



“LET HIS LIGHT SHINE”



“See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these.” Matthew 6:28-29

C

Reflections from the manse 3

O

God's word can comfort us and give us strength 3

N

Church closed, what will we do? 4

What will you hear? 5

How can you contribute to Mission Giving 5

How Streaton support Mission 6-7

T

Overseas and Home Outreach this summer 8

Boys' Brigade 9

E

Girls' Brigade 9-10

Church Member Records 11

N

Christian Aid 11

Useful contact details 12

T

S

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 give them to Rosemary Black (Editor) or email rosemarycblack@gmail.com or alternatively you can email any articles to Barbara in the church office - office@streaton.org

Reflections from the manse

It is lovely to see the nights getting longer once again, if only the temperature was a bit warmer! In the garden we are starting to see the green shoots of spring growth. Daffodils are often seen as the first sign of spring and the cover picture of this magazine, which Martin took, shows this beautifully. A garden is constantly changing, different plants growing at different times, and those plants which never seem to change. We can always recognise it as a garden even through those changes. Life is constantly changing for all of us, but it is still life.



Have you ever considered daffodils? How they grow from a bulb planted in the ground, how this bulb is a store of energy and new life just waiting for the right moment to burst forth and be revealed. The daffodil represents us as people and as a church. For all of us and for church there are times of growth and bloom, and there are times of storing up and settling in for the cold winter months. We need to remember that at the end of winter comes spring and a time of renewed growth.

We were preparing to elect a new Church Committee, but with Covid 19 all of our activities and gatherings have been forced to stop. We will pick this up again once we are allowed. In the meantime let us continue to remember that we are still a church, that we are still family. Do not be physically calling in on people because there is a risk of spreading infection. Instead please follow the example that our elders have already started, phone each other. If anyone needs support please let myself, Fiona or one of the elders know and we will assist in any way we can. Let us continue to pray for one another and for our entire world during this difficult time.

Church will always look different with each changing season. There will be the new faces of those who have joined us. There will be extra wrinkles on the faces of those who have been there for some time. There will be those who are missing because God has taken them in a different direction and there are those whom God has called home to be with Him.

Even with all these changes we are still a church, a group of people who love God and want to serve Him. So let us step out in faith into this difficult season, asking for His strength and enabling.

Jeremiah 29 v 11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”.

Jeff

God's word can comfort us and give us strength.

In church we realise that times like these are difficult and troubling. It is in such times that we turn to God's word seeking strength and comfort. Here are some Bible passage that you may find helpful and encouraging. **Psalm 23, Psalm 46, Psalm 121, Psalm 135, Psalm 139**

You might also be wondering “What can I do to help?” Some of us might be able to phone others to check they are alright; some of us might be able to do some shopping for those who are self-isolating. Something that we can all do is to pray for this situation, pray for protection on those who are working in the front lines, and pray for calm in our land.

Some Bible passages that encourage us to pray are :-

Philippians 4:4-7, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Proverbs 18:10, Psalm 59:16, Ephesians 6:18

Ephesians 3:20-21 (New International Version) “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

There are daily prayers points that can be found on PCI's website www.presbyterianireland.org



Church closed, what will we do?

Whether you're on your own, or with your family, here are several ways to participate in Christian activities and experiences. If you are not sure how to access some of the suggestions below just ask and we will be glad to help you.

Watch a service on TV / Online / listen to a service on the radio:

- Sunday Worship on BBC 1 at 11.30am Mornings
- BBC songs of Praise is on every Sunday 13:15pm (check the schedule as the time can vary)
- Radio Ulster - Morning service broadcast every Sunday at 10:15am
- Radio Ulster - Sunday afternoon Sounds Sacred at 15:03pm
- UCB radio - Christian radio channel
- Several churches will be putting up podcasts
- Our Minister Jeff will be doing a daily podcast at 9:00am if you don't have Facebook it can be accessed on youtube see the link below
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKo4ICF44jtLnHHxyzu0wIA>

Listen to Worship music:

- From Youtube, to Spotify, our on your phone playlist
- Get out the old CDs.

Prayer:

- Contact Jeff, your Elder, or the Church office if you have any prayer requests
- There are daily prayers points that can be found on PCI's website www.presbyterianireland.org

Meeting a need:

As a church family we want to be able to help you at this time.

If you need anything - such as some groceries brought to your doorstep, or something from the pharmacy - please do ask, and we will endeavour to meet this need.

We are also very grateful to those who have already offered to help out in this way.

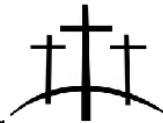
Perhaps at the moment you feel this is all covered; however, if your need changes (perhaps a family member takes ill) - please do phone, text or get in touch with the church office, Jeff or Fiona. The phone numbers are at the back of this magazine.

Give:

If you would like to know how to keep giving your weekly offering to church, please phone the church office or Jeff. We fully understand that family's finances will be hit hard by the current situation - so we do not wish to put any pressure on any of our members. We firmly believe that God's goodness to us as a congregation will continue, and all of our financial needs as a church will be covered.

The latest News page on the website has up-to-date information.

WHAT WILL YOU HEAR?



I sometimes notice how, when listening to a very familiar scripture passage being read, I just let it flow over me. I know it so well that I don't even have to concentrate, I can almost quote every word from memory. Yet when I do pay attention; when I focus on the words; when I open my heart's ears and let God's Holy Spirit in, I really hear.

As we approach Good Friday we no doubt will hear those oh so familiar words:

Christ died for you.

But what will we really hear? Will we just let the words flow over us?

Or will we hear:

The vicious, multi-tailed, razor sharp bone encrusted lash tearing through the air and ripping flesh from Jesus' bleeding back.

Peter's denial, 'I tell you, I don't know that man!' and the cock crowing.

Pilate's, 'I find nothing wrong with this man',

The mob's angry screams, 'Crucify him! Crucify him!'

The crude 8 inch long iron spikes being mercilessly hammered into Jesus' hands and feet.

The mocking voices shouting, 'He saved others but he can't save himself.'

The agonised, despairing cry, 'My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?'

The quiet prayer, 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.'

Mary's heart-breaking sobs as she witnesses her dearly loved son hanging on that cross, his life ebbing away from his pain-racked, broken body before her tear-filled eyes.

Jesus' last words, 'It is finished!'

Or perhaps we will hear, 'It was **MY** sin that held Him there.'

Morris McAllister

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE TO MISSION GIVING?



MONTHLY
ENVELOPES



Fill with 20p coins.

£12 a tube



Set up DD or standing order payments. E-mail the church office or speak to your Elder

If you are a tax payer and you could complete a Gift Aid form.

Gift Aid is a scheme which allows charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) to claim from HMRC, the basic rate of **tax** their donors have paid. **Gift Aid** increases the value of donations by 25%, so it means even more money goes to the causes you care about – and it won't cost you extra

HOW STREAN SUPPORTS MISSION

Strean has a long association with Mission; both in supporting missionaries who went out from Strean and in supporting many Mission organisations and funds who work locally, regionally and world-wide. And as you have so generously given, it's important to update you on what monies have been raised, and how they have been prayerfully distributed.

Our starting point is that our mission giving should be intentional and without ceasing; as Paul describes it when writing to the Philippians – *When I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need (Chp 4, v.16)*. In Corinthians Paul talks about how we should be stewards of what we have been given and a vision to care for the wider church. And whilst our mission focus is important, alongside this let us place prayer as top priority – praying for the organisations and missionaries we support, praying for PCI's mission focus, and praying for those in need – for their humanitarian needs and their need of the gospel.

Mission Giving

The main source of funding for our Mission giving at Strean is YOU – as a member of our congregation – through the monthly Mission envelopes. This is boosted by giving to other appeals such as the PCI United Appeal and the Moderator's Annual Appeal, as well as the annual Christian Aid activities (collection week in May and Christmas pump in Conway Square). In addition, your support of various fundraising activities provides vital funds for our ongoing ability to be a mission focussed church. Another recent development has been filling Smartie Tubes with 20ps – in 2018 this raised £992 and this is ongoing in 2019/20.

The table below summarises the support provided to the Mission Fund account in 2019

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Mission Envelopes (monthly)	£6,991.80
HMRC Gift Aid (from mission envelopes)	£1,963.53
United Appeal Envelopes	£1,710.00
Moderator's Appeal	£885.00
Antiques Fair/Christmas Fair	£1,500.00
Christian Aid	£701.00
Children's Society	£1,471.50

Another fact worth highlighting is that further funds are raised and then utilised via the many Saturday Coffee mornings supporting numerous charities and wider causes, as well as through Mission support by many of our organisations – the Craft Class, the Bowlers, the BB and GB, PW, Sunday school and Tots & Toddlers. For example, the Toddlers group supports Heidy in Colombia (through Compassion UK), providing around £300 of support each year.

Strean has continued its outward Mission focus, recognising that it is God's calling to us to use the gifts that we have, including money and skills, to support those in our wider world who are proclaiming the gospel in His Name.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6 v. 9

Mission Fund Allocation

The administration of the Mission Fund is a responsibility of Session; they receive regular updates from our Treasurer on what funds are available for distribution, as well as our requirements in terms of PCI United Appeal. In 2019 this requirement for Streat was £8,893 – this is based on the size of our congregation and this has been fully paid out. Let's remember that this is a significant amount for our congregation to raise annually, and some congregations are unable for many reasons to fulfil their requirement. In addition, in one sense this is the only requirement on us from Church House; but with generous giving and a commitment to mission, Streat is then able to provide funding to and help support a wide range of other appeals, organisations and activities. These are highlighted in the table below for 2019.

It's worth emphasising that we also help to support any of our young people who venture out into the wider world; on mission or humanitarian trips. At present we offer £50 for local NI projects and £150 for overseas trips. *It's wonderful to have so many young people keen to give of their time and skills – and with a real-world mission focus.*

AREA	DETAILS	AMOUNT ALLOCATED
PCI projects	United Appeal	£8,893
	Moderator's Service and Appeal - Cyclone Ida	£1,000
	Diane Cusick (Malawi)	£300
Other Projects	United Christian Broadcasting	£200
	Revival Movement Association	£300
	SOS Bus NI	£300
	Mercy Ships	£300
	Bible Society NI	£300
	SUNI - Scripture Union	£1,000
	Belfast City Mission	£500
	The Link, Newtownards	£500
	Open Doors	£575
Young People	Lewis Getty (Habitat for Humanity)	£150
	Heather Orr (Abaana)	£150
Other Projects	Christian Aid - Funds from Streat input	£701
	Children's Society	£1,471.50

This amounts to £15,169 of mission fund allocation; and as noted above does not include the wide range of other funds supported by our organisations and individual members.

Session is always pleased to hear about missionaries and mission organisations which you – as a congregational member – think could be considered. Please speak to our minister, Jeff, about this.

***Can we both thank you – and encourage you – in your Mission giving.
The difference it makes is immeasurable!***

Below we have detailed a variety of summer outreach activities and experiences that were planned by several of our young people as well as details of our annual church Holiday Bible Club. In view of the current world situation with Covid-19 we are unsure if these will still happen. We will keep everyone up to date with any changes and prayer points via the church facebook and website.

OVERSEAS TRIPS PLANNED BY TWO OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



MADDIE BELL - has been preparing go to South Africa from 28th July - 7th August with Rebuilt South Africa. ReBuild South Africa is designed to help some of the poorest families in a township.



KATHRYN BOYLE - has been planning to head to FIJI on May - June 2020 to volunteer for a month with the charity Think Pacific. She will be living with a Fijian family.

LOCAL OUTREACH PLANNED BY TWO OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



KATE WILSON

In July we hope to be heading up to Portballintrae for two weeks to volunteer on a Scripture Union CSSM team.

This involves leading groups of children from ages 4-16 and teaching them more about God and the Bible. This is an opportunity of outreach and also to learn more about our faith and to grow in our own gifts as leaders. The two weeks will be jam packed with Bible study, games and much more!



LEWIS GETTY



Blast Off!

Strean Presbyterian Holiday Bible Club

Come on an amazing adventure this summer through the galaxies, on a journey to answer some big questions!

Monday 20th - Friday 24th July 2020

10.30am - 12.30pm

For all children P1 - P7

(starting P1 in Sept 2020)

REGISTRATION MORNING

SATURDAY 20TH JUNE 2020,

10am - 12noon



Prayer Points for Holiday Bible Club

Pray:

- For the section leaders, and the development and delivery of the programme
- The whole team, that enough people will come forward to cover all areas
- The homes that the information will go into and that parents will be eager to send their children along
- That the message we share will be received and planted in the hearts and minds of children and adults alike



STREAN BB BOYS ARE FLYING



What do phrases such as “feet between”, “neck roll”, “fish dive” and “flying angel” mean to you? Well, they are all different types of gymnastics vaults.

This year our BB Company Section has re-started vaulting, or box work (as some of you may know it as). We are fortunate to have an excellent stock of the required equipment, including two vaulting horses, two pommel horses, two springboards, one trampette and one crash mat. These have all been stored away under the Adgey Hall floor for some years.

In early January, a small initial squad of 5 boys started training with Carl and I on Saturday afternoons. We began working on the basics using floor mats, then progressed onto the small box with the aid of a springboard, and more recently progressing again onto our full size horse with the aid of the trampette. The photograph shows our happy group of budding gymnasts!

The boys have demonstrated good discipline in gradually developing their respective ranges of abilities. The old adage “walk before you run” comes to mind each Saturday and, as a result, it has been pleasing to watch confidence and self-belief grow as the boys succeed in learning each vault in turn.

The culmination of all this hard work was to be a vaulting demonstration at our BB Parents’ Night which unfortunately was cancelled due to the coronavirus. We already know that the boys will want to keep this rewarding activity going next year, to get some more boys into our squad, and impart the new-found skills onto others. Very well done, boys!!

Stephen Boyle (BB Captain)



GB HAS ENJOYED ANOTHER BUSY YEAR



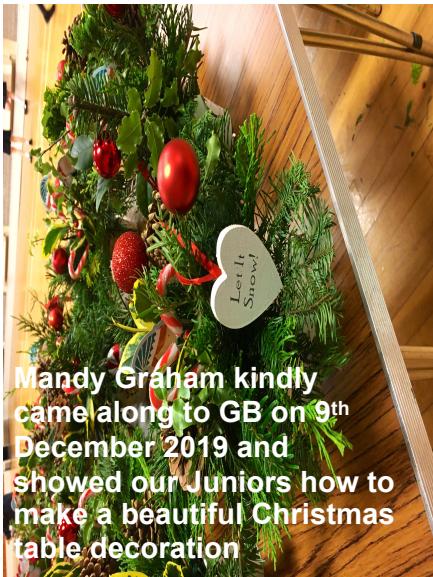
GB is running well this year, although it's just not the same without our Captain Sandra Gwynne, who is taking the much needed time out to recover from surgery.

We have had a busy year, which started on 26th August 2019 with the Explorers and Juniors performing guard of honour for our Officer Rachel Cairns at her wedding to Adam Nugent.



The Seniors, Brigaders and some of our officers took part in the GBNI 5K colour run in Victoria Park on 5th October 2019. This event marked the end of GB's 125th anniversary celebrations. As you can see much fun was had by all, the messier the better!

On the 25th November 2019 our team of Seniors entered and won the GB District Unihoc competition and went on to play in the NI final in January 2020 and I am very proud to say Streat GB came 4th in the whole of Northern Ireland.



Mandy Graham kindly came along to GB on 9th December 2019 and showed our Juniors how to make a beautiful Christmas table decoration



Officers, Seniors and Brigaders visit to the Belfast Market at Christmas

Christmas party night. The under 5s and Explorers had a party and a visit from Santa, while the Seniors and Brigaders had a pyjama party in the youth room with a visit from Santa. The Juniors enjoyed an outing to Airtastic in Bangor

Also in December the Explorer section entered the GBHQ craft competition. Each girl had to create a design onto a template of a shield telling the story of David who was known as a man after "God's own heart."

Two of our Explorers were in the top 10 winners and won a trip to W5!

We held our charity coffee morning raising £220.30 for NI Air Ambulance. We also encourage our GB girls to save their 'spare change' and bring it to GB each week for this very worthy cause.

Our annual GB fund raiser breakfast, "the big fry", took place on Saturday 8th February. Thank you to everyone who came along to support us and to those who gave donations. We raised a net total of £654.70.

Lynn Cairns

CHURCH MEMBER RECORDS December 2019 - March 2020

COMMUNICANTS BY TRANSFER

Mrs Deborah Crossman

NEW COMMUNICANTS BY PROFESSION OF FAITH

Mrs Alison Conroy

DEATHS

3rd December 2019 - Miss Margaret Colville

4th January 2020 - Mrs Jean Gibson

23rd February 2020 - Mrs Kathleen Gilliland

TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN GILLILAND - CHURCH TREASURER

We all know that there is a cycle to life, as scripture puts it in Ecclesiastes 3:2 “There is a time to be born and a time to die”. This does not take away the pain and sorrow we feel when someone within our church family dies, it just helps us in our understanding of the rhythm of life.

On 23rd February this year we said goodbye to Kathleen Gilliland. Kathleen had been a very active member of Strean since marrying David and taking up residence at the farm.

Whilst raising the family and working on many aspects of the farm, Kathleen still found time for her church and for her Lord. She was a member of the choir/singing group and latterly was our Church Treasurer. Kathleen was someone you could always count on. She was in church at every opportunity, health permitting, always helping in any way she could. From a personal point, I could always rely on Kathleen to be straight talking and 100% honest and from the very start we had a great friendship. I know I sorely miss her – and this is true for so many people at Strean that have known Kathleen over the last number of decades.

Kathleen will be missed by us all and she will be missed most by David, William, Ian and Sara, their spouses and the grandchildren, as well as her wider family. We continue to pray for all of her family. On behalf of Kathleen’s family thank you to all who sent cards of support, phone calls or food, and to all who attended the service of Thanksgiving – what an accolade to how well she was known and loved to see the church full to capacity with many also in our Welcome Area. Most of all we give thanks to God for His love and grace, knowing that Kathleen had personal faith and now she is with her Lord.



Christian Aid Week

10-16 May 2020

Please be aware that Christian Aid may not be able to hold their annual door to door collection this year due to the Coronavirus, which will greatly affect their finances. Please remember Christian Aid and many other Mission Societies and Local Charities at this difficult time.

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

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

E-mail: jmcwatters@presbyterianireland.org

Clerk of Session: Mrs Fiona Boyle 9181 2825 or 079 7418 0321

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

Church Office: Tel No 9181 6225 9.15am - 12.45pm Monday - Friday

Website: www.strean.org

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