any announcements you would like to see included in our next magazine? If so then do not hesitate to contact me:

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Christian Trivia Quiz Answers

1: Stone. 2: Eve. 3: Maher-shalah-hash-baz (Isaiah 8:1) 4: Miriam
 5: 39 in Protestant versions, 46 in the Catholic Bible 6: 27
 7: 929 8: Job (3:3) 9: Good News 10: Psalm 117 11: Psalm 119
 12: Obadiah 13: Peter (also known as Simon Peter), 2. Andrew
 (the brother of Simon Peter), 3. James (the son of Zebedee), 4.
 John (the brother of James), 5. Phillip, 6. Bartholomew 7. Thom-
 as, 8. Matthew, 9. James the Less (the son of Alphaeus), 10.
 Jude Thaddeus (also known as Judas the brother of James), 11.
 Simon the Zealot, 12. Judas Iscariot (who betrayed Jesus) 14:
 Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. 15: John (11:35) 16: 31, 102 (23, 145
 in the Old Testament and 7, 957 in the New Testament). 17: Re-
 valuation. 18: Matthew. 19: Simon 'The Zealot' 20: Romans (6:23)