

“LET HIS LIGHT SHINE”

Spring 2023

***“Jesus Christ is the same
yesterday, today and forever.”***
Hebrews 8:13



SPECIAL SERVICES

Sunday 2nd April 11 am - Communion

Holy Week Services

Tuesday 4th April – Friday 7th April in Movilla Presbyterian Church see pg 12

Easter Sunday – 9th April

- Dawn service at Scrabo Tower Monument
- 11 am Easter Morning Worship at Strean

Sunday 21st May 11 am - Children’s Day

Sunday 11th June 11 am - Communion

**Sunday school happens during the service except during all-age services.
Creche for babies and toddlers is available every week.**

C O N T E N T S	Special Services	1
	Reflections from the manse	3 - 4
	New Clerk of Session	5
	Church members record	5
	Alexandra Faloon - Go Make a Difference in Tanzania	6
	Matthew Harris & Emma Smyth - Mission trip to Kenya with Jengana	7
	Strean Youth Club	8 - 9
	GB Officer Retires	10
	Youth & Children's Summer Outreach	10 - 11
	Upcoming Events	11 - 12
Holy Week Services	12	

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.

Reflections from the Manse

I wonder if you are familiar with the phrase “The more things change, the more they stay the same”? It was penned in 1849 by the French writer Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr. I have thought about this phrase as I look back, reflecting on all the changes we have seen and experienced the last few years.



We had very significant changes to just about every aspect of everyday life when lockdown was introduced. Facemasks, limited access to essential only shops, no meeting up with friends and, of course, no meeting in person on a Sunday to worship together. Even with all of these changes we continued to live our lives every day. As lockdown restrictions were eased and reduced, some aspects of life went back to how they had been before, some have remained changed, and might even change again in the future. But once again life continues.

When using the phrase “The more things change, the more they stay the same”, some use it in a sarcastic way or an attempt to be ironic. In reality, the phrase helps to reinforce that when we scrape past the surface, those things that are important and matter haven’t changed. We are still a worshipping people who are part of God’s family. Our Sunday morning service might be different from before, how we share communion might have changed, but we still meet to honour our Heavenly Father; communion is still about remembering what Christ has done for us and declaring this to the world.

Change is always going to be with us because that is the world we live in. Hairstyles change, the style of clothes we wear changes, technology becomes faster and smaller, ironically mobile phones are getting bigger! But we are still people who seek connections with others, people who look for answers and explanations and search for meaning.

We are people who are loved by the unchanging God who is always with us; we are people who are known personally by God; we are people who, because of Jesus, have God's grace. In a world that seems to be in a constant state of change, we have God.

Change can actually encourage us and others as we walk together seeking God's will in our individual lives and in our church family life. It has been really encouraging to see new faces in church on a Sunday and during the week. As challenging as it can be to remember names, it is great to be challenged in this way and I would encourage you to look around and when you see someone you don't know, go and have a chat and get to know each other.

Within our church Session we have had changes. Fiona served as Clerk of Session for over 5 years, and I want to personally thank Fiona for this time, for all her help and wisdom. It is a role that brings extra duties and responsibilities, which is the reason why our Clerk changes every 5 years.

This allows the elder who has been in the position to be refreshed and be involved in other areas of service. I would ask you to join me in praying for this refreshment for Fiona, and to also join me in praying for Wallace who has been elected into this position. Pray that Wallace has the wisdom he needs as he serves in this way. As a Session we are excited about the new elders who are joining us; pray that God would help and equip them as they take on new roles and responsibilities.

All that we do in church, at home, in work, we do for the glory of God. We know that we have a living, loving Heavenly Father who will never turn His back on us. He is ever there and never changing as it says in **Revelation 1v8** **"I am the Alpha and the Omega,"** says the Lord God, **"who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."** We have a Saviour, Jesus Christ, who was promised from the start of time as the one through whom we would have salvation, and this has and will never change. We rejoice in the words of Hebrews 13v8 that say **"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."**

God never changes!

Jeff

Newly appointed Clerk of Session



A number of years ago, Session decided the role of Clerk of Session should be for a period of 5 years. Last year Fiona completed her term of office and we thank her for all her hard work and dedication as Clerk and for leading us through all the rules, regulations and guidelines which the pandemic imposed upon us.

Having been approached and after much prayer and consideration, I took over the role in November 2022. Married to Janet, I was baptised here in Streaton during the ministry of Rev GT Boyd and grew up attending Sunday School, BB and Youth Fellowship. My dad, Sam, was Clerk of Session back in the 1960's / early 70's and he was succeeded by Janet's dad, Mr. Steen Anderson.

I have recently retired (early!!) from 40 years in the printing industry and enjoy walking, gardening, the odd bit of DIY and started an evening metalwork course in SERC.

CHURCH MEMBER RECORDS SEPTEMBER 2022 - MARCH 2023

NEW MEMBERS & NEW COMMUNICANTS

Mrs Elizabeth Abernethy	Mrs. Ann Armstrong	Miss Jane Armstrong
Mr John Armstrong	Mr Warren Boal	Mrs Zandra Boal
Mr Brian Burns	Mrs Catherine Burns	Mrs Valerie Jordan
Mr Alan Kerr	Mrs Gwen Kerr	Mr William McAskie
Mrs Elizabeth McAskie	Mrs Anthea McWha	Mr Francis McWha
Mrs Susan Smyth	Mrs Vera Smyth	

DEATHS

22nd September - Mrs Anne Ferguson

4th December - Mrs Margaret Moore

Alexandra Faloon – Go Make a Difference in Tanzania



Hi, I am Alexandra, and I am 18 years old. I have been part of Streaan since I was 4. You might recognise me from singing at the front of church some Sunday mornings.

Through an opportunity from school, I will be taking part in Go MAD (Go Make a Difference) a non-profit organisation helping volunteers to get involved in a wide range of community projects in East Africa such as building schools, clean water supplies and providing medical and social care.

This summer I will be going to Tanzania with Go MAD, I will spend the first 2 weeks of July there. We will be staying in Musoma. This is in North Tanzania, situated in the region of Mara which stretches from Lake Victoria to the west to the Serengeti National Park and Mount Kilimanjaro to the east.

We will be staying in a lodge built by the founders of the company where we will be able to sleep, eat and socialise with other volunteers in the project. While there we will have a wide variety of projects to get involved in from building water tanks, goat sheds and low cost housing, teach in local schools, get involved in community health awareness days, teaching health education in villages or helping local business initiatives. We also will be able to get involved with a tree planting initiative that has been started.

I would like to say a very sincere thank you to everyone who supported the recent Coffee Morning. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of everyone and are delighted that over £1000 was raised, all of which will go directly to the charity Go Mad.

Please Pray for:

Our team – that we bond well as a group.

Our travel – we fly to Nairobi, Kenya with a layover in Doha, Qatar. When we arrive in Kenya we will travel by bus across the border before arriving in Musoma. Pray for a safe and smooth journey

Our health – while travelling in an area that has high disease rates such as Malaria and Yellow Fever, pray that our vaccinations will prevent us from getting these serious diseases and for overall good health.

Good relationships with the local Tanzanian people.

Mission trip to Kenya with Jengana

Matthew Harris and Emma Smyth, another two of our young people, are heading to Kenya this summer.

We are going to Kenya with the Jengana charity, in late July 2023. This charity was founded by Fransuer Mukula in 2008. After living through a period of time as a street child in Kenya, he always had a desire to 'give back' to help children and individuals in poverty. Mr Mukula is now a Religious Studies teacher at Campbell College, Belfast.



During our trip we will be...

Volunteering at the Kipepeo Home for babies and children, and spending time with all the young children staying there, whilst also visiting and helping out at slum schools. Jengana also helps run the feeding programme run by Utu Wema (this programme gives each child a nutritious porridge mid-morning – ensuring each child is nourished and able to concentrate and be engaged in learning).

We will also be going into the Nairobi City Centre with food to feed men, women, and children living on the streets, and helping at a rehabilitation home for street boys. During our stay we will partake in home visits – visiting slum-based families and bringing food packages.

Please consider these points for prayer:

- ***Safe travel for the team***
- ***Safety for the team whilst in Kenya***
- ***The development of good relationships between the team and the people we meet***
- ***That the team will meaningfully contribute to the ongoing work of the Jengana Charity.***

A lot of the work done by the charity not only relies on help from young volunteers like us – but also from donations.

On the **13th May**, we will be hosting a **coffee morning at Strean**, to fundraise for the charity (**all money raised will be going straight to the Jengana charity itself**).

We would love for you to join us on this morning for a coffee and a bun, and to hear more about our planned mission trip with Jengana. Thank you.

Emma Smyth and Matthew Harris.

STREAN YOUTH CLUB



Watching Strictly on a Saturday night? Got a sweet-tooth and fancy something to nibble on while you watch it? Then why not call down to Youth Club, see what's going on and pay our tuck shop a visit? We've actually got buckets of candy-floss, an abundance of cavity-causing, sugar-loaded sticky sweets, chocolate galore, brightly coloured fizzy drinks full of e-numbers and pretty much everything that would make Willy Wonka proud!



Youth Club runs fortnightly on Saturday nights from 6.45 - 8.15pm for kids from P6 to year 10 and everyone is very welcome.

Since starting again this school year in September we've had over

200 different kids through the doors with over 100 turning up regularly every night. The vast majority have no other connection to Streaan.



We are lucky to have spacious, well equipped church halls and on a youth club night all 3 floors are active. Pool, air hockey, table football, x-box and music are available in the Youth Room but we also find that a lot of the kids like to use the sofas and giant bean bags just to hang out and catch up with their friends.

Red faces and sweaty hair are the norm for those that like to play football, hockey, basketball or dodgeball in the Adgey Hall and we usually try to have a 5 minute Bible reading and prayer at half time for all those at Youth Club that night.

Mario-Kart is forever popular alongside table tennis, dual-hoop basketball shootout, mini snooker, board games and classics like Twister but there's always the DVD in the Kerr Hall providing another chill-out zone. This area is well used for those that prefer to be less active and are content with a movie, some company, sweets and occasionally some pizza.



Robin Hood has nothing to worry about if the skills shown at the archery in the coffee area are anything to go by!

December saw our Christmas special night with giant inflatable slides and games along with 'Rodeo Rudolph'! A rodeo always looks

easy until you actually try it.....

This year we've been delighted to welcome onboard several new leaders and parent helpers whose children come to YC. We've also involved a few teenagers as part of their volunteering section for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and would be more than happy to involve more next year. It's an easy way to achieve the hours needed for your award so please speak to us if you think we could help.



Keep an eye on the church Facebook page for info and details about YC or ask in the office.



Finally a few words of thanks....

Thanks to all those in the church who gave us donations towards new equipment , events or selection boxes for all the children at Christmas. Thanks to all the leaders who give up their Saturday nights to ensure the smooth running and safety of YC. It takes 12 or 13 adults each night to make it work. Most importantly, thanks to the kids who come along and bring their friends. They're

a great bunch this year who are well behaved (mostly!) and cause us very little problem which makes YC a more enjoyable experience for us too!

Stephen Wilson

GB Officer Retires

The GB captain Sandra Gwynne presented flowers to Jennifer Rankin (nee Wilson) at the GB enrolment.

As a young child Jennifer joined the GB in Stranmillis in 1975, working her way through the ranks to eventually becoming a well respected and valued Officer. Serving for 25 years in this capacity Jennifer has now decided to stand down from this position.

We thank Jennifer for all her hard work, especially the scripts for sketches for the GB displays.



Outreach Programmes for Children & Teenagers

Programmes for young people in Year 8-14

Residential Youth Weekend to Delamont Outdoor Education Centre, Killyleagh. 14th - 16th April

We plan for five devotional sessions over the weekend as well as a great selection of physical activities.

Summer Blitz 2023 - we are planning another 3 day activity programme from Monday 24th – Wednesday 26th July.

Please pray for:

Planning and preparation, for good health and safety for every person going on the weekend and taking part in Summer Blitz.

Safety in travel, for volunteers to help deliver the programmes.

God's Kingdom to be Advanced in every young person and leader taking part.

Stephen Boyle

Holiday Bible Club 2023

Join us each morning in the ...



Come and help us investigate the wonders of the Bible!

Mon 31st July - Fri 4th August

For all children P1 - P7

(as of September 2023)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Strean Presbyterian Church Annual General Meeting

Thursday 27th April 7.45pm

- This is an opportunity to hear about the business of the church as well as enjoy
- fellowship with other members and relax over a very welcome cuppa.

Saturday Coffee Mornings 10:00am – 12:00noon

- 1st April - Marie Curie Cancer Care
- 15th April - For Flower Fund and Coffee Bar
- 13th May - Matthew Harris and Emma Smyth (Jengana to Kenya)
- 20th May - PW
- 3rd June - Christians Against Poverty (CAP)
- 17th June - Holiday Bible Club Registration and Summer Blitz including a Car Wash

Antiques and Collectables Fair

On Monday 1st May 2023

From 10am - 4pm

**Refreshments will be available to purchase
Proceeds are in aid of church funds and missions**





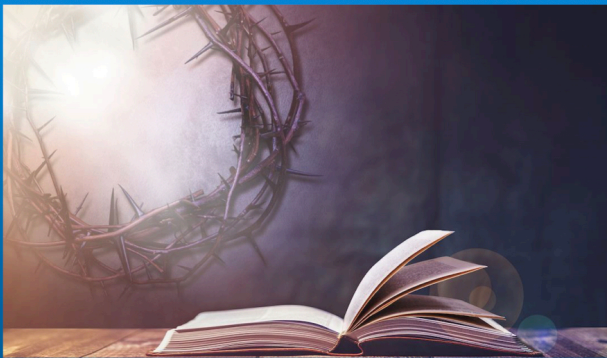
CHARLES III Coronation Celebration

Sunday 7th May 2023

**Family Sausage Sizzle
after the morning service**

Holy Week Services

“Encounter with Christ in the Upper Room”



Happening each evening in
Movilla Presbyterian,
Beginning at 7.30pm

Starting Tuesday 4th April 2023
Closing with our Good Friday Service,
with Communion

Speaker for the week;
Rev. John Woodside

*Services supported by all the Presbyterian Churches in Newtownards, Co. Down. Northern Ireland.
1st Ards, 2nd Ards, Greenwell Street, Movilla, Regent Street, Streat & Scrabo.*

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Minister: Rev. Jeff McWatters 077 9955 2804 or 9181 3374

E-mail: jmcwatters@presbyterianireland.org

Clerk of Session: Mr Wallace McKee 07985 085527

Church Co-ordinator: Barbara McCartney office@streat.org

Church Office: Tel No 9181 6225 9.00am - 12.45pm Monday - Friday

Website: www.streat.org

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