

# **Eagle Wing**



**The Magazine Of  
Groomsport Presbyterian Church  
Easter 2020**

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 August.

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.

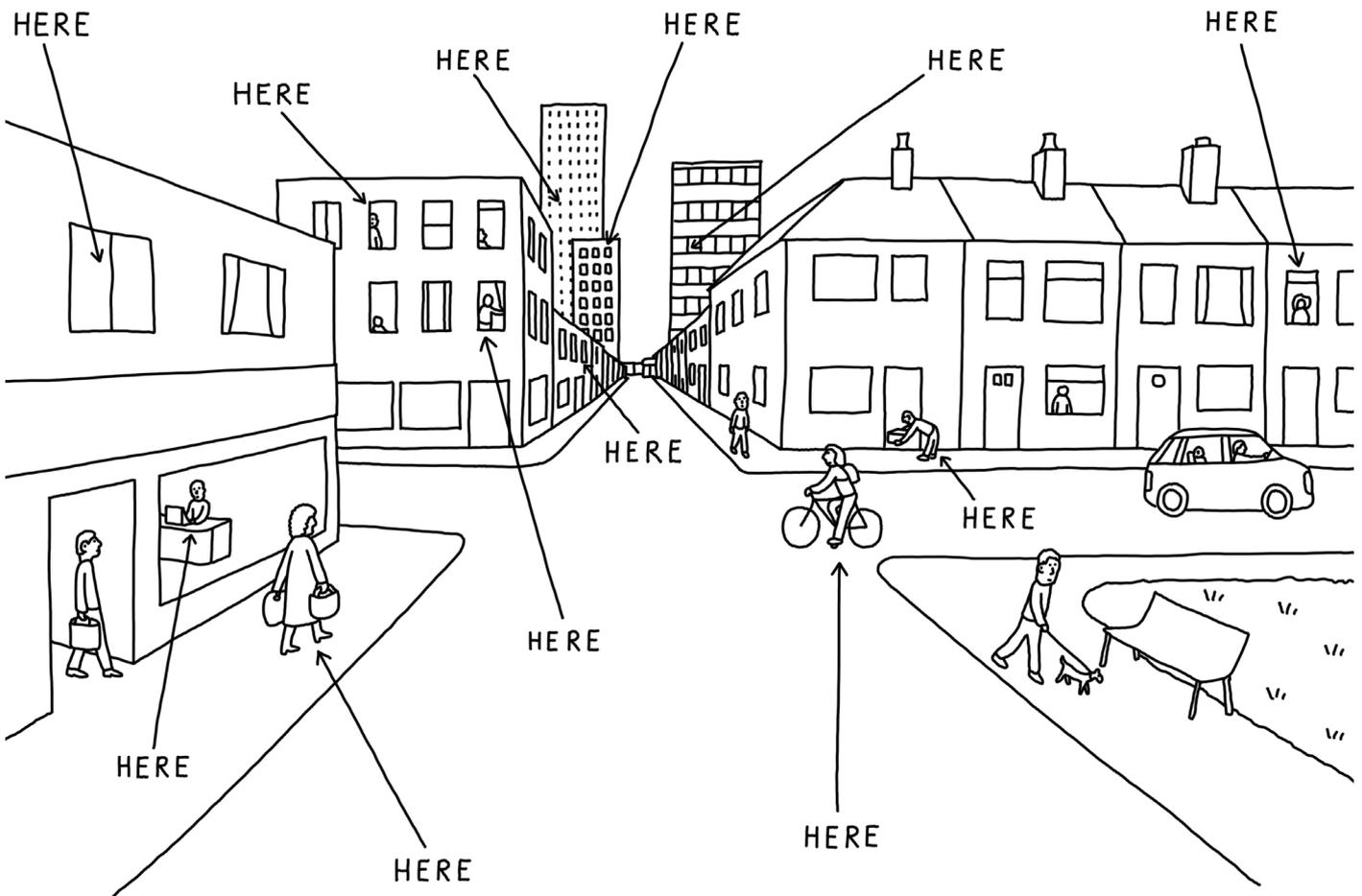
We believe our mission is to hear and share His Word and to reflect **God’s unconditional love** - as we proclaim and celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ and strive to be a **welcoming, serving and reconciling community.**”



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## WHERE THE CHURCH IS



## Minister's Musings

*As I write this, the Coronavirus, Covid-19, continues to affect more and more countries, causing great global anxieties. Naturally, we think of the thousands of people who have been bereaved, the thousands made seriously ill, those who are quarantined, those who put their very lives at risk caring for the sick, and the many scientists across the world who are working tirelessly to produce a vaccine.*

*Our thoughts also go out to students who are unable to return home because of travel restrictions. Parents who had been hoping to be reunited with their children over Easter will now have to wait. The latest list of countries affected with these travel restrictions includes; China, Thailand, Japan, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia and Macau.*

*Our prayer is that this global epidemic will soon be over and those greatly affected will be helped for the future.*

*Due to the global epidemic called sin, the Bible teaches that one Son had to be separated from his Father, as he bore the punishment for that sin. This is what we remember at Easter, that Jesus, though sinless, became sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21). Because of that sin, he was separated from his heavenly Father. On the cross he cried, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?". (Matthew 27:46)*

*Easter is a time when as Christians, we rejoice that the cure for sin is in Jesus Christ. He, through His death, has brought us healing, has brought us life. And also, at Easter, we celebrate that though Jesus died, he also rose again and our healer, our Saviour, is alive forevermore.*

*I wish you a happy Easter and pray you know this healing and hope in Jesus Christ.*

Your minister

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Tabbell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'P' and 'T'.

# Congregational Record



## DEATHS

13th December, Iain Jamieson, District 7  
29th December, Connie Gilmore, District 4  
9th January, Molly Robinson, District 17  
17th January, Tony Montgomery, District 5  
27th February, Anne Thompson, District 15  
15th March, Jean McCormick, District 28  
22nd March, Joy McCutcheon, District 17  
*"Blessed are they who die in the Lord"*



## BAPTISMS

26th January, Robbie William Alexander,  
son of Noel and Louise Milliken  
*"The promise is to you and your children"*



## NEW MEMBERS

Mrs Cilla Plackitt, District 7  
Mr & Mrs Robert McEwan, District 10  
*We warmly welcome these new members to our  
fellowship, assuring them of our interest  
and seeking from them their active support.*

## EAGLE WING

The Magazine of Groomsport Presbyterian  
Vol. 48 No. 3  
Easter 2020  
[eaglewing@groomsportpresbyterian.com](mailto:eaglewing@groomsportpresbyterian.com)

## EDITOR

Amanda McWhinney  
07841 650173

## ADVERTISING

(028) 91462552  
Circulation 1400 pa  
Cost £40 pa colour £30 B/W  
Three issues  
Spring, Autumn, Christmas

## USEFUL CONTACTS

### Minister

Rev Paul Dalzell  
07909 896123  
[minister@pauldalzell.uk](mailto:minister@pauldalzell.uk)

### Assitant Minister

Heidi Biermann  
07513 710733

### Clerk of Session

Alastair McQuoid  
(028) 9188 3695

### Sunday School

Margaret McCreedy  
(028) 9146 4361

### Organist & Choirmaster

John Ekin  
(028) 9145 1536

### Church Secretary

Julie McClurg  
(028) 9146 2552  
[office@groomsportpresbyterian.com](mailto:office@groomsportpresbyterian.com)

## Letter From The Editor

*I held my breath this morning. After a lot of hours of work from Richard, Paul and a few others, Sunday Worship Service went 'live' onto our website and Facebook Group. The plan was to have the service up at 11:30 am so that everyone can 'be present' at Church as usual. So while it was a few minutes of apprehension on the day, it worked!*

*I wonder if Jesus held his breath while preaching at times? I wonder if he hoped people would hear him?*

*In the wake of the devastating illness which is sweeping around the globe, things have changed, almost overnight. It seems it anyway. Whereas a month or two ago we were still relatively unaffected by everything and now, how things have changed. In fact, a few weeks ago, we were not really aware of how big this would all become. So much so, I went off to Tenerife for a long weekend, unknowing at the time (because Tenerife was marked as 'safe' on the Foreign Office website) that The Canaries would go into lockdown. In the span of the five days I was there, it went from a relaxed and sightseeing holiday, to a time where you couldn't even go onto the street for fear of getting arrested. I have never experienced anything like this in my life. Because of my trip, upon my return to the UK, I have made a point of avoiding all close contact with people. I went into work, in an empty church building and closed the door behind me, my employer made sure that no one entered so that I could get on with the things we needed to do to inform everyone of the church services suspension. I travelled to the church in my car even though it's close enough to walk, just to make sure that I didn't breathe on anyone.*

*My experience of isolation made me realise that things that we take for granted we can no longer do. Going to worship, popping out for a coffee, meeting a friend, shopping (it's crazy out there), even giving someone I know a hug when they are sad. Everyone steps back from one another, there's a mistrust in the air; what will you catch, what will you pass on? Is this what life is all about? It is like that for some people already; there are lonely people in our society, our neighbours, family members, even people you wouldn't expect.*

*The time is now to stop and think about how we can serve others. Maybe when we come through this, we will have a new view of looking after people, show patience, love, understanding. I know that despite this hard time, I will try to see the positives that will come out of it. I hope that my family and others will too. We are dependent on each other more than we realise, the next three months will be bearable, but only if we act as a team. We are all on a level playing field now, no one is immune from this horrible illness and everybody is cut off from contact; it is time more than ever to connect and communicate. With this little piece of wisdom, I give you this magazine, it has been compiled from articles provided by members of our congregation and beyond. Some of those articles were written before the lockdown, some may not be 100% up to date because of the rapidly changing world, but that doesn't matter. Please enjoy your time connecting with others through the Eagle Wing.*

*You can listen to our Sunday worship services during this period of lockdown on our website and on Facebook. Please tune in to [www.groomspresbyterian.com](http://www.groomspresbyterian.com) or join our Facebook group and Facebook page, I look forward to seeing you there.*

*Amanda*



With many thanks from Catherine Dalzell

*I would like to thank everyone most sincerely for your thoughtfulness, kindness and prayers over this time of illness. Paul and I have been overwhelmed by your love and care through your kind words, texts, emails, cards and gifts. I have at least two further operations to go through, one planned for immediately after Easter, to remove more kidney stones. Please be assured that your care for us as a family is never taken for granted and we give thanks to God for you. Wishing you a very happy Easter.*

*Catherine*

Could I take this opportunity to thank everyone who inquired about my health after my recent hip surgery. It was very much appreciated.

*Jackie Todd*

# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## 2nd March 2020

*One of the best AGMs ever!*

Our praise and thanks to God for another year of blessings in our church life at Groomsport PC heralded a well attended and most enjoyable occasion, held in the usual friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

Why was it so special? Well, that was down to the quality of the entertainment provided on stage by Gillian McCutcheon on piano and clarinet (not both at the same time). Gillian is, of course, a member of our church, coming from the McCutcheon farming stock and is one of the top clarinetists in Northern Ireland, being much in demand as a soloist and now more recently an examiner for Trinity College of Music, a prestigious appointment. Gillian presented a most enjoyable music programme, ranging from a classical clarinet concerto by Webber to a sing-along on the piano, all interspersed with a very humorous dialogue which 'had them laughing in the aisles!'



Gillian is a very gifted performer imbued with a wonderfully effective and charming way of showing her sheer enjoyment in music and we are indebted to her for sharing this with us. No wonder the MC described the event as one of the best ever, with Mandy McEvoy then presenting Gillian with a lovely bouquet of flowers on behalf of all those "Groomsportians" who had so enjoyed her presence.

Of course, we also had to attend to some serious business, as the main purpose is to make substantial reports to the congregation which are then formally adopted by the church members. So after the opening welcome, praise and reading by the Rev. Dalzell the formal business began with the Kirk Session report which was given by the Clerk, Alastair McQuoid. Alastair's report on behalf of Kirk Session will be published in full in the Annual Directory to be circulated shortly, as will the other reports, so we do not need to take up Amanda's precious space in this edition of Eagle Wing to say much more. However it is perhaps interesting to our readers that Session has reached the firm opinion, that under God's guidance, there is an opportunity for the appointment of a deaconess in building up vital connections. The deaconess would be expected to work very closely with the parents of children who attend our church activities, many of whom have no other contact with a church. The process of appointing a deaconess is now being undertaken and we ask for your ongoing prayerful support in achieving a successful outcome.

Session has also taken another big decision in going forward, in the release of large scale funding by annual drawdown from the McCaw Trust Fund. These funds will be used in:-

- If necessary, making up any shortfall in the United Appeal (our PCI missions at home and abroad)
- Contributing towards the cost of the Princeton Internship scheme and funding a deaconess
- Major property expenditure
- Substantial charitable donations to such mission outreach as decided upon, at home and abroad
- Any other needs or projects identified and agreed by Session

Rev Dalzell was thanked and commended by Session for all his pastoral work, conducting very many visitations to the sick in hospital and giving comfort to the bereaved. We do appreciate his conduct of weekly worship with use of relevant intercessory prayers and insightful preaching.

Alastair concluded by stating that these are therefore exciting and challenging times in Groomsport and Kirk Session would earnestly seek your prayerful support and encouragement in making and implementing important decisions which will affect the ministry in this place.



The Finance report followed, given by our Treasurer Mandy McEvoy, in which she helpfully and most articulately outlined the state of the Church's finances. Mandy drew attention to the fact that in the year 2018 we suffered a net deficit in our Income and Expenditure Account of £23,517.68 meaning that we had to make a transfer in from the Reserve Fund in order to "balance the books". However, Mandy was most positive in her reporting and went on to thank Elaine Carmichael, the assistant Treasurer who has retired from her role. Mandy is also relinquishing her position, but thankfully for us, she is staying on to assist the new Treasurer, Chris Thompson to whom Mandy expressed her good wishes in taking on this important task.

Lowry Manson (Property Convenor) presented the Property Report, providing the congregation with details of all the property related issues which had arisen during 2019.

For the record, the adoption of the Reports was duly proposed by George Purdy, seconded by John Langston and passed by those attending.

The evening was rounded off by a welcome cup of tea or coffee, with lively chit-chat ensuing.

*Alistair McQuoid (Clerk Of Session)*



# Changing Seasons



Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

Of course, in Northern Ireland, these times and seasons can change very quickly. I was recently at the Dark Hedges in County Antrim. It was a beautiful sunny day as I drove up. As I began to walk through the trees, the sky became grey, and it suddenly started to hail. Just after I had taken cover, the hail stopped, and the hail on the ground melted away. I took three photos within a thirteen-minute time span: before the hail, during the hail, and after the hail.



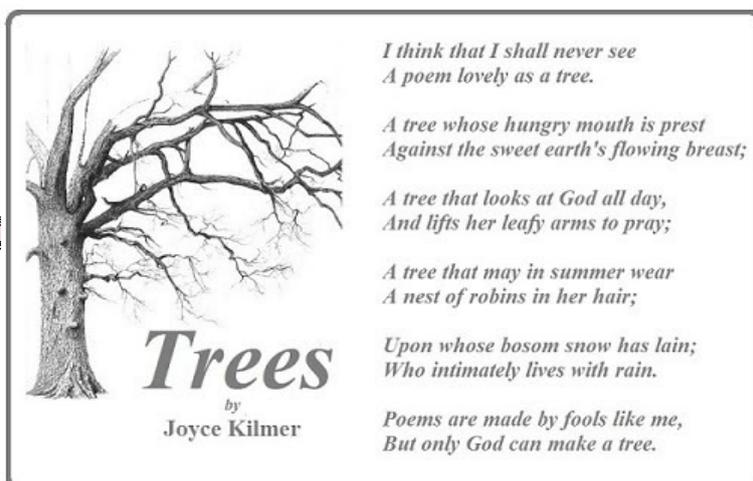
I've been reflecting on changing seasons recently. As Spring comes, we are starting to see the sun more often, we are noticing longer days, and - just maybe - there will be a bit less rain (or so I can hope!).

Also, as Spring comes, I realize that my year with you all in Groomsport is over halfway over. I've already begun the process of grieving the fact that in a few months, I will have to leave this congregation whom I've grown to love. I've also been in the process of trying to discern where I will go and what I will do in the next season of my life. It's difficult to balance living in the present and planning of the future.



At the same time, my experience of the quick-changing weather at the Dark Hedges has encouraged me to enjoy the present season, no matter how quick or how long it seems to last. Whether sunshine, hail, or dark clouds, each season has its own joys. My season here in Groomsport continues to be a joy. My time here has been full of unexpected joys, such as being a part of the Pantomime, exploring the gorgeous area we're in, and trying to learn to speak with an Ulster accent (though I've utterly failed at this). I'm grateful to be able to enjoy this present season, and it's a season that I'll continue to delight in right up until the end.

*Heidi Biermann*



*I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.*

*A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the sweet earth's flowing breast;*

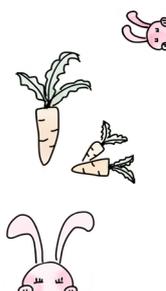
*A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;*

*A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;*

*Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.*

*Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.*

**Trees**  
by  
Joyce Kilmer



# Presbyterian Women

PW has been very busy since Christmas. In January Joanne Henderson took us all over the world in Victorian Times. We learnt how delicate plants were transported onboard sailing ships and how the Crystal Palace was constructed in 1851 complete with 'Monkey Closets' which cost one penny to use. Can you guess what they were?

Pastor Keith Lindsay provided 'Flower arranging with a Difference', despite the fact he had never had a flower arranging lesson in his life. It looked so easy to put tulips sideways in a glass bowl not to mention a hatbox. He shared with us his work with The Acre Mission both in Brazil and Portugal and in Northern Ireland.



In preparation for the World Day of Prayer, we were happy to have Heidi leading our Bible Study before she told us something of herself. What a pleasure it was to share in her love of God even as she considers where He will take her next.

Then we had our PW service on 15th March with preacher Rev Dr Liz Hughes who spoke to us about Global Mission. Liz became Chair last year of Christian Aid Ireland and is just back from Indonesia.

## President's Award

*Congratulations to Ellis McWhinney for earning his President's Badge. Ellis started off his time at Groomsport Boys' Brigade, then moved to 7th Bangor which is at Ballyholme Presbyterian. Ellis has been going to BB since he was 5 years old and is hoping to do his Queens Award next year.*



# MISSION

## Opshop update

One suitcase, three large IKEA bags, nine large cardboard boxes, 11 bags for life and assorted other containers have been taken to the IMP Opshop in recent weeks. This is a letter of thanks from Frances Jackson, the shop manager.

*I would like you to pass on our thanks to Groomsport Presbyterian Church Mission Committee and church members for all the very beautiful donations of clothes and toys for the International Meeting Point Charity shop North Belfast.*

*The products you donated have all been sold, with some given as a love gift from the shop to those who are in need.*

*The shop is part of the Urban Mission Trust, North Belfast Presbytery as part of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. We not only sell baby and children's items but have a prayer ministry for those coming into the shop as we reach out to the community and show them the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Blessings to you all in your generosity from the volunteers in our Shop.*

*Best wishes*

*Frances Jackson*



# Operation Christmas Child

The organisers of Operation Christmas Child gave thanks to Groomsport Presbyterian and went on to tell us that 31,967 boxes had gone to the Middle East from Northern Ireland. All boxes were gratefully received and have made a difference to many children.



Perhaps if you are purchasing any shoes this summer, you could keep the box in preparation of the Operation Christmas Child appeal 2020.

## Storehouse

We have settled into our new premises at 12 Balloo Avenue. We are very grateful to those who are donating £5 per month towards our £500 rent bill, details of which and subscription forms are available in the church vestibule.



Basic food is our main requirement and is needed more than ever, but we also greatly welcome kitchen, bathroom and laundry donations, washing up liquid, kitchen rolls, soap pads, brushes, mops, men's shaving requirements, aftershave, deodorants, soap, toothpaste, laundry products, bleach, toilet cleaner, shower gel etc.

Thank you all for your donations and help, the people who receive these 'hampers' are so grateful and sometimes tearful as they ask us to pass on their thanks as I am doing now.

*Sheelagh Dalzell*

**"Giving is not just about making a donation.  
It is about making a difference." - Kathy Calvin**



# The Tuesday Club



The Tuesday Club continues to grow in membership, and there is still room for more. If you would like to come along on the first Tuesday of the month, you would be made most welcome. There is no age limit whatsoever, the only stipulation is that you live alone.

We would like to be known as a caring group, and to this end, we choose different charities each year and donate whatever we can. This year, we have chosen 'Aware', a Bangor based mental health concern, also 'Business Angels', a new local charity who want to build a school and a hospital in Romania. Business Angels visited an orphanage recently and found that there were only one teacher and one health worker for 2000 children. The third charity we would like to help this year is 'Help for Heroes', particularly appropriate in this 75th anniversary year of VE day.

Another event for your diary this year will be an Autumn concert with Festival Brass, on a date to be arranged with the band. I'm sure that you remember the last time they entertained us – the church was packed! I hope that it will be the same this year. Again, we are not issuing tickets, just asking for donations to our charity appeal.

We would like to thank you all for your support and encouragement since we started in October 2017. We really appreciate it.

*Mary*

**Coffee Morning**  
**SATURDAY 2ND MAY**  
**10:30AM TILL NOON**  
**WALTER NELSON HALL**  
**SUPPORTING CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND**



## The Film Club



The film club has had steady audiences during the 2019/2020 session. Usually, around 40 people who have enjoyed the various classic films, ranging from 'Ladies in Lavender' to 'The Quiet Man'.

The film club is open to anyone, not just Tuesday Club members. We would be delighted to see you coming along on the third Tuesday of the month, from October to April, in the Archie Agnew Hall at 2:00 pm.

After the film ends, we have a cup of tea and chat in the Coffee Bar. No admission charged, but if you would like to make a small donation to offset costs, we would be very grateful.

The final film of the season is 'The Lost Prince' on Tuesday 21st April at 2:00 pm in the Walter Nelson Hall.

## Sunday School & Bible Class

In Groomsport, we are blessed to have a small but wonderfully enthusiastic group of children who are all eager to learn and fully involved in every aspect of our curriculum.

Since Christmas, Sunday School has moved from the Old Testament to the New and have had the stories of Jesus baptism, the temptations, the call of the disciples and the stilling of the storm. We made pictures of Jesus baptism, turned flour into scones and made boats and sailed them through stormy waters. Each week Rosemary comes along to play the piano so that we can sing songs and choruses with lots of actions.

The Bible Class are a very small group and they are studying in the Old Testament and learning life lessons through each story.



We are looking forward to having special activities for Mother's Day, Easter and the PCI youth project which is providing resources for work being carried out in Spain. In this regard, we are, in conjunction with the Mission Committee, holding a Pancake Breakfast on Palm Sunday from 10.00 am until approximately 11.00 am before church. This was very successful last year and we hope it will be equally successful again.

Please keep the work of Sunday School and Bible Class in your prayers and encourage any young people you know who are not presently members to join us.

*Margaret McCreedy*

# A Groomsport Christmas Carol

*not by Charles Dickens*

On Friday the 6th December, a mild and dry evening, about 250 people, including at least 80 children, gathered in Groomsport Presbyterian Church to celebrate the switch-on of the Groomsport Christmas tree lights.

Normally this would have been organised by the Groomsport Village Association, however, this year they decided to host an alternative seasonal celebration event. The village Christmas tree lights switch-on is an event that Groomsport Presbyterian Church has supported for many years and we were determined that this important event in the life of our village would carry on!

With the support of the Reverend Dalzell, Session and the Congregational Committee, the Outreach Committee took up the challenge, and started making plans and calls. We were in agreement that the three Groomsport churches should have an opportunity to be involved. Without question, the Groomsport Parish Church and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church came alongside us.

We were also very graciously supported by our local Groomsport Councillor, Gavin Walker. He was our important link with Ards and North Down Borough Council who provide the tree and the lights. Gavin also very kindly designed and printed 'free of charge' 1000 leaflets advertising the event and even delivered some himself! Another switch-on group of volunteers distributed the remaining leaflets to ensure all the 700 households in Groomsport knew and were invited.

The service was conducted by the Reverend Paul Dalzell, with Bible readings by the Reverend Duncan Pollock of Groomsport Parish Church and our very own Princeton intern, Assistant Minister Heidi Biermann. Summer McWhinney read a poem.

To further add to the magical atmosphere of the service, Symington Memorial Band provided the music to accompany the Christmas carols. After the short but wonderful service, we then moved outside to the front of the church where Mayor Bill Keery duly led us all in a countdown to the Christmas tree lights switch-on.

We then proceeded merrily down to the Parish Halls where Groomsport Parish Church kindly provided refreshments for all to enjoy.

Christmas is no doubt completed with the excitement of children. Therefore, some craft activities were set up and even a Santa's Grotto, where Santa and Santa's helper greeted the children with a gift. Observing grandparents, their children and their children's children gather together in fun and friendship is wonderful in this every busy world.



It was mentioned that, for some, it had been their first visit to a church for many years. Hopefully, they found us 'a welcoming community of God's People.'

This truly was a fantastic night made possible by the Grace of God and by those who contributed for which I am very much truly indebted.

*Roy McWhinney, Convener, Outreach Committee*

## Pantomime

Dear Turnstones,

Thanks, once again for a first-rate pantomime 'Aladdin', it delighted all of us, Congratulations! I was there on Saturday afternoon with five of my great-grandchildren plus three adults and the excitement was tremendous.



One of my great-grandchildren, Wilf who is four, responded immediately to an invitation from the glorious Widow Twanky to join her on stage. On his own and with great determination, he walked from the back of the hall, through the audience, up the steps and sauntered around the cast peering up with interest at each panto character. I wonder will he be an actor someday! Having been involved in the Groomsport pantomime on and off since 1974, many happy memories were stirred as I watched Aladdin. I congratulate the very able producers, the talented cast, the organised backstage team, the music, sound and lighting people and absolutely everyone involved. You were tremendous!

I've only one regret, that this year I was unable to attend an evening performance as well. All good luck and best wishes for the future.

*Margaret Johnston*

## Prayer in a Time of Disaster

*Holy One, you are our comfort and strength  
in times of sudden disaster, crisis, or chaos.  
Surround us now with your grace and peace  
through storm or earthquake, fire or flood.*

*By your Spirit, lift up those who have fallen,  
sustain those who work to rescue or rebuild,  
and fill us with the hope of your new creation;  
through Jesus Christ, our rock and redeemer.*

*Rev. John G. Hamilton*

## Easter Chicks

For me, 2019 was a brilliant year. First of all, my 80th birthday, the Easter chicks and most importantly the skydive, last but not least our diamond anniversary.

At this point, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who supported me in my charity, The Urology Department in the Ulster Hospital.

A very special and sincere thank you to all the knitters who tirelessly knit chicks and hats all year round, without them, I couldn't hand over my cheques every year.

Mr John McKnight from the urology department came down on Tuesday 3rd March, to the Leisure group where I was delighted to hand over a cheque for £10,315 for last year; this brings my total to over £38,000.

Long may I be able to continue knitting and selling for this wonderful cause.

*June Kirk*



## Blast From The Past - Raspberry Mousse

I thought it might be fun to have an article from an Eagle Wing magazine ten years ago. While scanning through trying to find something interesting I came across this recipe by Margaret Johnston, I thought it was too good not to share.



At the Church BBQ on 29th August, I was asked for the recipe for my dessert, and so I said I would offer it to *Eagle Wing*. Margaret Johnston

### Raspberry Mousse (Serves 4)

½lb fresh raspberries (225g)  
1 packet raspberry jelly  
170g or 6oz can evaporated milk

1 teaspoon lemon juice  
2 tablespoons double cream, whipped

Heat berries in 1 tbsp water until soft.

Strain juice from raspberries into a measuring jug and make up to ½ pint with water. Put juice in a pan and bring to boiling point. Add jelly in small pieces and stir until dissolved. Leave in a cold place until just beginning to set.

Sieve strained raspberries. Put evaporated milk and lemon juice in a bowl and whisk until it will form soft peaks. Fold raspberry puree and evaporated milk into almost set jelly. Mix well, then spoon into a serving dish.

Leave in a cool place. Just before serving, decorate mousse with whipped cream and, if desired, fresh raspberries.



# The Story Behind The Song

## *In the Garden - Charles Austin Miles 1868-1946*

*Betty Jeeves*

Charles was born 7th January 1868 in Lakehurst, New Jersey. A strong Christian who read his Bible and lived by it. Charles attended college and studied to be a pharmacist which he worked at for several years. He served as editor and manager at Hall-Mack publishers for 37 years.'

His hobby was photography, and he would read his bible in the darkroom while waiting for his photographs to develop. One day while he was reading John 20, verse 14 really hit him. He thought 'How would I feel seeing the empty tomb and how would Mary have felt?' He wrote the hymn 'In The Garden', which was published in 1912. In his lifetime he wrote 398 songs.

Charles died 10th March 1946 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania aged 78. He was buried at Hillcrest Memorial Park, Washington, New Jersey. According to his great-granddaughter, he wrote this hymn whilst in a cold dreary and leaky basement in Pitman, New Jersey; it didn't even have a window, let alone a view of the garden.

*I come to the garden alone,  
While the dew is still on the roses;  
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,  
The Son of God discloses.*

*Refrain:*

*And He walks with me, and He talks with me,  
And He tells me I am His own,  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
None other has ever known.*

*He speaks, and the sound of His voice  
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;  
And the melody that He gave to me  
Within my heart is ringing.*

*[Refrain]*

*I'd stay in the garden with Him  
Tho' the night around me be falling;  
But He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe,  
His voice to me is calling.*

*[Refrain]*



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# Greetings From The Irmer Family

Hope this update finds everyone in and around Groomsport doing well. Our family is doing great. Here are some updates:

Alison continues to enjoy the 6th Grade at Lawrence Intermediate School. She is practising for their upcoming musical which is Aladdin Jr. If anyone from your panto has any advice for her or would like to fly over and show us how it's done, feel free! Ali also just finished another year of basketball. Unfortunately, she had a terrible coach and their team didn't win a single game (I was her coach haha). No, despite our record, we had another enjoyable season and I am proud of her and all her teammates to stick together and keep competing even when things were challenging.



Amelia continues to enjoy being a teacher's aide for students with special needs. This year, they have her working with 2nd graders which she is enjoying a great deal. She is terrific at her job! She also continues to be active in our church as our vice-moderator for our Deacons and is organizing our upcoming Church Talent Show. The picture you see of us is from us flying down to Orlando, FL to celebrate her brother's 50th Birthday party, which was a lot of fun!

I'm continuing to enjoy my time as pastor at Slackwood Presbyterian Church. Thankfully, we continue to grow not only in our numbers but also deeper in our faith. This past year, we hired a Director of Family Ministries as well as renovated an upper room for our youth and other outside groups to use. Though no church is perfect and every one has their to challenges, I continue to enjoy the various aspects that come with being a minister.

We all continue to enjoy traveling, spending time with our dogs, and going to Sixers basketball games. Though it has been another very mild winter (not a single snow day), we are looking forward to longer, warmer days ahead and all that comes with Spring.

Tomorrow I will preach a sermon about what it means to be a true friend. As I thought about when and where I have experienced true friendship, I thought of so many people and moments from our time at Groomsport where you all demonstrated what it means to be a true friend toward my family and me. Thanks for your continued friendship and know that you are always welcome to visit us any time of the year. We'd love to see you and show you around New York City, New Jersey, and Philadelphia (all one hour away or less).

*All the best, Ryan, Amelia & Alison*

## What God looks like

An child's teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. One little girl was working away furiously, and so she asked her what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat, the little girl replied, "They will in a minute."



# Hey Groomsport Family!

Life is very good and very full right now and I find myself thinking about you all. These days everything is changing for me. After seven years of serving as the pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church in Hanover Park, I have discerned that God is calling me to bring my time with them to a close. I will finish my time with them in January 2021, when they will have completed a big transition in their own structure. This means I am wrapping up a job while discerning the path to a new call, planning a wedding, and preparing for an upcoming move to an unknown location all at the same time! Our wedding date of September 25th is coming fast and Jonathan and I hope (global travel restrictions permitting) to take a honeymoon in Europe after the wedding. These travels will sadly not take us to Ireland, but every time I fly overseas I give thanks to God for my time with you all. Keep me in your prayers through all the change!

*Love and peace, Lisa*

## Happy Easter!

I've had a busy Christmas and winter season. The highlight of my Christmas was my entire family coming to join me for Christmas. It was the first time that we had all been together in over 5 years, and it was lovely to celebrate together. In January, I spent three weeks in South Africa, taking a two-week doctoral course and then staying for a 4-day safari in Kruger Park. Both were phenomenal. The safari in Kruger had been on my bucket list for over 20 years, and it did not disappoint. It is a bit surreal when on day three, you encourage the driver to keep going because "it's just another zebra."

We saw the big five and so much more, and I'd highly recommend it to anyone considering going. My class was my last of my electives, and after finishing up a project due in June, I will be "ABD" (all but dissertation). February saw me turn 40 (yikes!) and the man that I'm dating was able to come out for the week to celebrate with me, so that was lovely. Things are busy now as we prepare for Lent and continue to monitor the spread of the Coronavirus and think about what is best for the health of our congregation.

*Blessings, Christa*



# Greetings From Missouri



It's been a bit of a whirlwind in the Miller household since our last note to Groomsport! Mid-March is now an exciting time for us, as David and Katherine have their birthdays just four days apart. This year David turned four and Katherine turned one. We were able to travel the three hours up to Kansas City to visit family and have a fantastic joint party for them both. Being close to our families is a real blessing; the kids really enjoy spending time with all four grandparents. Katherine is very inquisitive, especially when David is playing with something, it quickly becomes the most interesting toy in the house! David is a fantastic big brother. If Katherine is sad, he will often go and give her a hug, even if he does get frustrated with her sometimes when she takes apart the toy train track he worked so hard to build.



A good deal of our life at the moment has been figuring out a new pattern of life with David. Around the time of his second birthday, we started to notice that his language skills weren't developing as quickly as would be expected. Then, last fall, David was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. While this has been scary for us, we are lucky to be in an area with lots of supports and resources, including a special education pre-school program funded by the local school district; David has been a student there for a year now. In addition, we've gotten connected with speech and music therapy, playgroups, and much more. He has made incredible progress, and even though there are hard days it is amazing to see the boy he is becoming.

Life at church is full of exciting work. My congregation here in Springfield continues to

be devoted to mission work; we are currently discussing ways to support the latest phase of a major project in our city aimed at ending homelessness in Springfield within 15 years. Over the last two years, we raised the funds to build a tiny house for the first phase, and we are excited to see phase two launch this year! I'm also currently serving as the Moderator of Presbytery. This means a few more traveling days for meetings; it takes almost six hours to drive from one side of our presbytery to the other. Thankfully, Springfield is almost in the center!

We miss our Groomsport family a great deal; the two years we spent with you all have left an indelible mark on us. For that we are forever thankful. With our best wishes,

*Chris, Mary Erin, David, and  
Katherine Miller*



# Hello Groomsport!

I was thinking of my time in Northern Ireland recently because it will not stop raining in Georgia! It is good to touch base.

I am in my third year serving as the Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Formation at First Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia. I love this historic church and my role coordinating education opportunities for all ages. In March, I will celebrate ten years as an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA). I am grateful to God for you, for Rev. Roger Purce and the people of Groomsport. Through the internship, you nurtured me in my early days of ministerial leadership with a grace that has sustained me.

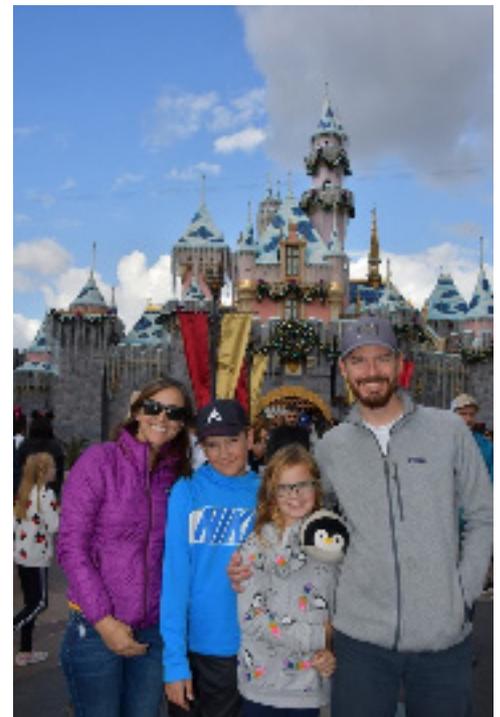
My husband and I met at the seminary when I returned from my year away in Groomsport. He is a professor of Old Testament at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. We have a six-year-old son who keeps us very busy with sport and piano. Did I mention we have three cats? So a full life for us in Atlanta, Georgia. If you are ever in the area or have a long delay at the Atlanta airport, I would love to see you.

*Blessings to you all. In Christ, Jamie Butcher*

## Dear Groomsport Family

2019-2020 has seen a fair amount of change in the Good Family. The summer months gave us the opportunity to spend seven weeks in Europe while on sabbatical from my responsibilities at St. Andrew's. It was a wonderful time to simply relax and be together away from the pressures of ministry.

During that time, we began to sense that my time as an Associate Pastor was drawing to a close and we committed to remaining open to where God would lead us next. We never imagined that would result in a move back to the Southeast of the United States. After months of interviews and a lot of time spent in prayer and conversation, we felt compelled to make the leap of faith and accept the role as Lead Pastor of All Souls Fellowship in Decatur, GA. At the time of writing, we have been here for one month and are settling in nicely to the area. All Souls is a young church (planted 17 years ago) and in some ways taking on the call of Pastor here feels like stepping in to raise a teenager, but in just a few short weeks we have been blessed by the grace and hospitality of the community and are excited to see the kinds of things God will lead us on together.



Graham (10) and MacKenzie (9) are doing well; they've seemed to blend into their new surroundings with ease and Jill is already hard at work finding projects to which she can lend her skills. We speak often of our time with you and how formative it was for us. Even though we aren't always able to contribute to its publication, Jill and I take joy in reading the Eagle Wing and keeping tabs on our Groomsport family.

*Steven Good*

# Aladdin - February 20th - 22nd

*Presented by Turnstones Drama Group*



# Usual Weekly Activities In The Walter Nelson Hall Complex

Due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) all organisations are suspended until further notice.

## SUNDAY

Sunday School & Bible Class	10:15 am
Congregational Coffee Mornings (Last Sunday in the month excluding June - August & December)	10:15 - 11:15 am

## MONDAY

PW (2nd & 4th Mondays)	8:00 pm
BB Anchor Boys & Junior Section (5-11 yrs)	7:00 - 8:00 pm

## TUESDAY

Tuesday Club (1st Tuesday in every month)	2:00 pm
Tuesday Film Club (3rd Tuesday in the month Oct - March)	2:00 pm
Leisure Group	7:30 - 9:00 pm

## WEDNESDAY

Badminton Club	10:00 am
Friendship Lunch (last Wednesday in the month, Oct – April, sign up sheet available in the church)	1:00 pm
Indoor Bowling Club	7:15 pm
Midweek Prayer and Bible Study	7:30 pm

## THURSDAY

Brownies	6:30 - 7:45 pm
Rainbow Guides	6:30 - 7:30 pm
Guides	7:30 - 9:00 pm

## SATURDAY

Coffee Mornings (June-August incl)	10:30 am - noon
------------------------------------	-----------------

# Forthcoming Services

Due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) all services have been cancelled until further notice. We plan to have a weekly recorded service on the website which will be available for 11.30am each Sunday

Sunday 5th April, 11:30 am

Palm Sunday Service

Sunday 5th April, 6:00 pm

Palm Sunday Evening Service At The Parish Church

Friday 10th April, 8:00 pm

Good Friday Communion

Sunday 12th April (time to be confirmed)

Sunrise Service

Sunday 12th April 11:30 am

Easter Sunday Service

# Dates For Your Diary

Sunday 5th April, 10:00 am

Pancake Breakfast

Saturday 2nd May, 10:30 am

Hope Christian Trust Coffee Morning

Friday 29th May

Scottish Dancing

HE IS  
RISEN

