



First Larne Presbyterian Church

Bridge News

Worship God, Build His Kingdom, Share His Love



Covid 19 Causes Financial Worries



Lockdown Fun



Virtual lunch?

PIC•COLLAGE

Summer Edition 2020

No. 409

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COLIN'S COLUMN

HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED

A few weeks ago, around the time of the 75th anniversary of VE Day, on a WhatsApp video call my octogenarian mother was recounting her clear memory of VE Day 1945. As a seven-year-old she was in a children's ward in a Belfast hospital having her tonsils removed. She awoke that morning to the surreal spectacle of doctors and nurses dancing and in a joyfully relaxed mood. It was some time before she discovered what was really going on. Incidentally, the tonsillectomy was not undertaken because she had been troubled by bouts of tonsillitis. Her older brother had been admitted and, on a whim, the surgeon reckoned she might as well come in also and have the operation. How times have changed! That would just not happen today.

However, there is something else in the previous paragraph which fits into the "how times have changed" frame. Did you spot it? What would my grandmother make of her daughter (my mother) having a video conversation with her grandson (me), her great-grandchildren and even her great-great-grandchildren on a device that bears an uncanny resemblance to the futuristic hand-piece Captain James T. Kirk used to communicate with First Officer Spock? Indeed, how times have changed.



For as long as I can remember I have picked up on and even been part of conversations that have grieved about how much change there has been – and not always for the better. In church circles we have lamented the decline in church service attendance, religious observance and general respect for moral values and expectations.

In late 2018 the Bible Society commissioned research in England and Wales, using a YouGov poll

of 20,000 people, about their attitude to Christianity and the Bible. The data was analysed and the population were mapped into 8 "personas" ranging from "Bible Loving" to "Bible Dismissive" people, with a wide range in between – Bible Nostalgic, Bible Uncertain, Bible Conflicted, Bible Indifferent¹ and Bible Infrequent. The results make for some challenging reading but it has also been observed that almost 50% of the adult population professed a religious faith (albeit rather ill-defined) and as many as 25% were open to know more about the Bible.

Whilst this research was published less than two years ago, I am wondering if, during our current pandemic, attitudes have changed. That was then, this is now! Things have certainly changed in the seventy-five years since that VE Day in a Belfast hospital when my mother was having her tonsils removed. But in these few months of pandemic lockdown there is surely unprecedented (I am obligated to use that word!), abnormal, exceptional, extraordinary, novel change taking place, at a remarkable, singular, unheard-of, unparalleled rate. If ever it was true it is now: How times have changed! How times are changing!

HOW TIMES ARE CHANGING

Can anyone seriously deny that the times are a-changing?

What then will life be like when we do emerge – eventually – from this pandemic?

The certainty of change is the new reality. Any attempt to ignore the reality of change is ill-fated idiocy.

So now is the time to engage intentionally with the possible impact of change and to equip ourselves to better and appropriately respond over the next months and years.

What are you doing now to get ready for the breakout when lockdown is lifted?

Self-reflection in the present will have some of us getting on with things in the category of "Well done, good and faithful servant...".

Others are constantly processing and evaluating new and different ways of living and embodying Christian community and witness.

A smaller number, reflecting Moses' burning bush experience and discovery of the sacred in the ordinary, may be hearing God's call in a new and transformational way. We have glamorised that very ordinary old bush into a brand logo, but Moses was unglamorously slogging away as a shepherd out in the wilderness – literally and metaphorically – when God used the otherwise drab and commonplace desert plant as a means of communicating a life-changing, epoch-making, message.

In our present situation some of us are seeing more value and meaning in home and the day-to-day life and routine we had so long taken for granted. We are paying more attention and delighting more in formerly "ordinary" people and tasks. As we have gone about our lives differently there may have been seeds planted (not just in the gardening exercise times!), fantasies of sharing fuller hospitality, and cherished incidents of compassion and sharing.

This time, when perhaps there has been more space to reflect, will eventually pass. Given that there will be a lengthy and uneven road to whatever becomes our new experience of normal, we should take time to reflect and prepare responsibly and in a proactively Christian way rather than in a reaction that has all the rationality and faith of a blind panic.

Let me therefore suggest that as we move through these changing times now is the time to **reflect backwards** and to **reflect forwards**.

Reflect Backwards on what has happened to you and yours.

Do not lose touch with your best dream during these last few surreal months.

What has been the greatest lesson learnt? Where have you been part of the most loving service to another person or persons? Is there any unfinished business?

Reflect Forwards to what God is calling you to do or to be next.

Is there something you need to complete that you started during this Covid-19 lockdown?

(I do not just mean painting the fence!)

Have you realised the need to change and begun to work out what you have to do to transform and improve matters?

Are there aspects of your life that have flourished in these times that will stay with you into the foreseeable future?

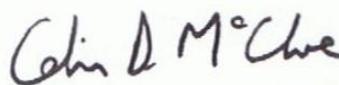
As you emerge into a new era will you feel valued and will you have a group of friends you can truly relate to at deeper levels than heretofore?

These are times like we have never experienced before.

In these uncertain and changing times as people of faith we are facing a once in a generation challenge to live up to our calling, to prove our credentials. Could we, through distracted vision and lack of courage, come out of this having missed the opportunity?

So, as we begin to tentatively emerge from this physical lockdown let me encourage you not to let your faith and vision be locked down. What is God saying to us? What is God calling us to?

Do not succumb to lockdown! In faith and vision identify at least three things you want to happen in the next few months and into the year ahead for you, this community and this congregation. Submit your plans to God and, with Him, take the next step to make it happen – in lockdown or let out.



Rev. Colin McClure

VIDEO & AUDIO RECORDINGS OF FIRST LARNE SERVICES

Members and so many others are currently picking up our services and other resources online and on a variety of digital devices – but some people cannot.

Please let the Rev. McClure know if you know of somebody who would simply like to watch or hear our services on a DVD or CD player.

We can provide audio recordings on a simple to use MP3 player (supplied) or on a CD (preferably user's own player) OR videos on a DVD. No one needs to be left out!



His surname was Fleming.....

His surname was Fleming – not unusual in that part of Scotland. This poor Scottish farmer, essentially a crofter, was out trying to make a living for his family on this particular day when he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran in the direction of the cries.

There, mired to his waist in the deadly black muck was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself – but to no avail. The poor crofter Fleming saved the boy from what would have been a slow, terrifying and inevitable death.

The next day a rather upmarket carriage pulled up at the crofter's sparse dwelling. Out stepped an elegantly dressed nobleman who introduced himself as the rescued boy's father.

"I want to repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life."

"No, I can't accept payment for what I did," said the crofter, waving off the offer. Bear in mind that any payment would have been a lot for the crofter.

Just at that moment the farmer's son came to the door of the croft, which could have been reasonably described as a hovel.

"Is that your son?" enquired the nobleman.

"Yes," the farmer replied proudly.

"Well then," said the nobleman. I will make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll grow to be a man you can be proud of."

So the crofter's son got his education and in the course of time graduated from St. Mary's Medical School, London.

The boy's surname was Fleming, Christian name Alexander – maybe you've got it – he became Sir Alexander Fleming, credited with the "discovery" of penicillin, the drug that saved so many lives from deadly infection and which came to the fore during the Second World War.

Great story – but that's not the end!

Years later the nobleman's son, saved by Sir Alexander Fleming's father, was stricken with pneumonia. What saved him? Yes, you've got it – penicillin.

Oh, I should say the nobleman was called Lord Randolph Churchill and his son's name (maybe you're already there ahead of me!)? Winston. This nobleman's son, like Alexander, was to become a Knight of the Realm, better known as Sir Winston Churchill.

That seemingly insignificant Scottish crofter did what he regarded as his duty that ordinary day when he was out doing his ordinary work near the bog land.

Because he did his duty that day the unforeseen consequences were not only personal for the Churchill family and his own family – but nationally and internationally. You could say millions of lives were affected, millions of lives saved.

Crofter Fleming did his duty.

Locked in or when let out – as Christians in First Larne – we are called **to do our duty**.

READ 1st Peter 3 v. 13-14

"Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, **you are blessed**. 'Do not fear what they fear (*their threats*); do not be frightened.'"



This story was taken from Rev McClure's online service on 31st May. You can listen in to our services via the link on the First Larne website.

Unprecedented

Once in a lifetime event.
Lessons for the rest of our lives.

This “hot off the press” PCI resource provides a short, sharp framework which allows participants to catch up with each other pastorally, reflect on what God is saying in this moment and respond with renewed faith in Him and following in His ways for their lives.

Until Covid-19 lockdown restrictions on gatherings are significantly eased, many congregational small groups have moved from the living room to the digital space. This significantly changes the group dynamic in ways we are still finding our way around. “Unprecedented” recognises that we are living through a once in a lifetime event that offers lessons for the rest of our lives. Each session revolves around a one-word theme related to life in the lockdown. Three parts, each offering a question to which group members can respond, form the framework for sharing together.

The first four sessions introduce the themes of stillness, refuge, waiting and blessed.

As you can see, each session is resourced from one page with three recurring questions for the group to chat around:

Listening to your heart

Q1. How have you found your experience of this session’s theme during the lockdown?

Learning from God's Word – a key verse or two

Q2. How do you find this verse a challenge or encouragement?

Living out in your life

Q3. How will what you have thought about bring change to the way you live now and in the future?

It is a very flexible resource and will be used by each of our small groups in a way that suits their needs and context.

The launch “Zoom” meeting in First Larne took place on Wednesday 3rd June. As a result, a number of “Unprecedented” small groups have popped up based around our existing small groups. For the foreseeable future they will be meeting virtually by “Zoom”.

There is one that would suit your timings and lifestyle!

Register your interest by phoning or emailing the Rev. McClure and he can then give you the range of options available for joining a “Zoom” small group.



Still

Unprecedented
Once in a lifetime event.
Lessons for the rest of our lives.

Listening to your heart

Q. How have you found the sense of greater stillness during the lockdown?

Learning from God's Word

Be still and know that I am God

PSALM 46:10

Q. How do you find this verse, a challenge or an encouragement?

Living out in your life

Q. How will what you have thought about bring change to the way you live now and in the future?

Let Us Pray.....

For those we have lost

Pray for the souls of those we have lost.

Pray for grieving families who have lost loved ones to the coronavirus and to other causes which, although not receiving the same publicity, cause the same grief. Even as their hearts are breaking, pray they would know the nearness and comfort of the Holy Spirit, that they would feel compassion from the Lord and from friends and neighbours around them.

Pray for ministers as they face the challenges of conducting funerals in a different way, asking that God would provide them with both sensitivity and creativity as they manage the expectations of family and friends and offer love and care in time of social distancing.

For those who are ill

Pray for those receiving treatment for coronavirus, that they will know God's comfort, strength and healing touch.

Pray for those in hospital at this time, whether suffering from coronavirus or battling other illnesses, that God's presence would be very meaningful and real.

Pray for families and friends who are separated from their loved ones at a time when a visit and a hug would make such a difference.

For the medics

Pray for frontline medical staff and the many others who support their work of caring, that as they come on shift, not knowing what lies ahead, they will find a personal reserve and resilience in all that they do, that they may rest during time off and stay healthy and safe .

Particularly remember NHS and HSE staff who have contracted the virus.

Pray for those who have volunteered to offer extra support in care homes, that God will use their gifts and skills to support the work of caring for the most frail and vulnerable in society.

For the old and vulnerable

Pray for those who live in nursing homes that they may find a calmness in their new routine and be protected.

Pray for those who are alone, lonely and afraid.

Pray for those in need of regular treatments that must now be postponed, that God would help them stay patient and positive and that their conditions would not deteriorate.

Pray for the most vulnerable in society who are significantly impacted by the effects of the lockdown: the homeless, those struggling to make ends meet, experiencing cramped living conditions, under threat by the economic downturn. Ask God to be their comfort and strength. Pray for those offering practical support through foodbanks and other initiatives.

Pray for those who suffer from mental health difficulties asking that God would enable them to cope with the anxiety that arises from present circumstances and that He would equip family and friends to care in sensitive and constructive ways.

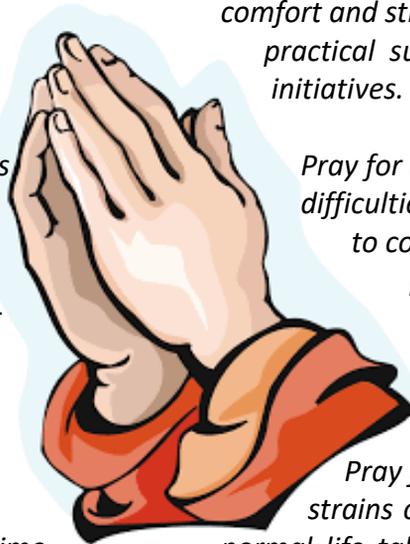
Pray for society at large as the stresses and strains of uncertainty, fear and restrictions on normal life take an increasing toll on patience and relationships, asking that God would bring calm, peace, patience and hope.

For those in positions of authority

Pray for governments in Belfast and London, asking God for wisdom and clarity as they continue to manage the crisis caused by Coronavirus and take advice on the continuation or relaxation of lockdown measures.

Pray that our leaders may set aside political differences and personal ambitions to do what is right and best for everyone.

These thoughts and ideas for prayer were taken largely from the PCI Tides Daily Devotional.



First Larne Finances – Short Term Challenge or Long Term Crisis?

During the Coronavirus pandemic, churches have been unable to meet to sing praises and worship God. Many members are missing the opportunity to enjoy fellowship with their friends, although many are viewing the services online. Unfortunately, this has also meant that churches are not receiving regular giving using FWO, United Appeal and Maintenance envelopes. This is having a very serious impact on the finances of **all churches**.

Our outgoings in 2019 were over £180,000, our income for 2019 was just under £172,000, despite careful management, First Larne started this year with a deficit of **£12,397.16**.

Every quarter this year we have to pay PCI the Congregational assessment of **£20,155**. In February this had to be paid out of our reserves. The Congregational assessment is our contribution to PCI which is used to pay our minister and to fund smaller Presbyterian churches throughout Ireland.

For the month of April 2020, our cash balance has been reduced by **£3990 (£3,810 income - £7,800 expenses = £3,990)**.

If this continues, each month our expenses will exceed our income by **£10,890 (£3,990 deficit + £6,900 PCI assessment = £10,890)**. The church has taken steps to reduce costs by making use of the

government furlough scheme.

However it is impossible for First Larne to sustain this situation for very long.

It is vital that donations to church funds continue during this unprecedented crisis. Your Kirk Session and Committee are encouraging as many people as possible to help us reduce the monthly deficit. *An example would be setting up a standing order from your bank for a monthly contribution.* This can be done using online banking or via the form available on the First Larne website

(<https://www.firstlarne.org.uk/>).

For further options or advice, please contact Eamonn McFerran (Treasurer 07956 565667) or Sandy Lindsay (Secretary 07801 284663).

Cheques can also be posted to: First Larne Presbyterian Church, c/o The Manse, 5 Whitla's Brae, Larne BT40 3BY.

Sandy Lindsay (Secretary to Committee)
Eamonn McFerran (Treasurer)

Note : The First Larne Financial Accounts for 2019 are included on pages 19-20 of this edition of the Bridge News as part of our new Annual Report.

Football Fans Help The NHS

Throughout the football season, the car park of First Larne opens its gates to dozens of cars on match days which helps to ease congestion around Inver Park.

Many Larne fans regularly take up this service and some visitors also park in our car park, donating to charity and church organisations on their way in.

Whilst the football season was suspended in March due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the organisers of the scheme decided to pass on £1,000 to the local NHS trust, in their efforts to support frontline staff at this difficult time.

Stephen Ross, speaking on behalf of the First Larne Car Park group said:

“We have decided that the need of others is much greater at this time than our own need, so have decided as a group to pass the money onto the NHS.

We have been in touch with the local Trust and this money is being added to an account to support NHS workers with care packages, food, accommodation etc. Earlier this week, we posted a cheque for £1000.

As a group we thought it was important the club, and more importantly the fans who supported the car park this season, are aware of what the money is being used for.”



A little thought from TIDES

READ: PAUL'S THORN

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong". 2 Corinthians 12 v 7b-10

REFLECT:

I used to think that the more capable I was, the more useful I might be in the kingdom of God, but these words from Paul smash that myth:

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."Weakness, not strength.

You see, if we are spectacular, then people might look at our lives and put the good they see down to our abilities, but when God shapes ordinary lives, it gives opportunity for Him to be seen. Rather than weaknesses distracting or disqualifying us from serving God, what if they are actually part of the way we can be used? Human helplessness, not achievements, best showcases the grace of God.

I sang it when I was 6. 'We are weak but He is strong!' It's all too easy to walk around pretending we have it together or trying to prove we know the answers. But life is exhausting enough without having to present a false version of ourselves that is impossible to maintain. We're not called to be strong, but instead rely on the One who *is* strong. We're not meant to have all the answers, but rather walk with the One who *is* the answer. You are weak. He is strong. Weakness, not strength.

Let's acknowledge our brokenness, walk in humility, admit our weakness and point to his strength.

Jesus displayed this to us. Rather than arriving on earth with an army from heaven, He came in human

skin. Rather than being crowned as king He came as a crying baby. Rather than being born in a crowded inn, He came to the empty manger.

If you currently feel weak or empty, be encouraged that you are the perfect candidate to be useful in the kingdom of God. The more aware you are of your weakness, the more aware you will be of God's grace. The more you acknowledge your weakness, the more you will rely on His power. God's kingdom is not dependent on special events, stage presence or spectacular talents, but about weak people acknowledging their inadequacies and pointing to His sufficiency. While this has always been true, I wonder if it's even more pertinent in these days.

RESPOND:

We often thank God for our strengths and abilities. Be thankful today that God will use the strengths He has given you. But also take time to thank God for your weaknesses. Ask Him to flood those weaknesses with his strength and enable Christ's glory to be displayed through them. Consider these lyrics as you do:

*My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who walks beside;
Who floods my weaknesses with strength
And causes fears to fly;
Whose every promise is enough
For every step I take,
Sustaining me with arms of love
And crowning me with grace.*

CONTRIBUTOR

Rick Hill is PCI's Discipleship Development Officer and an elder in Carnmoney congregation.

TIDES is a daily Bible reading and comment delivered to your e-mail inbox from PCI. You can register to receive TIDES at www.presbyterianireland.org/tides



read : reflect : respond

The Presbyterian Handshake

The handshake is a Presbyterian ritual, as sacred as psalm singing, sermon preaching and offering collecting. Each Sunday morning with the benediction proclaimed, I make my way, accompanied by a grand organ voluntary, down one aisle to the vestibule. Then the quick memory check. "Which door did I stand at last week? Well go to the other one this week." The particular architecture of First Armagh encourages worshippers to funnel out from the sanctuary into a narrow vestibule, then through one of the doors into the open air.



I position myself past one door, atop the steps, greeting worshippers with a firm handshake. Flesh meets flesh, eye meets eye, smile meets smile, a word meets a word. Too long a conversation will hold up the queue so the greetings are normally "Twitter like" in their brevity. There is the wonderful range of whisperers, jokers, information givers, encouragers, smilers, frowners, and even occasional gaze avoiders, followed by the serious enquirer, who may require a longer conversation.

As I return into the sanctuary, I am met with a buzz of noise, as I witness the ever-expanding proportion of lingerers catching up on each other's week. Now I fear intruding into a well-developed conversation.

In coronavirus lockdown on a Sunday morning, I gather with my wife, Christine, in front of a computer screen worshipping God. After the benediction, I do miss the incarnational door greeting. However there is compensation, as our phones bleep receiving messages through emails, texts and WhatsApp notifications. "Oh I loved the children's photos, liked the reading from the garden, your hair is growing, good hymns, helpful message".

In the afternoon the phone may ring and a longer conversation develop. A Sunday evening elder's Zoom meeting, when we can see and hear one another, further unpacks the morning service, as we ponder a few questions emerging from the service.

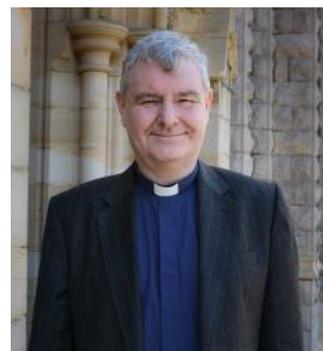
However, I do miss the random handshake, and the sheer physicality of incarnational fellowship. I am aware of many older people who do not have access to technology, and, when vulnerable, may feel even more isolated.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote "Life together," just before World War Two. I read it as part of my practical theological course in Aberdeen Divinity School with the inspirational Chris Wigglesworth, who sadly died a few weeks ago. More than any other book it has influenced how I regard Church. The book emerged from Bonhoeffer's experience teaching in the Confessing Church Seminary in Finkenwalde. Until I read that book, I was preoccupied with what I could give to the Church. I had a duty to attend, worship and serve in Church. However Bonhoeffer, aware of its subversive nature, gave me a fresh insight into how the Church is given to us by grace. We have no automatic right to meet physically together. He comments, "It is by the grace of God that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly in this world to share God's Word and Sacrament. It is by grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community." So it is God who congregates us. The Scriptures never assume the right to a handshake.

Psalm 42 v 4 laments the memory of a time when the Psalmist "led the procession to the house of God with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng", but is now downcast because it is merely a memory. In 2 Timothy 1 v 4, Paul laments with tears how he longs to see Timothy in the flesh. In the meantime, he uses the ancient technology of a letter to keep in touch. In 2 John v 12, John laments the inadequacies of the ancient technology without handshake, "I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face so that our joy may be complete."

May these strange days of separation, sickness and shut down give us a deeper appreciation of the grace of fellowship, including the obligatory and delightful handshake.

**Rev. Tony Davidson is
Minister of First Armagh
Presbyterian Church**



What's for dinner tonight?

NO FOOD? And NO MONEY to buy any?

Larne
foodbank can help

- Personal crisis
- Sudden job loss
- Illness
- Bereavement
- Homelessness
- Debt



The Foodbank can provide 3 days
emergency food supply

Contact your Social Worker, your Doctor's surgery, your Minister or one of the area's other agencies like the Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul, Horizon Surestart, Larne Community Care Centre or Women's Aid to discuss your situation. They can give you a voucher to obtain food

No one in Larne needs to go to bed hungry

Larne Foodbank is run in partnership with local Churches
facilitated by Craigyhill Methodist Church
Registered charity number: NIC1000087
Tel: 028 28277530
Emergency Phone Number 074 4343 5404
info@larne.foodbank.org.uk
www.larne.foodbank.org.uk

Thank you for your support for the work of Larne Foodbank

We are particularly grateful for your support at this time as we have seen a massive increase in people needing our help due to the Covid-19 situation. In the whole of 2019/2020 we issued parcels to 1249 people but, in the month of April 2020 alone, the increased need has meant that we have issued parcels to 222 people, with 78 of that number being children under the age of 16. If this is to continue we expect to see our annual figure rise to 2600 people, more than a 100% increase in our service.

Some of our wonderful volunteers had to stay at home for age or health reasons but our other amazing volunteers have continued to attend each session and we have remained open throughout. Larne Foodbank works in partnership with local frontline services and we are seeing referrals from organisations such as Christians Against Poverty, Education Welfare Service, Horizon Surestart, Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul, Antrim Coast

Lions, Women's Aid, Doctors surgeries, Health Visitors and various Social Work Teams. We are continually humbled by the support we receive from the people of Larne, both in food and financial donations. We are so grateful to all who have supplied food and toiletries, and financial support. Thank you too for your prayers for our work as we continue to help people in food poverty.

If you know of any individuals or families who are struggling to put food on the table please encourage them to seek help by contacting one of the Referral Agencies on our website www.larne.foodbank.org.uk or by contacting us on 028 28277530 (calls will be replied to if a name and phone number is left on the answer machine) or in an emergency please phone 074 4343 5404.

NO ONE IN LARNE NEEDS
TO GO TO BED HUNGRY

Catherine Lynas



I'm Broken

Me: Hey God.

God: Hello.....

Me: I'm falling apart. Can you put me back together?

God: I would rather not.

Me: Why?

God: Because you aren't a puzzle.

Me: What about all of the pieces of my life that are falling down onto the ground?

God: Let them stay there for a while. They fell off for a reason. Take some time and decide if you need any of those pieces back.

Me: You don't understand! I'm breaking down!

God: No - you don't understand. You are breaking through. What you are feeling are just growing pains. You are just shedding the things and the people in your life that are holding you back. You aren't falling apart. You are falling into place. Relax. Take some deep breaths. Allow those things you don't need anymore to fall off of you. Quit holding onto those pieces that don't fit you anymore. Let them fall off. Let them go.

Me: Once I start doing that, what will be left of me?

God: Only the very best pieces of you.

Me: I'm scared of changing.

God: I keep telling you - YOU AREN'T CHANGING!!

YOU ARE BECOMING!

Me: Becoming who?

God: Becoming who I created you to be! A person of light & love, charity & hope, courage & joy, mercy & grace and compassion. I made you for more than the shallow pieces you have decided to adorn yourself with, that you cling to with such greed and fear. Let those things fall off of you. I love you! Don't change! ... Become! Become who I made you to be. I'm going to keep telling you this until you remember it.

Me: There goes another piece.

God: Yep. Let it be.

Me: So ... I'm not broken?

God: Of course Not! - but you are breaking like the dawn. It's a new day. Become!!!



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK LUNCH CHALLENGE

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic Christian Aid week, the door to door collections, which had been scheduled for 10-17th May, had to be postponed and things done differently. In First Larne the week normally ends with a soup lunch. On Sunday 17th May Christian Aid supporters in Larne and across the country took part in the Christian Aid Lunch Challenge. This involved having a bread and soup lunch and meeting via a video app such as WhatsApp, Messenger or Zoom. Rev. McClure led the First Larne Zoom gathering with an improvised lunch and a Christian Aid prayer.



As we hit the deadline for this edition of the Bridge News the following message was received from Christian Aid.

“This year has seen a Christian Aid week like no other, with the impact of coronavirus and lockdown affecting each of our daily lives. At Christian Aid we are thankful for everyone who watched our online services, joined our quizzes and donated towards our appeal. Whilst we couldn’t get out door to door this year, we are encouraged by the prayerful and financial support of churches and individuals all across Ireland. By supporting Christian Aid week you are protecting your global neighbours and enabling our partners and staff to continue their urgent response to the needs of vulnerable men, women and children living in countries with already fragile health systems. For more information on our coronavirus response please visit our website [christianaid.ie](https://www.christianaid.ie), and to donate to Christian Aid week please visit [caweek.ie](https://www.caweek.ie)

Thank you for protecting your global neighbours.”

If you are unable to donate online, you can post a cheque to
Christian Aid, 96 Beechill Road, Belfast BT8 7QN. Ed.



Third Larne Guides 2019 - 2020

We've had another interesting year at Third Larne Guides. Our numbers have been more encouraging than in the past few years, with ten girls attending regularly. We started back in September straight into Girlguiding UK's Recycle Revival challenge, creating sculptures with recyclable plastic and making Plastic Promises. We also did activities from the new programme such as "Brain Surgery", where we had to design our own surgical instruments to remove small objects through tiny holes in cardboard boxes. We had a couple of joint nights with Third Larne Rangers eating pizza, doing a quiz and decorating Christmas candle holders.



We had a trip to Lost City Adventure Golf in Belfast – some of the holes were really hard, but a couple of people did get a hole-in-one, and we rang the changes by going to Burger King instead of McDonald's afterwards!

We joined Larne District at the Remembrance Day service in Larne Cenotaph and also for a Christmas party in Ballygally with Jumping Clay when we made robins (having made marshmallow snowmen the week before)!



As the new decade rolled in we did some new programme activities on staying safe, made traybakes, and raised money for the NI Air Ambulance by learning about it via quizzes, games, and a Paramedic Drive – a Beetle Drive with a difference! Some of our girls started helping with Rainbows and Brownies at St. Cedma's C of I for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. And we enjoyed line dancing with the rest of the district for Thinking Day in February.



In March we had a couple of weeks of activities including making door hangers, and were thinking about planning a trip or an overnight, when the news started coming in about Covid-19. So Friday 13 March was our final night of ordinary Guides for the moment. Girlguiding has made lots of activities available for girls to try at home under the hashtag #AdventuresAtHome, and we are currently investigating doing some meetings via Zoom. We hope to be able to start back face-to-face in September if organisations are permitted to meet again by then, taking any necessary precautions, so if you're a girl aged 10-14 (or an adult who'd be interested in helping out) we'd love to see you then!

Heather, Kathryn and Gillian

A message from First Larne Youth.....



.....and from the leaders



First Larne children in lockdown

So what about all our children and young people during these weeks of lockdown? What have they been up to? Most have been very busy with school work but have found time to take part in various First Larne challenges. These have arrived via closed WhatsApp and Facebook groups and have included lockdown sports days, scavenger hunts and singing challenges among others. Uploaded videos and photos have allowed them to share and keep in touch.

featured. These include Anna, Leah and the Filbey kids while the Reid children helped with one of the Sunday morning Bible readings.

Just like the rest of us they can't wait to get back together and look forward to seeing Amy when she can return from being furloughed.

As we share the latest memory verse given to our younger members we pray that the God of Hope will fill each of us no matter what our age.

In the 'Meet the family' series on our church's Facebook page several of our young people have



Annie and Megan painted rainbow pictures



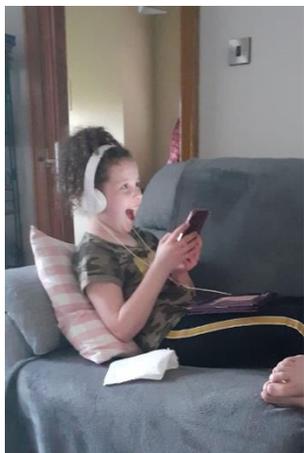
Holly helped in the garden



Brooklyn and Jaden made boats



Zoe and Leo took part in lockdown sports and won medals!



Nicole seems to be very happy in lockdown!

MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH
ALL JOY AND PEACE AS YOU
TRUST IN HIM SO THAT YOU MAY
OVERFLOW WITH HOPE BY THE
POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
ROMANS 15:13

Lockdown at Bellahill Cookery!

Depending on your family circumstances, lockdown will either be "a feast or a famine! I have found myself in the feast category, with my son and pregnant daughter-in-law now living here with us, as they did not feel safe in London. Along with my elderly mother and hubby Billy we have been depending on online deliveries and our local butcher for all our food. It's amazing how we have mastered how to survive for a whole week on a single shop (just like the old days). Although I no longer have any bookings or clients to entertain, I am still managing to keep busy feeding my family. I have been learning new fun ways to keep in touch with my wider family, including Saturday night quiz games using Zoom, as well as coffee break time with my church family. I keep in touch with my disabled sister by playing online scrabble and taking a permitted short drive to her house in Eden where we have a chat through the car window using sign language. On a daily basis my hubby and son have been keeping busy doing DIY jobs, and I am obviously delighted with their achievements! My lovely daughter-in-law is continuing to work from our home, with her head phones on all day and drinking decaf coffee. My mum loves me to sit with her and do the Guardian online crossword.

I have learned over the years that it is not the situation which matters - it is how you deal with it! For me it is trusting in God every day which has helped me get through.

This Tropical Eton Mess is my favourite summertime dessert, and as I love to support local, it is made using local Clandeboye Estate Greek style yogurt! You will love the combo of crisp sweet meringue, tangy passion fruit, zesty lime, bananas and lots of rich and creamy Greek yogurt! Enjoy with family or better still with some special friends after lockdown!

Arlene

Banana, Passion Fruit and Lime Eton Mess

Serves 4
 2 limes
 4 ripe but firm bananas
 3 ripe passion fruit
 150 ml water
 150g sugar
 200ml double cream
 2 teaspoons caster sugar
 200ml Clandeboye Estate Greek style yogurt
 8 ready-made meringues
 Mint leaves to garnish



1. Grate the zest from the limes and squeeze the juice from 1 lime. Peel and slice the bananas into a medium bowl. Add the lime zest and juice and stir to coat the bananas.
2. To make the passion fruit syrup, halve the passion fruit and scoop out the pulp. Add 150ml water and 150g sugar into a small saucepan along with the passion fruit pulp. Stir until dissolved and simmer gently until slightly reduced and syrupy. Allow to cool and add the banana and lime mixture.
3. Pour the cream into a large bowl, add the caster sugar and whisk to soft peaks. Gently fold in the Clandeboye Estate Greek style yogurt.
4. Just before serving, break the meringues into chunky pieces and lightly fold them into the whipped cream and yogurt. Add the banana, passion fruit and lime mixture, (reserving some for decoration) and carefully combine together. Spoon into glasses or glass bowls. Arrange the reserved banana mixture on top of the meringues and cream. Garnish with mint leaves and serve immediately, while the meringue is still crunchy.

First Larne Annual Report 2019

The Spring 2020 edition of the Bridge News published annual reports from the Clerk of Session and the Secretary to the Congregational Committee. In this issue the church Financial Accounts and details of the Minister, Staff, Kirk Session and Congregational Committee are presented on the following five pages.

Financial Accounts : Income and Expenditure

General Account 2019 - Ulster Bank

Freewill Offering

Envelopes	£92,462.27	
Standing Orders	£30,762.00	
Charitable Giving	£852.61	
Loose Collection	£1,706.46	
Gift Aid 2018	£9,554.72	
Gift Aid 2019	£13,082.01	£148,420.07

Received from Other Sources

Rent 9 Isle Court	£3,780.00	
NIE ROCs - Solar Panels	£2,036.72	
Power NI Export - Solar Panels	£378.91	
Sale of Periodicals	£720.00	
Redeeming Our Community	£50.00	
Refund Budget Energy	£400.00	
Youth Week Collections	£410.00	
Summer Event	£537.90	
M&EABC Grant for Summer Event	£188.09	
NIE Wayleaves	£24.04	£8,525.66

Received From Other Organisations

3rd Larne Guides	£110.00	
1st Larne BB Band	£125.00	
Table Tennis Club	£150.00	
Women's Institute	£395.00	
Larne Grammar School	£100.00	
Use of Halls other	£3,630.00	£4,510.00

Donations

Blackthorn BBC	£75.00	
Donation Police for Parking	£100.00	
Estate of Mr Alfred Craig	£2,871.98	
Estate of Mr James Nesbitt	£5,000.00	
Mr S McIlhatton for Children's Ministry	£100.00	
Car Park Donations for General Funds	£335.89	
Donations for books	£162.50	£8,645.37

Received From Church Organisations

PW	£100.00	
Women's Circle	£100.00	
1st Larne Indoor Bowlers 2019	£125.00	
1st Larne Indoor Bowlers 2020	£145.00	
Monday Bowlers	£250.00	
1st Larne Mother & Toddler Group	£400.00	
Men's Fellowship	£150.00	
In Stitches Group	£100.00	
1st Larne Girls' Brigade	£300.00	£1,670.00

Received for Others

Presbyterian Children's Society	£1,101.50	
World Development Appeal incl Gift Aid	£2,150.00	
Earl Haig Fund	£242.00	
Wider World	£360.00	
NI Hospice gift aid	£77.50	
Moderators Appeal	£1,414.80	
Abaana	£1,985.30	
Car Park Donations Abanna	£150.00	
Car Park Donations Senior Guides	£75.00	
Car Park Donations 3rd Larne guides	£75.00	
J McCallum Lunch	£929.00	
HMRC Gift Aid -Scripture Union	£17.50	
Moderators Appeal - Gift Aid	£475.00	
Women's World Day of Prayer	£340.00	
Christian Aid - Carol Singing	£194.52	£9,587.12

Sub Total

£181,358.22

Transfers from other funds for general purposes *

Transfer from Maintenance A/C	£10,000.00	
Transfer from Millbrook School Holding A/C	£28,600.00	£38,600.00

£219,958.22

Congregational Assessment

PCI Assessments	£17,203.00	
Pension Fund	£10,080.50	
Rev. Dr. C D McClure	£42,002.37	
Rev. Dr. C D McClure - Nat Ins	£4,611.75	
Rev. Dr. C D McClure - Car Allowance	£3,672.00	
Rev. Dr. C D McClure - Duties Allowance	£2,448.00	
Apprenticeship Levy	£210.00	
ER NIC on Ministerial Allowances	£844.00	£81,071.62

Allowances & Other Salaries

Other Staff Salaries	£52,773.05	
Employer Pension - Other Staff	£2,630.52	
Rev. Dr. C D McClure - Allowance	£1,783.02	
Rev. Dr. C D McClure - Phone	£972.08	
Amy Hunter - Expenses	£320.43	
J McCallum - Allowance	£1,810.73	
J McCallum - Accommodation	£4,800.00	
Rev Cathcart - Pastoral Support	£3,840.00	
Pulpit Supply	£140.00	
Presbytery Fees	£859.30	
Relief Cover - Office & Caretaking Duties	£1,095.84	
Organist supply	£1,055.00	£72,079.97

General Expenses

Printing & Stationery	£5,883.07	
Annual Report	£430.00	
Publications & Periodicals	£780.00	
Telephones	£1,486.81	
Audit fees	£480.00	
Licences	£833.14	
Other Expenses	£228.00	
Promiseland, Cradle Roll & Youth Dev.	£233.52	
Community Night	£1,225.00	
Outreach	£1,223.54	
United Appeal - Target of Honour Top-up	£690.02	£13,493.10

Property

Light, Heat & Water	£11,058.74	
Insurance	£3,198.90	
Isle Court -Rates Etc.	£594.77	
Manse Rates	£969.14	
Service of Manse Boiler	£106.00	
Repairs & Cleaning	£342.36	
Galgorm Group	£657.24	
Piano Tuning	£312.00	
AV & WIFI System	£284.42	£17,523.57

Paid to others

Presbyterian Children's Society	£1,101.50	
World Development Appeal incl Gift Aid	£2,150.00	
Earl Haig Fund	£242.00	
Wider World	£360.00	
NI Hospice gift aid	£77.50	
Moderators Appeal	£1,414.80	
Abaana	£1,985.30	
Car Park Donations Abanna	£150.00	
Car Park Donations Senior Guides	£75.00	
Car Park Donations 3rd Larne guides	£75.00	
J McCallum Lunch	£929.00	
HMRC Gift Aid -Scripture Union	£17.50	
Moderators Appeal - Gift Aid	£475.00	
Women's World Day of Prayer	£340.00	
Christian Aid - Carol Singing	£194.52	£9,587.12

Deficit 2019

-£12,397.16

Sub Total

£181,358.22

Opening Deficit Balance Jan 2019

£882.18

Deficit 2019

£12,397.16

Closing Balance Dec 2019 (after transfers)

£25,320.66

£219,958.22

*It was agreed at Committee that £38,600 could be re-designated for general purposes to cover the above deficit and cashflow for 2020

Please note all accounts are subject to final audit

Bequests Account - Ulster Bank

Opening Balance	£6,857.17		
DFC Charities	£35.55	Closing Balance	£6,892.72
	<u>£6,892.72</u>		<u>£6,892.72</u>

Bequests - Bank of Ireland

Opening Balance	£71,216.16		
Interest	£102.56	Closing Balance	£71,318.72
	<u>£71,318.72</u>		<u>£71,318.72</u>

General Investment Fund of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Opening Valuation	£13,126.36		
Dividend Received	£394.70		
Capital Appreciation	£739.34	Closing Valuation	£14,260.40
	<u>£14,260.40</u>		<u>£14,260.40</u>

Capital Reserve - First Trust

Opening Balance	£74,989.90	Closing Balance	£74,989.90
	<u>£74,989.90</u>		<u>£74,989.90</u>

Capital Reserve - Danske Bank

Opening Balance	£21,250.61	Bank Charges	£3.00
Interest	£2.40	Closing Balance	£21,250.01
	<u>£21,253.01</u>		<u>£21,253.01</u>

United Appeal Account - Ulster Bank

Opening Balance	£905.69	United Appeal re 2018	£905.69
Envelopes	£10,114.00	United Appeal re 2018 re Gift Aid	£1,330.90
Standing Orders	£4,791.50	United Appeal re 2019 Q1	£3,000.00
Gift Aid 2018	£1,330.90	United Appeal re 2019 Q3	£8,000.00
Gift Aid 2019	£1,870.88	United Appeal re 2019 Q4	£5,781.19
Interest	£4.81	Closing Balance	£0.00
	<u>£19,017.78</u>		<u>£19,017.78</u>

Community Care Account - Ulster Bank

Opening Balance	£801.58	Calendars	£420.00
Loose Collection Communion	£380.00	Closing Balance	£761.58
	<u>£1,181.58</u>		<u>£1,181.58</u>

Manse Interest Account - Ulster Bank

Opening Balance	£28,025.22		
Interest	£56.09	Closing Balance	£28,081.31
	<u>£28,081.31</u>		<u>£28,081.31</u>

Building Maintenance Account - Ulster Bank

Opening Balance	£14,599.17	Jan - Mar Expenditure	£6,439.13
Envelopes	£6,751.20	Apr - Jun Expenditure	£211.76
Standing Orders	£6,086.50	Jul - Sep Expenditure	£3,041.03
Gift Aid 2018	£974.62	Oct - Dec Expenditure	£1,286.66
Gift Aid 2019	£1,545.42	Transfer to General Fund	£10,000.00
Interest Clearing A/C	£0.50	Closing Balance	£8,978.83
	<u>£29,957.41</u>		<u>£29,957.41</u>

Millbrook School Holding Account - Ulster Bank

Opening Balance	£28,686.24	Transfer to General Fund	£28,600.00
Interest	£9.29	Closing Balance	£95.53
	<u>£28,695.53</u>		<u>£28,695.53</u>

Presbyterian Mutual Society - Manse Account (in Administration)

Opening Balances	£68,229.53	Closing Balance Manse A/C	£68,229.53
	<u>£68,229.53</u>		<u>£68,229.53</u>

Church Organisations

Opening Balance	£19,001.69	Expenditure	£19,579.04
Income	£26,116.41	Closing Balance	£25,539.06
	<u>£45,118.10</u>		<u>£45,118.10</u>

Please note all accounts are subject to final audit

Minister, Staff, Kirk Session and Committee

Minister	Rev. Dr. Colin D. McClure 5 Whitla's Brae, Larne BT40 3BY	028-28272441
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KIRK SESSION

Clerk of Session:	Robin Tweed	028-28278374
Maurice Adams	Derick Jenkins	Nat Moore
Jay Alexander	Gordon Kerr	Rodney Moore
Glynis Alexander	Sandy Lindsay	Neill Murray
Joan Arnold	Margaret Lindsay	Joe O'Neill
June Bryson	Gregory Lorimer	Stephen Reid
Alistair Carmichael	Norman McAuley	Stephen Ross
Norman Carmichael	Jeff McClure	David Simms
Roy Craig	George McKinley	Lorna Swann
Robert Garrett	Ken McKinley	William Swann
Sharon Hollinger	Wesley Magill	Janet Tweed
William Hollinger	John Millar	Tommy Torbitt
Brian Hunter	Bev Moore	Robert Torbitt
Elders Emeritus:	Doreen Irwin	Alexander Meban
	Robert Johnston	Ivan Moore
	Victor McDowell	

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEE

Secretary:	Sandy Lindsay	07801284663
Property Convenor:	Stephen Ross	07854497778
Treasurer:	Eamonn McFerran	07956565667
Assistant Treasurer:	Shirley Torbitt	07771502450
FWO Secretary:	John Wilson	07789208812
Gift Aid Secretary:	Derick Jenkins	07840048827
Beth Alexander	Grace Henry	Mary Magill
Shirley Begley	Lynda Hill	William Marks
Margaret Boyle	Robert Howell	June Moore
Kathryn Boyle	Debbie McCluggage	Heather Murray
Amber Bryson	James McCluggage	Anne O'Neill
Angus Cameron	Jane McClure	Ina Ross
Margaret Carter	Brian J. McKay	Trevor Ross
Deborah Dines	J. Brian McKay	Philip Ross
Judith Evans	Jan McKay	Kathryn Swann
Jackie Gibson	Derek McKinley	Jackie Tennant
Louise Hannay	Fiona McKinley	Bertie Wilson
Tanya Henry		

STAFF AND OTHER OFFICERS

Church Administrator:	Sheila Doran	028-28269968
	admin@firstlarne.org.uk	www.firstlarne.org.uk
Community Support Worker	Jacqueline McCallum	07597681899
Youth & Family Ministries:	Amy Hunter	07753689406
League of Church Loyalty:	Alistair Carmichael	07788715039
Catering Officer:	Lorna Swann	028-28277949
Presbyterian Children's Society:	Sheila Doran	028-28269968
Caretaker:	William Rainey	07513412418
Auditors	Moore Stevens (NI) LLP	Chartered Accountants

COMMITTEE WORKING GROUPS

Treasury Team:	Eamonn McFerran (Treasurer), Shirley Torbitt (Assistant Treasurer) Robin Alexander, Judith Evans, Elaine Magee
Planned Giving & United Appeal:	Roy Craig, Eamonn McFerran
Legacies & Investments:	Brian McKay, Robert Garrett
Gift Aid:	Derick Jenkins, Norman Carmichael
FWO & Counting:	John Wilson, Robin Guy, Doreen Irwin, Derick Jenkins, Sandy Lindsay Norman McAuley, Ivan Moore, Rodney Moore, David Simms Jackie Tennant
Property Committee:	Stephen Ross (Convenor)
Grounds Maintenance:	Wesley Magill, Wilbert Curran, Robert Garrett, Paul Magill, Brian McKay Jenny McKay, Jan McKay, Harry McKay
Fixtures & Furnishings, Maintenance, Services & Utilities:	Margaret Boyle, Angus Cameron, Judith Evans, Sandy Lindsay Eamonn McFerran, Tommy Torbitt, Brian J. McKay, Derek McKinley John Millar, Shirley Torbitt, Kathryn Swann
Kitchen including Room 4 & Basement:	Lorna Swann, Beth Alexander, Grace Henry, Tanya Henry Sharon Hollinger, Margaret Lindsay, Anne O'Neill, Ina Ross
Manse & Ilse Court:	Trevor Ross, Deborah Dines, Mary Magill
Technical, IT, AV & Office Equipment:	Neill Murray, Jay Alexander, Gordon Kerr, John Millar, Jeff McClure Ken McKinley, David Simms
Electrical & Mechanical:	Ken McKinley, Maurice Adams, Gordon Kerr, Wesley Magill William Swann
Fire & Safety:	Tommy Torbitt, Jeff McClure, Alistair Carmichael
Hall Letting:	Stephen Ross, Lorna Swann, Eamonn McFerran, Sandy Lindsay Shirley Torbitt, Robin Tweed, Ken McKinley, William Swann Jay Alexander

Section 3 : Church Districts with Elder & Committee Members

District No.	Location	Elder	Committee Member
1	Bank Road	William Swann	Jane McClure
2	Ilse Court	Bev Moore	Judith Evans
3	Mill Road	Gregory Lorimer	Jane McClure
4	Carrickfergus Road	June Bryson	Bertie Wilson
5	Pound Green Court		Margaret Carter
6	Head of the Town	Gordon Kerr	Debbie McCluggage
7	The Roddens	Lorna Swann	Kathryn Swann
8	Dunboyne Gardens	Maurice Adams	Fiona McKinley
9	Laharna Avenue	Neill Murray	Mary Magill
10	Old Glenarm Road	Nat Moore	Louise Hannay
11	Greenland Crescent	Janet Tweed	Jackie Gibson
12	Seacourt	Joe O'Neill	Anne O'Neill
13	Ballycraigy Road	Jay Alexander	Beth Alexander
14	Huntersbuoy	Roy Craig	Trevor Ross
15	Regent's Park	George McKinley, Bobby Torbitt	Lynda Hill
16	Wellington Avenue	Stephen Ross	Tanya Henry
17	Ferris Park	Stephen Reid	Amber Bryson
18	Glenarm Road	Alistair Carmichael	Heather Murray
19	Town centre	Robin Tweed	Brian McKay
20	Bay Park	Tommy Torbitt	Ina Ross
21	Curran Road	Norman McAuley	Shirley Torbitt
22	Bay Road	Brian Hunter	Derek McKinley
23	Coastguard Road	John Millar	Deborah Dines
24	Antiville	William Hollinger, Wesley Magill	Kathryn Boyle
25	Linn Road	Margaret Lindsay	Jackie Tennant
26	Churchill Road	Glynis Alexander	William Marks
27	Wyncairn	Ken McKinley	Eamonn McFerran
28	Killyglen Road	Sharon Hollinger	James McCluggage
29	Walnut Hollow	David Simms	Angus Cameron
30	Kilwaughter	Derick Jenkins	Grace Henry
31	Coast Road	Sandy Lindsay	Robbie Howell
32	Ballygally	Rodney Moore	June Moore
33	Ballysnod Road		Margaret Boyle
34	Porter Crescent	Robert Garrett	Philip Ross
35	Millbrook	Norman Carmichael	Brian J McKay
36	The Beeches	Jeff McClure	Jan McKay
37	Glynn	Joan Arnold	Shirley Begley
38	Postal District	Jay Alexander	Beth Alexander

CHURCH REGISTER

DEATHS

Robert John McColm	12 McGarel Gardens	16 th March 2020
Evelyn Elizabeth Magill	2 Old Mill, Meeting House Street	25 th March 2020
Ellen ("Eileen") Gibson	12 Greenland Crescent	27 th March 2020
Charlotte Guy	12 Croft Park	27 th March 2020
Maria Ferguson	Larne Care Centre (formerly 23 McNeill Court)	20 th April 2020
Mary Agnes ("May") Jenkins	58 Drumahoe Gardens	24 th April 2020
Robert John Magill	Oaktree Manor, Dunmurry (formerly 6 McGarel Court)	24 th April 2020
Joanne Kathleen Moore	144 Curran Road	6 th May 2020
Alan John Parke	Chester NH, formerly of 43 Garron Crescent	18 th May 2020

A pandemic dilemma

I wandered lonely as a cloud
Towards the Coast Road and beach,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
Almost within my reach,
The sky was blue, the sun was bright
But there were no masks in sight.

Two metres social distance,
But the path is three feet wide,
A decision needed in an instant
Should I turn or step aside?
Should I risk the dreaded plague,
A cough, a sneeze, is it just an ague?

Or should I step into the road
And be struck by a speeding lorry?
Rushing to deliver his load,
Too late to say "I'm sorry"
The sky was blue, the sun was bright
Can no-one save me from my plight?

Then suddenly the crowd moved in
And the road was quiet for a while.
In single file they hemmed themselves in
And passed me with a smile,
I smiled as well, but just in case
I held my breath and covered my face.

With apologies to fans of William
Wordsworth and all connoisseurs of
poetry

Ed.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Keep checking the Announcements link on our website which are updated each week for accurate news about how services, activities and events will be happening.

Whilst we are expecting significant guidance about the summer and autumn programmes to be issued later in June, we anticipate that the resumption of our full programme will be happening in a phased and gradual way.

Thankfully, there are a variety of ways to still be part of the worshipping and serving community which is First Larne.
No one need be left out!

Now there's a thought

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, for as long as ever you can."

John Wesley

AND FINALLY.....

I went to the chemist today and asked the assistant "what kills the Coronavirus?" She replied to me "Ammonia Cleaner". "Oh" I said, "I am sorry, I thought you worked in the pharmacy".....

WARNING (Just in case) : Ammonia Cleaner has not been proven to be effective against the virus.

DO NOT USE CLEANING CHEMICALS TO TREAT MEDICAL CONDITIONS.

DO NOT DRINK, INHALE, INJECT OR INGEST DISINFECTANTS!

First Larne Presbyterian Church, Inver Road, Larne Tel 028 28269968

Minister : Rev Dr Colin D McClure Tel 028 28272441 Mobile : 0798 4030881

E-mail : admin@firstlarne.org.uk www.firstlarne.org.uk www.facebook.com/Firstlarne