

Eagle Wing Newsletter



Autumn 2024

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Message from the Minister



Buddy Holly, born Charles Hardin Holley on September 7, 1936, was an American musician, singer, and songwriter whose influence on rock and roll is legendary. Growing up in Lubbock, Texas, Holly developed a love for music early on, inspired by both country and rhythm and blues. He rose to fame in the mid-1950s with his band, The Crickets, producing a string of hits that included "That'll Be the Day" and "Peggy Sue." Holly's style, characterized by his signature glasses, innovative guitar playing, and distinct voice, became iconic. Tragically, his life was cut short in a plane crash in 1959, a day remembered as "The Day the Music Died."

One of Buddy Holly's posthumously released songs in 1959, "Raining in My Heart," beautifully encapsulates feelings of sadness despite outward appearances of calm and beauty. The lyrics express this contrast in a simple yet powerful way:

The sun is out - the sky is blue
There's not a cloud to spoil the view
But it's raining - raining in my heart.

The song strikes a chord because it captures a universal human experience. Lots of people walk through life with their own invisible burdens. Like the lyrics describe, on the outside, everything may seem fine — the sun is shining, and the sky is clear. But internally, they are struggling with emotional, physical, or spiritual challenges that make it feel like it's "raining in their hearts."

For those facing such struggles, comfort and hope can be hard to find. However, it was Jesus who said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." This is part of the hope which the Lord Jesus offers to all. Amidst the trials that we meet, when facing anguish that few if any know about, God knows and he cares. Sometimes when in such situations we can pray but our prayers feel like they are going no higher than the ceiling. Be assured, God hears because he has shown he loves us in his son Jesus Christ. Through prayer, we reach out to a God who understands our pain, who is present in the storms we face.

A passage of Scripture that I personally return to again and again, for myself and to share with others, is Psalm 34:18, which offers this message of hope:

"The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

This verse is a reminder that, for those who are hurting, God is near. It reassures us that even in moments when life feels overwhelming, we are not alone. God cares deeply about those who feel broken, offering comfort and healing to those who seek him. While life may sometimes feel like it's raining in our hearts, God assures us that he is with us to sustain us and in Christ Jesus he will never leave us nor forsake us.

May you know Gods sustaining grace and blessing.

Your minister



CONGREGATIONAL RECORD

DEATHS

27 th March 2024	Mr Thomas Dempster	District 9
28 th June 2024	Mr William Ball	District 11
1 st July 2024	Rev Derek Drysdale	District 1
18 th July 2024	Mrs Rhoda Martin	District 12
29 th July 2024	Mrs Peggy Dougan	District 17
23 rd August 2024	Mr Denis Orr	District 13
25 th August 2024	Mrs Joan Wortley	District 12

NEW MEMBERS

5 th August 2024	Mr & Mrs Cecil Bailie	District 8
13 th August 2024	Mr Denis Boles	District 12
4 th September 2024	Mrs Maureen Hunter	District 3

BAPTISMS

18 th August 2024	Mia McGovern, (daughter of Mr & Mrs Matt McGovern)
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Useful Contacts

Minister: Rev Paul Dalzell 07909 896123
Pastoral Assistant: Rev Denis Campbell 07716 332769
Clerk of Session: Dr Michael Steele 028 9127 4559
Facilities Co-ordinator: Mr Ian McDonald 07899 718089
Office Secretary: Mrs Julie McClurg 028 9146 2552

Email: office@groomspresbyterian.com
Church Website: www.groomspresbyterian.com

FORTHCOMING SERVICES and EVENTS



Sunday 6 th October	11.00am	Communion Service
Sunday 13 th October	11.00am & 7.00pm	Harvest Services
Saturday 19 th October	2.30pm	A Royal Afternoon Tea
Sunday 20 th October	11.00am	Guides & Boys Brigade Service
Monday 21 st October	7.30pm	Congregational Committee Meeting
Saturday 26 th October	10.00am	First Aid Training
Saturday 9 th November	10.30am	Coffee Morning for Hope Christian Trust, Gaza
Saturday 16 th November	10.30am	PW Coffee Morning
Sunday 17 th November	7.00pm	Donaghadee Community Choir
Friday 29 th November	7.30pm	Fortwilliam Musical Society Songs from The Shows
Sunday 8 th December	11.00am	Gift Day

Presbyterian Women

Ladies of all ages are welcome to come along and join us on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 7.30pm in The Archie Agnew Hall.

You will receive a very warm welcome, friendship and fellowship.

Our programme until Christmas is as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 14 th October | Paul and Pat Miller |
| | Petals and Pictures |
| 28 th October | Louise Davidson |
| | Deaconess working for Friendship House |
| 11 th November | Alison Coyle |
| | Sounds around Ards, talking Newspapers |
| 25 th November | Olive Turkington |
| | What's in your handbag? |
| 9 th December | Christmas Party |
| | Music by Jean Spencer |

Our Autumn Coffee Morning will be Saturday 16th November 2024

Jennifer Boyd - Secretary



Kidszone continued to meet through the summer months. As the Paris Olympics took place this summer we decided to focus on a sports-based theme. Through Bible stories, crafts and games the children explored how we can join Jesus's team, what rules we need to follow and how we can be part of the best team, even when faced with challenges. With Jesus as our team leader everything is possible.

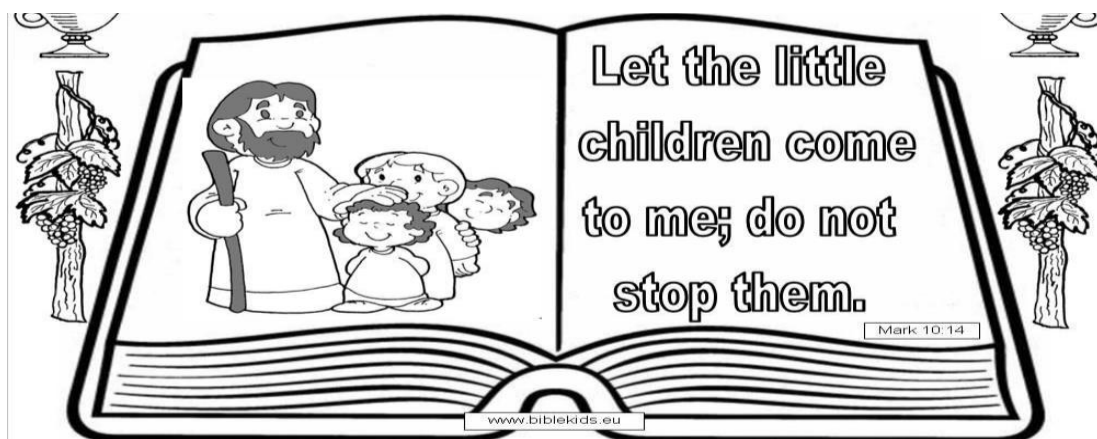
Each Sunday morning the children love to share their stories and participate enthusiastically, even if they are a little quiet sometimes when they come back down into church.

We have a small but extremely dedicated team of leaders and would welcome any help other members think they might be able to give on the odd Sunday morning. Just speak to any of the current leaders.

Paul and Catherine hosted a barbecue for the leaders at the end of August and it was a lovely night of fellowship and fun. Now the holidays are over, and the schools have returned we look forward to welcoming back all our Kidszone regulars on a Sunday morning.

Please continue to pray for the children and their leaders as this important work in our church family continues.

The Kidszone team





BADMINTON CLUB

The Badminton Club resumed on Wednesday 18th September. We meet in the Walter Nelson Hall from 10am until 12 noon, when we enjoy some exercise, tea or coffee and biscuits and lots of chat and good fellowship.

We will be pleased to welcome any new members. Experience or age do not matter. We all enjoy the company and fun. We can also supply rackets should anyone wish to give it a try.

Margaret McCreedy



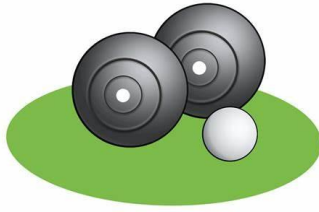
THE LEISURE GROUP

The Leisure Group started on Tuesday 3rd September for another year.

We had 26 members present and 5 apologies. It was lovely to welcome 2 new members. This group is going from strength to strength though there is always room for anyone thinking of joining. Our group represents ladies from across our community and not just members of our church. To hear the chat before our exercises began is so encouraging, and see the friendships being made and enjoyed. Thanks again to June Kirk for her leadership, for another session.

If anyone wishes to come along on a Tuesday evening at 7.30 a welcome awaits you.

Sandra Todd - Secretary



THE BOWLING CLUB

The 24/25 season of Groomsport PC Bowling Club commenced on 18th September.

We meet every Wednesday evening in Walter Nelson Hall at 7.15pm where we have a few games and finish with a cup of tea or coffee.

Matches that have been arranged with local clubs which we look forward to hosting in our own halls.

Anyone wishing to join us will be made very welcome, no experience necessary, so come along and give it a go.

Jean Wilson - Secretary



THE TUESDAY CLUB GROOMSPORT SPONSORED BY THE SPAR GROOMSPORT

Winter beckons again! Therefore, it is up to us to make it as bearable as possible. We, in the Tuesday Club have planned a programme of activities until well into next year. Some are for members only; others are open meetings when we greet non-members to our events.

Our next meeting is members only, on 1st October, when one of our members will be telling us of his experiences of working with deaf and blind children in Belfast, before the move to its present site at Jordanstown.

November 5th will be an open meeting – “All our Yesterdays” – Rev Dr David Irwin and his wife Maureen who are friends of the Tuesday Club will be showing us photographs taken fifty years ago in and around Groomsport. In David’s own words “You might recognise a few faces, but they will look a lot younger!”

Our Christmas meeting on 3rd December will be a ticketed event. 100 tickets are available from now - £10 each – and we have invited Trevor Price, a professional magician, to perform his amazing magic show. We are still raising money for the guide dogs, so that we can name a puppy!

This will be our last open meeting for this year. I hope that you will be able to come and enjoy the afternoon.

by Mary Cargill

The Official Opening of our Refurbished Hall Complex

29th and 30th June 2024

The official opening of our newly refurbished Walter Nelson Hall Complex took place on the last weekend of June 2024. This was the culmination of so much preparation, hard work and dedication by many people but in particular our thanks must go to our property convenor Mr Lowry Manson for overseeing this project from conception to completion on time and in budget.

The most notable improvements are the new entrance foyer, central lobby (with new toilet facilities) and 'The Hub' which overlooks Groomsport harbour and Cockle Row cottages.

The weekend of celebration began with a community day on Saturday followed on Sunday by a Service of Dedication and Congregational Lunch.

The Saturday certainly had a party atmosphere with balloons and music to liven the day. Everyone from the congregation and surrounding community was invited into the new 'Hub' to enjoy tea/coffee, scones and tray-bakes. Our teams were kept very busy during the day keeping the coffee machines operating and replenishing the trays of scones. It was estimated that there was over 600 people through the doors. Everyone could enjoy the panoramic views across the harbour and the view of our church from the foyer. In the afternoon we were entertained by the Newtownards Silver Band who performed outside our halls. Even the weather turned fair allowing the sun to shine on the folk seated in the car park. The secretary of the band, Mr Grenville Francis said that it was a pleasure to play at the hall opening and the band members really enjoyed their day with us.

Our Dedication Service on Sunday was a joyous and uplifting occasion. Thanks must go to our minister, Rev Paul Dalzell, our organist Mr John McIlwaine and the choir for leading our worship and not forgetting the congregation who lifted the rafters with their enthusiastic singing of the hymns.

Our guest of honour was the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of County Down, Mrs Catherine Champion DL who performed the official opening ceremony. This was preceded by the dedication of the refurbished halls by Rev Dalzell. Afterwards, the congregation, friends and invited guests were treated to a fantastic lunch under the expert supervision of Mrs Valerie McCutcheon and her team of helpers. Thanks to them and all who worked tirelessly to make the weekend such a wonderful and enjoyable event in our church story. Particular thanks go to Mrs Champion DL for performing the official opening ceremony from whom we received the following letter:-

Dear Dr Steele

Thank you very much for this.

It was an honour and privilege to be invited to perform the official opening of the refurbished halls on Sunday, and to attend the Praise Service.

Please pass on my thanks to the Minister, Kirk Session and Congregation for the lovely welcome I was given. I was most impressed by all aspects of the day, including the delicious lunch. Please do convey my thanks to all involved with the many arrangements needed to make the occasion such a success.

The refurbishment work looks absolutely wonderful, and it was good to meet so many of the people involved in the project.

Special thanks, too, to the Minister, his wife Catherine, your wife Julie, yourself, and Elaine Nixon for the warm hospitality on Friday morning and for briefing me so well.

My mother had very fond memories of Groomsport, she would have been delighted that I was there on Sunday.

Kind regards

Catherine

Catherine Champion DL, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of County Down.

We are now looking forward to using these new halls as a centre of Christian fellowship and outreach to the whole community.

Jesus said 'I am the Light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of life' (John 8 v 12).

Dr Michael Steele – Clerk of Session






This new Entrance Foyer, together with the newly refurbished and enlarged Hub and Lobby, were opened on Sunday 30th June 2024 by Mrs CJ Champion D.L, Vice Lord Lieutenant of County Down and were dedicated to the Glory of God.
This Project was funded by the McCaw Trust.

 **RNLI** Buckingham Palace Garden Party marks 200 years of the RNLI
Lifeboats **200**

2024 marks the 200th anniversary of the founding of the RNLI. For a period in excess of a quarter of that time Edna Robinson has been helping fundraise and has supported the Crew of Donaghadee Lifeboat Station and the RNLI in the UK generally.

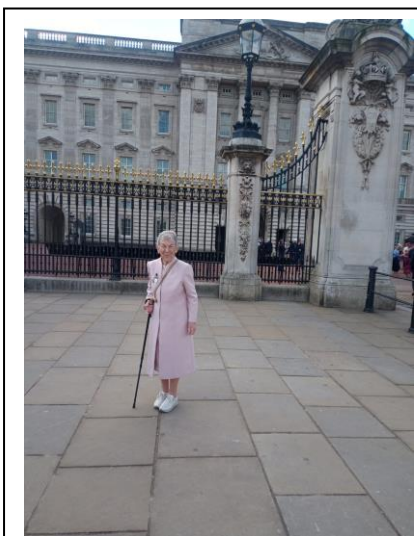
The daughter and niece of lifeboat men, the RNLI and its work has formed part of the backdrop of her life. First as a member of the original Ladies Lifeboat Guild and laterally the RNLI Fundraising Committee Edna has been involved in everything from manning the RNLI shop to collecting at the annual Lifeboat day.

To mark the 200th anniversary a garden party hosted by HRH The Princess Royal and HRH The Duke of Kent brought together some 2500 long serving volunteers and staff from around the UK and Ireland.

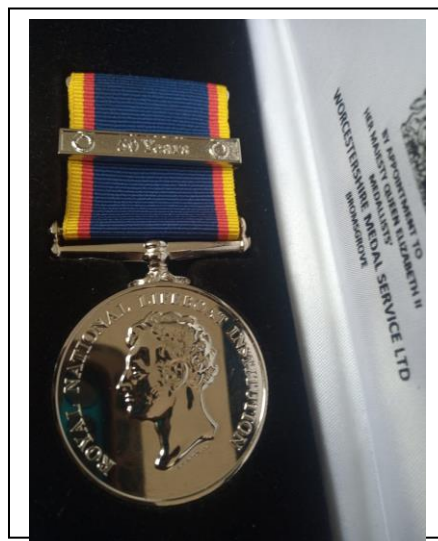
Edna attended with other members of the teams from Donaghadee and Bangor.



The picture above is Edna with Evelyn Bennett the Chairperson of The Fundraising Committee and fellow RNLI medal recipient



Edna outside Buckingham Palace



Edna's Medal



Edna and her daughter Gail



MISSION COMMITTEE plans SEPTEMBER to NOVEMBER 2024

We have a number of plans for the Autumn which allow us to reach out within our own community and beyond. We would welcome your support for any or all of these outreach opportunities.

20th September is the date of the second meeting of the **Men's group** at which we hope to collect tools for re use in Tanzania, under the auspices of the Belfast based organisation, Tools for Solidarity.

We hope to support the **Samaritan's Purse Christmas Box Appeal** again, with boxes becoming available in late September.

19th October is our next scheduled event, **an afternoon tea** during which we will hear from Rev Derek Kerr about his experiences as an enthusiast for the Royal Family. All money raised will be given to support the work of Open Doors with their work among persecuted Christians in the world. Tickets will be available from members of the Mission Committee. Numbers will be limited by the space available.

9th November is the date of a **coffee morning** with the proceeds going to Rev John Angle for support of staff at the Christian School in Gaza.

29th November is the occasion on which we hope to welcome back the **Fortwilliam Music Society** for a concert in the church halls. The money raised will be given for the work of Stephen and Angelina Cowan in Kenya. By that time we will have heard details of their current projects because they have been invited to speak in church on 27th October.

Maureen Stewart - Mission Committee

Linda Norgrove Foundation



Linda Norgrove devoted her working life to helping others. She travelled many miles from the Isle of Lewis in Scotland to remote parts of Afghanistan to work as aid worker. There she oversaw projects designed to create jobs and small businesses in unstable and vulnerable areas. She built up a strong relationship with the local community and was greatly admired for her work with women and children.

Sadly, Linda was kidnapped by the Taliban in Kunar on 26 September 2010 and died in a failed rescue attempt on 8 October. She was only 36.

The Linda Norgrove Foundation was established by her parents in October 2010 in memory of Linda. The Foundation's primary goal is to help women and children in Afghanistan, the innocent victims of the decades of conflict in the poorest country in the world outside Africa.



It is tempting to forget about the troubles of Afghanistan but recent reports on the BBC reminded us of the severe oppression of women by the Taliban and the plight of millions of starving children, exacerbated by the ineptitude of the Taliban authorities. Education for women has been almost completely stopped and their voices are not allowed to be heard in public.

Midwifery is currently the only subject women are still allowed to study at local colleges and the foundation has funded 20 residential places for women to study at the Sheefa Midwifery Institute in northern Afghanistan. A trusted resident German volunteer oversees the programme for them.

Following the 'suspension' of higher education for women, the foundation is no longer able to provide scholarships. After women were banned from higher education, not only were the students confined to their home and deprived of the chance of a medical career, many feared their lives were in danger and lived in fear of the Taliban.

In August 2024, after clearing many hurdles and with the support of the UK government, the foundation succeeded in bringing 19 medical students to Scotland to continue their studies. It is humbling to hear what some of them had to endure.



Fariba was inspired to become a doctor after both her mother and brother became ill and could not be treated in Afghanistan. She was in the final stage of her medical studies in Kabul when the Taliban banned most women's education. Having taken part in a women's demonstration she was being hunted by the Taliban, who visited her home and threatened her so she had to move several times. She was scared and isolated and became depressed. However today she says "I feel like God has granted me a miracle in life, and I am soaring towards my goals and dreams, smiling and happy every second"

The trustees of the foundation include Linda's parents. None of the trustees are paid or receive expenses. This ensures that the charity's funds are devoted entirely to its aims.

On Sunday 17th November, here in Groomspoint, we are delighted to have another evening praise service led by the Donaghadee Community Choir. This year we would like to devote the collection to the Linda Norgrove Foundation, and we would encourage everyone to come along and support this. If you would like to donate something now you can leave an envelope in our weekly collection and mark it LINDA. Alternatively, you can send any donation to our church office or give it directly to our treasurer, Mr Chris Thompson. Please remember the work of the Linda Norgrove Foundation in your prayers. Thank you. Dr Michael Steele – Mission Committee



Since the last edition of the Eagle Wing, we have launched our new website. We hope this new website will provide a window for all into the life and witness of our church in Groomsport.

The website is updated weekly and will provide everyone with the information they need about our church and what is happening in the life of the church.

If you have not already explored the website you can find us at www.groomsportpresbyterian.com or scan the QR code.

I would like to thank all the members of the website team for their work in the planning, designing, populating and updating of the website. Thanks also to Lisa from Sanphire Design who patiently guided us through the design process, built the site and provided training to enable us to manage and update the content on a regular basis.

Fiona McCreedy

Ebenezer Joins the Celebration

It was tea and traybakes on Saturday 29th June at our Community Open Day as we celebrated the church hall being refurbished. Everyone involved is to be congratulated on a splendid occasion.

At the event one or two people suggested I might pick up the old pen again and write a wee story for the church magazine. Naturally I felt flattered that my previous ramblings, stretching back over a decade, had been remembered. Hence I was easy prey to the persuaders. Sated by tea and buns, I was foolish enough to promise, well, maybe a half promise, that I would make an effort for the next edition.



Call it Divine intervention but, as Wilma and I left the hall, we bumped into my potential story in the street. He rejoiced in the name Ebenezer Savage. Now I just love unusual names. My favourite until I met Ebenezer was Finbarr Flood. The name could have come straight from the pages of James Joyce's novel, "Dubliners". Back in the day before computers and mobile phones, Dubliner Finbarr spent a season in the Irish League as a goalkeeper. He later became Managing Director of Guinness Ireland. On reflection, I suspect he may have been supping some of the black stuff going by some of his performances! Sorry Finbarr, only joking.

Now, one thing I do enjoy doing is making connections, as I have just demonstrated, so let's return swiftly to our newfound friend, Ebenezer. Within minutes of meeting Ebenezer for the first time, his unsolicited life story was spread out in front of us. We were told he was born in Groomsport almost ninety years ago and had lived at The Hill. He told us that the building we know today as The Walter Nelson Hall was named after a former minister and indeed the Rev Nelson baptised our former Clerk of Session, Elaine Nixon Shepherd.

Ebenezer pointed out that the church hall we had just left was originally the village school at which he had been a pupil. When it ceased being a school I'm not sure but, of course, it was subsequently transformed into the building we know today as the Walter Nelson Hall.

My research tells me that the original school behind the church had been built by the Rev Isaac Mack for the education of the children of the village and district. Isaac was the first minister of the newly formed Presbyterian congregation of Groomsport. On 18th May 1841 his Ordination took place in a large marquee on the shore side of Main Street, in an area known as Holme Field, now a public park.

The industrious and enthusiastic Rev Mack raised the necessary funds for the building of the church. About two years later, in 1843, the church was built and opened for worship. Previously, the Sunday services were held in a house at 17 Main Street.

Rev Mack built for himself the splendid house just outside the village on the left of the road from Bangor. It was the residence in which he lived and died, and later became the Rectory of the Church of Ireland. Originally called 'Albertville' after Queen Victoria's husband, it is now known as 'The Old Rectory'.

Now, let's look a little more closely at the name 'Ebenezer'. I have never heard of anyone called 'Ebenezer', have you? I guess I have left myself open to protestations from any Ebenezer out there but, in truth, the only person I know going by the name Ebenezer is the villain from the Charles Dickens novel 'A Christmas Carol', the odious Ebenezer Scrooge, boo, and all his negative connotations.

I have always thought that Ebenezer is a name of someone from the Bible. Not so! Ebenezer is a stone marking a particular place! It is first mentioned at 1 Samuel 4 (1): "The Israelites camped at Ebenezer..." and at 1 Samuel 7:14: "Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it 'Ebenezer' saying "this day the Lord has helped us"". Undoubtedly, the stone was used by Samuel to celebrate a victory by the Israelites over the Philistines. It was meant to be a solid reminder of the Lord's power and protection.

Now Samuel happens to be one of my favourite Old Testament characters, prophet, priest, military leader and king maker to whom the Lord spoke. Remember the sage advice the old priest of Shiloh, Eli, gave Samuel namely that if the Lord spoke to him again he should reply: "Speak Lord; for Thy servant heareth."

Do we hear when the Lord speaks to us? Do we listen? Gosh, I don't mean to preach so I'll blame it fairly and squarely on the Samuel effect.

It is my guess Dickens read his Bible and used the name 'Ebenezer' to show that the nasty Mr Scrooge had a heart of stone. At the end of his novel Dickens transforms Scrooge from being a miserly character into a rather more lovable one. I wonder if he meant it to be a case of Divine transformation?

Our Ebenezer, the chap we met outside the church hall, loves nothing better at the weekend than to travel around the Ards Peninsula in his car, visiting favourite haunts of his childhood, particularly Groomsport. He gave us this photograph of the village, circa 1900. To the top right you will see the church and to the bottom left is a wall, the frontage of the old school, now the church hall.



Before we left the scene, Wilma ushered Ebenezer into the hall to see how his former school had changed and have a refreshing cuppa and a wee

bun! Did I mention his surname, Savage? Other than to say that Savage has Anglo-Norman origins, I think it prudent to leave this particular connection for another day and to thank Ebenezer for his inspiration for the story

I do hope you have enjoyed this yarn. In some masochistic way I have had pleasure in putting it together.

Upon reading my story, Julie, our church secretary, was delighted to inform me that my Ebenezer is also her friend. She met him some months ago in the village and now he calls with her every Wednesday morning before having lunch in the restaurant next door. He also visits some old friends at The Hill and has a vast collection of postcards of which this Groomsport snap is but one.

The Lighthouse School in Gaza

We are delighted that once again we are having a coffee morning in aid of the Hope Christian Trust for their work in Gaza and the West Bank.

It will be on Saturday 9th November, from 10.00am to 12.00 Noon, as usual.

Everyone has heard so much in the news about the situation in Gaza and the West Bank, and I would just like to update you on the current picture as it involves the Trust.

The Trust have raised funds for the upkeep of the school, its staff and its families. As far as is known all the staff are alive, some have escaped to Egypt, Jordan and Australia. However, two of the students have been killed and, it is thought there may be many more.

What The Trust is trying to do.....

1. Praying constantly for Gaza and its people, for their safety and for this to finish and peace to reign.
2. Getting financial help to all the staff.
3. The school building and grounds are being cared for, along with 'gate keepers' and gardeners. The solar panels and batteries are being used to supply electricity to the local Orthodox compound and neighbourhood.
4. Funds are being obtained to supply and distribute food parcels.

The kindergarten buildings of Al Minara are now the storage and distribution hub for this programme and is being run by trusted friends of the Trust and the school.

The Future ... The two church compounds (RC and Orthodox), the Christian Lighthouse School and the adjacent Ahli (Anglican) hospital have been damaged but are in relatively good repair.

Some of the staff will stay in Gaza and there will also be a somewhat depleted but none the less strong Christian community.

They will need our help. When a ceasefire happens, the plan is to get into Gaza, evaluate the situation with the local community, seek a ceasefire financial support, repair the school, seek staff and open the school again.

In the north of the West Bank there is the Family Centre in Zababdah which is only six miles away from Jenin, an area heavily bombarded by the Israeli army. This centre, which is linked to the Anglican Church was supposed to be opening a guesthouse this summer with the aim of providing more financial support for the centre. This, of course was impossible so again it produces a financial difficulty.

On 9th November while we are having our coffee morning John Angle of The Trust hopes to be in the West Bank. Please do support us if you possibly can.

(At our recent lunch for the refugees there were 2 men from Gaza. I mentioned the Lighthouse School, got no response, so ..it was only when I realised and gave the Arabic name of Al Minara that their faces lit up and we were able to talk about it.)



So far we have only heard of the death of two children from the school, Leila in the picture above is sadly one of them.

We know the catchment area of the school, Zeitun, has been hard hit.

This reminds us how savage this war is.



Dr Maher, the Clinical Director of the Anglican led Ahli Hospital – still operating but at a greatly reduced level.



Packing up food parcels in Gaza

Rosalind MacNeice
Mission Focus



Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal

Now as we approach Christmas we can do something to make this time a little more special by taking part in the 'Operation Christmas Child' Shoebox Appeal.

Perhaps you have an empty shoe box which could be covered in bright paper or even left in the Church Vestibule for someone to fill with items such as pencils, hats, socks, combs etc and a little toy or game.

The Samaritan's Purse will add a little book of Bible Stories to each box.

If you do not have a shoebox, do not worry, we will leave suitable boxes for collection in the porch or at the rear of the Church. **These can be collected and returned (full) on any Sunday or Wednesday until 27th October.**

This is a practical expression of God's love through Jesus Christ.

The Mission Committee would like to thank you in advance, in anticipation of your support.

Further details regarding this appeal can be found on www.samaritans-purse.co.uk

Maureen Irwin
Mission Committee



A Right Royal Afternoon Tea

Groomsport Presbyterian Church Halls
Saturday 19th October at 2.30 pm.
Guest Speaker – Rev. Derek Kerr



Hosted by the Mission Committee

Please come along and support this event which should be a fun day.
Rev Derek Kerr is a renowned Royal Enthusiast and entertaining speaker
Proceeds will be in aid of 'Open Doors' supporting persecuted Christians around the world.
Tickets available from members of the mission committee or church office -
Price £10



Its Show Time!!



Songs from The Shows

by

Fortwilliam Musical Society

Friday 29th November 2024

at 7.30pm

in

The Walter Nelson Hall Groomsport

Supporting education and work

in Tuum, Northern Kenya

Suggested Donation of £10.00

Ministry in Amsterdam by Rev. Denis Campbell

Hilary and I arrived in the Dutch capital at the beginning of August. It was to be my fourth spell as locum minister of the English Reformed Church.

We were welcomed as familiar old friends. There has been a long vacancy because no Church of Scotland church was allowed to call a minister for two years due to restructuring. This was followed by the lengthy process of appointing a new minister.

The congregation is cosmopolitan. There are a few Scots but mainly English, Canadians, Americans, Africans, Italians and Germans. Around fifty per cent are Dutch because English is widely spoken in the Netherlands. There are many political and theological views but as Christians they respect one another and worship joyfully together.

Each Sunday there is a liturgy sheet with congregational responses. Music tends to be more 'classical' with a robed choir and often professional musicians from the congregation taking part. Of course like us they all love the children's sermon and one Sunday I took the opportunity to tell them the story of the Eagle Wing.

Pastoral work involved travelling all over Amsterdam. We walked along the canals, took trams to every corner of the city and trains to members who lived further away. I was happy when my Pastoral Assistant and his wife from Groomsport arrived for a few days!

The manse is by the Museumplein, right behind the Concertgebouw. This meant that all the riches of music and art were on our doorstep. We attended many classical concerts and also enjoyed travelling back to our youth with Paul and Catherine to hear the Bootleg Beatles. Multiple visits were made to the Rembrandts and Vermeers in the Rijksmuseum and to the sunflowers and cornfields in the Van Gogh Museum.

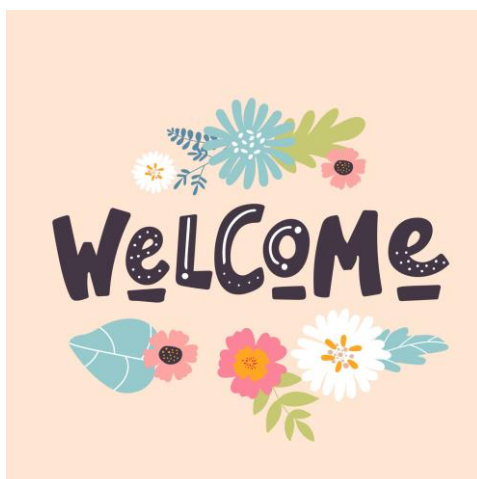
Another detail about the English Reformed Church (dating from 1607) which you may find interesting is that the pulpit lectern was gifted by William of Orange in 1689 and bears the William and Mary monogram.

This was probably our last spell of ministry among the canals. A permanent pastor will arrive this autumn for what we hope will be a long and fruitful ministry. Hilary and I have been so enriched by the experience of serving in Amsterdam.

Denis



Tai Chi for Health at The Hub



An exciting start on Monday 9th September as I welcomed eighteen new participants to my 6 week Tai Chi for Health Course. The class is open to members and non members of the church and is therefore I hope a valuable outreach in the Community.

At present two beginners classes meet on Monday mornings and an improvers class on Thursday afternoons.

My thanks goes to Rev Paul Dalzell, Michael Steele and members for their encouragement on this new venture.

Our charity this term is Chest Heart and Stroke and Groomsport Presbyterian Mission funds.

With thanks

[Janet Wilson \(07703 360385\)](tel:07703360385)



Dear Groomsport Presbyterian Church Family,

I want to express my deepest gratitude for the love and support you have shown our family during this incredibly difficult time.

I particularly thank Paul and Denis for their pastoral care over the years of Billy's illness and more recently his passing.

Your prayers, comforting words, gifts and presence have been a source of great strength to us and have reminded us that we are not alone.

With heartfelt thanks and appreciation,

Hazel Ball



You can support this work by donating the usual groceries. **Storehouse North Down** appreciates your ongoing support with the cupboard essentials.



Congratulations to

ted their



They were married in Donegal Pass Presbyterian Church, Belfast, on 12th September 1959.

They celebrated the day with a lunch in Titanic Hotel, where they were joined by Marie Larmour, who was June's bridesmaid.

Celebrations continued for several days with a family dinner too.

They received a card from Charles & Camilla, though June wasn't too impressed with it, and thought the one received five years ago from Queen Elizabeth was much nicer!



We offer our **congratulations** to some of the young people connected with our church family.

Chloe Campbell has completed her MSc in Accountancy and Business Law at Heriot Watt, and then a L.L.B. in Edinburgh University. Finally, Chloe has just completed her Masters in Cyber Security.

Erin Campbell – just graduated with a MA (Hons) in Finance from Heriot Watt

Kieran Campbell – also just obtained his MA (Hons) in International Business Management, also from Heriot Watt

Matthew Steele has just graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Diagnostic Radiography from Cardiff University.



Very well done to you all

Hello from Heidi ...

Dear friends at Groomsport,

Since the last time I wrote to you, I have been ordained as a minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA)!

I was ordained to the role of Pastor for Community Teaching for my presbytery; this part-time role primarily involves my supporting rural congregations by preaching when needed. I remain so grateful to you all for supporting me in my journey to ordination.



Otherwise, life is much the same for me. I am entering into my fifth year of my doctoral studies in New Testament at Duke University. I am in the middle of writing my dissertation, which focuses on age (young, old, and in-between) in Luke's Gospel and Acts. I plan to finish and defend my dissertation in Spring 2025.

Additionally, this year will be my second year teaching the introductory Greek class. I'm not sure what will come next year after I graduate, so I would be grateful for your prayers as I discern what comes next.

Sending much love to you all! I miss you lots and think of you frequently.

Love,

Heidi Biermann



(Photograph taken by Jonathan Manson)

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