



*Matthew 6v28*

*"See how the flowers of the field grow".*



## Special Services

### Holy Week Services

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April in Greenwell Street Presbyterian Church  
(See page 16 for more details)

### Easter Sunday – 17<sup>th</sup> April

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

Sunday school happens during the service except during family services.

Creche for babies and toddlers is available every week.

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As a church family we want to be able to help YOU at this time. If you need anything, please do ask and we will endeavour to help you.  
Please phone, text or get in touch with the church office: Tel: 028 9181 6225  
Jeff Mob: 077 9955 2804 or Fiona Mob:079 7418 0321.

## Greetings from the Manse



Hello everyone and welcome to the latest edition of our church magazine. As I put pen to paper, or rather fingers to a keyboard, I can hear the sound of heavy machinery working at the side of the manse. You could say that they are working to create a blank canvas. The ground has been cleared and levelled, and soon it will be marked out for a new road and new houses. As you look out the window the landscape is changing, and it will continue to change. In a way it is a signal to the end of a period of waiting due to Covid; an indication that now is the right time to move forward.

It is like an image of what has been happening in church the past 2 years and where we are now. When Covid hit everything stopped, no activities were happening. But now things are different. We are back in the church buildings worshipping together, organisations are meeting again, and we can hear the sound of voices singing, talking, laughing and having fun. We see the landscape of church changing each week as more people have the confidence to return. Church has changed in another way as we now live stream our service each Sunday, sending God's word around the globe, as well as, into houses in our own area. For people who are house bound or living in residential facilities unable to attend a church service, the church has now come to them; they are no longer excluded.

When the diggers scrape at the soil next to the manse, they very quickly hit solid rock and then the noise really starts as they try to break up the rock.

For us in church our foundation is one that cannot be broken up or removed, because our foundation is God. Our lives and our church are built upon the fact that God sent Jesus to be our saviour. **Isaiah 26 verse 4 says "Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal."** No matter what may come our way, we have a foundation that cannot be shaken; we have the one and only God who loves us without measure, He is our Heavenly Father.

So, when you feel that you are shaken, when you feel it is difficult to hold on, just remember it is God who is holding you, not you holding God.

And as Isaiah 26 verse 3 says, may you know God's peace.

**Isaiah 26:3-4 "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.<sup>4</sup> Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal."**

*Jeff*



Photo: The Michael and Victoria Monument in Kiev, central Kiev

I have just been listening to the latest news on the situation in Ukraine. I am sure, like myself, you are saddened and horrified by what is happening and you might be wondering how someone could be so cruel and full of hatred. Unfortunately, this kind of behaviour is nothing new. In our current series on a Sunday morning from the book of Isaiah we have seen how people can be self-centred, self-seeking and had chosen to forget God. This went on for a while until God stopped it. Our prayer would be that God would stop this war in Ukraine and bring peace.

I have also been amazed and encouraged by the outpouring of support for those who are suffering. We have seen lorry loads of aid being driven to the countries that surround Ukraine, to help those who have had to leave everything behind. This is James 1 v 27 in action, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

At this stage now we are being told that the best way to support and donate is through the gift of money. I have been overwhelmed by the response from Streaton; when the Moderator launched his appeal for Ukraine, Session said immediately that we would send £1000 regardless of what donations were received into church. As I write this article, we have already received over £4000! Thank you for your generosity.

If you want to donate to the Moderator's Appeal this can be done either by popping your gift into an envelope, marked Moderator's Appeal, or by donating on-line.

Envelopes can be given in on a Sunday morning.

**Please mark envelopes and on-line payments with MA and include your name and FWO number as a reference.**

The details for giving on-line are.....

Payee: Streaton Mission Account  
Sort Code: 95-03-96  
Account Number: 21155849

## Update on Streaan Worship Services

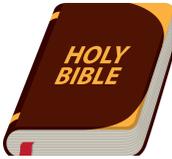
Streaan's Kirk Session meets bi-monthly to discuss the spiritual and pastoral needs of our congregation. At our March meeting we focussed on thinking about our Sunday worship services in a post-pandemic world. We are thankful that in this last year – since April 2021 – we have been able to hold our Sunday morning service in person each week. As we move forward here are a few changes that you will see:

<b>Prayer time before the Sunday Morning service</b>	This will resume from Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> March in the prayer room at 10.15am in advance of our worship service at 11am.
<b>Prayer Points</b>	From Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> March a printed version of the Prayer points will be available.
<b>Offering</b>	The offering plates will remain in the Vestibule and Welcome Area, rather than being passed along the pews. We will be re-introducing bringing the offering forward to the communion table, for a prayer of thanks.
<b>Bible readings and prayers</b>	We are keen to re-establish different voices and input for Bible readings and prayers - <b>if you feel you could contribute in this way, speak to the Minister.</b>
<b>Music</b>	Do you play a musical instrument or sing? <b>If so, and you would like to become involved, please speak to the Minister.</b>
<b>Evening services</b>	We plan to start our evening services again on the last Sunday of the month – these will be for April, May and June. These are informal services in the Welcome Area at 7pm.
<b>Communion services</b>	For the time being we are going to retain the system of people bringing their own bread and wine. There will be a few pre-made communion kits should you forget yours.

Covid-19 has changed how we do things. And it's had a big impact on the world of worship through technology. Each week our Sunday service is live-streamed and we know lots of people watch it online at the time, with others viewing it in the following days and weeks. It's just amazing to see people tune in – literally from all around the world. Please pray for our technical team and the work involved in delivering this. Our live-stream will continue for all those who need and who use it. But we would also encourage you to come back to church in person, if you are able. A church worship service is about church family and community, it's about being there if you can rather than watching at a distance, it's focussed on inclusion and being part of something, rather than being separate.

**Fiona Boyle (Clerk)**

## **What is a small group?**



Have you even listened to an announcement about the small groups and wondered what they are all about? If so, then please read on.



The small groups are just a group of people meeting to learn more about the bible. They meet twice a month in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weeks of the month. One group meets at 7:30pm on a Wednesday and the other at 12:30pm on a Friday. Sometimes they will look at a particular book of the bible and other times it will take a topic; currently they are studying Heaven.

The study for both groups is lead by Jeff in a relaxed and informal way. Questions are encouraged and the approach for the groups is that no question is irrelevant or foolish; if you do ask a question you can be sure that someone else is thinking what you are asking.

After the time of bible study there is an opportunity for prayer. No one is forced or expected to pray, it is entirely up to yourself. This is a time when if there is something troubling you and you want to share it, then we can pray for you as a church family.

Honestly, the small groups are not scary. It is a time to get to know each other a bit better, share a cuppa and learn more from God's word. Why not give one of the groups a try, you would be very welcome.

*Jeff*

### **Drop off dates for the Foodbank & Mission/Charity envelopes.**

**28th April - Foodbank and Church envelopes**

**28th May - Christian Aid**

**23rd June - United Appeal**

**These dates provide an opportunity for everyone to support the local food banks, church mission projects and various charities.**

## ***Elders' Retirement***

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February I announced that three of our elders had been granted the position of Elder Emeritus by the Presbytery of Ards. This means that an elder steps back from the duty of having a district to look after, they don't vote in decisions of Session, and they are released from the responsibility of being a trustee for the church charity.

The elders who were granted this were Tommy Scott, Bill McKenzie and George McCullagh. George was installed as an elder on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1982, Tommy on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1988 and Bill on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

Our church and Session have been so blessed by Tommy, Bill and George, for how they have faithfully served and assisted, and we know that they will continue to be involved in the life of Streat.

Session wants to publicly acknowledge this dedication and thank them for it. I personally would like to thank them for their support and prayers in my work as minister of Streat and for their prayers for my family.

George, Bill and Tommy were not in church that morning as they didn't want to create a fuss or make it about them, they have humble servant hearts.

We pray that God would continue to bless Tommy, Bill and George and their families, that they would know God's presence with them and His refreshment in their lives.

*Jeff*



***George McCullagh***



***Bill McKenzie***



***Tommy Scott***

## Church Members Record

We were delighted this year, despite continuing Covid restrictions, to welcome the following new members into our Church family:-

### New Members & New Communicants

Mrs Adrienne Campbell  
Rev James (Jim) Campbell  
Ms Julie Beattie  
Mr Colin Gallagher

### Marriage

4th December 2021 - Andrew Dobson and Alanna Cairns

### Deaths

13th January 2022 - Mrs Annabelle (Belle) Ross  
3rd March 2022 - Mr Robert (Bertie) Fowles

As a church family we will continue to remember in prayer, the families of Belle and Bertie.

## Celebration

Congratulations to Andrew Dobson and Alanna Cairns, who were married in Stran on 4th December 2021 by Rev. Jeff McWatters, followed by a reception at the Galgorm Resort & Spa.



## Summer Outreach



### MADDIE BELL

Had been preparing go to South Africa in the summer of 2020 with Rebuilt South Africa (SA). Unfortunately due to the covid pandemic this was postponed and is now rescheduled for 23 July - 3rd August 2022.

Maddie attends the Newtownards Urban Saints in Greenwell Street Presbyterian Church and a group of 6 young people from Ards will be joining with the charity Amor in SA.

**Maddie and the team** are going to be building a small house for an identified family in a township outside of Johannesburg and they will also have the opportunity to build relationships with the family and the wider community.

They will spend some time in Soweto to gain an insight into apartheid and the injustices caused by it.

**Please Pray:-**

- For safe travel, good health and team harmony.
- That the team will have a positive impact as they share God's love with the local people and children.

## **STREAN YOUTH & CHILDREN'S OUTREACH**

You will hopefully recall that Strean delivered a summer activity programme for 40 young people in July 2021 called Summer Blitz. The young people who took part in Blitz are all embedded in our youth organisations as never before, and we now have the opportunity to mould a new teenager generation of leaders for the future. Not to be outdone, we have a great batch of current P7 children who rather feel that they missed out on something great last year, and now it is their turn.

You may be interested to know that Strean currently has at least 60 young persons between the ages of 11 and 17 years in its organisations. So what is the plan for this year? Session has granted its permission for two events for these young people, in order that we can hopefully build on our 2021 experiences:-

Residential Youth Weekend to Delamont Outdoor Education Centre, Killyleagh from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April – we have 40 young folk going plus 2 more on a reserve list. Plus 7 very brave adult leaders from Strean. Jeff has chosen a devotional series for the weekend entitled "Dig Into Matthew", and we will commence this study during the five devotional sessions over the weekend (when not climbing, abseiling, mountain biking, night trailing, paddle boarding, canoeing, hunting, eating and (hopefully) sleeping!!)

Summer Blitz 2022 from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July – we are planning another 3 day activity programme, and gearing it for at least 45 young persons. We will not have the same generous grant money available this year but have a few fund raising events planned which the young people will be involved in.

***What we would really encourage is prayer support from you, the congregation, for both events – for planning and preparation, for good health and safety for every person going on the weekend and taking part in Summer Blitz, for safety in travel, for volunteers to help deliver Summer Blitz, and for His Kingdom to be Advanced in every young person and leader taking part. Thank you, in anticipation.***

**Stephen Boyle (Elder)**

# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING



Our BB company has experienced a very special and rewarding 2021/22 session, during which we have witnessed a really significant increase in our numbers – and an answer to prayer. Prior to Covid we had 36 boys registered across our 3 sections and now, at time of writing, we have 54 boys in our company. To all the new families who have become part of our BB family over the past 7 months, we say Welcome and Thank You for sending your sons to 6<sup>th</sup> Newtownards BB.

## **Anchor Boys**

Anchor boys started the September 2021 session with only a few boys on our roll book; our numbers grew quickly and we ended up with a waiting list. We have a super bunch of 21 boys on our books with 18 regularly attending every week. It has been a great encouragement to all of us.

We had a great night at the Ark Farm at the end of September followed by the story of Noah the following week. We've had a few visits at the splash pool which have gone down a storm – though there was a complaint from one of the boys that he had got his hair wet...A theme we have been following this year has been about prayer, one being how to pray using the 'please', 'sorry', and, 'thank-you' model.

We've looked at what makes us different and yet the same; we used Olaf melting for Anna and compared that to Jesus dying for us; we were secret agents one night and did our fingerprints and talked about how God wants us to leave a good mark on the world. We did craft items, play dough fun and Lego building, as well as lots of physical games.

BB NI ran a Mission 2022 Big Night In which we held in March based around a nautical theme with Jesus being our anchor. There was a great video enjoyed by all our Anchor Boys and Juniors alike.

Nothing happens through just one or two people and we have a great and enthusiastic Anchor Boy team.



## **Junior Section**

Junior Section also started the September 2021 session with only a few boys on our roll book; our numbers grew slowly and by 15<sup>th</sup> March had 14 boys. This has been a great encouragement to staff.

The section has met on one Tuesday in two, and has enjoyed outings to Ards Leisure Centre. It really enjoyed the joint Big Night In with our Anchor Boys recently.

## Company Section

Carl Harris and I lead a very motivated and enthusiastic section of 18 boys who give their all to every activity which we put in front of them. We have met just about every Tuesday night since September, on a pattern of one night in the halls, the next week outdoors. This has been a positive development of our programme, and it has been very successful. Adaptability is the key to strong youth work.

The "out and about" activities have included a climbing wall experience, a cinema trip, a treasure hunt and hot chocolates in Del Piero's, air soft, a caving experience, climbing Scrabo Hill and playing hunt in the woods by torchlight, survival training in a local wood by torchlight, a visit to Kingspan Stadium to watch Ulster v Leinster. And we have more challenges planned for the summer months!

When in the halls, we have bible class each time, as we follow the BBNI scripture syllabus. We then have badge classes using the BBatHome materials (developed by Brigade in response to the pandemic), and robust PE programmes. The boys enjoyed a healthy cooking night with Julie Beattie and Fiona Boyle, and our older boys will receive interview technique training and mock interviews soon.

Despite the restrictions of the past 2 years, our boys have continued to progress well with their badgework.

And the highlights of this session are undoubtedly the following achievements:-

**Queen's Badge** – Sergeants Conor Finlay, Callum McCaw, Alex Montgomery

**President's Badge** – Lance Corporals Joshua Finlay, Matthew Harris, Carter McIlwrath, Cameron Montgomery, Harry Scandrett



We also enjoyed our Mission 2022 Big Night In video as produced by BBNI, and it's message about how to form a special relationship with God.

Finally, I want to say thank you to our staff team who have remained united and resolute throughout the past two years, keeping the interests of the boys to the fore. Our company continues to Let His Light Shine in all that we strive to do.

**Stephen Boyle (Captain)**



## Discovery Sunday School

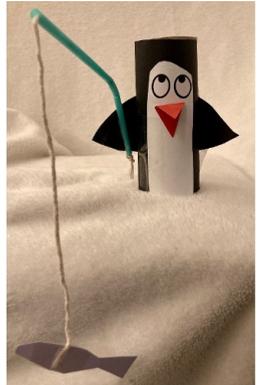
Discovery Sunday School meets every Sunday for children and young people in Preschool right through to Year 10.

It has been lovely to see all the children properly again after a prolonged break due to Covid. Our numbers each week are small but growing as more families return to 'in person' church services.

We have altered our format slightly this year to take account of Covid restrictions – appropriate socially distanced and relevant activities proved a challenge! Our lessons are grouped in fun, relevant themes, allowing the children to learn Biblical truths in a fresh and exciting way. Since January, we have covered the themes of 'Penguins' and 'Codebreakers'. Each week the children listen to a story from the Bible, learn or practise a memory verse, discuss the story and create a craft piece to remind them of what they have learned.

In 'Penguins' we learned that Gentoo penguins are the fastest swimmers and excellent at catching fish. Just as the Gentoos catch fish, Jesus wants us to be fishers of men and share God's love with others. We read about Jesus asking his disciples to be fishers of men in Matthew 4. Rockhopper penguins love hopping their way to higher peaks. God wants us to rise above our world and focus on Jesus so we can live a higher calling. In this lesson we read about The Transfiguration in Matthew 17.

We have a brilliant team of teachers who work incredibly hard to overcome the additional challenges posed by Covid. Despite all teachers in one section having Covid over a period of a few weeks, we managed to have Sunday School running every week and this demonstrates the dedication and adaptability of our teachers. I am thankful to have such a wonderful team working alongside me. We are also very thankful for the prayerful support of our elders and congregation.



### Some prayer points:

- We would love to see our families and children back to worship with us in person and have our numbers back up to pre Covid levels.
- Several teachers stepped down this year due to various reasons. Our team is down from 12 to 8 teachers, and because of additional sickness and isolation this year, cover has been very difficult at times. Please pray that more people will step forward to serve within Sunday School.

Joanne Harris



'Thank you' to our GB Girls and parents for adapting with us as we continue to comply with the Covid guidelines. Currently our younger & older sections are meeting every other week and the numbers continue to be good! Even with the shortened programme we still managed to enjoy our GB Scripture, various activities and craft:



We had Jump, Jiggle & Jive back (indoors this time) and a Film Night for the Under 5's & Explorers.



The Company Section enjoyed a Film Night and celebrated Chinese New Year with a 'home delivery' to our hall and they are currently designing a new GB Badge for the HQ Art Competition.

We hope and pray that the worst of this Covid Pandemic is over us and that we can look forward in September, to be planning and preparing for returning to the GB activities we have been unable to have.

Congratulations to our officer Rachel and her husband Adam on the birth of a healthy baby daughter Cora, born on 21st December 2021 - another new recruit for GB in a few years time.  
**Sandra Gwynne (Captain)**

## PW

At PW we have really enjoyed being able to meet again and are encouraged by the support of our ladies. We are excited to begin to plan our programme for our next season.

We are also trying to organise an outing over the summer so keep an eye out for the details.

**Mandy Graham**



## Youth Fellowship has restarted for 2022



We are currently working through a programme called Rooted: we have looked at ourselves as the “seed” and we’ve moved on to think about the “soil” around us which helps us grow. We’ve also been joined by a different elder each week as they undergo grilling by the young people! We are now very much looking forward to being part of the Streaton Youth Weekend at Delamont!!

### Prayer points for YF:

- Give thanks for the numbers of regular attendees and the new P7s who have joined us
- Give thanks for the support from Session

### Prayer for:

- Safety and fellowship on the weekend at the end of April
- Some additional leaders

**Kirsty Patton**

**Streaton craft class** has resumed after a long break because of covid restrictions. We were so pleased to see so many of our ladies returning with 26 in total attending. At Christmas we had a party with refreshments provided by McKees restaurant and a surprise prize of a Christmas hamper was won by Betty Dempster. After the Christmas break the ladies resumed making various different items i.e. cushions, knitted fruit, Easter chicks and baskets.



On Monday 14th March a trip to visit ‘Mad about Fabrics’, in Dargan Crescent, with refreshment at the Portside Inn, was a great success. We are so thankful for the support we receive from the Session and committee as we use our skills to enhance God’s work in Streaton Church.

**Jean Hiles Team Leader**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

21st May - Christians against poverty (CAP)

18th June - Summer Blitz and Holiday Bible Club ( will include a car wash)

### **Antiques and Collectables Fair**

**On Saturday 7th May 2022**

**From 10am - 4pm**



### *Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022*

*Family Sausage Sizzle  
after the morning service*

Summer Blitz (Year 8-10) Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July

Holiday Bible Club (Primary 1-7) - dates to be confirmed

# Holy Week Services “Why Did Jesus Die?”

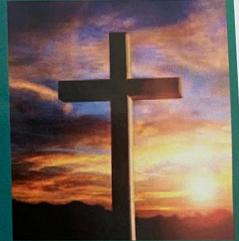
*We are happy to confirm that we are able to  
have our normal Easter services  
back in person for 2022!*

Happening each evening in Greenwell Street  
Presbyterian, from 7.30pm

Starting Tuesday 12th April 2022

Closing with our Good Friday Service, with Communion

*Each evening a message from one of our local Ministers*



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

**Minister:** Rev. Jeff McWatters 077 9955 2804

E-mail: [jmcwatters@presbyterianireland.org](mailto:jmcwatters@presbyterianireland.org)

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

**Church Co-ordinator:** Barbara McCartney [office@strean.org](mailto:office@strean.org)

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