

First Larne Presbyterian Church

The Bridge News

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



WE
MEMBERS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

saved by grace
and called by God
to grace-filled relationships
in the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit
AS AMBASSADORS OF CHRIST'S KINGDOM
IN A BROKEN AND DIVIDED WORLD;

BELIEVE
THAT THE good news OF JESUS CHRIST
CHALLENGES & EQUIPS us
to develop **RADICALLY NEW ATTITUDES**
and relationships with our neighbours
THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE OF IRELAND.

WE CONFESS
our failure TO LIVE AS BIBLICALLY faithful
Christian peacebuilders
AND TO PROMOTE THE
counter culture of Jesus
in a society where cultures clash.

WE AFFIRM
Christian peacebuilding
to be part of Christian discipleship
& reassert THE CHURCH'S CALLING
to pursue a peaceful & just society
in our day

WE SEEK
A more reconciled community
at PEACE with EACH OTHER,
where friend & foe, working together
for the common good
CAN EXPERIENCE HEALING:
& the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ



Queen's award for Lynzie



Christian Aid Walk



Abaana New Life Choir

Summer Edition 2017

No. 397

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Peacebuilding - Our Vision for Society

Our front page contains a poster of the PCI Vision for Society statement. Rev McClure explains it's origin

The text of the Statement adopted by the General Assembly is as follows:

The 2016 General Assembly welcomed and adopted the Vision for Society Statement, which seeks to continue to place peacebuilding firmly at the heart of Christian discipleship and the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

At the time, the convener of the Council for Church in Society, Very Rev. Dr. Norman Hamilton said, "This is a symbol of our desire that this statement will both be a stimulus for our engagement with wider society, as well as a powerful symbol that this is a calling of the whole Church to a highly important aspect of Christian and biblical witness."

In PCI's 500-plus congregations across Ireland, peacebuilding will look different. Different in Belfast as it will look from peacebuilding in Dublin as it will in Galway, or Cork; but its centrality to Christian discipleship remains the same wherever God has placed us.

The Rev. Stephen Johnston (Convener, Congregational Life and Witness Good Relations Panel) says: "It is my prayer that our Vision for Society Statement and our continued commitment to peacebuilding will bear much fruit."

WE, MEMBERS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND, saved by grace and called by God to grace-filled relationships, in the power of the Holy Spirit as ambassadors of Christ's Kingdom in a broken and divided world;

BELIEVE that the Good News of Jesus Christ challenges and equips us to develop radically new attitudes and relationships with our neighbours throughout the whole of Ireland.

WE CONFESS our failure to live as Biblically faithful Christian peacebuilders and to promote the counter culture of Jesus in a society where cultures clash.

ACCORDINGLY, WE AFFIRM Christian peacebuilding to be part of Christian discipleship and reassert the Church's calling to pursue a peaceful and just society in our day

WE SEEK a more reconciled community at peace with each other, where friend and foe, working together for the common good, can experience healing and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.



COLIN'S COLUMN

"GROWING IN FRUITFULNESS"

- Is PCI and First Larne Fit for Fruitfulness?

Week by week PCI congregations all over Ireland express the life of God that flows within and witnesses to His transforming presence. No congregation does this perfectly. As communities of fallen people, whether in large, active, well-resourced congregations or in small isolated, struggling fellowships, our best efforts are always flawed. Since November 2016 our Kirk Session has been one of the 40+ congregations in the initial phase of the "Growing in Fruitfulness" initiative. Beginning in our June services and rolling into the autumn, the Session's intensive preparatory work is

now being shared with the wider congregation. What we do together in the next few months could be crucial for what we are able to do for years to come; indeed, it might determine if we have years to come!

We are not the only generation of Church that has faced challenges and crises. The Church of Jesus Christ was born in persecution and the flame of faith spread despite those pressures. Even though God's purpose for His Church survived and flourished it was often despite all manner of pressures and intrigues resulting from very human factors from within and without.

In this year of its 500th anniversary we should need no reminding of one of the core tenets of the Reformation: *Ecclesia reformata sed semper reformanda* ("the Church reformed but always to be reformed"). The Reformation was not completed in the sixteenth century. Indeed, any notion that the Church we have is complete and needs no further

reformation, is a denial of what “reformation” in the Protestant sense really means. To misquote that well-known theologian, Commander James Bond, the Church in every generation needs to be shaken AND stirred!

Whilst we acknowledge that the Church has come through enormous trials in previous eras, our generation does face an unprecedented and testing context. At the launch of “Growing in Fruitfulness” it was pointed out that as our society becomes increasingly disinterested in God and numbers dwindle in congregations we often find ourselves:

- ▶ facing a bigger task with fewer people
- ▶ needing greater energy, but feeling increasingly weary and tired
- ▶ having the message of hope that the world needs to hear, yet feeling less hopeful than ever about just being able to survive.

As a result we can hit the panic button and flail around between two extremes. Either we are content with “just being faithful”, and keep going as best we can for as long as we can, but knowing that we are going nowhere OR we chase after the latest “recipe for success” hoping that it will magically turn things around. Both extremes are aiming at the unfruitful.

“Growing in Fruitfulness” encourages us to stop panicking and take up what Jesus so clearly offers His Church in John ch.15. In our June services we shall be delving into the option Jesus offers – to be fruitful where and when He has put us to live and witness for Him. The vision of fruitfulness Jesus paints is:

- ▶ More than merely faithfulness to the way we have always done things in a changing world
- ▶ Often less than successful in the eyes of a superficial world
- ▶ But always the growth of His Kingdom that is not of this world.

Over the last 2 years key people in our PCI Council for Congregational Life and Witness have reflected on the character and practices that cultivate fruitfulness in our congregations. They make no claims that it is the whole picture, and recognise that it will take shape in different ways in a variety of settings, but they offer the following six elements, necessary to plough the furrows of congregational life and witness, to prepare the ground to bear the fruit of what God wants to do among us. They ask the searching question :

“Do you recognise these characteristics and practices of cultivating a fruitful congregation in your church’s life and witness?”

▶ **Place encounter with the Living God at the centre** – recognise that the congregation’s life revolves around God, the congregation’s witness depends upon God, and reflect that in worship and prayer.

▶ **Move members beyond just belonging to church to longing to be followers of Jesus in every aspect of life** – recognise the need to envision and equip members to live out their faith in every stage, setting and circumstance of life in which they find themselves.

▶ **Led to lean forward into the future** – recognise the challenge of being the people of God here and now and on into the future, rather than leaning back into the safety of a more familiar past.

▶ **Shaped by God’s story** – recognise that their life together and their witness to the world only makes sense when it is understood and shaped by the bigger story of what God is calling them to be that is found in the Bible.

▶ **Make an impression in mission** – recognise that their witness, through involvement in their local community and contribution to global mission, has to leave a footprint of God’s presence that can be seen by others.

▶ **Develop their life as a community** – recognise that spaces and places need to be created in church life to grow in being a genuine community of encouragement and support.

“Growing in Fruitfulness” is not a course, the latest craze, consultation process, sermon series or set of Bible studies. It is a journey! It encourages us along the way to engage with that picture of fruitfulness Jesus paints in John 15 with Himself as the vine, His Father as the gardener, His people as the branches and His purpose being that His Church bears fruit. It helps us pace ourselves for the route where we can explore what Jesus’ words mean for us - to be “chosen”, “appointed” and commanded to “go and Bear fruit for the Father’s glory” (v.16).



Fruitfulness can be hard to measure – be it in the Church or in your garden. Sometimes it seems as if nothing is happening and then suddenly the shoots appear, or the work of God’s Spirit appears in growing numbers, depth or influence. Having distilled six elements leading to a fruitful congregation we have been encouraged to shape our particular journey of “Growing in Fruitfulness” using the following six key principles:

- ▶ Dwelling deeply in God’s Word and prayer are central to congregational fruitfulness
- ▶ Congregations can, and should, be intentional about developing their life and witness
- ▶ Congregations are weary of long, detailed, complicated processes which have promised much, but tended to overwhelm or prove disappointing
- ▶ Congregations cannot try to develop every area of congregational life and witness at once, but they can take small steps on which to build and reflect
- ▶ Congregations need to know, plan, pace and own their particular journeys toward greater fruitfulness. Congregations need to be communities which learn together
- ▶ Leaders are best equipped as part of – rather than apart from – the congregation.

FIRST LARNE – A Fruitful Congregation?

In recent years the Kirk Session of First Larne has very intentionally considered how it can best fulfil its duty to “watch over and promote the spiritual interest of the congregation, and of persons unconnected with any congregation who are within its bounds..... and seek to further the contribution of the Church to Christian witness and service in the local community.” *Para.35 The Code.*

The “Growing in Fruitfulness” initiative coincided with our readiness to identify and share priorities we believe to be key to the ongoing life, witness, survival and thriving – the fruitfulness – of First Larne Presbyterian Church. We realised that talking was something we were good at and that it was easy. The really challenging part is turning words, visions and aspirations into reality. We did not rush into anything – but after a considerable schedule of meetings and conferences we refined our focus and asked Session Priority Groups to produce specific priorities under the following six headings:

- ▶ Children, Youth & Family Ministry
- ▶ Missing Generations
- ▶ Beyond the Walls/Into new Fields – ministry/outreach/service in our local community
- ▶ Worship
- ▶ Prayer – individual and corporate
- ▶ Developing and enhancing our buildings and facilities

In services in June – morning and evening – as we look at Jesus’ call to and promise of fruitfulness in John 15 – elders will share something of the priorities we are considering. Among other specifics this will range from a Skills Register, through resourcing our worship and pastoral care, extending care and support for our community, to considering the future appointment of a Director of Youth & Family Ministry and the refurbishment and enhancing of our facilities.

We have arrived at such proposals and priorities not because we are thoroughly dissatisfied with what we have and what we do presently. These priorities are presented out of our desire to respond to Jesus’ call and promise to Biblical fruitfulness. Or, to put it another way, given the resources we have we firmly believe we can better respond to the Gospel call to fruitfulness. We believe that God is calling us to a journey and a plan for First Larne which is not just for now and not just for ourselves but which is for the future, and for our community.

Fruitfulness is not measured in frenetic activity or found in multiplying programmes. My prayer is that we will not allow complacency or lack of courage and vision deafen us to the call to fruitfulness, and that what we decide to do will prove our faithful determination to go on anticipating and cultivating for even greater fruitfulness.



Rev. Colin McClure

Listen to the “Growing in Fruitfulness” series of sermons by visiting our website – firstlarne.org.uk – click on “About” and then “audio service recordings”.

Keep Praying and Don't Lose Heart



Recently, we have been encouraging everyone to keep praying and to put God first in everything we do in church and outside in our everyday lives. For some of us we can pray for a while and then lose heart because we maybe don't see things happen quick enough, or because we don't see any change after we pray, but we know that God answers prayer sometimes with a yes, no or wait all of which are answers to prayer. I want to encourage you today to keep praying and to not lose heart, why? Because Jesus commands us to.

Luke 18:1 And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart

You see Jesus wants us to be a people who pray. Jesus through his life, example and His words tells us and show us why, how, who and what we should be praying for. Jesus is not asking us to do something he didn't do because Jesus was a man of prayer himself. Jesus would rise early in the morning to pray and would look for having those times alone to pray and other times he would spend a whole night in prayer. In Luke 22:42 we remember one of Jesus' most personal prayers as he prays preparing for His suffering on the cross.

I want us to think in the next two issues of the Bridge News about those why, how and who reasons that Jesus gives us that should encourage us not to lose heart and instead to keep praying continuously. So why? What reasons does Jesus gives us for **WHY** we should pray?

For the Glory of God : John 14:13 Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

John Piper writes, 'Prayer glorifies God because it puts us in the position of the thirsty and God in the position of the all-supplying fountain'. Through prayer we show our dependence on God and through prayer God is given the glory and we receive the help we need. We also see in that verse from John 14, when we pray in Jesus' name the Father is glorified in the Son ; this was an important lesson that Jesus wanted to teach the disciples then also us as disciples today.

So, the first reason that we should pray and not lose heart is that our prayer made in Jesus' name brings glory to God.

The second reason that Jesus shows us why we should pray is that it is:

For Our Joy .

In John 16:23-24 we see that when we pray in Jesus' name it is not only to bring glory to God but it is also for our joy.

Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

I want you to hear those last few words loud and clear, **so that your joy may be full.** What an encouragement here for us to keep praying in all circumstances because, not only does our prayer bring glory to God, but we do it in the name of Christ so that our joy may be full. The one thing no matter what happens us in life, is that we can know that God listens to our prayers because He cares for us and He will answer. God is ready and willing to hear and answer our prayers and if we ever doubted that then look to Jesus again when He tells us to ask in faith and it will be given.

Matthew 7:7-11 : ⁷ "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Anytime you feel yourself or others losing the heart to pray remember the reasons why we pray, **to glorify God and for our Joy to be full.** Quoting Piper again he writes, 'prayer is designed to magnify God's glory while sustaining our joy in him'. Next time we will think about how we pray according to Jesus.

David Kelly



Let's Sparkle

Not that I've given up totally, Lord.
 Not that I've rejected you and your love.
 It's just that I'm half asleep, careless,
 not standing upright in your presence,
 my dedication dusty and dormant in a dark corner.
 Wake me up, Lord, from self-satisfaction.
 Rescue me from the trap of complacency.

Don't weaken your demands on me,
 just help me to strengthen my response.
 Wash off the grime of long usage
 and make me **sparkle** again in newness of purpose.
 Open my eyes, Lord.
 It's happened before - thank you for your patience -
 open my eyes
 to the wonder of life with you,
 to the joy of life in the community of your church.
 Make me a blessing to them,
 to those I love.
 Make me into someone
 it's good to be around.
 Like you.

Start the music again, Lord.
 And put in a few 'grace' notes.



So, if we are feeling a little bit complacent how do we turn this into 'sparkling' worship?

So often our worship is self-centred more than God-centred. Next time you find yourself worshipping in song, count the "I's" and "me's" in much of our music

and ask yourself, "Who am I really thinking about: Him or me?" (or the style of music that isn't my 'thing'?). The worship that will ascend to the heavens and be received as a sweet aroma by a Holy God is less about the song and more about the singer.

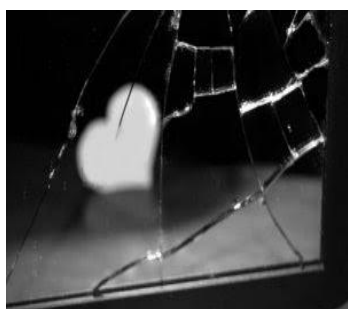
After the flood, Noah presented his worship to God: Then Noah built an altar to Yahweh and, choosing from all the clean animals and all the clean birds he presented burnt offerings on the altar, and in Genesis 8:21 we read of God's response: The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done". The ancient Hebrew,

A skilled musician, a flute player, discovered one day before an important recital that he could not produce the usual sound. There must be something wrong with the instrument; he checked it and it was fine. As he analysed the situation he discovered that the flute was working properly but he was getting careless!

Instead of sitting or standing just so, he'd begun to slump. His hands weren't right and the angle at which he blew in to the instrument had changed slightly. He corrected the stance and the music was back. This is an interesting Christian analogy. It's not that we give up or reject it – it's just that we become careless. We become careless as we worship. It becomes ritualistic. This is how Eddie Askew puts it:

"Don't shoot the pianist, he's doing his best."
 Not always true, Lord.
 It's not always the piano that's wrong.
 Nor the flute.
 Sometimes it's the player.
 Me.

When there's no music between you and me,
 when the melody's gone,
 the harmony shattered,
 it's not the instrument,
it's me.



a very pretty, picturesque language, describes this as God having very wide nostrils to get the full pleasure of the aroma of sacrifice.

So how is it less about the song and more about the singer? The sweetest note sounded in our Saviour's ear will be the music of a life humbly and sacrificially lived for Him. With our best effort, we could never pen or sing so beautiful a note. It must be lived! I agree with Lois Y. Barrett in her book *Treasure in Clay Jars*, that the focus of worship is to celebrate God's presence and promises, without seeking or expecting worship to be the occasion for God to meet our needs. We look beyond ourselves and focus on Him. At least that's what I try to tell myself. I want to depart from worship knowing that I am part of a sent and sending community in which each Christian is conscious of his or her apostolic "*sentness*" as light, leaven and salt in the world. Let's really grab this thought and be willing to be "sent".

We can all give our own examples of how worship gives expression to and provides the experience of God's sustaining presence in our lives as we continue

to live in His presence until the next time we meet together. St. Paul gives us perhaps the clearest call to true worship in the book of Romans. This is Eugene Peterson's interpretation of Romans 12:1: 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. More than forms, more than songs, more than time or finances but rather a literal giving of our very being to Him is what's required. Zephaniah reminds us that God reciprocates: "He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with *singing*".

Let's **sparkle** and all for God's glory!



Sylvia



This summer we are joining others in our local community for an exciting outreach opportunity:

SPARK

"SPARK Newtownabbey 2017 is an opportunity for local Christians to work together to share the love of God with others in word and action. This year we are making plans to reach into Ballyduff, Rathcoole and Ballyclare. Activities may include free litter picks, gardening, Holiday Bible Clubs, car washes, youth drop-ins, sports coaching, community fun days and more.

For the last few years I have volunteered to help lead some of the teams from SPARK Newtownabbey and so know from first hand what an impact this week is for young people and their faith. I would personally love for us to be able to do something like this closer to our own community here in Larne but, in reality, we first need to go out and see what it's all about. That is why I have asked the coordinators of SPARK 2017 if I could bring along some of the Christian young people from First Larne to share and work alongside the young people from Newtownabbey and Ballyclare areas - and they loved the idea!

So, if you are in Year 9 (aged 13) or above and are free this summer to take part in an adventure that

could change your world and the community around you why not sing up and be part of this team? If you would like to take part please speak to me first as I will make a list of those who want to go and put a team together. Closing date for online applications is on the 30th June 2017 so please, it is very important that you speak to me by **Tuesday 20th of June** at the latest so I can explain to you how to sign up and make sure we don't miss the deadline.

Spark 2017 will run from the 12th to the 20th of August and the theme this year is: UNITING, LOVING, BEING. We will gather each morning in Ballynure area to hear a cool speaker and do some fun prep and every afternoon we will go out in teams to serve and share the love of God in word and action. We gather in the evenings for a short while and then go back to our homes to sleep.

The cost for the week is £30 per person (or £50 for two people from the same family). This covers the cost for of an official SPARK T-shirt, food , and goes towards funds required to make SPARK possible.

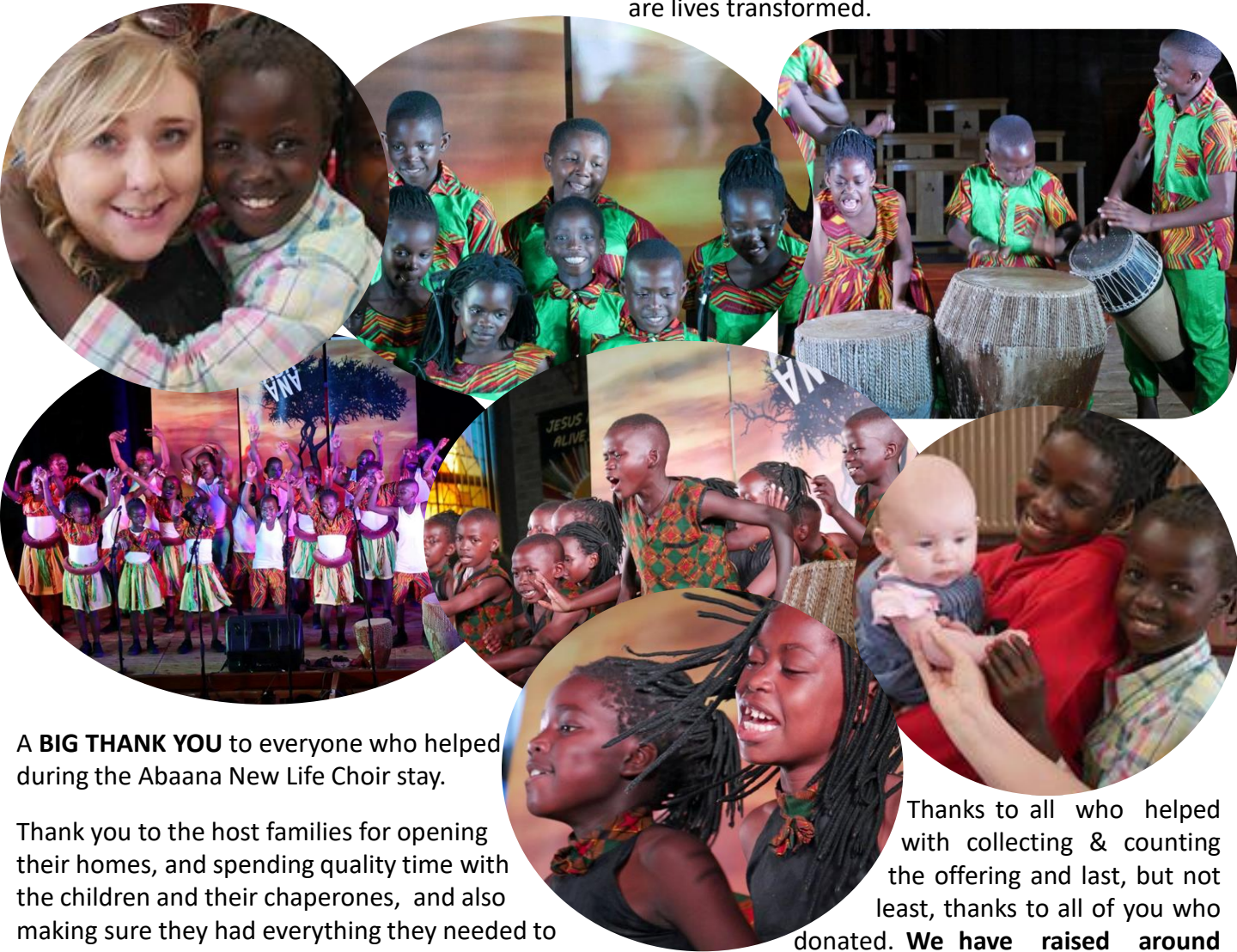
Many thanks,

Jacqueline McCallum

Abaana New Life Children's Choir.....Lives transformed!

If you went into this concert feeling a bit ho-hum or a bit down it was impossible not to be cheered by the glowing smiles, infectious giggles and the sheer joy and enthusiasm of these children. They came 4500 miles from Uganda and have spent months in a cold British spring, in a different culture, with different food, sleeping in many different places. They could easily have looked tired and bored with the whole thing. And yet they still had the energy to perform so wonderfully for us.

Mixed in with the music were videos of their real backgrounds of hardship that we can barely imagine. No free education in Uganda – if you can't pay you don't go to school. And worse, some of these kids ran away from home because of abusive parents, to a life of squalor and fear on the streets of Kampala. Collecting plastic bottles to sell, not casually throwing them away as so many of us would do. Rummaging about on rubbish tips for food, being beaten by gangs or getting involved in drugs. These are lives transformed.



A **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who helped during the Abaana New Life Choir stay.

Thank you to the host families for opening their homes, and spending quality time with the children and their chaperones, and also making sure they had everything they needed to go back to Uganda. Thank you to everyone who spent time playing with the children, who lent toys or helped looked after them.

Thank you to Lorna Swann and ALL the catering team for feeding us with such delicious meals.

Thank you to all who came early and stayed late to help set-up and take down everything for the concert and helped clean the church building; who greeted people and helped with the car-park.

Thanks to the photographers.

Thanks to all who helped with collecting & counting the offering and last, but not least, thanks to all of you who donated. **We have raised around £2500 for Abaana New Life Choir!!!**

Praise God for giving us the opportunity to welcome, such precious little children. Let's continue to pray for them and the many other boys and girls from Uganda.

You all made my coordination role so stress-free by volunteering and helping in so many ways. Just thank you!

With many thanks and blessings,

Jacqueline McCallum

TEAM TO UKRAINE 1st - 8th July 2017

This year an eleven member team from local churches is travelling to Nagyberég in South West Ukraine to lead an English language camp for young people from our partner church.

We will be based in the school in Nagyberég with the summer camp organised by KRIS, the youth movement of the Transcarpathian Reformed Church.

Travelling overnight on 29/30 June via Dublin and Budapest, leading English teaching, devotions, games and activities and coping with the Hungarian language, culture and 35+ degrees of sunshine is sure to be demanding and we would value your prayers for each day. Some prayer suggestions are included for you with prayer cards available from any team member or from the First Larne vestibule.

As you look at the team photos you should see some familiar faces as three of our team are from First Larne and another two from the Cairncastle and Ballygally area.

Please pray

For the team as we prepare for and lead the English Camp for the Transcarpathian Reformed Church to be held in Nagyberég and that we will be united in every way and so serve and love well.

For safety in travel and good health.

For our hosts and all the young people who will attend camp, that they will have a good time and benefit from it.

For us all, that together we may become better disciples of Jesus.

That Christ will be glorified in all we say and do.

Thank you for your prayers and your support.

Lucy Ross, Jude Evans and Robin Tweed



James Arthur
Templepatrick



Megan Egerton
Cairncastle



Jude Evans
First Larne



Imogen Forbes
Cairncastle



Rachel Hill
1st Islandmagee



Marie Kane
1st Islandmagee



Rachel McGahan
1st Islandmagee



Jennifer Millar
Ballyclare



Robin Tweed
First Larne



Amy Wilson
1st Islandmagee



Lucy Ross
First Larne

Our 39th Annual Display took place on Tuesday 28th March at 6.30pm in the Memorial Hall. We had 75 girls, 6 helpers, 5 Sub-Officers and 7 Officers on the floor. Our chief guest this year was David Kelly who kindly presented the prizes. We had a varied and enjoyable programme with our Seniors performing 'Hats off to Mum' – a sketch to honour their Mums,



as Mother's Day had been the Sunday before our display. The Brigaders put on a Larne version of 'Say Yes to the Dress' and our Junior section performed a thought provoking drama entitled 'The Rainbow People' – a play about friendship and how, although we are all different, life is better if we all get along and work as a team despite our differences.



Our Ladybirds and Explorers items came under the heading of 'We are Children of the World' and included Marching, It's a Small World dance and Choruses. Following the Chaplains remarks, the Company Choir performed a rousing version of 'This is Amazing Grace'. It really made the hairs stand up on the back of my neck.



The Duke of Edinburgh team have been busy again this year, with 4 girls starting bronze and 4 girls working on their gold at present and are close to completion.

Three of our sub-officers, Lynzie Magill, Kathryn Boyle and Amber Bryson are in the middle of their Officer Training and will be enrolled as Officers this November. We also have Emma Ross training to become a sub-officer and will also be enrolled this November.

This year one of our Sub-officers, Lynzie Magill, completed her Queen's Award following 2 years of work, 2 initiative tasks, a presentation, interview and exam.

She is the first person in our company to complete the Queen's Award. Well done Lynzie, we are all very proud of you.



We welcome any girls who are aged 3 and above by the 1st July 2017 to come along and join our company. The aim of the Girls' Brigade is to help girls become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ and through self-control, reverence and a sense of responsibility to find true enrichment of life. We pray that our girls will continue to achieve the best through Girls' Brigade and will Seek, Serve and Follow Christ in their lives.

3rd Larne Guides

We have had a fun and exciting year this year at Third Larne Guides. We started back in September with only 7 girls (as a large group had moved up to Senior Section) but then some new girls arrived, so we were back up to about 15 girls.

At the end of September Lorna Swann, (who has been leading Guides for over 25 years!) decided it was time to hang up her uniform & passed the reins over to current leaders Heather Murray, Kathryn Swann and Gillian Ross. We had a celebratory night out for Lorna in February and would like to thank her for all her dedication and hard work in supporting hundreds of girls to reach their potential in Guiding.



The girls also achieved some badges including their Promise badge, the Agility badge, and the Guided Consumer badge, a partnership between Girlguiding Ulster and The Consumer Council to increase young people's knowledge of their consumer rights. Activities to achieve this included looking at the price of food then donating it to the food bank, and having a fashion show using old clothes along with stuff that was lying around!

During the year we also did craft, a Beetle Drive and a treasure hunt, had an Irish themed night and a Winter Wonderland night to raise money for the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children.

Coming up, some girls are planning Duke of Edinburgh expeditions in the summer, and we are going as a group to Scotland in June to attend a massive pop concert, run by Girlguiding Scotland, called the Tartan Gig!



Again, we have a big group of girls moving up to Senior Section this year, so we have plenty of room for new members - if you are female and aged 10-14 you'd be very welcome! We start back on Friday 15 September 2017 at 7:30pm!

Heather, Kathryn and Gillian

Christian Aid Walk

At the end of Christian Aid week, First Larner's were out at the Christian Aid walk in Carnfunnock Park. A nice stroll among the trees with the birds singing.....so why not come along next year?



THE BOYS' BRIGADE

> the adventure begins here



it was clear from early days that this year was going to be one of struggle, as many Companies are finding. Numbers declined dramatically and this restricted our weekly programme in a big way. In November, the Company held its annual Enrolment service in Larne Methodist Church.

After the Christmas break the Company entered the Junior 5-a-side competition with the help of one boy from 3rd Larne and, to the surprise of many, the boys won the tournament. In late January, the boys started their Scripture programme and successfully completed the examination in early March.

Queen's Badges: L to R : Morgan Wharry, Robert Boyle, Toshko Cross →



Gold Awards: L to R : Jack Campbell, Morgan Wharry, Toshko Cross, Matthew McGarel



Greg Lorimer



President's Badge:
Adam Henry



Silver Awards L to R : Aaron Marshall, Mark Bissett, Jamie Ross, Luke McKay, Craig Brown



Congratulations also to Megan Millar on achieving her Silver Duke of Edinburgh award.





First Larne Indoor Bowling Club

League and Club honours for Margaret

League Honours, at the annual Larne & District Indoor Bowling League end of season dinner, held at the Larne Bowling & Lawn Tennis Club, nonagenarian, Margaret Nelson was awarded the Ballylumford Trophy for **Personality of the Year**.

Club Honours, in addition at the Annual General Meeting of First Larne Indoor Bowling Club held on Thursday 30 March 2017, Margaret was unanimously elected to the honorary position of Vice-President of First Larne Indoor Bowling Club. The Club is very privileged to have Margaret serve in this honorary position.

Another very successful season of recreational and competitive bowling at First Larne. In footballing parlance if the bowling league worked on a promotion and relegation basis, then for much of the season we would have been in the danger zone. But thankfully it doesn't, and we ended in eleventh position, which I suppose means, as they say, we "stayed up".

A big thank you to **all** our club members who in their varying roles make sure everything runs smoothly each and every week. Thanks also to Congregational Committee and Session for their support and for the continued use of excellent facilities. In addition we would also like to thank Robbie Baillie, John Millar and Bertie Wilson for their help in maintaining our equipment.

We're always very keen to welcome new members. During the winter season, September through to March, we have a main practice/match night, which is Wednesday.

But the Club also meets on a Thursday night, where a smaller number of members enjoy a more relaxed evening of bowling.

The Club would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to come along on either of these nights, or even at another time just on their own, to get *taster*, on a one to one basis, then that can be arranged.



Margaret receiving her Trophy from out-going League Chairperson Elizabeth Woods of Raloo Indoor Bowling Club.

Indoor bowling has long had an image as being an elderly person sport, and, to an extent this is true. But as the Larne League can now bear out, there are now quite a number of young people playing competitive bowls, and, to a very high standard.

So what's stopping you !!!!!

You'll be pleasantly surprised at how much enjoyment there is in it.

Rodney Moore

League Table 2016 / 2017

Pld	W	D	L	Pts	
14	12	1	1	80.5	LB & LTC Champions
14	12	0	2	79.5	KILWAUGHTER
14	11	0	3	72.5	ALL SAINTS
14	10	0	4	64.5	GARDENMORE
14	9	0	5	62.0	RALOO
14	8	0	6	59.5	CAIRNCASTLE
14	7	0	7	52.0	BALLYNURE
14	6	1	7	47.0	CAIRNDHU
14	6	0	8	40.0	WHITEHEAD
14	6	0	8	39.0	L & K
14	5	0	9	38.0	FIRST LARNE
14	3	0	11	30.5	ST CEDMA'S
14	4	0	10	28.0	BLUE CIRCLE
14	3	0	11	24.0	CRAIGYHILL
14	2	0	12	18.0	ISLANDMAGEE

Information courtesy of

www.larneindoorbowls.weebly.com

Making something good out of our mistakes!

This recipe is a great example of how we can make something good out of our mistakes. (An Eton Mess was believed to be invented when a pavlova got squashed). The dessert is ideal for summer as it is light, refreshing and full of fruity flavours. My twist on this classic recipe uses the tropical flavours of bananas, limes and passion fruit and the Greek yogurt gives it a refreshing edge too.

Banana, passion fruit and lime Eton mess

Serves 6

2 limes
4 ripe but firm bananas
300ml double cream
200ml Greek style yogurt
2 teaspoons caster sugar
8 meringue nests,
3 ripe passion fruit



1. Grate the zest from the limes and squeeze the juice from half a lime. Peel and slice the bananas into a medium bowl. Add the lime zest and juice and stir to coat the bananas. Halve the passion fruit, scoop out the pulp and add to the bananas and lime. Set aside.
2. Place the cream, sugar and whisk to soft peaks.
3. Gently fold in the Greek yogurt.
4. Break the meringues into small 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 remaining banana mixture on top of the meringues and cream. Serve immediately, while the meringue is still crunchy.

Tips: To make a delicious passion fruit syrup, stir 150ml water with 150g sugar until dissolved and simmer with the pulp (including seeds) of 3 passion fruit until reduced and syrupy. Allow to cool before adding the bananas and lime zest and lime juice.


Bellahill
Cookery | Campervan Weddings



You are all welcome on Sunday, 30th July, 11am to our special service launching our Treasure Seekers Holiday Bible Club which runs from Monday 31st July to Friday 4th August.

All children from P1 to Year 7 (school year beginning September 2017) are very welcome. Our programme will run from 10 am till 12:15 pm.

Tea and coffee will be served in the coffee bar and there will be an area with toddler toys if parents, grandparents or guardians wish to stay to have coffee and bring younger toddlers (but we ask that

you stay & look after pre-school children and toddlers in the coffee bar area as the formal Holiday Bible Club programme is for those coming into P1 up to P7).

On Sunday 6th August at 11am we will be having another special Service celebrating our Holiday Bible Club week.

Online registration is available on our website (www.firstlarne.org.uk) and we advise pre-registering as we have limited availability. If you cannot register online please come along to the registration night on Thursday 27th July from 7pm to 8pm.

We are looking forward to a fun packed week!

Jacqueline McCallum

CHURCH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

Charlie Steven Fergie

12 Hampton Close

30th April 2017

DEATHS

Elixa Jane ("Jean") McCaughey

Cheltenham

21st April 2017

Colwyn Alan Hood

81 Ballycraig Ring

16th May 2017



Charlie Steven Fergie (with his mum, Karen) was baptised on 30th April. Dad, Steven is holding Charlie's big sister, Maisy.



First Larne Christian Aid supporters were among 300 people who attended the charity's 60th anniversary gala dinner at the City Hall in Belfast which raised the impressive sum of over £25,000!

SUMMER SERVICES

The morning services at 11am will have a very different feel. After all, it is summer! A creche will operate – but all ages are welcome as we share together under a theme provided by the teaching in Ecclesiastes 3 – “A Time for....” Summer is a special time. Make sure you do something special that makes sense of your week – be part of the celebration and worship!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June Services

Sun 18th am Fathers Day “Learn” John 15 v 15
pm Fruitful Chats 2 – “Unfruitfulness”
Sun 25th am Promiseland - “Go” John 15 v16-17
pm Fruitful Chats 3 “Towards Harvest”

July Services

Sun 2nd A Time for.... PLANTING Mk.4 v.30-32
Sun 9th A Time for.... HEALING Mk.1 v.4-42
Sun 16th A Time for.... BUILDING Ephs 4 v.17-32
Sun 23rd A Time for.... SILENCE Matt 6 v.1-4
Sun 30th “Treasure Seekers” Summer Club

August Services

Sun 6th “Treasure Seekers” Summer Club
Celebration
Sun 13th A Time for... CELEBRATING
Luke 15 v.3-7
Sun 20th A Time for....DANCING
Zephaniah 3 v.14-17
Sun 27th A Time for.... LOOKING BACK
Ecclesiastes 3 v.14

September Services

Sun 3rd Promiseland resumes
Sun 10th 11am “Back to School Sunday”
Sun 17th am & pm Communion

OTHER EVENTS

5th June General Assembly
Tue 6th Jun 7.00pm “Crows & Nightingales Workshop”
Tue 13th Jun 7.00pm “Crows & Nightingales Workshop”
Tue 20th Jun 7.00pm “Crows & Nightingales Workshop”
Mon 31st July – Holiday Bible Club
Fri 4th Aug “Treasure Seekers”
Fri 4th Aug. Community Fun Night
21st – 24th Aug PCI Residential Assembly
“Every Day Disciples”
Ulster University, Colerain

Joint Evening Services

July 2nd, 9th, 16th Gardenmore 6:30pm
July 23rd, 30th, Aug 6th Craigyhill 6:30pm
Aug 13th, 20th, 27th First Larne 7:00pm

COMING SOON.....

During June, we will be kicking off the Life Explored course for the 20 's to 30's age group, looking at what's the best gift God could give you. Please encourage anyone who may be interested in coming along to speak to me. It would be great to see you.



LIFE|EXPLORED

WHAT'S THE BEST GIFT
David Kelly GOD COULD GIVE YOU?



Back to School



Sunday 2017

Join us for an all-age service to pray for and support children and staff at the start of a new school year. Sunday 10th September 2017 11am.

“WISE UP!”
Lessons from
King Solomon



LIVE | GROW | KNOW

Thanks to all the ladies who took part in our LIVE programme for your time, openness and enthusiasm. We have both really enjoyed these sessions and hope that you were encouraged, uplifted and that your faith has got stronger as we explored the Bible and been challenged about what it means to LIVE a life for Jesus. Please do let us know if you have any questions and we look forward to the second part of the programme - GROW - next year.

With love and blessings,

Jacqueline McKinley & Jacqueline McCallum

Annual Report 2016

It has come to our attention that a few members FWO Contributions have been omitted from the Annual Report. We apologise to anyone affected. If you would like details of your giving please contact the church office (28269968).



Youth Week
31st July- 5th August
7:00pm – 9:00pm
£1 Per Night Trip £5

Find us on Facebook

<p>MONDAY</p>  <p>www.godmodex.com</p>	<p>TUESDAY</p> <p><i>it's a knockout</i></p> 
<p>WEDNESDAY</p> <p>Games Night</p>	<p>THURSDAY</p> <p>BBQ</p> 
<p>FRIDAY</p> <p>COMMUNITY FUN NIGHT</p>	<p>SATURDAY</p> <p>TRIP TO PORTRUSH</p>



Community Fun Night & Craft Fair



FREE EVENT

Mr Giggles Face Painting, Balloon Modelling
Cartoon Characters & Puppet Show
Craft Stalls ★ Live Music From The Music Yard
BBQ ★ Assault Course & Bouncy Castles
Climbing Wall ★ Blackberry Mobile Farm,
Take & Make Keyrings And Much Much More....

Friday 4th August 6:30 - 8:00pm

First Larne Presbyterian Church, 2 Inver Road, Larne, Co. Antrim, BT40 3BW
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