

# First Larne Presbyterian Church

# The Bridge News



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



**Supporting Cancer Research**



**Who is Jax McCallum?**



**Remembering the fallen**

**The other stuff**

**For God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through Him**

**John 3 v 17**

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and love your neighbour as yourself.**

**Luke 10 v 27**



**The heart of Christmas**



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# COLIN'S COLUMN

## PRESENCE AT CHRISTMAS

When I was a schoolboy the question most frequently exchanged in the weeks before Christmas was the thinly disguised egotistic and unashamedly mercenary, "What are you getting for Christmas?" If recent retailing indicators are any indication, that timeless enquiry is not confined to the school playground. For instance, it is predicted that this year the advertising for Christmas will be the highest ever, with retailers spending £5.6 billion informing and enticing us – an increase of £300 million on 2015. In recent years we have witnessed scenes like this in the run-up to Christmas.....people fighting over a TV.



Even before we get to December, Black Friday 2016 is expected to be a five-day weekend spree when over £5 billion will be spent on presents. Add to that the internet shopping which was worth £728 million in 2015, an increase of 11% on 2014.

Whatever the actual figures and however they are actually bought, there are a lot of presents purchased in the few weeks of Advent. Indeed, in the UK and USA a quarter of all personal spending occurs in December. In a recent survey commissioned by Bobatoo, a popular finance website, 60% of couples spend between £100 and £200 on their partner. However, children fared even better, with 58% of parents shelling out between £100 and £300 on each child.

Unfortunately, despite the slick advertising and huge expenditure, we are not always very clever when it comes to our purchases. Another survey, undertaken

on behalf of Triodos Bank, estimates the value of unwanted Christmas gifts to be in excess of £2.6 billion. So when it comes to buying Christmas presents we often do not get it right; in fact, we very definitely need to do better!

I want to strongly suggest there are bigger questions about giving - about what we give and how our giving can be better. In fact, these bigger questions were alluded to at the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday service earlier this year when Sir David Attenborough read from Michael Bond's reflection on the passing of the years:



**"My father's motto was – the most precious gift you can bestow on a child is your time."**

Bond (Michael, not James!) was stridently asserting there was something priceless

and intangible to be given to a child that did not feature in any of the financial transactions described in the previously quoted statistics. This giving is not confined to that form of valuation. The gift, as described by Bond, is about the value placed generally upon relationships and specifically upon the relationships that nurture our children and young people.

This causes me to think about that relationship, that correlation, between economics and relationships. Social commentators have observed that part of the reason for the high spending on presents, the "Christmas blow-out", comes from overstretched parents who, feeling guilty because of the lack of time they are able to give to their children, attempt to compensate by extravagant material gifts.

We are all affected by the drive to work excessive hours. For some, the insecurity of temporary posts and zero hours contracts increases the pressure. A recent survey by mental health charity "Mind" of primary care workers found that work is currently the most stressful area of our lives. This is just further evidence that in our "advanced" societies we are not coping emotionally and spiritually with the pace and demands of "progress". Whatever our occupation, the need to keep up has become a tyranny of the soul, adversely affecting our professions and our relationships with our children and young people.

In recent weeks I have heard several people refer to a novel by Douglas Coupland - "Girlfriend in a coma". In the intriguing plot, the central character wakes up after being in a coma for 17 years. She comments on how the lives of her friends have developed:

".....There's a **hardness** I'm seeing in modern people..... Life's so **serious** now. I mean nobody even has hobbies these days. Nobody seems able to endure being by themselves either but at the same time they're **isolated**. People work much more, only to go home and surf the internet and send e-mails rather than visiting each other. **The whole world is about work: work, work, work.**"

Last year Natasha Devon, formerly the UK Government's children's mental health champion, drew attention to the effect our lifestyle is having on family relationships and the consequent well-being of our children.



She said, "Anxiety, for example, is the fastest growing illness in under-21s, and we need to look at what's happening to young people – the culture and society they live in, the pressures that are on them."

People involved in education and in health care of young people are concerned at the increasing evidence of the negative effects of social media on young people's mental health. In addition, they are pointing to the busyness of parents as a root cause of so many of the other symptoms of the disjointedness and unease in our society.

Given what is so obviously happening to our young people in particular and our society generally, is it not time for a radical resetting of our priorities? Have we imbibed so many ungodly values that the core beliefs at the heart of our family, school, work and community life are choking out the abundant life God intends for us and our loved ones? Instead of continually buying the lie that we can buy our way to success is it not time we woke up and recognised that

the essentials for living are those gifts, those values, which nourish our souls as well as our bodies. We can all too easily forget the Biblical truth that we are not simply flesh, blood, bones and biochemistry but are, at our core, spiritual beings.

Should we be surprised that increasing numbers of our young people are turning their backs on Christian values and the Church when, for the last few generations, we have been modelling an ever increasing consumerist and materialistic life-style ourselves? In pursuing what we think is best for our children, have we directed them to value the success that is external and fleeting rather than what is internal and eternal?

At this season of giving – when we are supposedly celebrating the greatest gift given to us by God Himself – let us resolve to do better in our giving. Indeed, let us determine to give our children, our grandchildren, our family, friends and neighbours, the best gift we can. Michael Bond obviously regarded his father's time as that most precious gift – but I believe we have more to give. Let us give our presence more fully so that our children will be in no doubt about our love for them and our desire to pass on to them our values so that they can thrive with a spiritual and moral compass they see directing our lives.

May we give our presence now so that we can shape a more secure future for our children. A better future will mean challenging now the moral priority given to the individual over the community, image over content, the fleeting over the enduring.

**"What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?"**

**Matthew 16 v.26 (NIV)**

**"What kind of deal is it to get everything you want but lose yourself? What could you ever trade your soul for?"**

**Matthew 16 v.26 (The Message)**

**Rev. Colin McClure**

# You Are Not Alone This Christmas

Sorry to be the one pointing this out but Christmas is just around the corner. We think to ourselves where has the year gone? Now this message can impact you in two ways. One can be total panic when you think of all that you have to do - who am I buying for and what will I get them? Or, when am I going to get the time to put up the decorations and order the turkey? Maybe you are filled with joy because you have already thought ahead and have everything organised. I wish I was the second response.

The truth is the lead up to Christmas can be a very busy time but it can also be great fun. Christmas itself can be an amazing time of the year; we attend carol services and catch up with family who have been away all year. For me, I love spending time with my family and my friends because I don't see them much throughout the year. While we get caught up with all the excitement, joy and fun of being together with those who we are close to, the reality is that this isn't the case for everyone.

There are many people who spend Christmas alone for different reasons, maybe due to work, or because family live too far away. For others Christmas can be very painful as it reminds them of the person they loved who isn't around anymore. Maybe this is your first Christmas without that someone who was close to you. Whatever reason you are feeling lonely this Christmas be encouraged - you are **NEVER ALONE!**

Jesus speaking to his disciples in Matthew 28:20 says, **"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age"**. Whatever challenges we face in life, God, our heavenly Father and Jesus our Saviour and Lord, wants us to know as stated in Hebrews 13:5 **"I will never leave you nor forsake you"**. When we feel alone we sometimes just need to remind ourselves of the truth that as God's people we are never alone, because God and Jesus love us too much to leave us alone.

You might be thinking you don't know how I am feeling and you know what, you are right I don't, but God does. If you are feeling sad or broken this Christmas then don't worry, God is there for you. Talk to Him, He wants to listen, tell Him how you feel and let Him be the one you spend your Christmas with this year. He promises not to let you down.

We talk a lot about light in church at this time of the year; in fact we talk a lot about light throughout the year in church, but the light we talk about and celebrate at this time of the year is the light of the

world, Jesus. We use a lot of light during the Christmas season to decorate our homes inside and out and pretty much everywhere, but it is important that we remember and celebrate the true light that will never go out. It is because of Jesus' light burning bright that His light continues to burn bright in us despite the darkness we are facing or feeling. Psalm 18:28 says **"For it is you who light my lamp; the Lord my God lightens my darkness"**. The days are shorter at this time of the year and it seems to get darker and darker. The psalmist reminds us here that no matter how dark things get in our lives, there is always light. If you think you are alone this Christmas remember you aren't.

Christmas is a great time to remind ourselves of God's love for us. It is also a great time to remind ourselves of the hope we have in Jesus. Paul says in Romans 15:13, **"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope"**.

Can I encourage you this Christmas, no matter where you find yourself or whoever you spend it with, to remind yourself of the hope that is available to you in Jesus, a hope not to just get us by, but a hope that fills us till we are overflowing. Be excited about what God has planned for you; ask Him to fill you with his joy and peace this Christmas. Try to set yourself a goal of reading your bible and praying more. Get excited this Christmas about the joy and peace that God is going to place in your life and hearts as you seek and love Him with all your heart, soul and mind.

**"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."**  
Joshua 1:9

If you don't know Jesus this Christmas then why don't you come and join the celebration and receive the saving gift of Jesus into your life? The true light that will be with you always.

No matter how much we make Christmas about us we must remember that it is about God and Him alone and what He did for us. He sent His Son Jesus to give peace to mankind, the peace of Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross. So wherever you are this Christmas remember you are not alone because we have a generous and loving God who cares for us and will never leave us.

David Kelly



# Remembrance Sunday

## 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016



As the procession made its way from the cenotaph to First Larne the sky turned grey and sombre and a light drizzle came down as if the skies were shedding a tear. The service, in this special year of so many moving remembrances, contained poignant reminders of inspiring heroism and the appalling carnage of war, no better illustrated than at the Somme in 1916. The long list of names from the two world wars and our recent troubles, read quietly but clearly by our Clerk of Session, reflected so many lives lost from such a small community as First Larne congregation.

And for what? Has the world changed? Yes, and sadly no. Millions are still being killed in wars around this deeply flawed world. But what of the light shining through what could be gloom and despair ? Our faith and hope in Christ, the bridge between this flawed world and the infallible God, the bridge between the certainty of death and the promise of a future better life in a better world.



This year's PCI World Development Appeal focuses on two countries in Central and South America. El Salvador in Central America is about 1½ times the size of N. Ireland but it is much more densely populated, with 6.2 million people compared with around 1.7 million here. The country was torn apart by a civil war in the 1980's. Although peace accords were signed in 1992, the war left legacies of destroyed infrastructure, gang violence, interrupted education and unemployment. Land polluted with pesticides and a coastline highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, with 80% of the country being at risk, add to the problems.

Christian Aid partner PROCARES (Programme for Capacity Building and Reconstruction in El Salvador) has been working for some years with resettled refugees in an area called Jiquilisco Bay on the southern coast. The people are fishermen but the coastline is vulnerable to severe storms caused by climate change. PROCARES has helped these fishermen to preserve and plant new mangrove forests because they provide strong protection against destructive tropical storm surges.



The El Zompopero Co-operative Society has brought together four smaller shrimp fishing co-operatives and whilst the government has provided a building, it has no equipment. The local fishermen know how to catch the shrimps, but they never really focused on selling their produce, always depending on intermediaries. Funds allocated from the World Development Appeal will be used on improving the electrical infrastructure, including a generator, access road improvements and a refrigerated truck to allow the fishermen to get their shrimps to market. They

and accountancy.

During the civil war in El Salvador, Carlos Parada was wounded by a landmine and he struggled to accept that what he had lost was little compared to what he might still do. Now he has hope - "They say for each one of us God has given us a mission", Carlos says "For me, my time is not up yet".

Think of Brazil and many will picture lush tropical jungle and the Amazon river, or maybe the Olympic Games held in Rio de Janeiro this year. But, in this vast country the north east has a semi-arid climate. It is one of the poorest areas of Brazil. The better land is owned by a few large farmers leaving the poor, many descendants of slaves, with no land or poor land. Many people leave home for months each year becoming migrants in search of work.

Tearfund partner ACEV (Evangelical Action) has been working with these communities to provide clean water. The people of Fonseca village used to have to carry water on donkeys along a steep 3km long track. ACEV helped them build a well, overcoming opposition from some of the most powerful figures in the region to obtain the necessary permissions to dig the well. Now the community have hope for the future. Now there is a reliable source of water for washing, cooking and growing crops.

Alexandro Martins used to travel thousands of miles from Fonseca looking for work cutting sugar cane or picking fruit. Now he is on his way to becoming a settled farmer growing vegetables for his family and to sell at the local market. Thanks to ACEV he received the technical training and basic equipment just to get started. "We are planting coriander, lettuce, beetroot, zucchini, okra...." he says "And we don't use any poisonous chemicals. I have to thank you. It's all good".

In the nearby village of Gloria when the well was drilled "everything improved". A newly formed farmers association is working with ACEV to provide training in agricultural methods including organic farming and use of the new water supply. At their own expense local Christians are building their own church and intending to stay.



Funding provided by the World Development Appeal will allow ACEV to continue this work, providing new wells and agricultural training; using organic farming and planting crops suited to the dry climate; and training in reforestation to reduce soil erosion.



These people are eager to learn and resilient. They know they have work to do and just need a hand to take the next step. That is where we can help by offering our money this Christmas through Christian Aid and Tear Fund.

## Who is Jax McCallum?

Thank you very much for the lovely warm welcome you have all given me! God has already blessed me through you and I pray that we will continue to bless each other as we seek to serve and worship Him wholeheartedly in the next few years.

Here's a little bit about me so that you can get to know me better: I'm the second daughter of the most wonderful parents ever, Andrew and Moira. My oldest sister Stephie is married to Robbie and they have a beautiful baby girl; one of my younger brothers, Jason, is married to Cecily; and then there is my youngest brother Axel. We grew up in a house round the suburbs of Buenos Aires (the capital city of Argentina). As a family we loved spending summertime together camping down in the south of Argentina and wintertime on our farm.

As a family we became members of St Michel's Anglican Church in Martinez where I attended Sunday School and, in time, the Youth Group. In my late teenage years I was chosen, with another 11 youngsters, to become leaders of this group. The 12 of us met weekly with our pastor where he trained and disciplined us, as we all studied the Scriptures together. At that time I was studying Graphic Design at university and in my spare time got involved in summer camping activities, mission trips, and many more ministries. During my service in these groups I felt called to serve God in a full time ministry in an

English speaking country. So, in 2009 I started to study Theology.

In 2010, through SAMS UK & Ireland's Fusion program I was placed in St. Canice Parish in Eglinton for three months, and then for two more years in St. Saviour's Church of Ireland in Craigavon where I was able to work alongside Church Army Evangelists and serve the local community. During one of these years I job shared and also worked at Seagoe Church in Portadown as a Pastoral Assistant.



In 2013 I joined Latin Link and served for a year in Strand Presbyterian Church in East Belfast as a Youth and Community Worker. I then worked in Ballylinney Presbyterian Church for a further two years as a Children, Youth and Family Worker. And today I find myself working here in First Larne Presbyterian Church as a Community Support Worker. I am thrilled to be here and expectant to see God at work in our lives and the local community!

God bless you all!

**Jax, Jacqueline McCallum**

PS : We are delighted to be in partnership with Latin Link and are looking forward to Jacqueline's time with us. She comes with considerable experience and the respect, love and blessings of those among whom she has already served. Initially in First Larne, Jax, as she is happy to be known, will augment our pastoral care provision. Welcome her when you meet her, and encourage her in the various roles of service she will be undertaking.

**Rev. Colin McClure**



# Abaana Children's Choir Tour

The word "Abaana" comes from a language of Uganda and means "children." The Bangor based Abaana charity works with disadvantaged children in Uganda and today has 4,000 children attending 13 schools across Uganda (1,300 of the children are sponsored). That is 4,000 lives that have the chance to break free from the poverty cycle. Abaana also works with homeless children living rough on the streets of the Ugandan capital city, Kampala.

Some of our First Larne members went on a trip to Uganda in 2011 to help build a school and meet some of the children. We were about to leave Christ



the King Primary School to go home thinking we would not see the beds we had raised funds for. It was so good to load them from the lorry and carry them into the dormitory. The excitement from the children was indescribable!



You will see from this photo, taken in 2013, that the beds have been well used. Notice the mosquito nets - although as the photo was taken during the school holidays some nets have been taken home. This is encouraged as such nets can save lives in a region where mosquitoes can be deadly. The beds and nets have done so much more than give the children somewhere comfortable to sleep. It is a matter of life and death!

Now some of the former street children will be coming to see us. From February to May 2017, Abaana will be bringing a choir of 20 children from Uganda to tour the UK and Ireland. These children will be "Ambassadors" for the children still living in poverty in their communities. The choir will perform Ugandan and English gospel songs, in schools and churches. Quite literally from the streets of Kampala, scraping for food to survive, to touring the UK and Ireland in the care of Abaana, trying to raise awareness and money to help transform their own communities.

First Larne are hosting the choir on 28th May 2017. We will probably ask families to take a child or two (with chaperone) for a night or two around that time. All the children are coming from a background of poverty and do not have many clothes. You can help by donating good children's clothing to the Abaana office in Bangor

Through this tour, Abaana hope to be able to sponsor the education of another 200–300 children and rescue more children from the streets. This will be an incredible experience for the children in the choir and also an amazing opportunity for them. If we open our hearts to them it could be an amazing opportunity for us.

Further details of the tour and the work of Abaana can be found on the website [www.abaana.org](http://www.abaana.org)







The weather forecast for Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August was for a wet day. That, plus the fact the Council Flower Show was also taking place in the afternoon left us wondering what our catering numbers might be. In the event the weather was rather nice and we attracted a number of people from the Flower Show.

Friday afternoon saw the usual last minute checks on "food supplies", had we enough, had we too much or do we need more? Contingency plans to try and cover all eventualities were put in place and by Friday evening attention turned to setting-up the Memorial Hall with table, chairs, cups, saucers, auction goods, balloons. A small band of helpers assembled and all available tables and chairs were put in place.

During the latter part of the week items for the auction were transported from Ballygally to the Memorial Hall. Even late on Friday evening, furniture and other auction items were arriving. We thought at one stage we might have to tactfully

refuse any more auction donations, but that wasn't necessary and on the day everything was sold.

**A big "thank you" to all those people who helped by baking tray-bakes, serving refreshments, clearing up, and a host of other tasks too numerous to mention. We are also extremely grateful, not only to the Larne shops and traders who donated goods and gift vouchers, but to those in Belfast, Ballymena, Ballyclare and Lisburn.**

Thanks also to the letting committee of First Larne church for granting permission for the event to be hosted in the Memorial Hall.

We were delighted and overwhelmed by the attendance of so many people and to their display of generosity. The total amount raised, including gift aid, amounted to £4,240.93.

### Rodney & June



Our congregation has also been busy raising money for the NI Hospice. The Hospice "Big Coffee Morning" on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September, raised £550 with Gift Aid taking the total to over £600. Many thanks to everyone who provided tray bakes, helped make the tea and coffee and supported the event.

# Promiseland

Promiseland started back in September and it was great to welcome along some new faces, as well as those from previous years. We also bid farewell to some of the older members who are now at the age to attend Bible Class and we wish them well as they continue their learning of Jesus.

Looking ahead we have some special events at Christmas and in the new year. At the time of writing we're finalising our theme and beginning rehearsals for our **Christmas Service which will be on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 11am**, where all children in Promiseland will be taking part. We're also looking forward to our **Christmas Party on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm-4pm**, where we will be having a short practice for the service the next day, followed by party games, food and even a visit from Santa who may have a special gift for the boys and girls.

Even though it is still a little while off, we're also looking forward to a special event **in January 2017, where we will be having a Teddy Bears Picnic in aid of Spud Bears Ministries**. More details will follow in the new year, but make sure to keep Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January free!

# Toddler's Group

Our Toddler Group also started back in September, and whilst we first thought that our first day back would be calm and relaxing, we were soon surrounded by many excited toddlers who were nearly bursting at the seams with excitement to get back to tots. It was great to see so many regular faces come back and join us and it is also a pleasure to keep welcoming along new faces each week.

Since September, we have been working on getting our crèche up and going again as it's great to see so many young children about the church on a Sunday morning. In the coming months, we hope to see this continue to go from strength to strength and to see it flourishing along with our other ministries. Janet does a very good job of keeping the theme of the craft on par with the relevant time of year, and for some of the children, the craft table is the first thing they head for as soon as they come in the door!

Our volunteers do an excellent job of coming in early each Wednesday morning and getting the hall set up into each different area, however as you can see, this doesn't stay this way for long.



Before.....

after 2 hours of fun

Each of the above children's ministries may seem small to some people, or that we're only doing a small role in a child's life on a Sunday or Wednesday morning. However, it's important to remember that it doesn't matter how many children we have attending each of these ministries, or how regularly they attend, but that ultimately some of this may have planted a seed that will one day grow into that child or parent/carer coming to faith. Each ministry we provide in our church, and each volunteer within that organisation, plays an important role in the ultimate reason that we're here - to expand God's kingdom by spreading the word of his Gospel.

On that note, I want to thank everyone involved with Promiseland, Toddler Group and Crèche and those who give up their time to volunteer in other children's organisations within our church. Without you, there would be no one here to keep helping our children learn more about our God.

Many thanks once again, and enjoy your well-deserved break over the Christmas Holidays,  
God Bless,

**Natalie Norris**





On the 28th of October a number of our young people from the Youth Fellowship, along with leaders, attended the PCI Mad weekend. This year the theme was based around being plugged in. Like many electrical appliances that need to be plugged into a power source in order to work and function, as Christians we need to be plugged in to God in order to function correctly. Over the three days the young people from our congregation, along with over a thousand other young people from different Presbyterian congregations, worshipped and praised God. There were seminars which the young people attended looking at areas such as being plugged in online which focused on how we navigate the online world. Being plugged into your church, helping the young people work out ways that they can make a difference. There was also a seminar called plugged into school which explored ways to help the young people face the challenges of school life and how to



stand strong in their faith. During the day on Saturday there was a variety of games and activities for everyone to get involved in which everyone really enjoyed.

In the evenings we heard from three fantastic speakers. On the Friday we looked at what it meant to be plugged into Jesus and what a relationship with him is really all about. On the Saturday we heard about being plugged into church, thinking about how church is not just important for us, but it needs us. Then finally on Sunday we thought about how we can be plugged into my world, which helped the young people think about where they spend most of their time.

The weekend was really encouraging for our young people and leaders and I know we look forward to going again next year - we hope to see you there.

**David, Natalie and Andrew**





# A Yorkshire Jewel

During the summer holidays we had the pleasure of visiting Ripon cathedral in Yorkshire, close to Harrogate. It is one of the lesser known cathedrals, but very beautiful and very interesting with a history reaching back to the 7<sup>th</sup> century. It is the mother church for the Diocese of West Yorkshire.

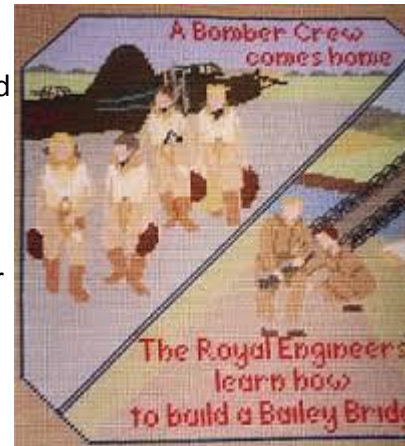
It was founded by St. Wilfrid around 634AD, who brought craftsmen from Europe to build a stone church on the site. The church building was dedicated to St. Peter in 672AD. Of the original building only the Saxon crypt survives and the present church contains several architectural styles from the different times of construction, for example the transepts date from the late 1100's and show Norman arches and there are also later pointed Gothic arches.

The people of Ripon wanted to do something special to mark the millennium in 2000 and decided, as a community project involving as many as possible, to make 38 individually designed boxed cushions to run along the entire length of the interior walls of the nave. Each one is worked in needlepoint and represents a piece of the history of this part of Yorkshire, the history of Ripon and its cathedral.



relevant coloured wools, a canvas and instructions for the members of the stitching team. The canvas was mounted on a frame the size of which, 5 feet long by 16 inches wide and 3 inches deep, illustrates the scale of the project – the total length of the nave is 169 feet!

Those who contributed to the work ranged in age from 6 to over 90 and included school children, a group of Tibetan nuns, a former prisoner of war, an ex RAF bomber pilot and various community groups.

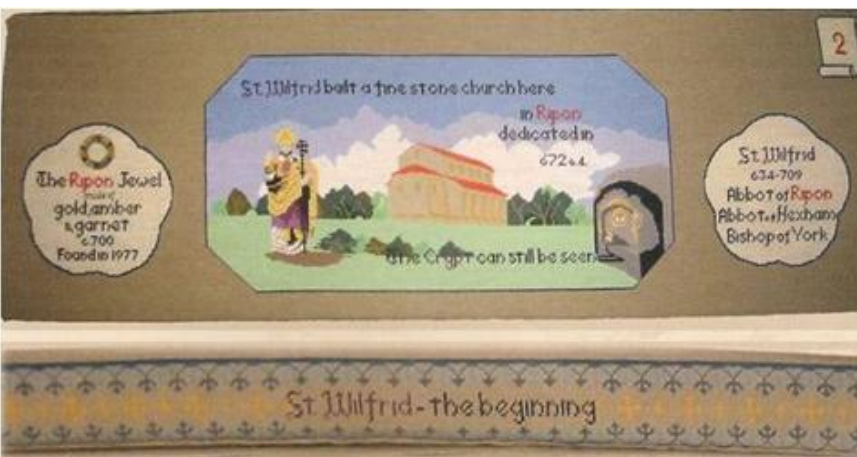


Some people worked at home, others in the cathedral's beautiful, naturally lit, library. It is estimated that an amazing **FIVE MILLION** stitches were required!

It is hard to comprehend the amount of hard work, meticulous organisation and determination required to finish such a big project but it is so impressive and well worth a visit by anyone visiting Yorkshire.

**Yvonne Curran**

A committee was formed in 1999, chaired by Connie Birkinshaw, and they came up with a work plan and a theme for each cushion. A local artist, Alan Matthews, then painted a watercolour or a black & white sketch, which would later be transformed into a pattern by Marion Thew & Maureen Lowe. They then developed a kit made up of a cushion pattern, all the





## Memories!

I was one of those little girls who just loved to bake, and every Christmas my mum and I would make a chocolate log covered in chocolate butter-cream and decorate it to look like a real log. We would sprinkle it with snow (icing sugar), add a plastic holly leaf and a little snowman bought from Woodside's, would be perched on top. Here is a more sophisticated version, filled with morello cherries and cream. For decoration I dipped fresh cherries and bay leaves in beaten egg white and then caster sugar to give a frosted appearance. It really is delicious and perfect for a dinner party or as a Christmas day dessert. Happy Christmas from Arlene.

### Chocolate roulade with Morello cherry cream

Serves 8

150g dark chocolate (70% cocoa solids)

5 large eggs, separated

150g caster sugar

Cocoa powder for dusting

*For the filling:*

200ml double cream

2tbsp sweetened chestnut puree (optional)

1 x 400g jar morello cherry compote, drained

6 cherries from compote to decorate



1. Melt the chocolate in a heatproof bowl over a pan of barely simmering water, then set aside.
2. Meanwhile lightly grease a 30 x 23cm swiss roll tin with baking paper. Heat the oven to 160C, Fan 140C, gas 3.
3. In a large bowl, whisk the egg yolks and sugar together for 3-4 minutes until pale and creamy. In a separate bowl, using clean whisks, whisk the egg whites to stiff peaks. Whisk the cooled chocolate into the egg yolk mix, then fold in the egg whites in stages until combined. Spread evenly into the tin.
4. Bake for 20-25 minutes until risen and firm to touch. Turn the roulade out onto a sheet of baking paper dusted with cocoa in one swift movement. Remove the tin and cover with another layer of baking paper and a clean damp tea towel. Leave to cool.
5. Whisk the cream until thick and whisk in the chestnut puree if using. Remove the tea towel and baking paper and spread the cream over the roulade, leaving a 2cm border all the way round. Reserve 6 cherries for decoration and spoon over the cherry compote.
6. Roll up as tightly as you can onto a rectangular serving plate or board, using the baking paper underneath to help. Decorate with cherries and serve, in thick slices drizzled with drained syrup from the drained compote.

**COOKS TIPS:** Try flavouring the cream with 1-2 tablespoons kirsch instead of chestnut puree. Suitable to freeze in tin at end of stage 4.

## Thanks from the very little children (and the nurses)

First Larne knitters have been busy knitting hats, blankets and cardigans. The Staff at Antrim Hospital Neo Natal Unit are so grateful for all these items as they never have enough. Since February of this year we have handed over 298 knitted hats, 56 cardigans and 42 blankets and they have been put to great use by those little premature babies. So please keep up the knitting over the winter months and leave in the vestibule for pick up. Your work is greatly appreciated.



Margaret Boyle

# Jim Kirkpatrick Cup Competition 2016

The annual Kirkpatrick Cup competition took place in First Larne sports hall from 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> October. This was the 48<sup>th</sup> annual tournament which takes place at the same time every year. Organised and run by First Larne Indoor Bowling Club, it sees clubs playing on qualifying nights, Monday to Thursday, with the finals played on the Friday night.

A total of 32 rinks took part this year, drawn mostly from the Larne & District Indoor Bowling League. This year we were also delighted to receive entries from non-league club, Carnlough, as well as 1<sup>st</sup> Ballyeaston Presbyterian and Ballynure Presbyterian, who both play in the East Antrim Indoor Bowling League. First Larne Indoor Bowling Club entered three rinks, and whilst two were eliminated during the qualifying nights, one rink made it through to Finals night on Friday. The First Larne rink, skipped by Rene Gallagher, were drawn in their quarter-final tie against a rink from Cairncastle Indoor Bowling Club. In a hotly contested tie First Larne won and went forward to a semi-final tie against eventual winners, a rink from All Saints of Craigyhill.

In the final our close neighbours, Gardenmore faced All Saints. After 7 ends of normal play the game

was drawn and a tie-end had to be played with All Saints coming out the winners. Margaret Nelson presented the runners-up trophy and prize to Dale Bodles, skip of Gardenmore, and the winners trophy and prize to Darren Witherspoon, skip of All Saints.

Our thanks to all the clubs who participated, to our band of helpers who undertook the catering and umpiring duties and to the spectators who came to watch. Our Club would also like to extend sincere thanks to the Session and Committee of First Larne Presbyterian Church who annually extend us the exclusive use of the sports hall.

## Rodney Moore



All Saints, winners, Kirkpatrick Cup 2016  
L to R, Andy Thom, Darren Witherspoon, Nigel Todd (Margaret Nelson) and James Burns



Gardenmore, Runners-up, Kirkpatrick Cup 2016  
L to R Sam Wallace, Dale Bodles, Andrew Robinson and Tommy Bodles



First Larne's Margaret Nelson, Rene Gallagher, Rodney Moore, and Tommy Porter



## CHURCH REGISTER

### BAPTISMS

Rebecca Alexandra Reid	21 Croft Manor	3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2016
Annabelle Grace Reid	21 Croft Manor	3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2016
Brooke Dorothy Marie Allen	87 Circular Road	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2016

### MARRIAGES

Lyndsey Jayne McAllister & Anthony McDonnell	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2016
James Paul Magill & Margaret Ann Hunter	8 <sup>th</sup> October 2016

### DEATHS

Elizabeth Christie	19 Curran Road	24 <sup>th</sup> August 2016
Martha ("Meta") Crooks	Larne Care Centre	8 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
Catherine McAllister	67 Garron Crescent	30 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
Grace McAuley	31 Croft Road, Ballygally	5 <sup>th</sup> October 2016
Gladys Elizabeth Fox	4 Heatherton Rise	4 <sup>th</sup> November 2016

## First Larne Weddings

"What God has joined together let man not separate..."

Matthew 19 v 6



Lindsey Jayne McConnell and Samuel Herbert Morrow married on 28th July 2016



James Paul Magill and Margaret Ann Hunter married on 8th October 2016



Lyndsey Jayne McAllister and Anthony McDonnell married on 1st October 2016

### NEW YEAR SERVICES ..... WHAT KIND OF CHURCH SHOULD WE BE?

Hands up those who want our church to grow – really grow????? If that's you then you will want to be along to the services in the New Year when, morning and evening, we shall be looking at what such a church looks like. More importantly, we shall ask what it means for each one of us to belong to the church the way it is meant to be. Does that sound exciting? It will be! Does that sound challenging? It will be! Be part of it!

### SOME THEMES.....

Our Church: A Light in the Darkness  
A United Church in a divided world  
A Serving Church in a selfish world  
A Generous Church in a stingy world  
A Truthful Church in a confused world  
A Joyful Church in a suffering world  
How to be the Church in the world

# First Larne Baptisms

“Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me” Mark 9 v 37



Stephen and Caragh Reid with Rebecca Alexandra and Annabelle Grace, baptised on 3rd September, and their son, Matthew.



Adrian and Angela Allen with daughter Brooke Dorothy Marie, baptised on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### December Services

Sun 4<sup>th</sup> am World Development Sunday “Reclaiming Hope”  
pm “The Well Good News of Christmas”  
With the Choir of Roddensvale School  
Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Christmas Cracker Family Fun and Craft  
2-4pm Fair  
Sun 11<sup>th</sup> am Cradle Roll Service “The BIGGEST Journey”  
6:45pm Carols in the Community  
8:15-8:45pm Community Carols at the Tullygarley  
Christmas Tree. Refreshments served!  
Tue 13<sup>th</sup> 7pm Larne Grammar School Carol Service  
Wed 14<sup>th</sup> 2pm Larne & Inver PS Carol Service

Sun 18<sup>th</sup> am The BIGGEST Present – Sent with Love” –  
a service led by Promiseland  
pm Carols by Candlelight: “Light the Way!”  
Lessons and Carols led by our Choir and  
the BB Old Boys Silver Band  
Sun 25<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS DAY Family Service  
10.30am “Unwrapping the Present”  
No evening service

### January Services

Sun 1<sup>st</sup> am Have I Got Good News For You!  
No evening service  
Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Communion  
am &pm

### OTHER EVENTS

Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. 7.30pm Congregational Committee

## AND FINALLY.....

Once upon a time, a perfect man and a perfect woman met. After a perfect courtship, they had a perfect wedding. Their life was, of course "perfect."

One snowy, stormy Christmas Eve, this perfect couple was driving their perfect car along a winding road, when they noticed someone at the side of the road in distress. Being the perfect couple they stopped to help. There stood Santa Claus with a huge bundle of toys. Not wanting to disappoint any children on the eve of Christmas, the perfect couple loaded Santa and his toys into their vehicle. Soon they were driving along delivering the toys. Unfortunately the driving

conditions deteriorated and the perfect couple and Santa Claus had an accident. Only one of them survived the accident. Who was the survivor?

.....The perfect woman survived. She's the only one who really existed in the first place. Everyone knows there is no Santa Claus and there is no such thing as a perfect man.

So, if there is no perfect man and no Santa Claus, the perfect woman must have been driving. This explains why there was an accident.