

First Larne Presbyterian Church The Bridge News



"We are here to worship God, build up His church and share His love."



Summer camp in Ukraine



Community Fun Night



Holiday Bible Club



...Their leaves won't wither, the fruit won't fall. Every month they'll bear fresh fruit because the river flows to them. Their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing.
Ezekial 47 v 12

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COLIN'S COLUMN

BUILDING UP THE CHURCH With WORSHIP..... NAPPIES and TOYS!

Look carefully at the heading of this article. It is not a misprint.

As you know, in Kirk Session and Committee we are at an advanced stage of formulating ambitious plans we believe to be important for the growth of First Larne. This includes far-sighted investment to consolidate and enhance our facilities for present and future use, as well as seeking to appoint a Director of Youth and Family Ministry. That has obvious connections with the “building up” part of this article’s title.

If I quote our mission statement (prominently displayed as the header for our Bridge News front page and orders of service) – “We are here to worship God, build up His church and share His love” – you will also make the link with the next part of the heading – “worship”.

However, what have “nappies and toys” got to do with “building up the church..... with worship”? A good question, which I hope to provide an answer, for, if you will permit me two separate yet connected articles. Read them individually if that is what time and inclination permit – but you must consider them together if you want to make sense of the title.

Let’s start with the first, and more obvious, half of the heading:

“BUILDING UP THE CHURCH..... with WORSHIP”

Our First Larne Worship Statement (see below) is our latest attempt to express the value we place on the worship we do together, mostly at our Sunday services. In recent decades much of the debate about worship has focused on style and tradition, particularly of the hymns and songs we sing together. However, authentic worship of God is much more than music. It is about lifestyle and not just what we do for an hour or so on a Sunday.

We Presbyterians ought to be the first to realise that our *chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever*. Note that the glorifying of God is not confined to an

allocated slot not exceeding an hour on a Sunday. The glorifying of God is “forever” – not restricted but on every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday as well as the Sabbath!

Worship is our response to all that God has done for us in creation and salvation, in love and grace. At its basic and best worship is our “Wow!” response to a faithful, promise-keeping God. When we worship together it should be shaping us as disciples of Christ, living for Christ 24/7.

In some of our services this autumn (see Dates for Your Diary), because worship is vital for growth of the church, we are looking at the big ideas and Biblical foundations that make the connection between what we do on Sunday - at our gathered worship – AND what we do the rest of the time when we live our scattered lives – at our everyday work and activities, our speech, the way we see things, and most importantly, in our hearts – whoever and wherever we are, at whatever age or stage.

WORSHIP IN FIRST LARNE

Colossians 3 v.15-17

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.” NIV

“Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other.

None of this going off and doing your own thing.

And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ – the Message – have the run of the house.

Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense.

And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives – words, actions, whatever – be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.”

The Message

➤ How we worship reflects our hunger for God’s Word, our respect for God’s Word and how seriously we take His Word.

➤ It is something we must strive to do lavishly and well.



- It should always receive our focused energy and we must therefore strive to give our best in planning, rehearsal, leading and in services.
- There is room for a range of preferences in style so that our concern should be for the building up of all who worship in First Larne. We welcome the involvement in our services of everyone in our church family. Even though our expectations might differ, for the sake of the Gospel we must work with and for one another to be a blessing to each other in fellowship and in worship.
- Our Choir and Praise Group, as they are gifted and empowered by the Holy Spirit, are crucial in inspiring the worship of our congregation, principally in morning and evening services. This is their top priority and we must ensure that they have our prayerful and practical support. As part of this commitment we must actively give our Musical Director and members of our Choir and Praise Group every encouragement to realise their full potential for leading our corporate worship.
- First Larne congregation exists primarily to worship God and work for His Kingdom in the world. Accordingly our Kirk Session pledge to prayerfully and personally encourage our Ministry Team, Musical Director, Choir and Praise Group and others leading and facilitating our worship in their crucial ministry amongst us. Furthermore, we strive to develop forms of worship that reflect the God-given diversity of the people we are. We recognise that sometimes we will not feel entirely comfortable with a style of worship – but then again, **worship is not about us nor is it for us.**

May worship in First Larne – from congregation, Choir, Praise Group and others leading our worship – be the best we can offer to our Lord. Whatever the style we must give of our best – in “preparation” and in our times of worship together.

“TO GOD BE THE GLORY”



“BUILDING UP THE CHURCH.....with NAPPIES and TOYS”

Just as we need worship to be authentic church so we also need people prepared to serve in a variety of roles – some more obvious and lauded than others. If we are serious about growing as a congregation that welcomes people of all ages, including families and their children, we need to provide care and nurturing which is so much more than mere child-minding. The Promiseland feature in this edition outlines the importance of quality ministry to our nursery and

primary-aged children. I now want to emphasise the important ministry which you might exercise among the nappies and toys of our creche. Yes! The operative word is “ministry”! Here are a few good reasons why helping on the creche rota is a valid and important ministry – not just a necessity to keep noisy babies out of the way!

It is what we are commanded to do - See Romans 12 v.3-8 “... we have different gifts... if it is serving, let him serve....” See 1 Corinthians 12; 1 Peter 4 v.10-11 “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms...” When ministering in the crèche your obedience pleases God and blesses the church.

Ministering to the parents - Babies can be wriggly and noisy. This is usually not a problem, except for the poor parents who think everyone is looking at them disdainfully and who feel increasingly uncomfortable in the meeting house during the service. Having their baby or infant in the crèche allows parents to settle more into participation in the service without distraction and embarrassment.



Making a mark - Although infants may not be talking they are already forming impressions about church, God and people which can endure throughout childhood and into their entire lives. In crèche you have the privileged opportunity to make healthy impressions upon infant and guardian.

Child-centred and child-friendly

At crèche it is easier to keep closer to the natural schedule for feeding and sleeping and doing whatever needs to be done when you are a baby. There is plenty of room to play in comfortable, familiar and safe surroundings with people who are able to give the child their full attention. The crèche is so much more natural than being completely surrounded by wooden barricades (pews) manned by big people (the congregation) with no wriggle room and being subjected at intervals to bursts of loud noise (hymns) which do not happen during the rest of the week!

Helps the minister to minister

See point 2. When parents are able to sit comfortably in the meeting house knowing their child is safe, secure and content in crèche, they are in a much better place to receive the teaching, engage in the praise and enjoy the fellowship. Even though we are conscious of the need to provide organisations and opportunities for children to mature, the crèche ministry gives parents the space to grow in maturity, receive love and be equipped for service in their home, church and community. The people ministering in the crèche are enabling the minister in the pulpit to fulfil his or her calling.

Prayer ministry

Prayer ministry does not just happen in prayer meetings. Has it ever occurred to you that you could pray when nursing a sleepy baby, just before you separate two toddlers fighting over the fire-engine, as you change the nappy (special skill might be required!), or even as you comfort the wee guy who tripped over the crumb on the carpet? There are many little opportunities to pray for the baby, the infant and their family.



The ministry of the friendly face

In the crèche you may be that familiar face that makes a new family feel at ease in First Larne as they come for the first few weeks and months. You are building

relationships with the children, their parents, their families as well as the other helpers in the crèche. So as well as giving you are receiving a sense of belonging, of affirmation, and of being needed.

Building a spiritual foundation

Maybe that simple Bible story or prayer or song will plant a seed that will eventually help that child understand a core Biblical value. You will almost certainly be among the first to model God’s love.

For these, and many other reasons, you could be building the Church among the nappies and the toys!

If you can help get your name added to the team rota and/or speak to Dr. McClure or Jax McCallum.

“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering.”

Romans 12 v.1 The Message

Think about these things – and keep building!

BEST WISHES,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Colin', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rev. Colin McClure

Walking the north coast

After a quick detour to the Dark Hedges, we started our 5th August walk at Portballintrae. After crossing the Bush River and the beach we joined the Causeway coastal path at Runkerry House and admired the views toward Islay and Jura. For the more adventurous there was a smuggler’s cave to explore where the sound of the sea crashing on the rocks echoed wonderfully. Our walk followed the coastal path past the Giant’s Causeway and above Port na Spaniagh and the wreck of the Girona. We picnicked in warm sunshine near Benbane Head, the highest point of the route, before descending to Dunseverick Castle and Dunseverick Harbour, one of the settings for the Game of Thrones series, avoiding a couple of frisky young bulls on the way. Finally we passed through a natural basalt arch to Portbraddan and White Park Bay for a paddle. It was a perfect day with warm sun, superb walking, amazing views & good company. Watch out for details of the next walk – everyone is welcome.



ESSENTIALS

The New First Larne Small Group Experience for 2017/2018

Is it just another church meeting to attend?..... NO!
Is it yet another book that's good for you?..... NO!
Is it another of those well-produced presentations from across the Atlantic or Irish Sea?..... NO!

So what is "ESSENTIALS"?.....It is a brand new PCI resource made by people like us, for people like us, that aims to help people like us reflect on and live out the essentials of discipleship as daily followers of Jesus Christ in the very place which is us. It is packed full of Bible teaching, personal testimonies and practical application, drawing on a wide collection of voices, insights, and teaching from right across our denomination.

Each session is resourced by a film walking us through the journey of discipleship by drawing on passages from the life and ministry of Jesus, right from the call of the first disciples to their commissioning into His mission. These sessions will unpack how it is essential for disciples to come to Jesus, respond to His call, share in community, take their place in culture, reflect His courage, accept the cost, take up His challenge and continue with Christ. If that's not exciting, stimulating and essential if we want to be fully functional Christians in today's society I don't know what is!

Each small group has space for people like you. The energy of each group comes from the diverse membership. There are people who have been around church for ages and people who have just come to faith; there are people who speak a lot and people who hardly say a thing. The key thing is that each person is there to encourage the other in their discipleship whether that is in the boardroom or the kitchen, the classroom or the counter.

Each participant will have a manual to help them fully engage in both the group conversation and the video teaching. This also ensures that if anyone misses a session they are not left behind. Each section of the manual has relevant Bible passages to look up, questions to consider, extra quotes to reflect on and space to jot down personal notes.

Each session is essentially divided into four sections (with plenty of time for chat and refreshments!):

- ◆ Before watching the film: Intro questions to set the scene and a Bible passage to read together
- ◆ During the film: Some things to listen for in the Essentials film

- ◆ After watching the film: Questions to help unpack what has just been seen
- ◆ Beyond being together: Further ways to read, reflect and make it real!

Here is a brief outline of the ESSENTIALS Journey:

Session 1: **COME** John 1 v.35-51 - Discipleship starts with awareness of Jesus before activity for Him.

Session 2: **CALL** Matthew 4 v.17-24 - The essential call of discipleship is to follow our Master Jesus

Session 3: **COMMUNITY** John 17 v.20-26 - We can't do discipleship alone. We learn to follow Jesus as part of His church.

Session 4: **CULTURE** Matthew 5:13-16 - Disciples don't escape or embrace culture, but engage with it as they follow Jesus.

Session 5: **COURAGE** Matthew 10:1-16 - Disciples aren't just called to live well in culture, but also to speak up for Jesus.

Session 6: **COST** Mark 8:34-38 - Following Jesus brings a cost in every area of our lives.

Session 7: **CHALLENGE** Matthew 28:16-20 - The challenge of becoming disciples who make disciples.

Session 8: **CONTINUE** Luke 9:28-36 - We never graduate from needing Jesus but continue following him in every age and stage of life.

ESSENTIALS is for everyone, including you!

Come along to the group that suits you

Tuesday Group: Room 4 10am-12noon (alternate Tuesdays) : Contact: Jim Hawthorn 28260377

Wednesday Group: meets 3rd or 4th Wednesday in Sandy & Margaret Lindsay's home
Contacts: Heather Murray 28340681 and Sandy Lindsay 28276093

Thursday Group: meets 4th Thursday in the Manse, 5 Whitla's Brae at 8pm Contact: Robin Tweed 28278374

Who cares for people with dementia?

Training for Informal Caregivers programme

Most of us will know someone with a dementia and some of us will be in a position of supporting, or even looking after someone with dementia. This can be a family member or loved one, or it may just be a neighbour who we look in on every now and again. The level of care we give can depend upon how much the dementia symptoms are affecting the individual person. Some people may just need a reminder to take tablets or throw out -of -date food away. Others may need help with more complex things like paying bills or arranging appointments. Those who need most care may need help with everything such as getting washed and dressed, meals, going to the toilet and making sure they are safe from potential household risks.



If you are supporting someone with dementia there is support available from the Alzheimer's Society in your area. A new, free training course is available which has been specially designed for anyone who is supporting someone with dementia. 'Training for Informal Caregivers' is open to everyone who has contact with a person with dementia. All training is provided by trained facilitators from the Alzheimer's Society.

First Larne has been working in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society to provide dementia training to local people. A course has been running since early May and feedback so far is very positive. If you would like to take part in one of the courses all you need to do is phone 028 90387480 or email nicaregiver.training@alzheimers.org.uk.

First Larne Community Support Worker, Jax McCallum completed this training in March of this year and was so impressed she wanted help give others the chance to take part. She says "it was

great to share experiences and hear others stories" and "I was able to learn more about the condition and feelings people with dementia have, it has equipped me better to support the person, their carer and their families". She then helped to set up the course to run within Larne First Presbyterian Church in partnership with Alzheimer's Society.

The topics covered on the course are:

What is Dementia? - Legal and Financial Issues; Learning to Manage – How and where carers can seek support; Communication; Personal Care and Wellbeing; Available Services.

Carers who have already attended have reported great benefits in attending. They get to meet other people and share experiences, get tips and ideas on how to deal with certain difficulties and generally feel like they are not on their own. By attending the course you can help yourself and the person you care for live well with dementia.

Here are some of the comments made by people who have already taken part:

"I was provided with more information that I was not aware of"

"These sessions were very helpful and informative"

"Useful to learn from others. Provided with lots of contacts and leaflets that we could read in our own time"

"I hope all the information I have received over the sessions will be beneficial to me for the future"

The next course runs in Larne Care Centre for 4 weeks, starting on Thursday 14th September and running 21st, 28th September and 5th October. To book for this course or put your name down for the next available course please contact the local Alzheimer's Society telephone 028 90387480 or email nicaregiver.training@alzheimers.org.uk



TEAM TO UKRAINE 1- 8 July 2017



On 30th June 11 weary travellers arrived in Nagyberég, after travelling for 15+ hours and over 1700 miles, to a warm welcome from our hosts, the Reformed Church Youth Movement in Transcarpathia. Lucy recalls "As this was my first time attending a summer camp, I was really nervous as to what to expect. I was worried about so many things, but mostly travelling to a country I knew so very little about and the expectations of me when I got there. However, the one big thing I knew that I and our team had, was the continual prayers and support of our churches, family and friends. Without this, I know that the trip would not have been the huge success that it was."

Around 60 students, aged between 11 and 20, arrived each day. We were helped by the older campers who acted as translators helping to make up for our lack of Hungarian. The teaching day began with praise and devotions. It is amazing how praising God in any language is uplifting, even if you don't completely understand the words. "My Lighthouse" became our theme song for the week. Small group devotions gave us the opportunity to discuss the bible, share our faith, and grow in trust and friendship.

Jude's input was crafts with canvas painting, making bookmarks and picture frames. Some of the finished items were very artistic - lots of fun and glue! In the evenings campfires were held with praise to God in English and Hungarian. Each night one of our young leaders was interviewed about their lives and their faith. For a few it was the first time speaking out and it was so uplifting to listen to each of them.

Outside of her role teaching the advanced English class, Lucy coordinated sports and evening time activities, including an Irish Night with lots of Irish dancing!

Outside of camp there were also touching moments. On an old Soviet style bus one passenger greeted us in perfect English "are you from Northern Ireland?" & went on to tell of her time learning English with a previous team. On Sunday, even though the service was in Hungarian, we were welcomed in Nagyberég church like old friends. When travelling home through Budapest Airport, Robin met one former student who now speaks 5 languages and is going to study in Shanghai to improve her sixth – Mandarin. She warmly recalled all the fun and encouragement learning English at Nagyberég School with our 2011 team.

We were blessed by and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Thank you to everyone who helped in practical ways before we left and for praying for us. Most of all, thanks to God for blending the skills of 11 ordinary people, enabling us to serve and share His love day by day, giving us the words to say and keeping us safe. **He is an AMAZING GOD!!!**

Lucy Ross, Jude Evans and Robin Tweed



Team members with Bishop Sandor



PROMISELAND – Not Just For Children!

Promiseland is our Sunday morning activity for primary-aged children. (See below for exciting opportunities for babies, infants and pre-school children). The children come to morning worship at 11am with their families and then move on early in the service to the specially formulated Promiseland curriculum.

As a congregation serious about our baptismal vows and wanting families to feel welcomed and supported, we hope Promiseland can be a special place where your child's confidence is boosted, where they are made to feel safe, seen and known and where they can be empowered to learn and grow in their faith. Promiseland is the place where your child can laugh and play, learn and grow, develop friendships and community, and discover God's great love for them. Through games, purposeful and creative activities, our Promiseland team aims to inspire curiosity and wonder about God. Our hope is that we can be the spark that ignites a deeper sense of identity, belonging, and mission in every child – whatever their age, stage, personality and capacity.

We are very aware that families now face a plethora of demands on their time & attention with plenty of other interesting and good things to do on a Sunday morning. But we passionately believe that at Promiseland, we are striving to provide the very best foundation for truly successful living in an increasingly complex, competitive, bewildering and often menacing world.

As parents we only have a relatively small window of opportunity to offer our children values and beliefs for living a full life. Even though our society is vastly better off materially than our predecessors, we are experiencing poverty in the hope and purpose that only faith provides. How many more apparently wealthy, famous and successful people must we see "crash and burn" to be convinced of the essential human need for that sense of hope and purpose given by faith and values? Frankly, we can do all the shopping, see all the films, play all the sports, visit all the places, have all the experiences our money can provide and still be unsatisfied. In sharp contrast, that hour on a Sunday morning at Promiseland and worship is a much cheaper investment but with potentially infinite returns and eternal reward.

Promiseland is intentionally organised to be a fun Sunday experience – but one which will inspire our children to keep discovering more about God's love and purpose for them 24/7 – at home, at school or wherever else they are. We know that such a vital part

of that ongoing spiritual growth and awareness lies in the hands of parents and guardians. The team have succeeded when they have empowered you to take what your child learns at Promiseland into conversations around the dinner table, in the car and throughout your everyday moments together.

Promiseland is at the very heart of who we are as a family church – a church committed to *worshipping God, building up His church and sharing His love*. ***Make sure your family is taking full advantage of what is on offer for your children, for you, and for your future!***

CRECHE: (Babies and Infants) - Stay with your child and/or leave them with our "Taking Care" trained and approved leaders.

PRE-SCHOOL: (Children of Nursery School age) We are delighted that we now need a special group for pre-schoolers – children too old for creche but not yet at primary school. Most of these children will be veterans of nursery schools and play-groups!

MOSES' MOB: P1 & P2

CALEB'S CROWD: P3 & P4

AARON'S ARMY: P5 & P6 & P7

BIBLE CLASS: post-primary

All of the groups begin with everyone else in the 11am service (with the exception of the creche which begins receiving babies and infants from 10.45am) and end when children are collected after the morning service.

BE A PART OF PROMISELAND WITH US!

There is always room for more help. Could you be part of the Promiseland team? You do not need to be "up front", nor must you be a parent – just interested in making a difference in the lives of the children entrusted to us as a congregation. Speak to Dr. McClure or any of the Promiseland leaders to find out more. Leaders work together in teams and are involved on a rota basis i.e. you only do a set number of Sundays.

Someone recently described serving in Promiseland as getting a front-row seat to watch the love of Jesus come alive each week through the eyes of a child.

That's really special!



TREASURE SEEKERS

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

This year we ran our Holiday Bible Club with the theme TREASURE SEEKERS where we explored through the different treasures we find in the Bible. Looking at some of the main Bible stories we found some amazing gems: from the prophets announcing Jesus' birth to the angels announcing that Jesus had risen - we found out how Jesus was born, how He taught us to pray, what is communion, Jesus' death and resurrection and finished off with how he met two of His disciples on the road to Emmaus.

We had a vibrant and hard working team that used so many of their gifts and talents to make HBC 2017 a special one. Some fantastic teenagers and young people came alongside the adults to help lead and encourage all the children. And we had over 120 excited and eager children wanting to learn more Bible stories and stay on after the week was over because they were having so much fun doing crafts, worksheets, playing games, dancing and singing songs!

I personally want to thank everyone that helped make and shape TREASURE SEEKERS HBC, it was a privilege to be able to coordinate you all as a team, I hope you enjoyed being part of it and that you were blessed by being part of the team.

Jacqueline McCallum



Community Fun Night



SPECIAL ASSEMBLY “Everyday Disciples”

In recent decades PCI has held special assemblies when representatives from our congregations come together for an intensive few days of living together and listening together. Unlike the annual General Assembly meetings in June, the business of a special assembly is not marked by the passing of formal resolutions. However, there is a very purposeful resolve to seek God’s will, hear His challenge and orientate and resource the church for vibrant life and witness. Special assemblies are never intended to be just gatherings for good Presbyterians who have a few days on their hands during the summer, nor are they to be mere talking shops for people who like that sort of thing! So what was this special assembly like? Did it meet expectations?

The following seminars were facilitated by home-grown input so that we could help one another:

- Disciples in Family
- Disciples who work & play
- Disciples who think & engage
- Disciples who worship
- Disciples across the world
- Disciples who really care

Worship was also led by local musicians - that incredibly talented and committed ensemble of singers and instrumentalists called New Irish Arts, directed by Jonathan Rea.

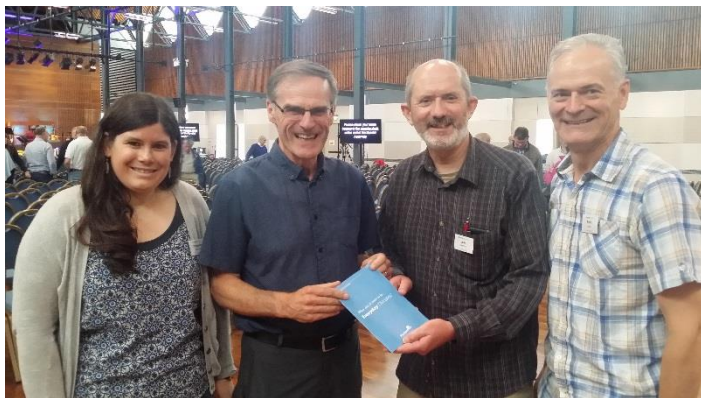
The two keynote speakers, Ray Ortlund Jnr and Randy Pope, were brought in from the US with the brief of helping us think through the urgent matters facing disciples in everyday life, from a biblical perspective. Could they say something to us that we could not or would not say to one another?



Ray Ortlund Jnr is Senior Pastor, Immanuel Church, Nashville and Regional Director of 'Acts 29 Movement'.



Randy Pope is Lead Teacher, Perimeter Church, Atlanta and Director of 'Life on Life Ministries'.



First Larne’s delegates with Moderator Rev Dr Noble McNeely

This “Everyday Disciples” assembly conference was designed to provide delegates with a unique opportunity to explore the real challenges and opportunities of following Jesus in the reality of our today and to guide our Church to excite, equip and empower impactful disciples for everyday life. Did it achieve that?

Having just returned home from the special assembly, each of our delegates share their initial impression and their main “take home” resolve as we in PCI look to the future.

“What would we do, what could we do, if someone came to our church service this Sunday, having discovered on the internet how wonderful it is to follow Jesus, and asked someone "Can you teach me to be like Jesus?" If they copied what you thought, said and did how close would they get? In our church are we a "Beautiful People Magnetic Before a Watching World"?

Colin McClure

“I found it a very encouraging and inspiring few days but also very practical that reminded me of the real need to plan and be intentional about making disciples who can equip and encourage other people to serve Christ in all areas of life and be disciples in their own life.”

David Kelly

“As followers of Jesus we need to walk beside him, observing, listening, absorbing and imitating ... so we grow more like him everyday. That is, to be his disciples, we need to know him and look to know him more everyday.”

Jax McCallum

"We are called to be disciples every day and encouraged to Think BIG, start small and Go Deep"

Robin Tweed

SKILLS REGISTER – CAN YOU HELP?

Of course you can - there are opportunities for everyone, including YOU! Please consider where you think your skills would fit and bear this in mind when completing the forthcoming Church Census Form. Remember, not everyone has what are seen to be skills or trades qualifications, but everyone does have a God given gift or talent that will give valued support to the running of **YOUR CHURCH** and **YOUR CHURCH FAMILY**.



On the weekend of 29-30th July some of our GB were out in the country doing their expedition for the Duke of Edinburgh bronze award.



Pictured with their haversacks and tents are Hannah Girvan, Amber Marcus, Victoria Henry and Alex Yendall.

First Larne Indoor Bowling Club



First Larne Indoor Bowling club are very pleased to have been awarded an equipment grant from the **Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland**. This has enabled the Club to place an order for two bespoke 2-tier mobile handling and storage units to house the club's 4 indoor bowling mats, fenders, foot delivery mats and jacks. This will eliminate the task of manually handling the bowling mats, each of which can weigh up to 7 stone. Each mat can be unrolled directly onto the floor for use, and then when finished, can be rolled up again and stored on the unit until next required. It is anticipated the 2 units will be delivered in good time for the start of the new indoor bowling season in September.

The Club would like to place on record their thanks to the Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland for the grant which made this possible. We would also thank First Larne Presbyterian Church for help and

assistance, not only with the application process, but for the planned structural renovation of the existing storeroom to create additional space for the Bowling Club and other users.



Our new season starts on Wednesday 6th September at 7:30pm – you will be very welcome.

Rodney Moore

Faith at the Crossroads – Rediscovering the Reformation

This 500th anniversary year of that moment when a German Augustinian priest called Martin Luther nailed his 94 theses to the door of the Schlosskirche at Wittenberg, recognised as the beginning of the Reformation, is as good a time as any to remember what the reformation was all about. Objective analysis can only conclude that there was a spectrum of motives that could be ascribed to the main characters. At one end, political advantage and manoeuvring; at the other there were some core Biblical values. Perhaps for most it was somewhere in between. In any case, the Reformation changed the world and has affected us all ever since.

So, what was it all about? On a recent visit to family, Anne and John McIlroy worshipped in Scots Church, Freemantle, the port for Perth in Western Australia. On the printed order of service, a helpful summary was given of the five pillars of the Reformation in response to the question "What was the Reformation all about?". We reproduce it with appropriate acknowledgments to the McIlroy's, Scots Church and Dr. Michael Horton, professor at Westminster Seminary, California and author of *The Five Pillars of the Reformation*.

What was the Reformation all about?

By **CHRIST alone!** (*Solo Christo*) - Our only mediator is Christ, over human and any other spiritual/religious mediators.

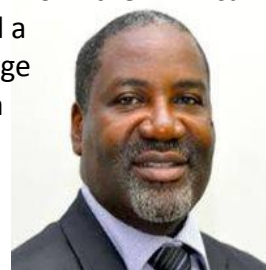
By **SCRIPTURE alone!** (*Sola Scriptura*) - Our only foundation is Scripture, over human religious tradition.

By **FAITH alone!** (*Sola Fide*) - Our only means is faith, over human religious works.

By **GRACE alone!** (*Sola Gratia*) - Our only method is grace, over human religious merit.

Glory to God **alone!** (*Soli Deo Gloria*) - Our only ambition should be God-centred, over human centred.

In October you can discover more of what the Reformation was all about at one of the three special celebrations being held by PCI throughout Ireland. The Faith at the Crossroads event closest to Larne is on Thursday, 19th October 2017 at Assembly Buildings, Belfast. The Rev Dr Conrad Mbewe will be the guest speaker. Dr. Mbewe has served as pastor of Kabwata Baptist Church since 1987 and has been a speaker at the Bangor Worldwide Missionary Convention. Dr. Mbewe is principal of the Lusaka Ministerial College, chancellor of the African Christian University in Lusaka and a board member of Covenant College Zambia. He is also the editor of a theological journal called *Reformation Zambia*.



We all know how important it is to eat more fruit and vegetables and the harvest is the perfect time to do just that! Your family will love this warming soup which is so quick and easy to make - it is extra special when you serve it with the feta, sweetcorn and tomato salsa: Perfect for chilly autumn days!

Butternut squash and sweetcorn soup with a feta and tomato salsa

Prep 15 mins Total 45 mins

1 tablespoon vegetable oil
25g butter
2 medium onions finely chopped
750g peeled and deseeded butternut squash chopped
250g sweetcorn kernels fresh or frozen (defrosted)
600ml hot vegetable stock
Juice 1 lime
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

For the salsa

A small knob butter
1 tbsp vegetable oil
4 tbsp sweetcorn kernels, fresh or frozen (defrosted)
8 cherry tomatoes quartered
2 tbsp coriander leaves
Zest 1 lime
100g diced Wensleydale cheese or feta cheese



Heat the oil and butter in a large pan, add the onions, cook for 10 minutes covered.

Add the butternut squash, sweetcorn and stock. Bring to simmering point, reduce the heat and gently cook, partially covered, for 30-35 minutes.

For the salsa, heat the butter and oil together. When sizzling, add the sweetcorn, for 7-8 minutes.

Cool; mix with the other salsa ingredients and season well.

Whiz the soup in a blender until smooth.

Reheat adding the lime juice and seasoning.

Ladle into warm bowls and add a spoonful of salsa to each one.

Cooks Tips: Get ahead: Make the soup up to 2 days ahead: chill.
It can also be frozen.



Noah's Ark

Everything I need to know about life I learned from
Noah's Ark (Genesis Ch. 6-9)

- Don't miss the boat.
- Remember we are all in the same boat.
- Plan ahead : it wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- Stay fit : when you are 600 years old someone may ask you to do something big.
- Don't listen to critics, just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- Build your future on high ground.
- For safety's sake travel in pairs.
- Speed isn't always an advantage – the snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- When you're stressed, float a while.
- Remember the ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic was built by professionals.
- No matter the storms, when you're with God there's always a rainbow waiting.



CHURCH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

Erin Annie Jayne McCluggage	23 Mill Brae	18 th June 2017
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MARRIAGES

Rachel Agnes Kerr & Lewis John James Murray-Zmijewski	15 th July 2017
Jennifer Margaret Christine Haslett & Thomas Paul Crozier	17 th July 2017

DEATHS

Jean Brown	4 Glenburn Road	24 th June 2017
Isabel McKee	7 Carmond Drive	7 th July 2017
Ellen Jane Magee	88 Shane's Hill Road	23 rd July 2017

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

During the autumn, as well as certain special seasonal and annual services, we shall have several Bible teaching series. In the morning services we shall be featuring a focus on the incredible resource of worship and the promised benefits from God-centred worship and devotion. In the evening our focus shifts to the lessons to be learnt – good and bad - from some Old Testament heroes whose exploits are described in the Book of Judges. This teaching is never intended to bombard our heads with facts but to inspire our hearts in ongoing discipleship!

September Services

Sun 3rd
am "Every Day Disciples"
Promiseland & Youth Fellowship resume
Sun 10th
am "Back to School Sunday"
Sacrament of infant Baptism
pm "Half-hearted Discipleship 1" (Judges 1 & 2)
Sun 17th am & pm: Communion
Sun 24th
am Guest speaker from Operation Mobilisation
pm "Half-hearted Discipleship 2"

October Services

Sun 1st
am "Worshipping engages our whole lives"
(Romans 12 v 1-2)
pm Essentials 1 "Come" (John 1 v 35-51)
Sun 8th
am Special Harvest services
&pm "Everybody Welcome"
Sun 15th
am "Worshipping offers us fresh insight"
(Ephesians 1 v 15-23)
pm First Larne Old Boys Band
"Living among Idols 1" (Judges 2 & 3)

Sun 22nd

am "Worshipping transforms our ordinary actions"
(Colossians 3 v 12-17)
pm "Living among Idols 2"
Sun 29th
am All-in-Service "Summer Time ends"
pm "Expect the Unexpected 1, Othniel and Ehud"
(Judges 3)

November Services

Sun 5th
am "Worshipping inspires our everyday speech"
(James 5 v 13-18)
pm Essentials 2 "Call" (Mark 4 v 17-24)
Sun 12th
am Remembrance Sunday
"Worshipping focuses our wavering hearts"
(Revelation 2 v 1-7)
pm "Expect the Unexpected 2"
Sun 19th
am GB Enrolment
pm "Ruler and Rescuer 1, Deborah and Barak"
(Judges 4 & 5)
Sun 26th
am Bible Sunday
pm "Ruler and Rescuer 2"

OTHER EVENTS

Sun 22nd October BB Enrolment in St. Cedmas's

ORGANISATION START DATES

Youth Fellowship: Sun. 3rd September 7.00-8.30pm
Promiseland: Sun. 3rd September.
GB: Tues. 5th September.
Choir & Praise Group: Tues. 5th September
BB Anchor Boys : Tues. 12th September 6:50pm
BB Junior Section : Tues. 12th September 7pm
Toddler Group: Wed. 13th September 10.00 -12.00.
BB & Guides: Friday 15th September.
PW: Thursday 21st September at 8.00pm in Room 4.

LIVE | GROW | KNOW

The GROW ladies programme will start in October - details to follow. All ladies welcome!

Jacqueline McCallum & Jacqueline McKinley.

First Larne Weddings.....



Jennifer Margaret Christine Haslett & Thomas Paul Crozier married on Monday 17th July.

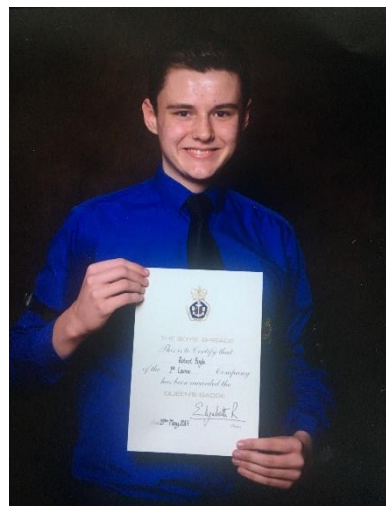


Rachel Agnes Kerr & Lewis John James Murray-Zmijewski married on Saturday 15th July.

And a baptism

Congratulations.....

To Robert Boyle
on receiving his
Queen's Badge



Erin Annie Jayne McCluggage, with her mum, Debbie, was baptised on 18th June. Dad, James is holding big brother, Will.



The Larne area Christian Aid collection this year totalled £9750. Many thanks to everyone who donated and to all the collectors, counters and behind the scenes organisers whose hard work make this possible every year.

Jackie Tennant

AND FINALLY.....

At the pearly gates a taxi driver and minister are waiting in line. St. Peter consults his list and says to the taxi driver, "Take this silken robe and golden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

St. Peter next greets the minister saying, "Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

"Just a minute," says the minister. "That man was a taxi driver, and he gets a silken robe and golden staff while I get a cotton robe and wooden staff. How can this be?"

"Up here, we work by results," says St. Peter. "While you preached, people slept; while he drove, people prayed."

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