



“LET HIS LIGHT SHINE”

Autumn 2022

Ephesians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ, who gives me strength”



Photograph by Martin Conroy



Sunday 4th September 2022 at 7p.m. - 9p.m. in the Welcome Area.

We will have an evening of prayer to focus on the work of our church throughout the year.

Please plan to come along for part or all of the service as we take the opportunity to pray for God’s blessing and guidance for all of our organisations at the start of the new church year.

A bookstall featuring books on prayer from The Good Book Company will be on display.

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This magazine is published to let you know what is happening in our Church. Not every member of the Church can attend on a regular basis, so it is important that those at home should be kept informed. If you have articles or news of a special anniversary or birthday, including photographs, please email them to Rosemary Black (Editor) rosemaryblack@gmail.com, or alternatively give them to Barbara McCartney in the church office.

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Reflections from the Manse



Summer is drawing to a close, and we are preparing for a new season in church. I wonder how your Summer has been?

Perhaps it was a time to switch off, relax and unwind; maybe there have been challenges over the past few months. For myself and my family it has been very much a time of holding on to God. It has been holding on to the verse.

Isaiah 41:13 *“For I hold you by your right hand – I, the Lord your God. And I say to you, “Don’t be afraid. I am here to help you.”*

In every situation in life, God is right there beside us, every step of the way. When we are struggling, God is guiding us. When we feel we can’t go on, He is carrying us. When we celebrate, God is there cheering along with us. He is always there. There is never a time in life when God is not beside us. That does not mean that life is not difficult and full of challenges. What it does mean is that we face life, not in our own strength, but with the strength that God gives to us.

As we head into a new season in church, we do so holding on to our God, trusting that He will guide and direct us, teach us, and draw us closer to Himself. Maybe you or someone in your family is about to step into a new chapter in life, a new school, university, or job? You can do so with the confidence and reassurance that God is by your side. He simply asks that you trust Him for the road that is ahead.

Proverbs 3:5-6 *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.*

Jeff

Maddie Bell - Summer mission trip to South Africa



I have been attending Urban Saints youth club in Greenwell Street Presbyterian Church for a number of years and had been inspired by some of the other members who had previously travelled to South Africa to join with a charity, Amor, and the Rebuild South Africa project.

This July, after two cancelled trips due to Covid, a team of eight of us from Urban Saints NI finally got the opportunity to meet with two teams from England, and spend ten days building two houses for local families in a township outside Johannesburg. It was an incredible experience!

The team from Newtownards consisted of Adam McCracken, Noah Greenald, Chloe Clarke, Beth Tregaskis, Julia Sterritt, Maddie Bell and two leaders- Azaria and Wilson Beare.

Travelling all went very smoothly thankfully, and we arrived on Sunday morning safely. We immediately got a very warm welcome from the host family, who were very hospitable throughout the whole trip.

Every evening we had an evening session where we talked through the armour of God, which focused our hearts and minds on what we were going out there to do.



We started building early Monday morning. We had to wire the polystyrene insulation to create the structure of the house and then cut out the window and door frames. The next day we began with stuccoing, which is working with a mixture of cement, sand, fibre glass and water. This was a very tedious job, as it took about two full days, but it was made fun with a lot of singing, dancing and laughs!

We had a building break on Wednesday, and went to visit the Hector Pieterse museum and a local school in Soweto. We played netball and football against their school teams, and had a bbq together. We also had a ceremony in which we gave them sports team kits, which was a really special experience.

They were so grateful and joyful; it was incredible to see how much the gifts meant to them. The leader of Amor South Africa was saying the kits gave them hope for the future, as it would encourage them to stay in education and have a brighter future. We also went stargazing that night. It was incredible to see God's creation so close - no clouds.





We carried on building for three more days and at the end we had the key handover. This was certainly a highlight for us personally. The joy on the family's faces made all of our hard work and muscle pain worth it! We gave them a solid waterproof house with electricity, which was a very stark contrast to their old, tiny, dark and damp tin shack. It also gave them the opportunity to rent out their old house and get an income each month. They were very excited about this.

At the building site, we got to know the children of the community very well. We danced with them, sang with them, gave them toys and formed tight bonds with them. A moment that has stuck with us was when a little girl, Hope, came up to Beth and said she was hungry and she wanted food. This really opened our eyes to the harsh reality of the starvation these beautiful kids were enduring. These children have nothing, and it breaks our hearts to see this. Saying

goodbye, knowing we will probably never see them again was extremely hard. One of the boys said 'see you Monday!' - he didn't understand that we weren't coming back.

We all had an amazing time and gained so many unforgettable experiences that we will cherish forever.

We are so thankful to the Streaton and Greenwell Street churches families and all our supporters for the thoughts, prayers and fundraising help to make this trip possible.

And we thank God for his protection throughout the whole experience.

By Maddie Bell and Julia Sterritt



COMMUNITY DROP-IN every Thursday from 2 – 4pm.

In July we started our Community drop-in which is for anyone in our community and for any interested. Church members.. This is to provide a safe, warm and friendly place to sit and meet others. Hot drinks and biscuits are provided, as well as, newspapers and board games, and access to free WIFI. A 'Food for All' table is available with food donated through Fareshare via Asda. This is free to anyone in the community who is in need and may be passing by the church on a Thursday afternoon. Please share this information with family, friends and neighbours.

CHURCH MEMBER RECORDS MAY – AUGUST 2022

BAPTISM

22nd May - Cora Nugent, daughter of Adam and Rachel Nugent

10th July – Noah Thomas McClimond, son of David and Sara McClimond

DEATHS

13th May – Mrs Kathleen Dickson

15th May – Mrs Susan Russell

6th August - Mr David Gordon



Rachel and Adam Nugent with their baby daughter Cora.



Photo by Newtownards Chronicle

Mr John Cummings celebrating his 100th birthday with his daughters. John is a resident of Scrabo Isles Nursing home.

Change of Designated Person

The Designated Person's role is to coordinate the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults within the church. For the last thirty years, we have been very blessed in Streaton with our Designated Person, Donna Shields. With a background in social work, Donna has provided guidance and support to Session in many ways, including revising our Child Protection Policy, overseeing the process for the appointment of new leaders and offering advice. In addition, Donna's input was integral to the initial development of PCI's Taking Care Department.

Session would like to thank Donna for her faithful and diligent service in fulfilling the role of Designated Person for many years.

Session is delighted that Dawne Wilson has agreed to take over the role of Designated Person from Donna. Dawne was a family and child social worker for thirty years, with recent experience in foster care, which gives her extensive and relevant knowledge for this role. She has also been a G.B. leader in Streaton for many years, currently as an Officer with the Under 5s. Please pray for Dawne as she settles into this important role.



DATES SPECIAL SERVICES OCTOBER - DECEMBER

Sunday 2nd October – Communion

Sunday 9th October – Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 16th October – G.B. Enrolment

Sunday 13th November – Remembrance Service

Sunday 20th November – B.B. Enrolment

Sunday 4th December – Christmas Tree Service

Sunday 18th December – Carol Service

Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day Service (@10.30am)

WELCOMING UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

Earlier this year we were seeing in the news all about the build up of Russian troops along the Ukrainian border and it seemed so unlikely that there would or could be a war but then on the 24th February the invasion began.

Following that there then started the mass evacuation of women and children from the cities and areas under threat.

A number of refugees have come over to live with host families in Northern Ireland and they are now living in Newtownards, Bangor, Conlig, Killinchy. Those in the Ards area have been learning English with volunteers in the Link.



Following a meeting with one of the Link Family & Community Centre volunteers, we learnt that there was a need for these families to make connections with the community, and for them to get to know each other better. It was decided to offer hospitality by providing a lunch. Our Tots and Toddlers ladies jumped into action and we provided a lunch on Tuesday 14th June.

It was quite an emotional moment when they arrived to see the welcome area decorated with Ukrainian flags and the food that was provided for their lunch. Of the three women that I got talking to one was a pharmacist, the other a nurse and the third a theology student.

Another lady shared how she had to leave behind her husband and elder son to fight while she and their younger son were evacuated to Poland – it took 5 weeks for them to get to their host family here. And already she is working two jobs while her son has got into school.

God gave instructions in Leviticus to treat foreigners as you treat your own citizens and love them as you love yourself; in the New Testament we are told to show hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9) and when we have the opportunity to help anyone, we should do it (Galations 6:10).

Janet Johnston

RECENT EVENTS IN STREAN

In May 2022 we had our first Antiques fair since Covid it was a great success and all the exhibitors were so happy to be back in Streat. We even had some new ones. A few of our regular exhibitors couldn't make it, but are very much looking forward to the October Antiques fair on 29th October 2022 from 10am - 4pm.

A big thank you to everyone who helped setting up and clearing up, to the catering committee and to all who attended and supported the fair. We raised £1375.33 after expenses, which was split between the Mission and Property accounts.



Left: Photograph by The Newtownards Chronicle Photographer.

Lynn Cairns, Mandy Graham and John Scott.



Top right: - Some of the exhibitors.

Left: Customers exploring the items for sale.

Right: - Fiona Boyle and Nola McCluggage.



Below: Wonder what these two Rev gentlemen are planning? Jeff and Alan Wilson.



Below: David and Florence Beattie enjoying their first experience of Streat's Antique Fair. Photos. By Ross Workman.



Sausage Sizzle celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Sunday 5th June



Thank you to the chefs, Stuart, Stephen and Graham.



Zara, Sara, Eva and Lexi
Enjoying a game of Giant Jenga



Dessie, Charlotte, Michelle, Charmaine, Bella-Rose, Joey, Danny and Alyssa



There was also an interesting Exhibition of Royal memorabilia

There was a great number of folk attended this special event. Thank you to the events & Fundraising Committee for organising it. A Family Fun night has been organised for Saturday 3rd September at 7pm in the Welcome area.

Photos by Ross Workman

BB SPECIAL AWARDS & OFFICER RETIRING



President's Badges: L/Cpl Joshua Finlay; L/Cpl Matthew Harris; L/Cpl Carter McIlwrath; L/Cpl Cameron Montgomery and L/Cpl Harry Scandrett with their mums.



Queen's Badges: Three senior members received the BB's highest award. Sergeants Callum McCaw, Conor Finlay and Alex Montgomery included are officers Stephen Boyle, Carl Harris and Janet Johnston.



BB officer Lt Janet Johnston retires after over 30 years of service to the company. Included are Wallace McKee (former Captain), Rev Jeff McWatters, Janet, John Black (Company President) and Stephen Boyle (Company Captain).

BB Photographs by Newtownards Chronicle

SUMMER OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES WITH CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



Activities for

Following on from the success of last year, Summer Blitz returned with another fun-filled 3-day outdoor programme for 47 young people connected to Streaton Presbyterian Church. **Aged from Year 8 to Year 14** the youngsters signed up from Streaton's Boys' Brigade (6th Ards), Girls Brigade (77th NI), Fellowship and Youth Club.

Earlier in the year three of the young people (Lewis, Zara and Alexandra) had put together a funding application to the Education Authority, and were pleased to receive a grant for £2,000. And in June Summer Blitzers pitched in by running a Coffee morning and Car wash Streaton, raising an amazing £1,200 through their team work and effort!



Summer Blitz ran from Monday 25th to Wednesday 25th July.

Whilst the focus was on reconnecting face to face with other young people in the great outdoors, Summer Blitz also reminded us of some important messages about God and living life to the full physically and spiritually. Our theme for the three days was – Nothing is Impossible with God. The leaders shared a devotion and Bible reading each day with the Summer Blitzers, reminding them of the importance of having God in their lives.

Sophie said: I had a great week, it was fun!
James commented: It was fun and exciting and there were a variety of activities we haven't done before!



Sunday morning service on 31st July provided a celebration of Summer Blitz and our recent Holiday Bible Club, with children and teenagers taking part in the music, readings and prayers. We hope to see lots of young people back at our activities in September, with room for more to join us.



Photos by Martin Conroy and Carl Harris

BLAST OFF! HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB



Holiday Bible Club returned to Stream this summer, and we were delighted to see all the children back face to face after 2 years of online clubs during Covid.

We welcomed children of nursery and primary school age, and it was wonderful to hear the halls filled with fun and laughter as we learned more about God together. Each evening consisted of stories, games, memory verses, snacks and crafts. We also looked forward to the nightly instalment of the drama, performed by some of our young leaders-in-training.



This year's Holiday Bible Club had a space theme and through this we learned about Peter. We learned that Jesus was able to help Peter do extraordinary things, like walk on water, and that Jesus can help us too. We talked about when Peter made a mistake and denied Jesus. We all make mistakes, but Jesus' forgiveness is there for all of us if we ask for it, just as Jesus forgave Peter. We also learned how God has sent us a special helper in the Holy Spirit.

One of our memory verses from the week epitomises our aim of Holiday Bible Club.

Joshua 24:15 As for me and my family, we will worship the Lord.

We look forward to seeing all the children again at GB, BB and Discovery Sunday School in September.



Ladies from the Craft Class enjoying an outing in April to the "Mad About Fabrics" shop on Dargon Crescent.

AUTUMN START DATES

September:

P.W. - Thursday 1st @ 7.30pm

G.B. - Monday 5th @ 6.45pm

B.B. - Tuesday 6th @ 6.30pm

Youth Club - Saturday 10th @ 6.45pm-8.15pm

Discovery S.S. - Sunday 11th During Church

Youth Fellowship - Sunday 11th @ 7.00 - 8.00pm

Craft Class - Monday 12th @ 10.00am

Tots'n'Toddlers-Tuesday 13th @ 10.15 - 11.45am

Football & F'ship - Wednesday 14th @ 8.00pm

Wednesday Small Group - 14th @ 7.30pm

Badminton Club - Thursday 15th @ 7.30pm

Thursday morning bowls of 15th Sept @ 10am

Friday Small Group - 16th @ 12.30pm

October

Men's Fellowship - Thursday 20th @ 7.45pm (TBC)

Discovery Tots Crèche – continuing (weekly)

Thursday Community Drop-in – continuing (weekly)

Men's Coffee time – monthly on 4th Thursday at 10.30am @ Clandeboye Golf Club

COFFEE MORNINGS (Saturdays 10am-12noon)

3rd September – Friends of Ards Hospital

17th September – Thursday Community Drop-in

1st October – G.B.

15th October - Pancreatic Cancer (PanCNI)

5th November – Thrive Ireland

19th November - B.B.

3rd December - Christmas Fair



ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES FAIR

will be held in the Adgey Hall

on

Saturday 29th October 2022

from 10am - 4pm