

Eagle Wing



The Magazine of Groomsport Presbyterian Church

Autumn 2017

The *Eagle Wing* was the first emigrant ship to leave Ulster for America. She sailed from Groomsport in September 1636, carrying 140 Presbyterians in search of a life free from persecution in the New World. Fearful weather, however, forced them to return home after two months at sea. Although she did not reach her destination, the *Eagle Wing* became the inspiration for others to make their attempts and since those days, several million people have left our shores, taking with them their culture and traditions. These cultural links with America are celebrated each year at the North Down Eagle Wing Festival in July.

Our church magazine takes its title from this significant piece of local history. In 2002, Jennifer Hulme, a member of the congregation and well known local artist, created the cover design, which strikingly depicts the symbols of the wing, sail and cross.

We seek to be a welcoming community of God's people

*We believe our mission is to hear and share His Word and
to reflect God's unconditional love - as we proclaim
and celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ
and strive to be a welcoming, serving and reconciling
community."*

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Visit our website www.groomsportpc.com

LETTER FROM THE MANSE

When out visiting members of the congregation, one of the questions that I have been asked most is, “How are you settling in?” Everyone - without exception - who has asked the question was concerned that the manse family are happy in Groomspoint. It is so heartening to experience that genuine concern and interest and we, of course, consider ourselves very blessed and happy to be part of the congregation.



Personally, speaking from experience, I have always found the happiness in the first year or two in a congregation mixed with frustration. Frustration is probably too strong a word but, as one who appreciates a map when visiting a city, I feel like I'm wandering about the streets of a beautiful city without a map. In such a situation, we are always happy when a local can give directions. And so, a big thank you to all those who, in the first six months of my ministry, have given thoughtful and helpful directions. I hope that, in the not-too-distant future, I will know my way about the ongoing life and work of the congregation and know you all by name.

As you know, plans are in place for me to travel to Princeton in November, in the hope of securing an intern for the 2018-19 year. In the meantime, I am very thankful that the Kirk Session encouraged me to obtain the help of a retired minister. I am very happy that Rev. Denis Campbell, whom I have known for over 20 years, has agreed to work alongside me in the pastoral care of the congregation. You will learn a little more about Denis in the interview later in the magazine. My thanks to Denis for taking on this workload in his retirement and I pray that he knows God's blessing.

As well as the elders visiting and caring pastorally for the families in their districts, I am aware that we have a small group of volunteer visitors. Their quiet, continuous commitment to caring in this way is very much appreciated by those with whom they call. It is my hope that we can continue to develop and encourage this aspect of ministry in the congregation, along with making the services available on CD for those not able to be with us for Sunday Worship.

Thank you for your care and interest in us during these early months of ministry and I encourage everyone to continue in ministering to each other, to those who are older and to those who are young.

It is my prayer that God will continue to do his work amongst us by his Holy Spirit, so that the reconciling love of God in Christ may flow through us to the world.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Paul'.

CONGREGATIONAL RECORD



BAPTISMS

9 July 2017 Joshua Alastair, son of Alastair and Louise Boyle
6 August 2017 Rosie Anna, daughter of Noel and Louise Milliken

“The promise is to you and to your children”



DEATHS

February 2017 Mrs Josie Peacock, Cranley Lodge (24)
12 April 2017 Mrs Eda Cowan, Carnalea Care Home (15)
21 April 2017 Rev Eric McAuley, 10 Windrush (7)
21 May 2017 Mrs E Griffin, Bramblewood Care Home (15)
31 May 2017 Mrs Marian Andrews, Mullaghboy Home (3)
9 June 2017 Rev John Watson, 12 Glenariff Park (24)
19 June 2017 Mr Herbie Murray, 7 Worcester Avenue (27)
7 July 2017 Mr Norman Walsh, 10 Rockmount Park (19)
13 August 2017 Mr Norman Dougan, Bryansburn Nursing Home (20)

“Blessed are they who die in the Lord”



MARRIAGES

29 May 2017 Malcolm Poole and Helen McCoubrey

“Unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain who build it”

If today were your last, would you do what you're doing?
Or would you love more, give more, forgive more? Then do so!
Forgive and give as if it were your last opportunity.
Love like there's no tomorrow, and if tomorrow comes, love again.
- Max Lucado

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Pastoral Assistant	Rev Denis Campbell	07716 332769
Church Office	Tues, Wed & Fri 9.00-1.00	9146 2552 gportpc@googlemail.com

News from the Pews ...

SUMMER COFFEE MORNINGS

The summer Saturday Coffee Mornings have come to an end for another year – and once again, they have been very successful and well-attended. The fellowship and *craic* were super!

A big ‘thank you’ to all the ladies who hosted these most enjoyable occasions, tempting us each week with delicious scones and traybakes. This year, I am delighted to record the magnificent total of **£1495.50** – our best ever!



Rhoda Martin

Rosalind MacNeice wishes to thank everyone who supported her coffee morning in May, in aid of Hope Christian Trust. £800 was donated to help fund the creation of a new children’s playground at the Community Centre in Zababdeh, a Palestinian town on the West Bank. The photos show work on the project – which was due to be completed in September – and a group of children who attended the Centre’s summer camp. It’s wonderful to know that our donation has been put to such good use – and so promptly.



From Sandra Lawson and her daughters, Pamela and Julie:

Thank you to Chris Miller for his love and kindness to Derek and myself during Derek’s illness, and for the way he conducted the funeral service. Thanks also to Donald Watts for his visits to us both while he was in charge of the vacancy, and to Roger Purce for his visits before he retired. Also, thanks to the Choir for leading the singing at the funeral service - and to John for playing the organ so loudly and beautifully in the first hymn. Thank you to everyone who came to the funeral - it really was a lovely tribute to Derek.



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EDITORIAL

Autumn is here again, the summer holidays are over and people are settling into a new routine, whether in school or university, perhaps a new stage in a career, or a new session of church activities and responsibilities. *Eagle Wing* looks both forward to these, and back over some of the events since our Easter issue.

Holiday Bible Club was a great success once again, and Summer tells us how much she enjoyed being part of it. Sharon Goldie shares a novel way of marking Lent – and benefitting others. The summer coffee mornings raised their highest total to date and were, as always, **great social occasions**. Funds from Rosalind MacNeice's special morning for the Hope Christian Trust have already been put to good use in a community centre playground. Details of both are on our News page.

We also introduce two newly appointed members of the church team – Rev Denis Campbell, who will be our pastoral assistant for a year; and Ian McDonald, who has just taken up the post of caretaker/handyperson. Former Princeton friends, some of whom visited this year, keep us updated with their news. Please also read carefully the important information on Gift Aid on page 29.

Among the plans and programmes for the coming season, we are sorry to report that the Art Group has had to disband – but remaining members now have the opportunity to join our Anglican neighbours, so there will still be an opportunity for artistic talents to flourish.

Jordan Goldie is happy to be back home, having graduated, and is currently looking for a teaching job; Adam Steele is taking a year, after finishing school, to decide on his future and will be using this time to volunteer abroad with Raleigh International. We wish them both well as they set off into the unknown future.

October 31st marks the 500th anniversary of the birth of the Reformation, which had as one of its central themes *the priesthood of all believers*. This is the idea that, as Martin Luther put it, Christians are **“reciprocally and mutually one”** – that *we are members of one another* (Ephesians 4: 25), with a ministry to each other and to people outside the faith. In the *Herald* (July/August), Rick Hill, PCI's Discipleship Development Officer, writes about the **“ministry of the pew, not the few”** – emphasising that, while a few are obviously called to lead, *all* are called to minister. These are timely reminders at the start of this new season that, in all the diverse forms of ministry in our church community, each one of us in Groomsport Presbyterian has our part to play, whether that role is one of attending the services; simply connecting with others in the pews; praying for the issues that affect our congregation, society or the wider world; contributing musically; operating our IT systems; participating in, or supporting the work of, the various organisations; catering; enjoying the coffee mornings and Friendship Lunches – or writing for *Eagle Wing*!

A Letter of Introduction from our Pastoral Assistant, Rev Denis Campbell

Dear Friends,

I feel privileged to have been asked by Rev. Paul Dalzell to become his Pastoral Assistant for 2017-2018. I got to know Paul when he was minister of Hydepark and Lylehill in County Antrim. All my family live in and **around Hydepark and they very much appreciated Paul's** ministry there. It so happened that many of my nieces and nephews were of marriageable age, so I was delighted to assist Paul on many a happy occasion and to enjoy the craic with Paul and Catherine afterwards.



I am married to Hilary and we have two adult children, a son and a daughter, who both live and work in Edinburgh. We have one granddaughter, Isla.

I was ordained in Stormont Church in East Belfast in 1976 and after my assistantship, served the rural congregations of Donoughmore and Stranorlar in County Donegal. I enjoyed country life very much and had many adventures up stony lanes amid muddy fields. On one memorable occasion, I lost my dignity by running for cover when attacked by an angry gander!

After seven years in the country, I was called to the suburbs of south Dublin **where I served St. Andrew's, Blackrock and St. Andrew's, Bray, County Wicklow.** I have the highest opinion of the faith and commitment of the Presbyterians in the south. Ministry in Dublin is always full of interest and challenge. **In addition to parish work, I was chaplain to St. Vincent's University Hospital; a member of the Board of St. Andrew's College (the only Presbyterian-founded school in the Republic); co-chair of the Irish Council of Christians and Jews, and I also represented P.C.I. at various public events, including the National Day of Commemoration.**

I retired three years ago. Hilary and I set up home in a cottage in Helen's Bay, where we joined the local Presbyterian Church under the kindly pastoral care of Rev. Colin Megaw. We have settled down in that congregation and made friends. One surprise which came just after retirement was an invitation to serve the small Church of Scotland congregation of ex-pats on the Costa del Sol. We have been out there on four occasions. We also spent a month serving the Church of Scotland congregation in Amsterdam, the four hundred-year-old English Reformed Church, which some of you may have visited on your travels.

My hobbies are reading (I'm a 'bookworm'), travel (especially Greece), theatre (especially Shakespeare), music (especially the Ulster Orchestra) and football (I was in France for Euro 2016 supporting Northern Ireland).

I am looking forward to assisting Paul in his work and to getting to know you all.

Blessings,

Denis

NEW APPOINTMENT: PART-TIME CARETAKER/HANDYPERSON

Introduction

For some considerable time, the Property Committee has been recommending the employment of a Part-Time Caretaker/Handyperson for several reasons. For example, on many occasions, the lights have been left on in the halls, the heat has not been turned off, the hot water boilers have even been left on and the premises have not been locked up after an organisation has left the accommodation. We felt that a caretaker could help in keeping these types of things under control.

In addition, there are always numerous small jobs required in and around all of our accommodation - and for such 'minor works', we have had to employ contractors. The Property Committee considered that with a Caretaker/Handyperson on board, the church would benefit in many ways and so we were pleased when, after the former Manse was sold late last year, the Finance Committee agreed that our funds had improved sufficiently to allow us to proceed to investigate the possibility of employing this part-time person.

The necessary procedures

Elaine and I started working on the potential recruitment early in 2017 and we had to keep in close and constant contact with the PCI's Human Resources Advisors, Peninsula. This was especially because included in the duties of the future Caretaker was the cleaning of our premises, with the result that our existing cleaning posts would become redundant, in due course.

This was a rather long process, lasting around four to five months, during which we had to produce a number of documents for Peninsula, including a Business Case to justify the new post, together with a full Job Description. There was regular email and telephone contact with various Peninsula staff.

Later, we met with the two cleaners to inform them about what was happening in the future. After this stage, we were permitted to advertise for the new Part-Time Caretaker/Handyperson post, which we planned to commence on 1st September 2017, if possible.

Advertising and Interviews.

As you probably know, an advertisement was placed in the *County Down Spectator* several weeks ago and we had four applicants. Following the review of these applications, we decided to interview all four candidates and Elaine, Alastair and I formed the Panel. Interviews were held on 15 August and following much discussion, we concluded that Ian McDonald would be offered the job.

The successful candidate: Ian McDonald

While all the candidates showed qualities and skills relevant to this post, Ian demonstrated a much wider knowledge of a number of the important duties contained in the Job Description, such as cleaning and the associated equipment; Fire Alarm systems, Health and Safety issues - and with his background as an electrician, this experience was considered very relevant. Ian is a member of our church and at the beginning of this year he joined the Property Committee. He is also a member of both the Police and the Harlandic Male Voice Choirs and is kept busy with concerts and church services.



As we had planned, this new post started on Friday 1st September 2017 and as Property Committee Convenor, I am Ian's Line Manager and so if you would like certain items to be undertaken by him, perhaps you would contact me in the first instance. However, I would have to say that the current Job Description is extremely comprehensive and covers all types of work around all of our premises. Lastly, I would welcome Ian to his new position as our Part-Time Caretaker/Handyperson and I am confident that you all will see a difference around the church, the halls and our grounds in the near future.

Lowry Manson

Property Committee Convenor (lowrymanson@hotmail.com) Tel No. 9145 1621



Sunday School Superintendent

Sunday School resumed on 10th September. As usual, we meet in the Walter Nelson Hall at 10.30am. Bible Class is in the Coffee Bar, while the younger children meet in the Archie Agnew Room.

We are delighted to have children from the age of three years - they are under the supervision of Paula Montgomery until they reach the end of Year 2 in primary education. They then go on to Fiona McCreedy's group, where they remain until the end of Year 5. Year 6 and 7 children are with Sharon Goldie. From Year 8 onwards, the young people progress to the Bible Class, under the leadership of Audrey Thomas - and we are pleased that Jordan Goldie is going to assist Audrey in this work.

We are sorry that Elaine Nixon-Shepherd is leaving us this year. Elaine has devoted many years of service to Sunday School and we pray that she will enjoy her rest from this task.

We are blessed to have Rosemary Burton come along every week to play the piano to accompany our singing.

Each week we try to engage the children with Bible stories through activities such as craft work and, on occasions, flower arranging and even baking. We also want the children to be familiar with our church building and with special services such as Harvest Thanksgiving. The children are encouraged to take part in church life by leading worship at the Gift Day service during the Christmas season and also on Children's Day, when we present the annual prizes and close for the summer break.

The teachers put a lot of time and effort into trying to make each lesson interesting and fun, so we are delighted when we get a good number of children coming along each week. We will be pleased to welcome new friends to our groups, as well as many familiar faces. Please encourage any children you know to come and join us. It is our duty to pass on the good news of God's kingdom of love and truth to the next generation and, at a time when our children have so many other activities meeting on Sundays, surely we - as a Christian family - should be encouraging our young people to learn more about the Bible and how God wants us all to live.

We also ask that you will remember our work in your prayers.

Margaret McCreedy
028 9146 4361

CHAMPION'S CHALLENGE

Champion's Challenge was the name of our Holiday Bible Club this year. Accepting Jesus as our true champion was the challenge for the week.

We completely took over our church halls and decorated them in a sports theme. For four mornings, around 30 children participated in a wide range of activities. While the weather was poor, the rain didn't stop the enthusiastic participation of both children and leaders. Numbers were down a little this year, but it was good to see many familiar faces from previous years, happy to join us again.

Each morning we enjoyed a programme of songs and memory verses, quizzes, stories and dramas. Mary Cargill wrote a special song for



us and we sang it each morning. We even had a visit from one of the disciples and his wife (thanks to Ian McDonald and Rosalind MacNeice). The children sang loudly and listened well to the stories. We also

enjoyed our aerobic workouts. We jogged and stretched and bounced and twisted in preparation to be fit for Jesus.



The children were divided into three groups. Each group took part in lots of different challenges. The Little Winners painted and enjoyed crafts. They played parachutes games and decorated biscuits, which they enjoyed eating very much.

The Shining Stars did an assault course, played bug games, made dough animals and did lots of different crafts. They can tell you how a paper aeroplane and a target bring out the competitive spirit in even the quietest child.

The Champs were the older children, and they were the biggest — and by far the loudest — group. They had lots of fun baking scones and chocolate muffins, playing games and even going on a Treasure Hunt when the rain stopped for a day.

One of the highlights of the week was their dramatic presentation of the healing of the Roman centurion's servant. Definitely, a few budding stars emerged — let's hope they will audition for the pantomime this year! A big thank you to Rosalind and Denis MacNeice for leading this great dramatic production, which was performed so brilliantly for everyone.

In the midst of all the fun, there was a Bible focus for the whole week and it was focussed on making Jesus the champion of our lives. From the story of the wise man and the foolish man, the children learned how important it is to build a life based on Jesus and his teachings. We learned how Jesus showed his amazing powers through the feeding of the 5000 and the healing of the Roman officer's servant. Jesus took on the role of a substitute when he died on the cross for us and proved he was a winner when he rose again on Easter Sunday.

We finished the week with a family BBQ on Friday night and thankfully the sun shone. Paul and Andy Goldie manned the BBQ and it was wonderful to see the hall full of families enjoying the games, quizzes, food and fellowship. It was a great end to a busy but successful week.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported us at Holiday Bible Club, practically and through prayer. We hope we have left the children with some good memories and the message that Jesus is the real champion of all our lives!

*Audrey Thomas
and the Champion's Challenge team*



SUMMER SCHEME

From 1st to 4th of August, I went to our church Summer Scheme, **Champion's Challenge**. This year I was in the group for the oldest kids. Each day we had loads of games and activities, we did activity sheets, we did aerobics outside when it was sunny, we made crafts and muffins, and scones, we also played sports.



We heard stories about Jesus and we re-enacted scenes from the Bible of the Roman centurion and his sick servant. We also had fun quizzes to help us remember what we learnt. On the final day it was my birthday and everyone decided to surprise me with fairy cakes and candles.

I loved **Champion's Challenge**, meeting new friends and seeing old friends from previous years, but I also learnt a lot about the Bible and God's love for us.

- Summer McWhinney, age 12



Learners retain:
20% of what they read
20% of what they hear
30% of what they see
50% of what they see and hear
90% of what they see, hear and do.

One summer afternoon, a grandfather picked up his four-year-old grandson at church. "Well, Jason, how did you like your first day of Holiday Bible Scheme?"

"It was great!" the boy replied. "We heard some stories and drew some pictures. Then we went out to play, and when we came back in, God had juice and cookies waiting for us!"

Another young boy attended a Holiday Bible Club which had the theme, "Discipleship and Saving Mother Earth." When his mother asked what he had learned, he answered proudly, "We learned about Jesus and the 12 recycles!"

THE ART GROUP

Sadly, our Art Group has come to an end. It has been in existence for 20 years, and many hours of fellowship and fun – as well as excellent art work – have happened. Only three or four faithful members participated recently. Due to old age, infirmity and other reasons, our numbers have dropped over the years.

The good news is that we have an alternative. The Groomsport Parish Church has recently started an Art Group of its own. It meets at 2.00pm on a Thursday afternoon in the Parish church hall. They have kindly extended an invitation to any of us who are interested to join them.

I shall be attending on Thursday September 7th, and some of the morning group from our church will join me.

Please feel free to come along if you like to paint. We are promised a warm welcome.



Margaret Johnston

500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION



OCTOBER 31, 2017, MARKS THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE START OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION, WHEN MARTIN LUTHER POSTED HIS “95 THESES” ON A CHURCH DOOR IN GERMANY. THIS WASN’T AN UNUSUAL ACT AT THE TIME; LUTHER WAS SIMPLY WELCOMING SCHOLARLY DEBATE. BUT HIS IDEAS OPPOSING CERTAIN TEACHINGS AND PRACTICES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH LED TO A MONUMENTAL SHIFT IN CHRISTIANITY.

ALONG WITH OTHER REFORMERS, LUTHER TAUGHT THAT THERE’S NO NEED FOR AN INTERMEDIARY SUCH AS A POPE, PRIEST OR SAINT. INITIALLY, THEY INTENDED NOT TO LEAVE THE CATHOLIC CHURCH BUT TO REFORM IT. THOSE WHO PROTESTED AGAINST CHURCH PRACTICES, HOWEVER, BECAME KNOWN AS PROTESTANTS AND EVENTUALLY MULTIPLE DENOMINATIONS AROSE – LUTHERANISM, PRESBYTERIANISM, ANGLICANISM AND OTHERS – AND DID, IN FACT, SEPARATE FROM THE ROMAN TRADITION.

THE CORNERSTONES OF THE REFORMATION MOVEMENT AND BELIEFS:

- **SCRIPTURE ALONE:** THE SUPREMACY OF THE BIBLE AS THE SUREST GUIDE FOR FAITH AND LIFE
- **GRACE ALONE:** THE SUPREMACY OF GOD’S UNDESERVED LOVE. GOD COUNTS US “RIGHT” WITH HIM WHEN WE ACCEPT HIS FREE GIFTS OF FORGIVENESS AND SALVATION
- **FAITH ALONE:** THE SUPREMACY OF FAITH. ONLY BY BELIEVING AND TRUSTING IN GOD’S PROMISES, AND THROUGH NO WORKS OR ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR OWN, DO WE RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE
- **THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS:** CHRISTIANS ARE “MEMBERS OF ONE ANOTHER” (EPHESIANS 4:25, NRSV). IN GOD’S EYES, CHRISTIANS ARE ALL ON THE SAME LEVEL. WE EACH HAVE A MINISTRY TO FULFILL TO ONE ANOTHER AND TO PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE FAITH. MARTIN LUTHER SAID WE’RE “RECIPROCALLY AND MUTUALLY ONE.”

VISIT OF JOHN BROWN UNIVERSITY CATHEDRAL CHOIR



The Cathedral Choir from John Brown University in Arkansas, USA, under their musical director, Paul Smith, paid a return visit to lead morning worship on 21 May. The choir of 60 young students enthralled the congregation and greatly enhanced the service, with a range of new and well loved worship songs and hymns. Paul had retired four days earlier and was on his last trip with the choir. He emphasised that they were not giving a performance but, rather, singing to praise the Lord and to engage with the congregation in adoration of our God; we were all richly blessed.



Diane and Brian P'Pool, members of Christa's congregation in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, joined us for Worship on Palm Sunday — when we were also delighted to welcome back the Irmer family.



A MASSIVE THANK YOU to all involved at 1st Groomsport Rainbows and Brownies, who raised a fantastic **£205.00** for the East Africa famine crisis. They were busy filling Smartie tubes with 20ps and raised this amazing total!

A huge *well done* to Emily Wright, who raised the most in Rainbows and to Ruby and Jasmine, who raised the most in Brownies!

This is very, very much appreciated!

THANKYOU!

Nichola Purce

n17key@googlemail.com



Presbyterian Women

As we start a new church year, we in PW are looking forward to our varied programme. We meet on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 8pm in the Archie Agnew Hall, and invite anyone who is interested to join us. The programme until Christmas is below.

25th September	<i>Get sorted</i> by Gwen Montgomery - a fun talk on decluttering
9th October	<i>Catherine Dalzell: From Belfast to Bangor and all points in between</i>
23rd October	Hospitality Night: hosting local clubs, with entertainment by Phoenix Choir (<i>Songs from the Shows</i>), fellowship and supper
13th November	<i>Annette Beaney: Where did you get that hat?</i>
27th November	<i>Jennifer Campbell (mother of Olympic rower, Alan): Experiencing the Olympics</i>
11th December	Christmas Party

Remember, you do not have to be a member - if you care to join us for a particular speaker, you will be made very welcome.

In addition to our meetings, we are pleased to announce that we are having a **Coffee Morning with Fashion Show on Friday 20th October**

Coffee at 10am and Fashion Show at 11am.

Tickets will be available from PW members, church office or
Sandra Todd 91473849

Jennifer Boyd (secretary)
91465760 jenniferboyd@mail.com



Usually at the run-up to Lent, you hear people saying what they're going to give up and go without for 40 days. Over the years, I have given up sweets, crisps, chocolate, fizzy drinks... the list goes on and on! By the end of the 40 days, you're so excited to be allowed to have it again!

This year, I decided to try something different - instead of giving up something, I decided to collect something!

Each day, I went to the shop and bought an item of food. My plan was that, by the end, I'd have 40 items which could be put into Storehouse to help others. I bought 40 different items to be of some use to a family.

By the end of the 40 days, I was so proud to see my shopping bags full, ready to be brought to church and put in the Storehouse trolley. I know I didn't deprive myself for 40 days - but I felt I was helping others who are deprived and just need a little help to get back on their feet.

We all complain about what we don't have, but sometimes we need to be thankful for what WE DO HAVE! If we all did this simple thing every Easter, imagine how many trolleys of food we'd be taking to Storehouse!

Sharon Goldie

Christ has no body but yours;
no hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks
to do good.

Yours are the hands with which he
blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours.

St. Teresa of Avila



Hi folks, it's Adam here.

Some of you may know that I have just completed my A-levels at Bangor Grammar. I have been thinking a lot over the past year about what I want to do now. I decided some time ago that I didn't want to go straight into 3rd level education, but would prefer to take a gap year to allow me more time to consider what I want to do with my life. I already have a part-time job in Tesco at Bloomfield, and I hope to increase my hours over the next few months. I am also in the Ulster Youth Jazz Orchestra and will keep up with this as well.

However, it has been my ambition to do some voluntary work in a developing country. I was partly inspired by my dad, who worked in Malawi with Voluntary Service Overseas. A few years ago, our family went to Malawi for three weeks. This was a return trip for my dad - but for the rest of us it was a completely new experience. It is a beautiful country, but one of the poorest in Africa. I was struck by the resilience of the people, despite all the hardships they had to face. It inspired me to spend some time, perhaps, working in a developing country after I finished school.

After doing some research, I found out about Raleigh International. Now, this is nothing to do with a cycling holiday! It is an international charity that sends young people to work for two to three months in poor countries such as Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Tanzania, Malaysia and Nepal. I applied to go on an expedition to Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and I have been provisionally accepted to go on 6th February next year.



So why Costa Rica and Nicaragua?

In Costa Rica, 22% of the population lives below the national poverty line, rural communities depend heavily on natural resources for their livelihoods and Costa Rica hosts 5% of the entire world's biodiversity.

In Nicaragua, the majority of the six-million population lives in poverty; many in rural

communities lack access to basic health, water, sanitation and electricity services and the country is heavily affected by climate change.

Who are Raleigh International?

Raleigh International is a sustainable development charity. They challenge and inspire young volunteers from around the world to work with communities living in poverty. Raleigh seeks to improve the quality of water and sanitation services - which will raise the overall health of the local people. I'll be aiding communities to improve access to safe drinking water, and raising awareness about the importance of hygienic practices. This could involve building a clean water source, or running awareness sessions on hand hygiene.



Raleigh also supports communities in managing their natural resources. I'll be working with communities to use their natural resources for food and sustainable incomes, as well as assisting in the protection of areas of biodiversity. This could involve building infrastructure in national parks, or awareness-raising on sustainable livelihoods.



I will be going with a group of young people aged 17 – 24 and I'll have the opportunity to lead my group and manage various parts of the project. This will give me invaluable leadership experience.



I will have a lot to organise between now and February. As usual there will be vaccinations, and equipment to purchase. I will even have to polish up my basic school Spanish! I hope to attend a pre-expedition training event (probably in London). This will give me a chance to meet some of my group and learn a bit more about where I will be going and what I will be

doing. I have a fundraising target of £3,450 to cover the cost of my expedition so this will keep me busy over the next few months.



So, here's hoping all will go well with my preparations and perhaps I will be able to update you with a report of my expedition on my return. Thanks for listening, and wish me luck!

Adam Steele

(Photographs: Raleigh International - reproduced with permission)

O God, we pray for a broader vision of the needs of humanity, and a deeper compassion to fill those needs; for a planting of the seeds of concern for all humanity in our hearts; for a tapping of the wells of generosity. May we live together as people who have been forgiven a great debt. May we be gentle, walking softly with one another. May we be understanding, lest we shall add to the world's sorrow or cause to flow needless tears. May we be as anxious for the rights of others as we are for our own. May we be as eager to forgive as we are to seek forgiveness. May we know no barriers of creed or race or sex, that our love may be like Yours - a love that sees all people as Your children and our kin. May we be ministers of humanity.

— Peter Marshall

TURNSTONES COMMUNITY DRAMA GROUP



It's that time of year again and having had a year's break, Turnstones hope to regroup again for another panto season. We hope that all past members - and new members - will come along to rekindle friendships and get involved in this popular community event.

Programme for the autumn is as follows, and we hope to see you on one of our information and audition nights held in the Edgar McCutcheon Room at the rear of Groomsport Presbyterian Church:

**Monday 18th September, 7.00pm - 7.45pm:
Auditions, children P1-P7**

**Monday 18th September, 7.30pm: Auditions
(for both on stage and backstage)**

**Wednesday 20th September, 7.30pm:
Auditions (for both on stage and backstage)**

**Monday 2nd October: rehearsals begin
These will run on Monday and Wednesday nights
from 7.30pm and on Saturday afternoons for
children (times to be confirmed)**

Should you miss these dates, or have any queries, please contact

Ann Williams 07710744884

or

Elaine Nixon-Shepherd 07802497442

FROM ONE COASTLINE TO ANOTHER!

by Jordan Goldie

August 14th, 2014 was a day full of mixed emotions in the Goldie household. We had found out that I had done very well in my A-Level exams, which meant I would be moving 300 miles away to Scarborough in a matter of weeks to study Primary teaching at the University of Hull. The following five weeks were full of packing, crying and saying goodbye.

Friday 26th September, 2014 seemed to roll around all too quickly and suddenly it was time for the journey to Scarborough to begin. With feelings of high emotion, we began our eight-hour journey to the east coast of England. We arrived in Scarborough and spent the next couple of days unpacking all my stuff in my new little room in halls, where I lived with eleven English girls. It was a very strange feeling, knowing this wee room would be my home for the next year. When the time came for my family to leave, I've never felt emotions like I felt on that day. We all cried - and I did think about going back home with them!



Scarborough didn't look like this all year round - I've never felt cold like it was there!

During my three years at uni, I had many wobbles, often phoning home to Mum and Dad, saying I couldn't cope and just wanted to come home. The work was never-ending and I missed home so much. They both always reassured me and gave me words of comfort – Mum's favourite: 'You don't want to live with regrets!' She knew this was what I had always wanted to do, so I had to be brave and get on with it!

In my second and third year, I lived in my own little flat. It was a house converted into seven flats. My friend Emily lived in the flat below me and the others all were close by. It had two rooms, so when Mum, Dad and Lois came over, they had somewhere to stay! I enjoyed

having my own space and I soon got into a routine of cooking, washing and doing my studies! It made me realise how much Mum and Dad do for me at home!! I shall miss my little flat.

Fast forward three years to 26th May, 2017. I had finished my degree. I had managed to cope, living away from home, and it was time to move back to Northern Ireland. Being away was not easy at all, and many times I wished I was at home – but I am so glad I did it. The three years of university were full of serious ups and downs, but for as long as I can remember, I have wanted to be a primary school teacher – so I was determined that I would complete my degree.

Graduation day quickly rolled around, so off we went back to Scarborough for the last time. This was such a surreal day, seeing all my university friends for possibly the last time. Being able to walk around all day in my robes made me feel like all the hard work had finally paid off. We had a wonderful day of



celebrating and it was such a feeling of pride, knowing what I'd achieved. I'm so glad I didn't ever give up! I'm so thankful I have such a great, supportive family who encouraged me the whole way through my degree. I couldn't have done it without them!

It is now time for the real fun to begin with job hunting. Looking for teaching jobs is not easy but I am so excited about what the future holds for me. Scarborough will always have a special place in my heart; I learnt so much about myself there – but I am so happy to be home!

Congratulations to Jordan on her achievement, and thanks for this very honest account of her time away from home in Scarborough. We wish her well in this new stage of her life - and particularly in her job-hunting.



We are not the masters of our own destinies. We are called to plan and strategize, to work and live active lives, to attempt things that are beyond us and tackle challenges that stretch us to the limit. Yet the outcome of our efforts, even our ability to exert ourselves, is always in God's hands.

Carolyn Custis James, *The Gospel of Ruth*



What is a teacher, if not a mirror in which we perceive the divine image hidden in the soul? What is a teacher, if not a sower of seed and a cultivator of young gardens? What is a teacher, if not a shaper of souls and a guide who gently shows the right path for the journey? What is a teacher, if not the most hopeful of dreamers, who plants and nurtures and sees the bright destiny and harvest of the work even when the student cannot? What is a teacher, if not a shepherd watching over the flock and leading it to abundant pastures?

Dreamers and sharers of dreams, sowers of seed and guides who chart the way, mirrors of goodness and shepherds of grace – it is for these teachers and this ministry that we give abundant thanks to God.

Author unknown

GREETINGS FROM MISSOURI!

It is hard to believe that it was just three months ago that David, Mary Erin, and I were packing our final bags for our flight back to the US. Two amazing years living in Groomsport, two years building a new family across the ocean, and it was all coming to a close. It was hard to say goodbye to David's first home, but as they say, all good things must end. So we found ourselves on buses and planes as we made our way back to Missouri. After the jet-lag (slowly) wore off, we began the business of readjusting to life in America.



The last three months have been quite full of life. We spent the first three weeks of June living with Mary Erin's parents in Independence, Missouri, while we looked for a house in Springfield. The two cities are close in US terms - only a little over three hours apart. When we weren't looking for a place to live, we spent time with family and friends, reconnecting after two years away. By the middle of the month, we had found a lovely home in a quiet neighborhood only about ten minutes from our new congregation.

We are renting for now, until we get to know the community a bit better. We moved in the last week of June and have been in the process of unpacking boxes ever since.

David has taken to our new home quite well; within 24 hours of arriving at the new house, he took his first steps, and he hasn't slowed down since. He loves having his own room with one shelf for books and another for toys. With his new-found mobility, he now can choose his own bed-time stories, which he does with great enthusiasm. He and Mary Erin spend most mornings at story time at one of our local libraries (there are six or seven branches here in Springfield), where he loves listening to stories and dancing along to songs.



Life here at Trinity Presbyterian is also quite good. Back on 20th of August, I was officially installed (even though my first working day was 1 July - that is very common in the US), which was a great celebration. I am still getting to know the congregation, which is made somewhat easier as most people wear a name tag every Sunday. We have between 130 and 150

in worship most Sundays, and I can call maybe 10% by name so far. I have already introduced one hymn from the Irish Presbyterian Hymnbook to Trinity (*I Cannot Tell Why He Whom Angels Worship*) and they are now asking when we can sing it again. I plan to bring other great ideas I learned from you all as well, but we will introduce them slowly so as not to shock the system!



We are looking forward to welcoming the Rev. Doug Baker to Trinity for a day next month; you may remember him from last summer as one of our guest preachers at Groomsport. He is a Presbyterian Church (USA) pastor who serves as our official Peacemaker assigned to Northern Ireland. When we found out he would be in the area, we couldn't not have him come, with Trinity's connection to Northern Ireland and all.

While there is much more to tell, I will save it for the next *Eagle Wing!* We miss Groomsport very much and are already plotting how we can get back soon; David has yet to have such good babysitting as he did under your care! If you are ever planning a trip to the US, let us know - we would love to show you around our part of the world.

Wishing you all the very best and every blessing,

Chris, Mary Erin, and David Miller

preachingpanda@gmail.com



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NEWS FROM FORMER INTERNS

It was wonderful to see many of you this summer when I came over to Northern Ireland for a few days in the middle of a trip to Scotland. I took five church members and friends to Iona this summer to spend a week living in Christian community at the Iona Abbey. After this time together, I traveled in the UK for two more weeks on my own. In those two weeks, I spent a few days in Northern Ireland, a week touring the Scottish Highlands, and four days touring London and visiting friends there. I even got to spend some time with Emma Rogers in London, and it was a delight to catch up with her after all these



years. Some highlights from Scotland include seeing the Queen in Edinburgh, touring the backroads of the Balmoral Estate, and driving all around the Isle of Skye. One unexpected delight on my trip was meeting up with former Groomsport Intern, Tara (Porr) Granados. I had made plans to meet up with another woman whom I had connected with online through the Young Clergy Women International organization. She said she wanted to invite to our meet-up another American who was also relatively new to Scotland and might like to meet up with us – and it was

Tara! We had a great time together, sharing a meal and touring the national museum of Scotland. We may have done our internship year many years apart, but it was a delight to swap stories and speak about our love for all of you.

I was asked to share more with you about the bagpipes. I actually brought my pipes with me to the UK and had several opportunities to play them in Iona, including worship in the Abbey and as part of the weekly Iona ceilidh. A few people in Northern Ireland got mini private concerts, too! But after playing for about a year and a half, I finally also had the opportunity to play in church at the end of August. While nervous, I also



had a great time, and did really well. While I am sending a couple of pictures to include with this letter, if you have an interest in seeing me play the bagpipes, the weblink to watch a video of that worship service can be found here:

<http://www.myrtlebeachpresbyterianchurch.org/services-archive/>.

Once you are on the page, search for the video of worship on August 27 and click the video to play. My teacher and I played six times throughout out the service, playing the prelude, postlude, offertory, and intros to three hymns. I continue to find great joy in the bagpipes and

found some new bagpipe music in Scotland that I am now working on learning. Also, my nerdiest purchase in Scotland was a bagpipe bag cover in the ancient clergy tartan material. I can't wait to use this for Heritage Sunday at our church on November 5.

In other news, I am gearing up to start my Doctor of Ministry.

Unfortunately, Princeton Seminary cancelled their D.Min. program about a decade ago and have no intention to start one again soon. In doing a lot of research on other Presbyterian Seminaries and their various programs, I opted to do my D.Min. at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, near Atlanta. My focus



will be in Christian Spirituality, and my introductory course is in the latter half of September. My projected graduation date will be 2021. After I return, the fall will feel fast as we approach Advent, but I'm also finding time to spend with family. In October, I will go to California for about a week and a half to see my parents and grandma and a few other friends and relatives. At Thanksgiving in November, I will spend a week in Michigan with my sister and her family.

I hope and pray that you are all well. If ever you are on this side of the pond and in my area, don't hesitate to let me know.

Blessings, Christa (Intern 2004/2005)

CBrewer@mbfpc.com

A young man from Scotland went to study at an English university. A month into the school year, his mother visited and asked how he liked living in the dorm.

"It's awful!" he exclaimed. "The fellow in the room next door bangs his head on the wall constantly, and the one on the other side screams all day."

"How do you stand it?" his mother asked in amazement.

"Oh, I ignore them," her son replied. "I just sit here quietly, playing my bagpipes."

It is with great joy that we introduce our latest princess. Rebecca Josephine Nix was born June 17th at 3.77kg (and she hasn't stopped growing!!!). She is an absolutely

wonderful baby! Her sister and brother are in love and cannot wait to be near her. No, really, we've had to enact boundary rules because Elizabeth is constantly kissing her baby sister. I had a wonderful maternity leave as Eric and I adjusted to being outnumbered by the kids, and have just recently returned back to the office. It's quite a juggle being a full time pastor and a full time mom, but the blessings far outweigh the sleep deprivation. We are truly blessed!



Katie Nix (Intern 2008/2009)

rev.katie.nix@gmail.com

GIFT AID

Do you pay Income Tax?

If the answer to this question is 'yes', then please read on.

What is Gift Aid?

It is a very simple, convenient way for us, as a congregation to receive monies from HMRC (Income Tax) without any liability on you - provided you are a tax payer, young or old.

What are the benefits?

For every 80 pence you contribute to the church through the FWO, Mission or Property Fund, we are entitled to claim 20 pence – yes, a return to us of 25%.

How much must I give?

It does not matter how little or how much you give, we only claim on the amount you contribute; the only requirement is that you must be a tax payer.



You sign a Gift Aid Declaration form once, which entitles us, the congregation, to claim any monies you donate to Freewill Offering, Mission and Property Fund or Special Appeals.

How much tax must I pay?

It does not matter how much or how little Income Tax you pay. If you contribute £500-00 towards Church funds in the year, we will claim £125-00 in Gift Aid; the only stipulation is that you pay more than £125-00 in tax in that year.

PLEASE NOTE:

If you have signed a Gift Aid Declaration in the past, but now find that you no longer pay any Income Tax, please advise our Gift Aid Convenor, Mr Fred Nesbitt. His phone number is 9146 7411 and his e-mail address is nesbitt99@hotmail.co.uk

John B Boyd
John B Boyd
Treasurer

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Sunday 1st October	11.30am	Communion Service
	6.00pm	Parish Church Harvest Thanksgiving
Sunday 8th October	11.30am	Harvest Service
	7.00pm	Harvest Service and Supper
Sunday 12th November	11.30am	Remembrance Service
Sunday 3rd December	11.30am	Advent Communion Service
Sunday 10th December	11.30am	Gift Day
Sunday 17th December	7.00pm	Carols by Candlelight



Paula Montgomery took this lovely photo of our church after the fireworks on 26 August

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 27th September	Friendship Lunch
Saturday 30th September	Leisure Group Coffee Morning
Wednesday 25th October	Friendship Lunch
Wednesday 22nd November	Friendship Lunch
Wednesday 13th December	Christmas Friendship Lunch