



# First Larne Presbyterian Church Bridge News

Worship God, Build His Kingdom, Share His Love



Going Bananas !

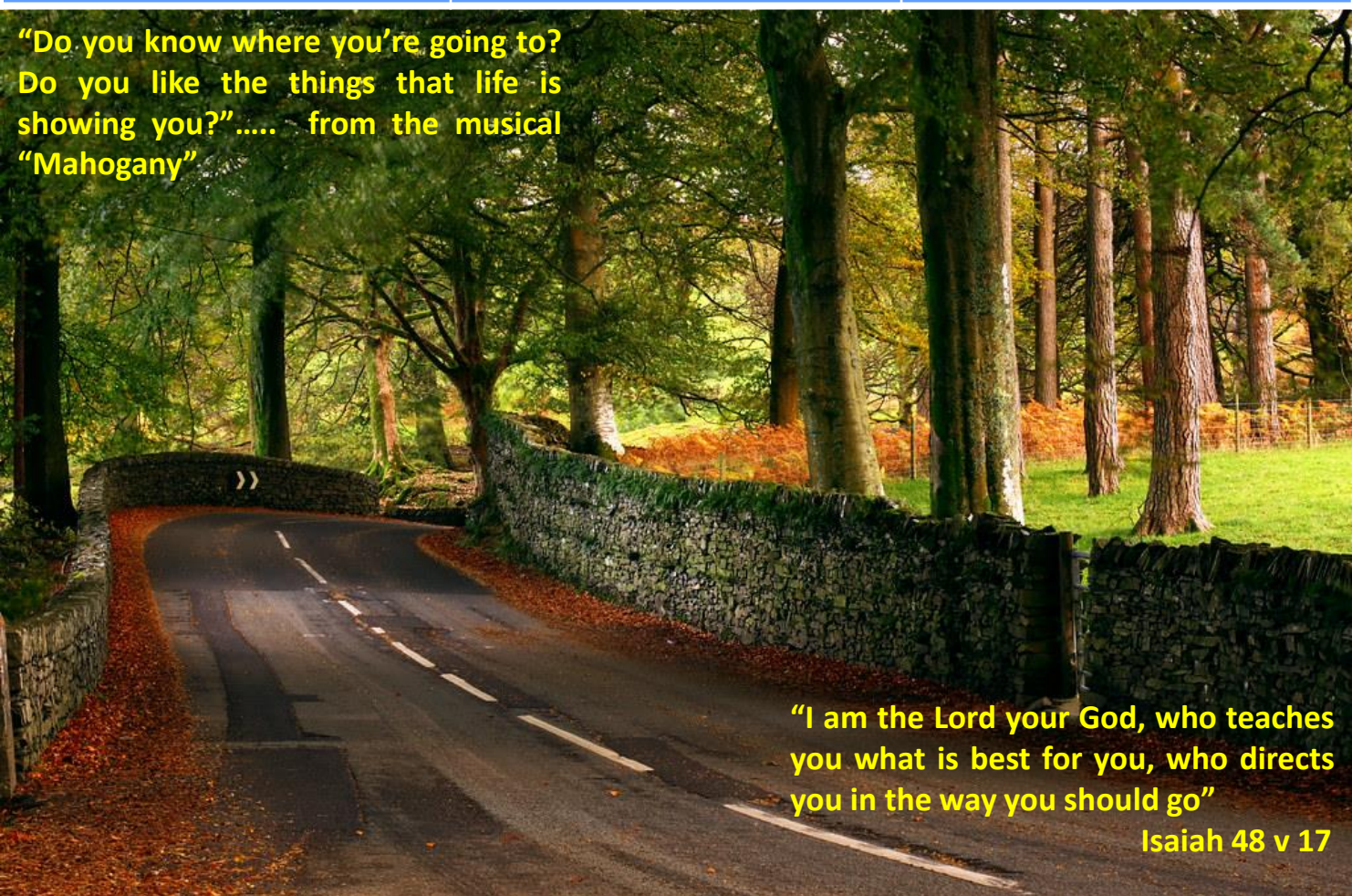


Blaze goes on holiday



Happy Retirement Sheila

"Do you know where you're going to?  
Do you like the things that life is  
showing you?"..... from the musical  
"Mahogany"



"I am the Lord your God, who teaches  
you what is best for you, who directs  
you in the way you should go"

Isaiah 48 v 17

## Summer Edition 2022 No. 416

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# COLIN'S COLUMN

## KEEPING FAITH! Leidenschaft Lebe (Passionate Life)

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August I kept an appointment which had been delayed by two years because of the Covid-19 pandemic. This summer, from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> October, 450,000 visitors from forty countries will also take their seats for the 42<sup>nd</sup> season of the Oberammergau Passion Play, originally scheduled for 2020. Oberammergau is a municipality in the district of Garmisch-Partenkirchen, in Bavaria, Germany. The small town on the Ammer River is known for its woodcarvers and woodcarvings, for its NATO School, and across the world for its tradition of mounting Passion Plays which stretches back over almost four hundred years.

Travelling to Oberammergau in 2022 the relevance of this unique theatrical, cultural and historical production, which arose as a consequence of a seventeenth century plague, connects in a new way to those who have been living through the twenty-first century's pandemic.

Let me take you back 390 years to 1632. The Thirty Years War (1618-1648) had been raging in Europe for over ten years. Millions of people were to die - as a result of conflict and from the deadly pestilence (almost certainly bubonic plague) that followed in its wake. Even though the village of Oberammergau, surrounded by many hills, had a natural barrier against the plague they still took precautions: all people entering the valley were barred from entry or placed in quarantine. This ensured Oberammergau was initially spared the horrendous effects of the plague. But not for long.

A young man from Oberammergau, Kaspar Schisler, had been away from home for months working on a farm in the Bavarian village of Ecshenlohe, some ten miles away. He longed to be home for Easter and so, under cover of darkness, sneaked in past the blockade. A few days later he was dead and his family infected. The Parish Register (the *Pestmatrikel*) subsequently records over eighty plague-related deaths.

In response to this dire situation the village leaders came together in the church.

The local chronicle records their 1633 decision and its effect: *"The village councils met and vowed to perform the Passion Play every ten years; and from this time on not a single person more died."* They made this solemn vow and it has been kept ever since, despite several cataclysmic circumstances which could have threatened the Passion Play's continuity.

In May 1634, at Pentecost, the villagers gathered in the church's graveyard to watch over sixty of their neighbours perform the first ever Passion Play in Oberammergau – "the play of the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ."

In 1680, the sixth Passion Play was rescheduled to be performed at the start of the decade.

During the eighteenth century (the so-called "Age of Reason") permission had to be sought from their political masters to perform such a "religious" act. This caused some delays or even an outright ban in 1770.

War has also interrupted the sequence of performances. For instance, in 1870 and 1871 war with France got in the way. The First World War delayed the performance until 1922. The 1940 performance did not take place because of the Second World War. There have also been additional seasons: in 1815 (after the end of the Napoleonic Wars) and in 1934 and 1984 (marking the three hundredth and three hundred and fiftieth anniversaries respectively).

The story behind the Oberammergau production is made even more remarkable by the enduring commitment of each succeeding generation of inhabitants. The vow made by the villagers in 1633 has been steadfastly observed by their descendants ever since. Down through the generations the families of Oberammergau have certainly taken their responsibilities and obligations seriously. To sustain the five weekly performances requires a mammoth effort directly involving at least 2,500 of the total population of around 5,000. As well as those involved in the drama there are the staggering logistics and practicalities – including transport, catering and hospitality – required to host almost 5,000 new people each day. It is not unknown for visitors to be served their meals and drinks at restaurants, guest houses and hotels by actors they have just seen on stage in major roles!

The production requires 18 main characters, 120 speaking parts and hundreds of extras and stand-ins. In addition, there are the people involved in the design, the staging and the epic music. There are strict eligibility criteria applied if you want a part in the Passion Play.

You have to be born in the village or lived there for twenty years. If you marry into the village there is only a ten-year residency required! Until the 1990 season no woman who was married or over the age of 35 could take a part. Prior to this latter change it was not unknown for women to put off marriage for many years in the hope of playing Mary or Mary Magdalene!

The incredible Passion Play performance has given me memories that I will doubtless be processing for some time to come. However, setting aside the astounding theatrical spectacle of the Oberammergau experience, one can not fail to be struck by the determination of today's local community to honour the faith of their predecessors by continuing and committing to the future.

So many of the key elements of the Oberammergau presentation have developed over the years and yet they are seeking to be true to their seventeenth century forebears. In our society, where many of us can trace our roots back to the seventeenth century Plantation of Ulster and are oft-times entreated to "Remember 1690", we claim to hold dear the values and commitments of our predecessors. In these next few months, as we move beyond our experience of pandemic and move into a new series of economic and social challenges, I am left wondering what our forebears might make of us and our adherence, or otherwise, to the values they struggled for. For instance, in our little community, I observe a frequent disconnect when those who loudly proclaim and parade their commitment to our historic Reformed faith but in reality live with a lack of priority when it comes to attending to it in 2022?

Oberammergau is deeply rooted in the history of that Bavarian community and yet they invite others of such differing history and experience to find a renewed direction, a clearer purpose, a deeper understanding. It was obvious to me that for some of my companions in Oberammergau it was an opportunity to discover or rediscover what it can mean to walk along the way of Jesus, to return home with a new vision for living out "the Jesus way."

I came to Oberammergau as a tourist – to see the spectacle and to also enjoy something of the many attractions of Bavaria and the Austrian Tyrol.

I left as a pilgrim – one who is forever on the way, more to see, more to accomplish, greater goals to reach in my journey with Jesus.

I thank the people and the community of Oberammergau for keeping the faith, for living the passionate life (*Leidenschaft Lebe*), and for sharing it with me and my fellow pilgrims.

As we continue our journey, our pilgrimage, emerging from the personal, corporate and societal effects of our pandemic, may we keep the faith.

The testing time ahead for us will reveal the quality of the vows we make.

The quality of our commitment to our faith into the future will become apparent in the next few months – a time when we will set down markers for the generations that follow.

We are called to live the passionate life in 2022 and beyond – *Leidenschaft Lebe* – individually and together as Church.

*Colin D McClure*

**Rev. Colin McClure**



Rev McClure, Rev. Charles Clements (Minister, Second Castlederg & Urney) and Rev. Brian Hughes (recently retired Chaplain, Belfast City Hospital) with Rev. Anja Stuckenberg, after a service in the Lutheran Church beside the Passion Play Theatre.

# Christian Aid Week 2022

The amount raised in Larne for Christian Aid week was £9182, a good total in these difficult economic times. Many thanks to all who helped in any way. The money raised will help communities struggling with the effects of climate change and drought in rural Zimbabwe. However the news from East Africa is bad.

The worst drought in 40 years, made worse by climate change, Covid and more recently the war in Ukraine, which has increased global food prices, has led to failed harvests, livestock deaths, water shortages and extreme hunger. The threat of a repeat of the horrific 1984 famine is very real. Christian Aid have appealed for donations and prayer.....

Creator God,  
The earth is yours and everything in it,  
All people and all nations under your care.  
Lord, we lift up to you the people of East Africa,

Where rivers have dried up, rains have failed, and crops have withered in the field.  
We cry out to you for rain, that the land may burst into life again.  
That people may eat and be satisfied.  
But, Lord we confess that this disaster is no surprise. It is of our own making.  
Our greed and carelessness with your precious earth has caused a climate crisis and it is the poorest who pay the cost.  
Forgive us Lord.  
Create in us a heart for justice, help us to share what we have so that help may come urgently to those in desperate need.  
May our governments respond with financial support and may they show leadership in tackling the climate crisis.  
We cry out to you again for rain,  
Rain that will roll down like a river,  
Until justice fills the earth again,  
Amen

## Might this be your time to serve? Election of Elders 2022

After the distribution of the full list of voting members in late August, along with explanatory literature, including PCI's "Choosing New Elders", voting members of First Larne Presbyterian Church are invited to return nominations for up to 6 elders by Sunday 18th September 2022.

As we approach this election of elders please take a look through the "Choosing New Elders" literature and give prayerful consideration as to who might be suitable to serve and discharge this leadership responsibility, not least at this particular period in our history – local, national and international.

### SOME RELEVANT EXTRACTS FROM "THE CODE" of the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH in IRELAND 30.

(1) The duty of ruling elders as members of Kirk Session is to work together with the minister in the oversight and government of the congregation, for the upbuilding of God's people in spiritual fruitfulness and holy concord, and for the extension of Christ's kingdom among all people.

In exercising this leadership the Kirk Session shall oversee and work along with other members who have leadership roles in the congregation.

(2) Ruling elders, by their calling, share equally with ministers in responsibility for practical witness both within the congregation and in the wider world.

(3) In the discharge of their duties each elder should be assigned by the Kirk Session pastoral responsibilities and/or other leadership roles in the congregation.

4) The Kirk Session, along with the Minister, should seek to ensure that all elders are equipped to fulfil their duties.

31. (1) To be chosen for the office of the eldership in a congregation a person must be a voting member of that congregation and a regular attendant on its ordinances. He should be circumspect and exemplary in his conduct, both in the Church and in the world, of acknowledged piety, endeavouring to maintain the worship of God in his family and held in esteem by the people. Women shall be eligible for election on the same conditions as men.

A Congregational Meeting will be held after morning service on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October to confirm the election of new elders.

# Hospitality - Anyone for coffee?



They are everywhere..... cafés; restaurants; Uber Eats deliveries; takeaways fast food chains; coffee machines in the local supermarket and garage, and pop up coffee stations. They are there because hospitality is very big business with over 70,000 jobs dependent on it here.

Sadly, however, many businesses are under serious and even terminal strain – as seen in recent weeks by the announcements of closure because of rising costs. Yet at a personal level, hospitality is a God given privilege, and one that I sense is under serious threat. I want to make an unambiguous plea for us to recover and practise the Bible teaching on ‘hospitality’ as a normal part of living for Christ. There is an increasing need in our highly individualistic society to offer hospitality to young families, singles, widows and widowers, the lonely, the visitor, the distressed, the energetic... whoever and in whatever circumstances they find themselves.

I do so for two reasons. Firstly, it is explicitly part of the Bible’s pattern and guidance for Christian living. ‘Share with God’s people who are in need. Practise hospitality’. (Romans 12 v 13) ‘Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling’. (1 Peter 4 v 9).

The call to hospitality also extends to those outside of the church: Galatians 6 v 9 tells us ‘... as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people...’ Also, in a fascinating passage in Luke 7, Simon the Pharisee appears to have held an ‘open house’, since the woman who anointed Jesus was simply accepted as someone circulating among the guests.

Secondly, some of the circumstances in the New Testament are clearly just as real today as they were then. For example, the increasing material need, shown today by the ongoing and rapid rise in the use of food banks, including by those who are in work. Add the loneliness, isolation, pressure and distress that afflict so many ‘ordinary’ people, and it is abundantly clear that hospitality, decent conversation, a listening ear and companionship go together and that there is a wonderful ministry of hospitality calling out to us all the time.

It is also important to see hospitality not as a burden, but as a joy. It is a real work of grace, since it is a response to the generosity and grace of God in salvation. It is no accident that the Easter story starts with Jesus sharing a meal with his disciples (Luke 14).

Of course, none of us can do everything for everyone who could be blessed by hospitality. Hospitality can, and should, come in all sorts of shapes and sizes, to encourage everyone to practise it! Some of us like to cook meals at home (I do). Others are excellent at inviting friends to coffee in our homes or a local café. Some have a particular ministry of preparing meals for those in need or under pressure (for whatever reason), and taking it round to them.

And there are new and creative ways to bless others with good food. If we are on our travels, what about contacting some folks who live around there, and suggesting you meet for coffee and a catch-up chat?

I am of course very aware that the cost-of-living crisis is affecting us all to a greater or lesser extent. Yet we are still unambiguously called by Jesus to take the initiative and love our neighbours as a very practical out-working of our love and commitment to him. Simply looking after ourselves is not an option for God’s people. It never has been, for the Bible is very clear that caring for those outside our own circles is crucially important. Indeed, it will count not just now, but at the final judgement (Matthew 25 v 31-46).

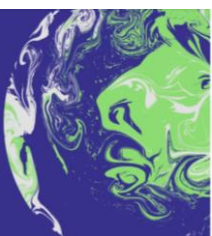
I am increasingly troubled that the importance of warm supportive relationships is constantly being eroded, even in churches. Meeting on Zoom has not been a substitute for proper fellowship. It really is time to put the sharing of food back on the menu of support and fellowship.

So – anyone for coffee? And if you want to take me up on it – please do. You can respond to this and I will buy.

This article was written for the Contemporary Christianity PS series by Very Rev Dr Norman Hamilton, retired Presbyterian minister, former Moderator of the General Assembly, and Chair of Contemporary Christianity.



# Salt of the Earth



Last November the Glasgow COP26 climate conference attracted intense media focus. Michael Jemphrey works for Wycliffe Bible Translators and its sister organisation SIL International, which partners with indigenous

communities around the world to work on translating Scriptures. As an official observer at the conference he gives us his perspective.....

COP26 was a weird and wonderful mix. The queue to get in was like that at a rugby international at Lansdowne Road among a friendly crowd of 30,000. Across the city it was like a festival, with Quakers on the pavements fasting, political activists, church groups, indigenous people in colourful traditional costumes and marches with floats, cyclists, bagpipers and more. Inside the official zone was like an academic conference with hundreds of presentations about reducing reliance on fossil fuels, saving the forests, restoring the soils, and making healthier food. In the Christian centre, where we lodged, the atmosphere was like a church youth camp for most of the network of Christians were in their 20s, along with a handful of wannabe young people like myself.

Many young people, including Greta Thunberg, were disaffected by the 'blah, blah, blah' of the COP process. However, the Young Christian Climate Network, motivated by righteous anger and courage, were able to organise a relay from Cornwall to Glasgow, respectfully speaking truth to politicians along the way. Other young people with YWAM and Tearfund held daily prayer meetings in local churches and outreaches on the streets. To me they were bringing a distinctive, Christ-like, salty taste to the debate.

Most importantly, our Sovereign Lord God was present. From His Word we know that He is passionate about caring for the humble and the poor in their plight. We also know that He calls His people to be the light of the world and salt of the earth (Matthew 5).



From my perspective as a translator, the principles used in translating the Bible can be used to improve understanding between our western outlook and indigenous people who live in areas most affected by climate change. For example, tackling the challenges of translating key terms such as 'forgiveness' and 'covenant' are similar to the challenge of translating 'fossil fuels' and 'carbon emissions.' Further, the indigenous people with whom we work have crucial wisdom about their communities. We have witnessed the disastrous results of exporting pre-packaged solutions from 'developed countries' which take no account of local conditions, knowledge and culture. Rather we all need to marry local knowledge and global knowledge to properly care for the earth which nourishes us. For that we need another skill used in translation: intense, careful listening to everything that words evoke in another culture.

Here is one example of where this is happening: In Nigeria, SIL's team have listened as farmers talk of their farming as a dirty, second-rate occupation. In response they have developed 'Faith and Farming' workshops using the translated Scriptures to aid farmers overcome this harmful self-evaluation.



Understanding that God gave Adam the task of tending the garden already helps. Building on this, farmers learn to value local practices like composting and waste reduction, which create healthier crops, animals and land, compared to reliance on imported modern chemical fertilisers, which degrade the soil and which involve fossil fuels to produce and to transport.

**Climate change in 10 words: it's real; it's us; experts agree; it's bad; there's hope**

## So where is the hope?

Climate Justice! was the outcry heard daily in every forum, march and protest against the powerful who are destroying, exploiting and polluting the earth for selfish gain (perhaps in ignorance decades ago, but with full knowledge today). So there was much sadness and anger in and around COP. Where are the

glimmers of hope in all this? And how can we Christians add salt to reinforce these glimmers?



**A glimmer:** People are realising that the situation is critical. Over 190 nations made an agreement which is somewhat amazing in itself, even though no one is claiming it is yet good enough. People are asking, “What sort of home do we want to leave our children and our grandchildren?” Some people and companies are taking matters into their own hands.

**Adding salt:** For Christians, ‘hope’ is a discipline – not wishful thinking. We know God has not abandoned us and He works through his people. Augustine of Hippo said, “Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are.” In our history William Wilberforce is an example of someone who persisted in hope in his fight against slavery. At that time people couldn’t imagine economic life without slaves. Today people can’t imagine life without oil and coal. But there are lots of options God has provided.

**A second glimmer:** There is a move away from agriculture which extracts goodness from the soil, to practices like composting, mixing trees and crops.

**Adding salt:** The Faith and Farming workshops I mentioned above are creating a lot of excitement among our colleagues and partners and moves are afoot to expand the training across different countries and continents.

**A third glimmer:** ‘We need to do this together’ was an official strapline at COP26. Here was a smidgen of humility that there is no one silver bullet to fix this.

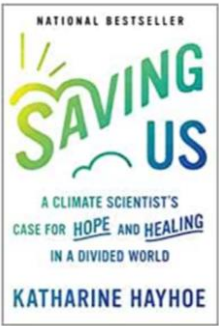
**Adding salt:** Although I am aware that we (the church, including myself) have been by no means blameless in this, it was encouraging to network with many Christians on the front line involved in scientific research, and developing farming methods which nurture the soil. Others are writing on the sabbath

(giving rest to the earth) and self-discipline (being content without grasping). Still others are involved in advocacy, education, and intercessory prayer around climate change. As translators, we talked and shared our hopes and dreams, and others welcomed the contribution we could make as together we seek to fulfil our role as the salt of the earth.

**Practical steps**

In Matthew 5:13 Jesus said, “You [plural, ‘you all’] are the salt of the earth,” so thankfully we don’t have to work this out on our own. Here are some suggestions as you read through them, ask God for wisdom on how they apply in your situation:

- Express our lamentations about the loss we are experiencing. “Lament began to do what it is intended to do. It gave me language and an outlet for the loss we are experiencing while beginning to open space for an imagination capable of hope.”
- Initiate discussions by asking questions in your own networks about some aspect of climate change or creation care which concerns you. As it becomes part of our common culture it will become unacceptable to continue to pollute our earth, like it has become unacceptable (on a smaller scale) to pollute the atmosphere of a room by smoking in the presence of others.
- Support holistic mission with a vision of flourishing communities, as our own Presbyterian Church and its different mission partners seek to act together across the continents.
- Talk with your church fellowship about setting up a creation care task force or become an eco-church. Katharine Hayhoe is a Christian climate scientist and author. Her book, *Saving Us*, sets out reasons for hope. She has also produced a series of short videos online with Tear Fund which are suitable for a small group. These resources can help you to act with increasing knowledge and love (Philippians 1:9).
- Pray that the Lord would show you as a fellowship what you can do to act together as the salt of the earth.



As you finish reading this article, pray that the Lord would show you the next step that he would want you to take in response.



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At the beginning of August, for the first time in 3 years, we were able to hold our Holiday Bible Club. Holding it in the evenings allowed those working during the day to help as leaders. We also limited numbers and had from 32 - 41 children over the 3 nights. This allowed the leaders more time to interact with each child and hopefully the children felt included in all the activities - songs, games, crafts, a memory verse and Bible stories.

The theme was "Going Bananas" and we learnt Bible stories about people who "went bananas" – doing what might have been thought of as crazy things.

How Noah built a huge boat miles from the sea (Genesis Ch 6-9). How Elijah stood up to the seemingly all powerful prophets of the pagan god Baal (1<sup>st</sup> Kings Ch 18) and how those prophets really did "go bananas" trying to get Baal to light their altar. At times it got a bit messy, especially when we got the orange, yellow and red paint out to make hand prints to represent flames for the altar. Please note that no pagan altars were built in First Larne and no bulls were actually slaughtered in this Bible club!

And of course we learnt about the craziest thing of all. How God sent His Son, Jesus, to take our punishment so that we could have a meaningful friendship with Him. God loves us and wants the best for us. He also wants us to love Him with every part of us. Each night we learned a section of our memory verse – "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." (Deuteronomy 6 v 5).

The children were enthusiastic and enjoyed each evening's programme. I think the leaders enjoyed themselves as well!



The leaders ..... and a lot of bananas



The crafts begin .....



..... It's starting to get messy !





Making the "flames"



The poor bull !



Listening to the stories .....



Biccies and juice .....



Into the Sports hall for games ..... giggles...

And a lie down for some of the leaders !



**Thank you to everyone who helped with preparation for and the running of GOING BANANAS!**



# Blaze goes on holiday !

Blaze, our symbol of Global Discipleship, has shared holidays with many First Larne folk this summer. And he seems to have had a great time visiting places in England, Scotland, Austria, Germany, and Italy. He has enjoyed sailing, chilling out at a spa, live music concerts and the Women's Football Euros. Can you identify where he has been? (answers below)



Culloden spa; St Mary's stadium Southampton (with Julie Nelson); St Mark's Square, Spanish steps and the Trevi Fountain, Rome; Ulm Cathedral Germany, Innsbruck & St Wolfgang Austria, Pompeii, Italy; Sistine Chapel Rome; Larne High School (maybe he had to do some catch up studies!)



# Service of remembrance and reflection marking the centenary of the Royal Ulster Constabulary GC



The Royal Ulster Constabulary was established on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1922.

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2001 it was renamed by legislation that stated, “the body of constables known as the Royal Ulster Constabulary shall continue in being as the Police Service of Northern Ireland (incorporating the Royal Ulster Constabulary)”.

That same legislation, the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000, established the Royal Ulster Constabulary GC Foundation and directed it to “mark the sacrifices and honour the achievements of the Royal Ulster Constabulary”. This Service was one of the events being held throughout 2022 to mark the centenary of the RUCGC.

The Rev. McClure was asked to lead the Service which took place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June in the chapel of the National Memorial Arboretum Staffordshire. The service was attended by Ian Dudson CBE KStJ, Her Majesty’s Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire and guests, including representatives of serving and former police officers, civilian support staff, and families of injured and murdered officers. Several other senior British police officers were in attendance, including the recently appointed Chief Constable of Staffordshire, Chris Noble, a former RUCGC officer.

The service was followed by a parade, led by the Band of the West Midlands Police, to the RUCGC Way, where the Rev. McClure dedicated a centenary plaque.



Chief Constable Simon Byrne QPM, Rev. McClure and Professor Stephen White OBE (Chair of the RUCGC Foundation and former Assistant Chief Constable), at the PSNI Memorial.



Leslie Busby, Lord Lieutenant Ian Dudson J, Rev. McClure.



At the entrance to the RUCGC Way where the Centenary plaque was dedicated.

Rev. McClure, Sir Hugh Orde OBE QPM (former Chief Constable, PSNI and latterly President of the Association of Chief Police Officers), Canon David Wilbraham (National Police Chaplain)

**Mushroom picking!** Having been brought up in the countryside, September was the month to go mushroom picking! I enjoyed going out into the nearby fields very early in the morning to make sure I could pick the mushrooms before anyone else. I got to know where to find them and was always amazed how they would reappear every single morning. Their snowy white caps always made me think of Moses and the Israelites, being fed in the desert with manna from heaven, which God provided for them every day to keep them alive! We should always be thankful to our heavenly father who provides all our needs and more!

**Arlene**

## **Rosemary and parmesan pork schnitzel with a creamy mushroom sauce**

### **Serves 4**

1 large pork fillet, trimmed and cut into four  
salt and freshly ground black pepper  
150g breadcrumbs  
4/5 sprigs rosemary, finely chopped  
1 lemon  
30g parmesan cheese, finely grated  
1 large egg, beaten  
2 tablespoons flour

### **Mushroom sauce**

25g butter plus 1 tbsp olive oil  
1 small onion, finely chopped  
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped  
250g mushrooms, sliced  
150ml dry white wine  
150ml double cream



- 1 Cut each piece of pork in half . Place cut side down, between two sheets of cling film. Bash with a rolling pin until flattened to about ¼ inch thickness. Season each piece well.
- 2 Mix the breadcrumbs with the parmesan, most of the rosemary and most of the lemon zest. Season well with salt and freshly ground black pepper.
- 3 Place the beaten egg in a separate shallow dish. Place the flour in a shallow dish. Dip each escalope into the flour then the egg, then coat in the breadcrumbs. Shallow fry the schnitzels: Add a good quantity of oil to a large frying pan (0.5 cm deep) and heat until hot. Carefully add the breaded escalopes and sizzle over medium-high heat and cook on both sides until you have a crisp, golden crust. Once cooked, drain well on kitchen paper.
- 4 For the sauce: Heat a large frying pan and add the oil and butter. Add the onions, cover with a lid and cook for 3-4 minutes, add the mushrooms and cook for a further 2-3 minutes then add the garlic cloves and cook for another minute. Pour in the wine. Let it reduce right down until it is nearly evaporated. Swirl in the cream. Let it bubble away over low heat for a couple of minutes, until slightly thickened. Season with black pepper and a little salt. Set aside.
- 5 Before serving the sauce, add some reserved rosemary and a squeeze of lemon juice. Garnish the pork schnitzels with a dusting of lemon zest and chopped rosemary. Serve the sauce on the side.



# CHURCH REGISTER

## MARRIAGES

Kirsten Teresa Russell & Nigel Alan McWilliams

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022

## DEATHS

|  |   |                             |
|--|---|-----------------------------|
| Mary Elizabeth ("Elsie") Wilson              | 65 Shanlea Drive                                    | 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 |
| Mary Elizabeth ("Lyla") Thompson             | Whitehead Nursing Home                              | 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 |
| Mary Agnes ("Maureen") Patterson             | 12 Craigyhill Bungalows                             | 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2022 |
| Agnes Morrow                                 | 11 Parkmount Avenue                                 | 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 |
| Samuel James ("Elgy") Crooks                 | 133 Linn Road                                       | 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 |
| William James Clements                       | 28 Knockfergus Park, Greenisland                    | 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2022   |
| Wilhelmina ("Wilma") Alexandra Patton Arnold | 15 Browndod Road                                    | 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2022   |
| Ann Craig                                    | 4 Meadow Park                                       | 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2022  |
| Olivia Russell                               | Broadways PNH (formerly of 8 Greenland Walk)        | 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2022  |
| Ronald Jones                                 | 44 Greenland Crescent                               | 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2022   |
| Robert Duffin                                | Larne Care Centre                                   | 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2022   |
| Alan Herbert Murphy                          | 52 Uppertown Road, Glenoe                           | 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2022  |
| Trevor Alexander Magee                       | 29 Starbog Road BT40 2TJ                            | 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2022  |
| Jessie Farquharson Apsley                    | Gillaroo PNH (formerly of Chaine Memorial Road)     | 28 <sup>th</sup> July 2022  |
| Martha Ferguson                              | Lisgarel Residential Home(formerly of 8 Ilse Court) | 5 <sup>th</sup> August 2022 |

"More and more I am using the term home-call, as distinct from the seemingly final expression of death, for the older I get the more convinced I am that so-called death is not the end of a relationship, but rather a new dimension of extended love in which those we have loved and lost may still be loved, and are not lost, but will be found again in the joy of grateful memory"

Rev Moorwood Meldrum

## Summer fun for all ages.....

In the Crèche every Sunday morning.....



....with Kid's Church in the Town Park....



... and with our Small Groups 'bring your own' picnic at Carnfunnock Country Park.

# What's on in First Larne

The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted so much of our "normal" lives, but we can just see a glimmer of a new start. As church activities start to return this autumn here is a list of our regular groups and organisations, more details on start back dates will be in our Sunday Announcements and on our website.

## Sunday



**Prayer Time** from 10.15am in the Choir Assembly room. All welcome. Contact: Brian Hunter 028 2827 4360; Nat Moore 028 2858 3052



**Youth Church** Sunday mornings for young people aged 11+ exploring faith & the Bible. Contact: Sandy Lindsay 07801 284663



**Kids Church** during morning service for all children under 12. Fun, Bible stories and more. Contact: Rev Colin McClure 028 2827 2441



**Crèche** from 10.45 am in Minor Hall for 0 – 3 year olds whose parents are attending morning service. Plenty of toys and games. Contact: Heather Murray 07708 205483



**FLY – First Larne Youth** from 6.30pm. Fun and fellowship for teenagers. Contact: Kathryn Swann 028 2827 7949 Amber Bryson

## Monday



**Indoor Bowls** - afternoons in the Sports Hall. All Senior Citizens welcome. Contact: Mary Magill 028 2827 4035



**BB Old Boys' Silver Band** New members always welcome. Contact: Celine Duff 07817 270751

## Tuesday



**"In Stitches"** Craft Group Bring your own craft work or learn something new while enjoying fun and fellowship. Contact: Jude Evans 07811 444818



**Women's Circle** - Meet one afternoon a month. All ladies welcome for tea, chat and special guests! Contact: Ina Ross 028 2827 7969



**GB Explorers** for girls aged 3-8 to have fun, make friends and learn about Jesus.

**GB Company Section** for girls aged 8-18 to have fun, make friends and explore faith. Contact: Deborah Dines 028 2827 9228

**BB Anchor Boys** Fun and activities for boys aged 5-8. Contact: Margaret Connor 07927432350

**BB Junior Section** Fun and challenges for boys aged 8-11. Contact: Leader & BB Captain: Wesley Magill 028 2827 6674

**BB Company Section.** Sports, challenges and exploring faith for boys aged 11-18. Contact: Philip Ross 07496259702

**Choir and Music** Contact: Stephen Reid 07917886558

## Wednesday



**Toddler Group** from 10.00am for pre-school children & their grown-ups. Contact: Janet Tweed 028 2827 8374



**Wee Cup of Friendship** – 2.00pm monthly as arranged. Entertainment, guest speakers, fellowship and a cuppa! Contact: Bev Moore 028 2858 3052



## Wednesday (Cont.)



**Indoor Bowling Club** at 7.30pm in the Sports Hall All welcome! Contact: Rodney Moore 028 2858 3866



**Men's Fellowship** from 7.30pm in the basement for snooker, banter and food. All men welcome!! Contact: Andrew Swann or Sandy Lindsay 07801 284663



**Small Groups** meet on Tuesday mornings & Wednesday evenings. Relax, enjoy refreshments while building friendships and exploring faith together. Contacts: Sandy Lindsay 07801 284663, Heather Murray 028 2834 0681, Bev Moore 028 2858 3052 and Rev Colin McClure.

## THURSDAY



**P.W.** Speakers, fun evenings, evenings out and supper. All ladies welcome! Chairperson:- Jude Evans 07811 444818 Secretary: Sharon Hollinger 028 2827 0987

## FRIDAY



**Guides** for girls aged 10-14. Fun, friends, challenges and more! Contacts: Kathryn Swann 028 2827 7949 Gillian Ross.

Rangers for girls aged 14-18. Fun, friends, challenging awards, exciting trips, events and much more!

## SATURDAY



**Model Aircraft Club** occasional Saturday afternoons in the sports hall. Everyone welcome! Contact: Billy Swann 028 2827 7949



**Walking Group** : Walk and explore, have a yarn and maybe some silliness, whilst enjoying God's beautiful creation. Usually on a Saturday but can differ during holiday periods (and due to the weather!). Check the announcements for dates. Contact: Ken McKinley or Michael Bailie

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### SEPTEMBER SERVICES

#### **Sun 4<sup>th</sup> :**

11am "Doubt Your Doubts!"

John 20 v.19-31

#### **Sun 11<sup>th</sup> :**

11am "Back to School Sunday"

#### **Sun 18<sup>th</sup> : Communion am & pm**

11am "One Foot in the Future"

1 Peter 1 v.1-12

7pm "Apocalypse Now"

Revelation 4 v.1-11

#### **Sun 9<sup>th</sup> October**

After morning service : Congregational Meeting to confirm the election of Elders.

**Small Groups** are starting again in September; the Tuesday group led by Bev Moore on the 13<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am, Wednesday's group with Sandy and Heather on the 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm in Room 4 and the Women's group on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Women's Circle** will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month starting on 27<sup>th</sup> September at 2:30pm in Room 4. All ladies are very welcome.

**Crèche** runs in the Minor Hall every Sunday morning for any child too young for Kids Church. Volunteers help on a rota but a parent or carer needs to stay with their child. It's a great opportunity for a chinwag and as we tune in to the service audio we don't need to miss anything. So if you're unsure whether to bring your wee one to church, rest assured they can be well catered for!



## First Larne Wedding



Kirsten Teresa Russell & Nigel Alan McWilliams were married by Rev. McClure in First Larne on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022.

### Now There's a Thought

We do not need to do exceptional things for God, rather "we have to be exceptional in ordinary things, to be holy in mean streets, among mean people, surrounded by sordid sinners. That is not learned in five minutes."

(Oswald Chambers)

## Happy Retirement Sheila

Our Congregational Administrator, Mrs Sheila Doran, retired at the end of May 2022 after 16 years service with First Larne. Sheila wants to thank all those who sent greetings, good wishes, cards and gifts to mark her retirement.

First Larne Minister Rev. Dr Colin McClure, our Clerk of Session, Robin Tweed, and the Secretary to Congregational Committee, Sandy Lindsay, thanked Sheila for her devoted work and faithfulness to our congregation and made a presentation to Sheila on behalf of the congregation on her last day.

Since retiring, Sheila has been able to visit her sister in Canada, spend more time with her growing family and enjoy all the new planting in her garden. We wish Sheila a long and very happy retirement.



### AND FINALLY.....

A minister had been taking part in a summer mission event at a seaside town. Everything went really well except that, when he got home, he realised he had lost his favourite Bible which he had been given when he was at college.

He tried to remember where he had last seen it. He worried that someone had stolen it, or worse that it had been thrown out with all the fast food debris at the event. He made some phone calls....but to no avail. He was depressed and a little bit angry.

On a Sunday, about a month later, he was about to get into his car after the service when he spotted a friendly looking dog trotting towards him wagging its

tail. The animal was carrying something in its mouth which it dropped down at the minister's feet. The preacher couldn't believe his eyes.....it was his precious Bible.

Almost overwhelmed by his emotions he raised his eyes heavenward and exclaimed, "It's a miracle!"

"Not really," said the dog.  
"Your name's written inside the front cover."



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