



First Larne Presbyterian Church

Bridge News

Worship God, Build His Kingdom, Share His Love



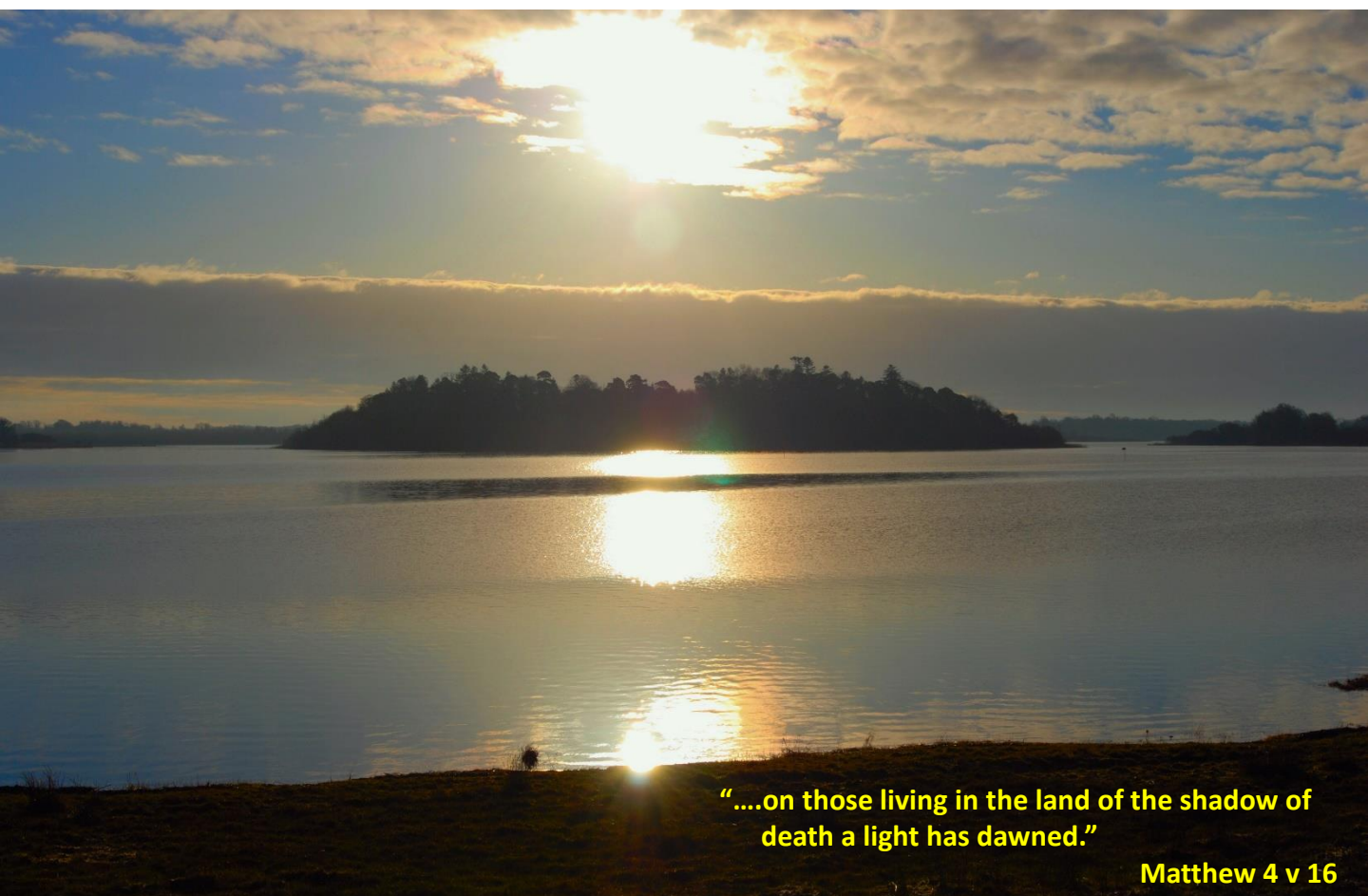
FARMING GOD'S WAY



LIGHT PARTY
(JESUS IS THE LIGHT)



THOUGHTS ON STILLE
NACHT (SILENT NIGHT)



"....on those living in the land of the shadow of
death a light has dawned."

Matthew 4 v 16

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COLIN'S COLUMN

GREEN OR ORANGE ?

As I write this a General Election campaign is under way. As you read this you may already have voted. The question I ask may seem to be a brazen political enquiry – but it is not! I am posing a botanical query: **What colour are oranges** – the fruit, unknown in the wild, first grown in South-East Asia, which is a cross between tangerines and the “pomelo” or “Chinese grapefruit” (which is pale-green or yellow)? The answer is not as obvious as you might think.



The colour of an orange depends on where it is grown. As a subtropical fruit, when grown in more temperate climes its green skin turns orange when the weather cools; but in countries where it is always hot

the chlorophyll is not destroyed and the fruits stay green. For example, Hondurans eat their oranges green but artificially “orange” them for export. They do this by blasting the oranges with ethylene gas – a by product of the oil industry used mainly in plastic production. The ethylene removes the natural outer green layer allowing the more familiar orange colour to show through. But don’t panic! Ethylene is odourless, tasteless and harmless, and is given off by many fruits and vegetables after they are picked. Ethylene producers include apples, melons, tomatoes, avocados and bananas. That is why you should keep apples and bananas separate from the likes of lemons, carrots ... and oranges.

In South-East Asia, where they were first grown, oranges were green and still are green! Vietnamese oranges and Thai tangerines are bright green on the outside and only orange on the inside.

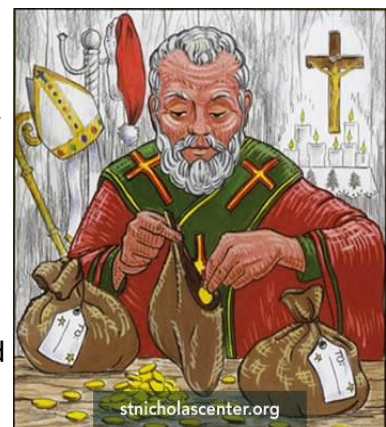
The world’s largest producer of oranges is Brazil with over 18 million tons a year, followed by the USA with less than half that amount, from the states of California, Texas and Florida. The Americans

The ripeness of an orange is not determined by its colour. If an orange goes unpicked, it can stay on the tree until the next season, and in the meantime fluctuations in temperature can make it turn from green to orange and back to green again without the quality or flavour being affected.

A few more “orange” facts. Did you know there are only two words in the English language which rhyme with orange and they are both proper nouns – Bloreng (a 1,833ft hill outside Abergavenny in Wales which is currently owned by the South East Wales Hang-gliding and Paragliding Club) and Gorringle (an English surname whose most famous sons have included the unpopular First World War British general, George Frederick Gorringle; the first-class Australian cricketer, Harry Gorringle; and Henry Honeychurch Garringle, the man who brought Cleopatra’s Needle from Egypt to New York’s Central Park).

On the subject of New York, it was founded by the Dutch in 1653 as New Amsterdam, then taken by English troops in 1664 and renamed New York, only to be retaken by the Dutch in 1673 and renamed New Orange - an arrangement that lasted less than a year before the Treaty of Westminster ceded it into English hands, thus reverting to New York – the name that has stuck. (The quick-witted among you will have observed that New Orange became the Big Apple!).

At Christmas oranges feature prominently in several of our long-standing customs. Have you ever wondered why there was usually an orange in your traditional Christmas stocking? Apparently, we owe the practice to St. Nicholas, who also has associations with Santa Claus. Nicholas, born in what is now Turkey, inherited a large sum of money but chose to devote his life to helping others and eventually became a bishop. Nicholas acted after hearing the plight of a poor man unable to find suitors for his three daughters because there was not enough money for dowries. Under cover of darkness, the bishop travelled to the poor man’s house and tossed three sacks of gold down the chimney – one sack for each dowry. The gold happened to land in



each of the girls' stockings which were hanging by the fire to dry! Oranges represent that dowry of gold.

Another more recent "orange" tradition is that of "Christingle". Although only introduced to England in 1968 the "Christingle" service traces its origins back to 1747 when John de Watteville, a German Moravian bishop, gave children a lighted candle with a red ribbon around it. Although the lighted candle is sometimes now replaced with a glow stick it still represents Jesus being the light of the world and the final prayer of that first service is still apt. "Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts, that theirs like Thine become". This Christmas there will be well over 6,000 such services in the British Isles.

We are not absolutely certain of the origins of the word "Christingle". Given that tradition has German origins it is more likely to be an English version of "Christkindl" (meaning "Christ child"), the present bringer in some parts of Germany and other European countries, who represents the baby Jesus. However, some have suggested it comes from conflating the words "Christmas" and ingles - "Ingles" being the old Scots word for fire. Thus, "Christingle" means the "Christlight".



We have absolutely no idea why it is explicitly an orange in the Christingle - but we do know what it represents. The orange is round like the world.

The candle stands tall and straight and gives light in the dark, like the love of God.

The red ribbon goes all around the 'world' and is a symbol of the blood Jesus shed when he died for us. (Sometimes in Moravian Churches, where the tradition began, a white ribbon is used, to represent the purity of Jesus.)

The four sticks (usually cocktail sticks) point in all directions and symbolise North, South, East and West and/or the four seasons. On the sticks the fruit and nuts (or sometimes sweets) represent the fruits of the earth, nurtured by the sunshine and the rain.

"Christingle" is a very visual and truthful representation of the Gospel. However, as we come to celebrate Christmas, we acknowledge that some of our traditional customs and trimmings are surrounded in ambiguity, obscurity and uncertainty, and can be fanciful and even (dare I say so) dubious.

What is not ambiguous, obscure or uncertain is what happened when, as prophesied, that baby was born in the little town of Bethlehem to be the light of the world.

The eternal Creator entered His creation. The Creator who stretched out the heavens was wrapped up in old clothes and set down in a manger. The limitless Son of God took on human limitations.

In his book "God's Gift of Christmas", John MacArthur writes:

"Those soft little hands, fashioned by the Holy Spirit in Mary's womb, were made so that nails might be driven through them. Those baby feet, pink and unable to walk, would one day walk up a dusty hill to be nailed to a cross.... Jesus was born to die."

The staggering reality of Christmas? This, God's gift at Christmas, is for you.

"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

(John 1 v.14)

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!
Nollaig shona (Irish)
Nollaig chridheil (Scottish)
Nadolig Ilowen (Welsh)
Nollick Ghennal (Manx)
Nadelik Lowen (Cornish)
a blithe yule (Scots)

Rev Colin McClure

FARMING GOD'S WAY

WORLD DEVELOPMENT APPEAL 2019

This year's World Development Appeal features Tearfund and Christian Aid farming projects.

The Tearfund project is in Mozambique where 80% of the people live on less than \$2 a day and over half don't have access to clean water. Mozambique is very vulnerable to natural disasters such as floods, cyclones and droughts. Currently, areas of the country are suffering severe drought while still recovering from the impact of Cyclone Idai. Consequently food security is a big issue.

Tearfund's partner, the Ecumenical Committee for Social Development (CEDES) works with self-help groups, churches and farming co-operatives. The local community share one large plot of land divided into beds for each person. When they meet the people have a Bible study and often participate in a savings & loans group. CEDES staff provide training on conservation farming techniques and supply seeds. The produce that the co-operative grows is used by the families involved, or sold in the market or to people who visit the farms. Conservation farming allows food to be grown outside of the traditional growing season in a semi-arid climate, transforming sandy ground to rich earth where crops grow quicker and produce higher yields. It involves simple methods -

Maintaining a covering of mulch, or 'God's blanket', made from peanut leaves and not burning last harvest's plant debris holds water in the soil and reduces soil erosion.

No ploughing - it is expensive. Farmers dig basins or beds for planting seeds and are shown how to preserve the natural soil structure so it absorbs water better.

Planting crops with precise spacings gives plants the best chance to survive. Natural fertilizer comes from chickens or bats. Crop rotation also cuts down on pests without the use of chemicals.



Regular weeding when the seedlings are still small saves time and energy

Watering twice a day using water from hand dug wells on site

These simple principles are different from the techniques farmers have been using for generations and are often met with scepticism, yet they are ecologically friendly, and when applied well, increase crop yields year on year.

The Christian Aid project is in Bangladesh. Working with the Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB) the project, aims to help 500 disadvantaged households in the Gopalganj and Mymensingh districts by improving the production of cassava and poultry farming.

The project will benefit people such as Catherina Chambugong and her husband, Alan Hagidok. In the past Catherina used half of her land to cultivate pineapples & turmeric.

The rest of the land lying on higher ground, was unused.

Unfortunately, excessive rainfall destroyed the crops. Through the CCDB Catherina learnt

about a local company which would support her in growing cassava and buy her crops at a fair price. Cassava is easy to grow as it needs less labour, water and pesticides. It also grows on higher land and so was particularly suitable for cultivation on Catherina's unused land. After receiving an interest free loan of 10,000 BDT, she produced over 6,000kg of cassava which was then purchased by PRAN, at a profit of almost 30,000 BDT.



Catherina's family are now more financially secure, and she has decided to grow more cassava. As well as being trained on the technical and business skills required to sustain their own farm, the project has also helped Catherina to build awareness of the rights and entitlements of people in her community which will help them to overcome inequalities and injustices within their society.

By supporting the World Development Appeal you can help to change the lives of many people.

Rev. Uel Matthews – still going strong 50 years later

After conducting an evening harvest service on 13th October at Scarva Presbyterian Church (the Rev. McClure's former charge) the Rev. Dr. Uel Matthews, our assistant from 1969-73, was surprised when a presentation was made to him and his wife Lesley to mark the 50th anniversary of his ordination which took place in First Larne in 1969.

In addition to the presentation of a framed "appreciation" and the cutting of a cake, which included a photograph of Uel as an assistant in First Larne, there were personal greetings from Uel's former congregations of Lissara & Bannside and First Larne). The church choir then led the congregation in singing the Aaronic Blessing. Rev. McClure penned the following message from First Larne.

"I commend Scarva for marking this milestone moment in the ministry of one of those people I have a myriad of reasons to be grateful for.

As the current minister of First Larne I asked for any recollections of Uel's time as an assistant to the Rev. Eric Stewart. Given that Uel had been ordained as an assistant back in 1969 and served until 1973, I was not sure how vivid the memories would be. I need not have worried. Without going into detail, I was given a consistent picture of a young minister who exhibited a maturity in diligence and sensitivity which has become even more apparent throughout his congregational ministry and wider service within PCI. Uel loyally and sacrificially gave of himself as pastor and colleague. Bear in mind that Uel's term as Assistant Minister came during a time of unprecedented upheaval in the life of the congregation and community. First Larne was facing up to the prospect of a forced move out of a much-loved meeting house and undertaking the immense challenges associated with "porting". These were also some of the darkest years of what is now referred to as "The Troubles".

I first met Uel when I entered Union College as a rather overawed student for the ministry and he was then the all-powerful Convener of the Board of Studies. I must admit that, at first sight, even though he had a distinguished look I judged him to be rather austere. I was soon to discover how wrong I was and how, even in this key leadership role, Uel brought to bear his gifts for diligence and sensitivity, exercised with a pastoral heart.

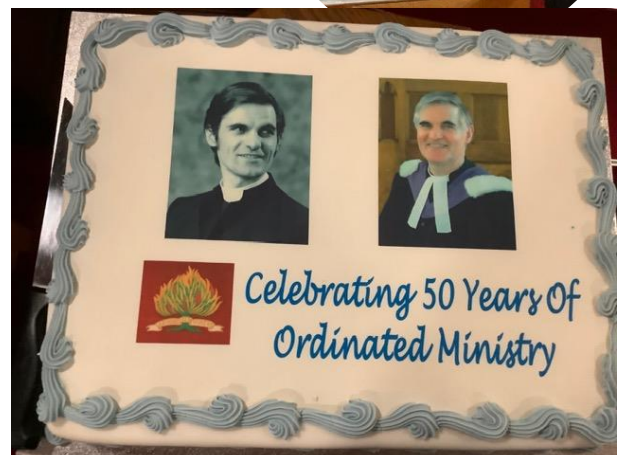
As Assistant Minister at Fisherwick I would occasionally be conducting worship with the Matthews in the congregation. Even though Uel may have harboured some private misgivings he was consistently supportive, kind and patient towards that student minister!

As minister of Loughbrickland and Scarva I again encountered Uel – but this time at much closer quarters. I very quickly enjoyed the friendship and gentle mentoring of a senior colleague of the utmost integrity. Uel has unique gifts of heart and mind that permit him to offer encouragement and guidance that nurture others. I will remain forever grateful for his wisdom and patience.

Uel is of that generation of congregational ministers and church leaders who, under particularly trying circumstances, sought to be pastor and prophet to a people who, in addition to the pressures for their own personal journeys were living with a pervasive terrorist threat and political turmoil.

For these reasons and so many others I am honoured to be associated with this acknowledgement of a man who has been both a servant of Christ's Kingdom and a servant to our Presbyterian Church in Ireland in local and national roles.

May Uel and Lesley know more blessing as they serve!"



NO ORDINARY BBQ.....AN M&S BBQ

In June 2019 we had our Small Groups Celebration BBQ, it was no ordinary BBQ, it was an M&S BBQ, where Margaret & Sandy Lindsay prepared a delicious meal, where we got to celebrate each and every one of our small groups, spend time in laughter, fellowship and encouraging one another! Each of us love our Small Groups so much, that we set ourselves the task of answering some personal questions that we hope would encourage others out there to think if joining Small Groups is something for them too:





There are several welcoming Small Groups in First Larne so, if you aren't already part of one, and would be interested in trying one we would really encourage you to give it a go!

We hope that, regardless of where you are at with your personal faith and life path, that Small Group will be a place where you would be encouraged, blessed and grow in your knowledge and love for Christ!

We also want to thank ALL our Small Group leaders that pour out of their time and love week after week, month after month.

With love and prayers,
Jacqueline McCallum

A Visit to the Silent Night Chapel

A group of First Larne members found ourselves in Austria in the middle of the European heatwave in July 2019, and our thoughts, of course, turned to Christmas (!). So we decided to go on a trip to see the chapel credited with being the first place that the Christmas Carol “Stille Nacht” was ever sung.

The Silent Night Chapel and Museum is in Obendorf, a town just north of Salzburg, where Father Joseph Mohr was the parish priest in 1818. We looked round the tiny chapel and toured the small museum, which tells the story of Obendorf at that time, and tried to sort out the myths from the facts regarding the origins of this well-loved carol.



There is a story of mice chewing the organ cables, resulting in a non-functioning church organ - leading Joseph Mohr to write a carol that could be performed with a guitar. Unfortunately, the mice do not actually appear in any historical record! Joseph Mohr had written the words as a poem in 1816, and in 1818 asked an organist from the nearby village of Ansdorf, Franz Xaver Gruber, to put the words to music.

The carol was initially performed to a congregation of river mariners, who liked to attend Joseph Mohr's church because he did not look down on them, as some clergy did, but would sometimes even socialise with them in the local tavern! In the Silent Night Museum there is a wealth of information about the river mariners and their culture, including costumes that the younger members of our group could dress up in. In the winter the mariners did not go out on the boats and so would spend their days putting on theatrical performances!

An organ builder called Karl Mauracher heard the carol and took it back to his home in the Ziller Valley. You may have heard of the Von Trapp Family Singers, who originated from the Salzburg area over 100

years later and inspired the musical *The Sound of Music*. Well, two similar travelling families of folk singers included “Stille Nacht” in their repertoires in 1819, and the song travelled from the Ziller Valley around Europe and into the US, gradually gaining the worldwide popularity it enjoys today, having now been translated into (according to the Museum) more than 300 languages!

The actual building where “Stille Nacht” was first performed (on Christmas Eve 1818), St Nicholas' Church, suffered flood damage along with the town several times in the 1890s. Rather than rebuild in the same position and risk further flooding, it was decided to rebuild the entire town, including St Nicholas' Parish Church 800 metres upstream!



In 1913 the old St Nicholas' Church was demolished, and the site lay unmarked except for a debris cone until 1937, when, spurred on by immense public feeling for “Stille Nacht” following the Great War, this Memorial Chapel was erected.

Another interesting thing we discovered was that English translations of this carol make some distinct departures from the original German lyrics. For example a line in the first verse which we usually sing as either “Watch o’er the Child beloved and fair” or “Holy Infant so tender and mild”, in German is “Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar” which describes the baby as possessing curly hair!

The most popular English translation was written in 1863 by John Freeman Young, the Episcopal priest assigned to Trinity Church in New York where “Stille Nacht” was first performed in the US in 1839. Joseph Mohr's original version has six verses, but John Freeman Young chose three of the verses to translate which are the ones we most often sing today.

The version in our hymn book was translated by Stopford August Brooke, who was born near Letterkenny, Co. Donegal in 1832, studied at Trinity College Dublin, and was ordained a minister in the Church of England in 1857.

I like this literal translation of the first verse (from www.celticlyricscorner.net):
Silent night, holy night
All's asleep, one sole light
Just the faithful and holy pair
Lovely boy-child with curly hair
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

I have put a few versions side-by-side below - so you can pick your favourite!

Whilst researching this article I came across an explanation of what “Stille Nacht” means in Germany. There, for something to be sacred, it must make a profound impression. Because it is profound, it should not be showy or external, since the deepest

fathoms of the soul must be expressed through silence and thoughtfulness. This leans toward philosophical and theological reasoning - perhaps a little bit like traditional Presbyterian thinking.

The music for “Stille Nacht” is tender and compassionate, perhaps even a little sad. Amid the joy of Christmas, this note of sadness foresees the crucifixion - the shadow of the cross is projected over the manger. The carol has a very profound meaning. It invites us to hear the voice of grace in our souls. We should not spend all our time watching others, but rather pay attention to God.

We enjoyed our visit here and definitely learned things we didn’t know about the “Stille Nacht” story. It’s worth a visit if you find yourself in the area – it might even make you feel a little bit Christmassy on the hottest day in July!

Heather Murray

Joseph Mohr	A Literal Translation	John Freeman Young	Stopford August Brooke
Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar, Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!	Silent night, holy night All is sleeping, alone watches Only the close, most holy couple. Blessed boy in curly hair, Sleep in heavenly peace! Sleep in heavenly peace!	Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child Holy Infant so tender and mild Sleep in heavenly peace Sleep in heavenly peace	Still the night, holy the night! Sleeps the world; hid from sight, Mary and Joseph in stable bare watch o'er the child belovèd and fair, sleeping in heavenly rest, sleeping in heavenly rest.
Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht, Hirten erst kundgemacht. Durch der Engel Halleluja Tönt es laut von fern und nah: Christ, der Retter ist da, Christ, der Retter ist da!	Silent night, holy night! Shepherds first announced, through the angels: hallelujah. It is shouted from far and near: Christ the Saviour is here, Christ the Saviour is here!	Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight Glories stream from heaven afar Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Saviour is born Christ the Saviour is born	Still the night, holy the night! Shepherds first saw the light, heard resounding clear and long, far and near, the angel-song, 'Christ the Redeemer is here!' 'Christ the Redeemer is here!'
Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund, Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund', Christ, in deiner Geburt, Christ, in deiner Geburt.	Silent night, holy night! God's son, O how love laughs from your divine mouth, there strikes the redeeming hour for us, Christ, in your birth, Christ, in your birth.	Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light Radiant beams from Thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace Jesus Lord, at Thy birth Jesus Lord, at Thy birth	Still the night, holy the night! Son of God, O how bright love is smiling from thy face! Strikes for us now the hour of grace, Saviour, since thou art born! Saviour, since thou art born!



Fly have been getting busy since September with LOVE FOR LIFE NI joining us for 3 weeks in October. They brought their GAME ON programme for our young people, which

Ireland as: "NUA is all about exploration: it's a film series that encourages questions, acknowledges doubt, and offers an engaging perspective on the Christian faith."

NUA is bringing BIG questions and discussions to FLY & so as we continue it's exciting to see where this could lead. FLY is on EVERY SUNDAY @ 7pm ~ 8.30pm in Room 5 for all who are in year 8+

looks at Relationships, and not only what are positive or negative things in relationships, but also what GOD says relationships should look like. We definitely had lots of fun and engagement, a lot of interaction and thought provoking questions and most of all, *the most competitive* spirit you will have witnessed in a while (especially the "Jenga protect a tower")!

We are studying the NUA "A fresh perspective on faith" film series described by Scripture Union



Halloween is getting bigger and bigger each year, but we want to remind our children and young people that JESUS IS THE LIGHT! And so at the end of October we had our Light Party ... we sang songs and watched our video story by Scripture Union. We learnt a memory verse and made crafts to remind us that even in the darkest clouds or the darkest night, the sun or the moon still shine BRIGHT and gives us LIGHTjust like JESUS!



KIDS' CHURCH started back with learning about WORSHIP! We learned how we can Worship God in different ways, using our hands - but not just raising them when singing (just like people do at concerts or football) but also by helping others in a practical way to show God loves them! To end our sessions on Worship we celebrated God, together with Youth Church at our Worship Party! Our Kids and Youth made posters focusing on all the different ways we can Worship God - they are on display in the main church sanctuary so go take a look and remember to encourage the children and young people, for they too Worship God freely, abundantly and in a child like manner.

Amy Hunter



Amy's photographs above show happy children in our church. Sadly the contrast with those less fortunate in our society is stark. Nicki Williamson of the charity Safe Families for Children explains.....



Thank you so much for letting me share in the harvest service at First Larne. We felt so welcome and it was lovely to chat to some of you after the service. I want to extend an invitation to anyone who might be interested in finding out more about what volunteering with us looks like by telling Zoe's story.....

she feels so supported by Ruth, she knows that she loves and cares for her family. The bond has grown so much that Tracey asked Ruth to be Zoe's Godmother, Tracey knows that she has a 'forever' friend. Tracey also feels this love & support is something she has not experienced before in her life. Through simple, unconditional friendship Ruth has helped Tracey to understand that she has value. She has now been connected into a support network and is in a place to support Zoe to thrive.

Zoe is 2. She needed her mum, Tracey, to love and look after her and give her the security she needed growing up. But Tracey was addicted to alcohol and drugs and had previously had a child taken into care, so there was a risk that might also happen to Zoe. Tracey wanted it to be different, she wanted to be able to give Zoe the love and care she needed to thrive. Tracey has stopped using drugs and alcohol but still suffers from depression and anxiety and she felt like she could not trust anybody.

Could you.....

- Meet up to chat over coffee with lonely parents?
- Take a child to the park or have them round for tea?
- Lend a hand to make a house cosy and clean?
- Host a child overnight while mum's in hospital?

When Safe Families visited Zoe & Tracey we arranged that a volunteer would visit them once a week, to chat and offer support. Straight away both Zoe and Tracey bonded with Ruth. Tracey has shared that

It's as simple as being there for someone when they need it. For more information please contact me nickiwilliamson@safefamiliesforchildren.com 07384 896 983

Warmest wishes, Nicki Williamson

SO EXCITED ABOUT THE PRESENTS IN UKRAINE

A little girl grabs her brother with excitement as the Blythswood shoe boxes are delivered to their village home in SW Ukraine. "The family live in one room which is cold & dirty," says Tanya Shpygunov. "The children were so excited about the presents. They really liked the toys, colouring books and pencils."



Last year nearly 5,000 boxes from Blythswood's Shoe Box Appeal were distributed in Ukraine alone, going to low-income families, people with disabilities and special needs, hospital patients, residents of a rehabilitation centre, school children and people displaced from their homes in war torn eastern Ukraine. Local churches and volunteers working with Blythswood together filled, transported and distributed 107,073 shoeboxes to people in need. Shoeboxes travelled as far as Albania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania, Hungary, Kosovo and Ukraine.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 2019 Shoe Box Appeal. Over 40 boxes were filled

with gifts and essentials by First Larne members & friends and delivered to Blythswood's N Ireland collection centre, depot and shop at Ballyclare. The generosity of all those who filled shoeboxes with love and care and who gave donations towards their transport is deeply appreciated. More

details of Blythswood's work can be found at www.shoeboxappeal.org



Avril Finlay who has coordinated our Shoe Box Appeal in First Larne since it was established has decided to step down from this role. We say a **BIG THANK YOU** to Avril for all her work with Blythswood and the Shoe Box Appeal which has helped bring joy to so many children, older people and families over the years. If you would like to co-ordinate our Shoe Box Appeal next year helping provide "Christian care for body and soul" then please speak to Rev. Colin McClure, chat to Avril or to me about what is involved.

Robin Tweed

KIRKPATRICK CUP 2019

The 51st annual Jim Kirkpatrick Memorial Cup bowling tournament was held from 28th October to 1st November. This year 26 rinks, mainly drawn from the Larne & District Indoor bowling league participated in nightly qualification matches leading to the Friday finals night. This competition is eagerly anticipated and hotly contested, coming as it does at the commencement of each new season.

First Larne Indoor Bowling Club entered 4 rinks this year. Rodney Moore's rink won their 3 qualifying matches on the Monday night thereby booking their place in the Friday night finals.

Quarter Finals

R Moore, First Larne beat D Bodles, Gardenmore
B Petticrew, Cairncastle beat A Thom, All Saints
A Rankin, All Saints beat R Armour, Kilwaughter
M Lindsay, Larne&Kilwaughter beat A McCord, Gardenmore

Semi Finals

M Lindsay beat B.Petticrew,
R Moore beat A Rankin

Final

M Lindsay beat R Moore



It was another very successful competition, enjoyed by all.



Runners-up 2019 - L to R Mary Magill, Margaret Nelson (Vice-President First Larne IBC) John Magill, William Marks, Rodney Moore.

CHURCH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

Isla Grace Murray –Zmijewski

17 Dean Park Ave, Edinburgh

1st September 2019

Evie Nelson

44 Carryview, Coagh

20th October 2019

MARRIAGES

Elizabeth McConnell & Robert Glen Tolton

29th August 2019

DEATHS

Jonathon James Hughes

34 Sallagh Park Central

12th September 2019

Malcolm Alfred McKee

29 Fairway

16th September 2019

Iris Wharry

L.C.C. (formerly 10 McGarel Gardens)

23rd September 2019

Margaret Mary Semple

Somerton Private N.H.

24th October 2019

Martha Maria (Meta) Shaw

11 The Old Mill

28th October 2019

Eileen Elizabeth Mills

7 Laharna Avenue

9th November 2019

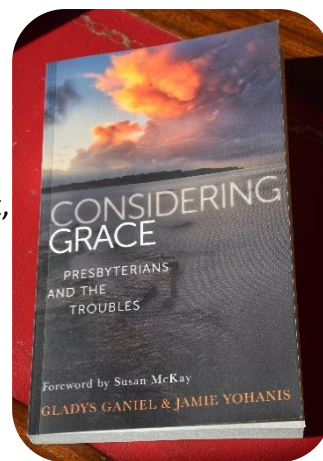
Considering Grace

Rev. Terry Laverty from Portstewart was 15 when his brother Robert, a policeman, was murdered by the IRA in 1972. Understandably extremely angry initially, Terry gradually found the spiritual grace to come to terms with the murder. This grace gives the title to a new book from PCI to mark the 50th anniversary of our "Troubles". "Considering Grace" records the deeply moving stories of 120 ordinary people's experiences of the Troubles, exploring how faith shaped their responses to violence and its aftermath. Speaking at the launch of the book the Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. William Henry commented "I was moved and shocked by the emotions with which people are still able to express themselves about what happened many years ago and to realise how much the pain is still there."

their experiences of anger, pain, healing, and forgiveness. It also includes the perspectives of leading public figures Seamus Mallon and Jeffrey Donaldson, Garda Commissioner Drew Harris, and former Victims Commissioner Bertha McDougall.

Considering Grace may be a difficult read for some, but it tries to contribute to the process of 'dealing with the past' by pointing towards the need for a 'gracious remembering' that acknowledges suffering, is self-critical about the past, and creates space for lament, but also hope for the future.

Copies of the book can be ordered online at the PCI website for £12 (if collected from Church House) and is also available in bookshops.



Presbyterian ministers, victims, members of the security forces, emergency responders, healthcare workers and 'critical friends' of the Presbyterian tradition are among those to provide insights on

TWO HUGE "THANK YOU'S" !

A huge thank you for your support in the renewal of the visa and contract that enables me to stay for a few more years in Larne! Your prayers and over £1300 in financial contributions at the harvest service have made a huge difference and are very much appreciated! I look forward to what God has in store for us all in the coming years! With love and blessings,



The coffee morning on Sunday 22nd September raised £236 for the Abaana Building fund - huge thanks to all who contributed. This money and other fund raising efforts have raised almost £600 to date.

The money raised to date, and in future, will be used to help fund the construction of a new school in Uganda. Abaana hope to commence building work next year, starting with two new classrooms and toilets at Atukubui Primary School (which operates under the Church of Uganda).



Jacqueline McCallum.



Christmas Wreaths

Have you ever wondered why we put wreaths on our doors at Christmas? I discovered that the tradition has Christian origins, as the circular shape and the evergreens, like holly and ivy, symbolize eternity and everlasting life. I love this Christmas sausage roll wreath which is perfect on a buffet table and makes a great centrepiece or "Showstopper". Happy Christmas everyone! **Arlene**

Sausage roll Christmas wreath

1 onion finely chopped ; 1tbsp vegetable oil
 2 tbsp finely chopped sage ; 50g breadcrumbs
 1 tsp ground cloves ; 1 tsp ground mace
 a sprinkle of plain flour, for dusting
 1 large egg, beaten
 1 x 500g pack British pork sausage meat
 1 x 500g block puff pastry
 Rosemary sprigs and sage leaves to garnish

For the relish

1 x 250ml jar cranberry sauce
 zest of 1 orange, pared
 3 tbsp red wine (or port)
 1 cinnamon stick ;
 1 star anise



Reserve 4 tablespoons of cranberry sauce for later, then put the rest into a small pan with the remaining relish ingredients. Bring to a simmer and cook for 2-3 minutes, then leave to cool. Remove the pastry from the fridge about 10 minutes before you need to roll it out.

Heat the oil and cook the onion in a covered pan until softened. Add the chopped sage and cook for 1 more minute. Mix the sausage meat, ground cloves, mace, and some salt and pepper with your hands in a bowl and add the cooled onion, mixing well. Preheat the oven to 200°C, fan 180°C, gas 6.

On a floured surface, roll the pastry to a long rectangle, about 30cm x 45cm. Spread the reserved 4 tablespoons of cranberry sauce lengthways down the middle of the pastry, in a line about 5cm wide. Mould the sausage meat into a long log and lay it on top of the cranberry sauce.

Use the beaten egg to brush down one side of the pastry. Fold the other side over the meat, then the egg washed side over this to seal. Turn over, so the seal is at the bottom, to look like a giant sausage roll. Transfer to a baking sheet lined with baking paper.

Cut two-thirds of the way through the sausage roll roughly every 3.5-4cm, to make 10 to 12 sections, then join the two ends (uncut side in the middle) together with a little more egg wash, to form a wreath. Gently twist each piece of sausage roll over, without tearing it from the main body, so it is filling-side up. Brush any exposed pastry with the remaining egg wash.

Bake for 40-50 minutes until the pastry is golden and puffed, and the sausage meat is cooked through. Serve with the relish in a small bowl in the centre for dipping (remove the whole spices and zest first, if you like), and tuck in the herbs for presentation, if using.

Get ahead

Make the relish up to 3 days ahead and keep in the fridge. Prepare the wreath up to the end of step 6 a few hours ahead, cover and chill, or freeze for up to 1 month. Bake from frozen, for 55 minutes.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER SERVICES

Sun 1st :

11am Bible Sunday "Ready? Steady? Go?"
Nehemiah 8 v.1-18
7pm INSIDE-OUT 7 : Another View
Mark 10 v 17-27

Sun 8th :

11am Cradle Roll Service "Worth the Wait?"
7pm INSIDE-OUT 8: Making Space for Others
Luke 10 v 25-37

Sun 15th :

11am "It's Christmas! Don't miss it!"
Matthew 1 v 18-25
7pm Carols in the Community

Sun 22nd :

11am Kids Church Nativity Service
"Happy Birthday Jesus"
7pm Candle lit Service of Lessons and Carols
with the BB Old Boys Band

Wed 25th :

10:30am Christmas Day Community Together
"And so this is Christmas!"

Sun 29th :

11am Christmas Continues for Everyone:
"Where is He?"
7pm Inside-Out 3 "On the Door"

JANUARY SERVICES

Sun 5th : COMMUNION

11am Encounter 4: "Looking for the Light"
7pm INSIDE-OUT ⑤: Another Country
Matthew 2 v.1-12

Sun 12th :

3pm - Service of Divine Healing

FEBRUARY SERVICES

Sun 9th :

7pm: Presbytery Service: Guest preacher: The Right
Rev. Dr. William Henry (Moderator of the General
Assembly)

OTHER DECEMBER EVENTS

Sun 1st : "Red Cups and Carols" Carrick Presbytery
7:30pm Youth Service in Gardenmore

Wed 11th : Larne & Inver Primary School Carol
2.00pm Service

Sat 14th : December SU Youth Christmas Inters in
Ballycraig

Tue 17th : 7pm Larne Grammar School Carol Service

Wed 18th : 7pm Carols by Floodlight at Inver Park

Fri 27th : Christmas Stay-Over



The KITCHEN TABLE PROJECT
will run during church on 19th
January and 2nd February 2020
Please speak with Amy Hunter
for more details



The Moderator is coming to the
CARRICK PRESBYTERY from 2nd –
9th February 2020. "ENGAGE: THE
MOD" by Carrick Presbytery Youth
will help kick start his tour, on
Sunday 2nd in Woodlands PC @
7.30pm. FLY will be participating in this event.



Refresher Training will be on
20th January @ 7.30pm If
your last training was in
2016/2017 you WILL NEED to
attend the refresher training.

SWIFT SMALL GROUP will be back on Wednesday
22nd January 2020 at 8pm, for more details please
speak to Jax McCallum

Six little stories with six little meanings...

Once all villagers decide to pray for rain. On the day
of prayer all the people gathered but only one boy
came with an umbrella. **That is faith.**

When you throw babies in the air they laugh
because they know you will catch them. **That is trust.**

Every night we go to bed without any assurance of
being alive the next morning, but we still set the
alarm to wake us up. **That is hope.**

We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero

knowledge of the future. **That is confidence.**

We see the world suffering, but still we get married
and have children. **That is love.**

On an old man's shirt was written "I am not 80 years
old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience"
That is attitude.

Have a Happy Christmas and for your New Year
resolution why not try to live your life like these six
stories.

Congratulations!



Isla Grace Murray –Zmijewski, pictured with mum and dad, Rachel and Lewis, and Rev McClure, was baptised on 1st September.



Evie Nelson, pictured with mum and dad, Hannah and Richard, and Rev McClure, was baptised on 20th October.



Elizabeth McConnell and Robert Glen Tolton were married by Rev. McClure in First Larne on 29th August 2019.



Back in 1959, George McKinley and Agnes Moore were married in the old First Larne church at the bridge, by Rev. McGeagh.

George and Agnes celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 11th September 2019.

Now there's a thought

At Christmas, especially when the commercial chaos gets too much.....

"Be content with what you have...." Hebrews 13 v 5

AND FINALLY.....

A new young bride calls her mother in tears. She sobs, "Richard doesn't appreciate what I do for him"

"Now, now," her mother comforted, "I'm sure it was all just a misunderstanding."

"No, mum, you don't understand. I bought a frozen turkey and he yelled at me about the price."

"Well, what a mean....." says her mum "Those turkeys aren't that dear, and after all it is Christmas!"

'No, mum it wasn't the price of the turkey. It was the flight ticket.'

"Flight ticket.... Why did you need a flight ticket?"

"Well, when I looked at the directions on the package and it said: 'Prepare from a frozen state'... so I flew to Alaska."



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