

# DROMORE CATHEDRAL PARISH MAGAZINE



## *featuring*

- Visit of Bishop Ken Clarke
- Parish Meal
- Harvest Thanksgiving & Gift Day
- 24:2 Prayer Weekend

# PARISH POST

October 2007

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## Fill in the blanks:

*opinion@DC*

One of the rich values in a book of common prayer is that it enables everyone to say the same words, while making slightly different and more personal prayers.

*The words that come out do not always express the entirety of the mood within*

Take for example a General Confession. For the most part we utter the same words as a congregation, but for some the words come out easily, for others it is a huge and profound truth they are struggling to express.

- Some face difficulties with the existence of a God who knows and cares about their lives.
- Some face issues when it comes to owning up that they are responsible for their own actions
- Some face problems because they don't have time to think of any particular sin to confess
- Most of us face a problem because we can think of too many thoughts, and words and deeds that have gone awry

Whether you like the same familiar words of years ago, the fresh words of recent times, or, like me, the variety of phrases and styles that force me to think deeply when I confess my sins to God, use such prayers well.

Don't forget to fill in the blanks — identify the wrong words and actions that have reminded you of your need of perfect forgiveness in Christ Jesus. And if that means you stop saying the prayer half way through, and stay there, then you will have discovered one of the depths of common prayer! A moment when God touches your conscience and embraces your heart and strengthens your soul

**We confess to God Almighty, Father Son and Holy Spirit  
That we have sinned in thought and word and deed,  
through our own grievous fault.  
wherefore we pray God to have mercy on us...**

And by the blood of Jesus, he does just that. Amen!

*Stephen*

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*lynn@DC*

Only in my dreams can I go back to Number 3, Park Street, Coleraine. Only there can I sit on the front porch with the sun on my face feeding jam sandwiches to my dolls and teddies. Only there can I feel the cold lino beneath my legs and smell vividly the red admiral wax polish from the front step and the pot of boiling laundry in the kitchen. Smells which waft through the house when the front and back door are both open. I always have a look at the wooden spoon sticking out of the laundry pot, a spoon which gets smaller and smaller with each wash day. But each dream ends as I start to look around and wonder where Nanny is. Nanny whose hands are always hacked and sore but who smells of baking cakes and Pears soap. Sometimes I almost glimpse her; I almost hear her voice before I wake to the heart wrenching reality that Nanny has been dead for almost three years. She's dead and I miss her more than I can bear. But as I've said before she is with the Lord and I will see her again when the time comes. I hope you don't mind if I keep on saying it as it's a great comfort. When I do eventually snuggle up into her apron, I hope she has my sandwiches ready.

I dream of 3 Park Street a lot at this time of year as the anniversary of Nanny's death draws near. Aliens would perhaps think us a peculiar bunch. What is that stuff which comes out of our eyes, and why if it appears to take so much out of us, do we feel better afterwards and that the moisture has both emotional and physical cleansing properties.

I have to be perfectly honest with you and say that if I knew without a doubt that my life would end with baying crowds and pain and bloodshed that I'd be unable to cope and there would be many tears. My faith has matured over the past few years and I now find it easier to actually tell you that I believe Jesus died for me and for you and I've been living my life ever more mindful of that. Jesus, who occasionally tried to get away from it all, but whose best friends did things when he was tired and in need of rest, like throw Him a surprise party and invite 5000 guests but forget the food.

Although you can't tell, there has been a full 24 hours between this sentence and the one before it, as I wonder if I am actually worthy of finishing off these next few paragraphs. It makes this month's contribution seem a bit disjointed but there are words which are playing over and over in my head these days, which without hunting around for the correct Bible reference, I connect with the Communion Service. These are: "*Do this in remembrance of me.*" And my Voice spoke. "Lynn, how often are you at 8.30 Communion?" I couldn't even finish the sentence I was writing.

I have mulled it around, and think what God is saying to me is that there's more to be done, there's room for improvement, don't ever think you've got it all sewn up.

There's no scripture this month, I'm speechless.

Jesus said, "*Do this in remembrance of me.*"

Page 3 Parish Post *Lynn*

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## Bishop Ken to visit Dromore

news@DC

Bishop Ken Clarke began his ordained ministry with spells as curate of Dean Hutchinson at Magheralin and in St Mary's Ballybeen. From missionary service in South America, ministry in Crinken, Dublin, as Rector of St Patrick's Coleraine and Archdeacon of Dalriada, he was finally appointed Bishop of Kilmore in 2001. That history and experience puts him in a great position to teach about "the Body Beautiful" i.e. the healthy local church. That is the theme he has chosen for his visit to Dromore Cathedral on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 8.00 pm for Worship at Eight. With our worship band in full swing and prayer ministry team available this is a service not to be missed. Arrange whatever needs to be arranged to ensure a good attendance. See you *at Eight*.

## Harvest 2007: A call for decorators!

The Third Sunday in October is the Sunday we set aside to give thanks to God for the produce of Harvest and for his provision for all our needs in Christ. To mark the occasion we decorate the cathedral with flowers and fruit and foliage, and invite members and organisations in the parish to adorn a section of the building using suitable themes. 21st October Services are as follows:

**8.30 am Holy Communion**

**11.30 am United Morning Harvest**

**Preacher Canon David Brown, Knocknagoney**

**6.00 pm Evening Community Harvest**

**Preacher Rev Diane Matchett, Christ Church Lisburn**

Our Harvest Gift Day envelopes are distributed with this edition of the Parish Post. If you have not received an envelope and wish to contribute, please use any blank envelope and write your contact details on it and place it on the offering plate at Harvest. This enables us to issue a general receipt next year.

To play your part in decorating for the Harvest come to the church any time from Friday at 10 and do your bit. Experience and skill are not necessary, just a willingness to have a go. Young people will be especially welcome. Donations may be left at the church porch as early as Thursday all day.

## **Overseas Meeting**

Our Overseas Meeting will take place on Wednesday 24th October at 8.00 pm in the Clayton Hall. Our speaker will be Mrs Mary Munyangaju Mary is Mothers' Union Action and Outreach Worldwide Representative and was responsible for the recent appeal for glasses for Rwanda. Please come along to hear Mary, whether you are in Mothers' Union or not. Any old glasses? Please bring them along.

## **Marriage Matters**

The Church of Ireland Marriage Council offers support in Marriage preparation, Counselling and Enrichment. Down and Dromore Mothers' Union invite anyone interested to an evening on 'Marriage Matters' on Monday 5th November @8pm in Hillsborough Hall. Come along if you are thinking of marriage, married for a while, or happily married for fifty years!

## **Young Members Conference**

Mothers' Union Young Members' Conference is taking place on 19th and 20th October in Bewley's Hotel in Leopardstown. The price for the Conference is £75.00 which includes Friday evening meal, accommodation, breakfast on the Saturday morning and lunch. Further nights at £60.00. Speaker is a Mrs Lesley McColgan an image consultant with a unique story. Lady Christine Eames and Mrs Margaret Crawford (All Ireland MU President) will also be involved. The theme is 'Desperate Housewives', in which they want to address how young women are pressured in relation to their image. Please contact Ruby Porter

## **MU initiatives Wash/Soap Bags**

Sometimes when people go into hospital suddenly they don't have any soap bags with them. MU are once again appealing for soap bags which will be distributed to various hospitals. If you would be interested in supporting this appeal, please bring along a soap bag to our October meeting, or alternatively, leave them in the Clayton Hall for collection. Soap bags can be for a female, male or a young child. Cheap soap bags are probably available in local Chemists etc. (simple drawstring types would do.) They could include soap, a facecloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, tissues and a comb and perhaps a disposable razor if making up a bag for a gentleman. It might be an idea to attach some sort of a label stating for whom the bag is suitable.

## **Knitting**

Knitting baby clothes is another initiative with which we are still involved. NIMBA are always looking for baby clothes for premature babies. The Miscarriage Association supplies hospitals in N.I. with appropriate baby clothing for little babies who do not make it safely into this world.

Craigavon Hospital also requires clothing for some small babies. There is also a demand for baby blankets roughly 22" x 16". Cotton or wool is acceptable for knitting with. This is coordinated through a MU representative, so if anyone does start to knit, we must not take garments directly to the hospital, but must contact MU Diocesan Office. Please speak to Ruby Porter if you are interested in knitting for any of the above organisations - patterns available.

# Franklin Graham Celebration of **HOPE**

[www.celebrationofhope.co.uk](http://www.celebrationofhope.co.uk)

Yes, this is a major event in Northern Ireland starting now, focussing on three days, 4th-6th April 2008, at the Odyssey Arena, Belfast, in conjunction with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, and leading to growth in churches all over Northern Ireland.

From 15 to 24 October Information Seminars are taking place from Carrickfergus to Bangor to Lurgan. I have been to the Launch of this and it is a truly worthwhile and valuable programme with which to become involved.

A Youth Workers' Briefing on 10th November, is followed by a Church Leaders' Rally on 4th and 6th December. This is an event for the 6 person team from Dromore Cathedral who wish to mobilise the programme locally.

Start praying:

And then pray some more...

.....this is good stuff

*news@DC*

Franklin Graham is the son of Billy Graham. Each year he conducts a small number (about 8) of Franklin Graham Festivals. Half are outside the USA, so NI is blessed to be able to host one here.

The local programme involves developing a strategy to reach people and bring them to the festival, not for Christians' entertainment, but to give people who have never responded to Christ an opportunity to do so. So don't book your Fellowship Group in yet, don't choose a nice hat, start praying for people to bring with you.

A DVD presenting the idea will shortly be available for the whole church and we look forward to seeing that soon.

I plan to encourage us all to participate in a Christian Life and Witness Course (Feb 2008) and to encourage the church to be ready for Follow-up and discipleship courses after the festival itself.

Excited?

I hope so.

This is the only opportunity this generation will have to experience an event quite like this. Don't miss it.

*Stephen Lowry*

## SMILES in Romania

Thank you for your prayers and support over the summer. It was encouraging to know that people were praying for me and the work out in Romania. I hope that you will continue to remember the work of the Smiles Foundation in your prayers in the future - and maybe even go on a trip yourself some time soon!

So what all did I get up to?

On one day, we had a tour of the Tileagd Community School, meeting some of the teachers and pupils who came to school during their summer holidays! The pupils are so keen to learn and to go to school that they don't like holidays, so during the summer the school operates 'summer school' on two days of the week. We then moved on to the Gypsy village in Tileagd, before visiting a psychiatric hospital in Bratca. The patients have been in medical care practically since birth, most being abandoned due to physical or mental disability. They simply wanted to play with someone, which we did!

Another day it was like being on the set of 'Changing Rooms' - we cleaned and painted an elderly man's house, bringing transformation to his one-

roomed dwelling. The paint that day was blue, and on a different day, I was covered in yellow paint as I helped work on the nursery in Tileagd, inside and out. (Don't call on me for any home decorating jobs!!)

Several days were in the Children's Centre in Cihei, helping to put smiles on the faces of the children there - and also digging out a sandpit for them to play in (although it seemed they were happy enough playing in the hole, before any sand came!)

Ours was the last mission trip of the summer, but the work of Smiles continues - with the social workers still providing food and clothing aid; the school and nursery units teaching kids; the Children's Centre developing young children; the emergency housing unit providing shelter for those left homeless; and the kingdom advancing in the Community Church in Tileagd.

Please pray for Kevin, and staff of Smiles as they struggle to make difficult decisions about the allocation of funds, etc. Pray also for mission trippers as we share news about Smiles & seek to support them in their work.

**Gary McMurray**

*Gary will present slides on his experience at 6pm on Sunday 4th November*

## **Lynn McFarland Diocesan Reader in Training**

We are pleased to announce the selection of Mrs Lynn McFarland as a trainee Diocesan Reader.

Following a recommendation from the Dean and affirmation at a Selection Conference Lynn received her acceptance in a letter from the Bishop recently. It will be the first time the Dean has had a Diocesan Reader in training in his parish and he says: "I am delighted to see Lynn offer her enthusiasm and skills for building up the worshipping life of the parish and diocese."

Lynn is currently in the Cathedral Choir, Branch Leader of MU, a leader at Celebrate at Ten and a full time working mum: oh! *and* she writes for Parish Post.

The bishop has enquired if anyone else would be suitable for this course of action and the dean is happy to discuss the matter with you. Normally a Diocesan Reader has first served as a Parish Reader. To discuss either role, contact Stephen at the rectory.

## **Graham Kendrick**

### **'Out of the Ordinary' Tour**

Graham, of course, is one of the foremost leaders of contemporary worship music in world, resourcing the church with powerful songs and hymns for several decades now.

His concert is to be held on Saturday 6th October in the Spires Conference Centre, Belfast at 8.00 pm (open at 7) Tickets are £10.00 and can be purchased from Faith Mission Bookshop.

## **Recent Fund Raising Events Proceeds**

Art Exhibition .....	£1,369.54
Cycle Ride .....	£545.00
Autumn Fair .....	£2,591.79

*(updated amount from the day)*

The Select Vestry expresses their thanks to those who organised these events to enrich the community of the church. Cycle Ride proceeds will assist CLB and GB in their work

## Jane returns to Sudan

At services in September Mrs Jane Corbett informed and thanked the parish following their support of her in her recent Short Term Mission Experience in Kajiado, Kenya. Jane showed pictures of people and the places she met them to the interested congregations. This was Jane's first experience in mission in Kenya and she found it very different from the scene in Sudan. Running water, decent roads and a good infrastructure contrasted greatly with much of her experience in Sudan.

Sudan beckons. Having learnt a lot from the way the church works in Kenya to provide medical services and mobile clinics to people, Jane hopes to bring some new found knowledge to help our brothers and sisters in Sudan develop their ministry. A short two week working/fact-finding trip to Sudan begins on October 7th (to 22nd) and includes planned visits to Maridi, Ibba, Yambio and Yei Dioceses. The group consists of Kevin Steckline and Patti Johnston from Albany USA (both medical), Trevor Buchanan, Ophthalmic Surgeon from Knock Parish, David Gough, Regional Mission Partner for the area and Warnock Edmund, an Electrician, from Movilla Parish. Her

hope is to be able to spend time with the people sharing and encouraging and hearing the needs and hopes of the people. She also hopes to spend time in both Medical Clinics in Maridi and Yei.

Jane deeply appreciates the prayerful support and interest she receives from us in the cathedral: please include her in your prayer diaries this month.

## Rosters

Smooth running events at church, especially the Sunday volunteer programmes, depend on good use of accurate rotas. The current and next week's volunteers are printed on the news sheet each week. Please keep up to date with the rotas and let the co-ordinator know if you are unavailable. It is fairly easy to find a replacement with a few days notice; it is almost impossible at the last minute. Check the back of the Post now and mark dates in your diary. If your name never appears, *and you would like it to*, contact the co-ordinators or the church office and we will try to get you involved. Lesson Readers, Sound Team assistants and Welcome Team members are particularly welcome.

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24:2

*I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.' (Isaiah 62:6-7)*

## A story of extended prayer

On 13th August 1727 Count Zinzendorf led a group of Moravian refugees in a time of prayer that was to impact the world for centuries to come. The Spirit of God moved so powerfully amongst this group that they committed themselves to keep the 'watch of the Lord' praying in one hour shifts round the clock – this prayer meeting didn't stop for 100 years!

## Bringing it home

We in Dromore Cathedral are going to keep our own weekend prayer vigil to bring our church, our community, our family, our friends, our children and our young people to God.

The weekend will start on Friday 26th October at 7pm with a special service in the church after which we will begin 47 hours of unbroken prayer in the Rectory Room and closing with a service on Sunday evening. Everyone is welcome to sign up for a one hour slot (or more if you want) over the course of the 47 hours.

Over the next few weeks in church You'll be given more information about our 24:2 and the opportunity to sign up for your shift in the prayer room – please give yourself the chance to be part of our praying community!

*"Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord.' (Jeremiah 29:12-14)*

ayerprayerprayerprayerprayerprayerprayerpray

ayerprayerprayerprayerprayerprayerprayerpray

## What might happen?

An hour of prayer might seem very daunting to some, but other groups have reported experiences where an hour of prayer has felt like 10 minutes and people don't always want to leave after their hour is up.

The prayer room gives you the opportunity to spend an hour alone with God, in a way you may never have done before. You might enter the prayer room and decide immediately to make yourself a cup of coffee and whilst you're doing that you put a cd on and listen to some worship music, suddenly you find you're singing along and praising God. Your coffee is ready so you have a sip and flick through a book sitting on a table where previous visitors have written down prayer requests and you pray over some of them before adding the name of a friend who is going through a marriage break up.

Your eyes are drawn to a big sheet on the wall were people have written their thoughts and prayers – someone has written a bible verse so you pick up the bible, look it up and spend some time meditating on God's word. Your mind starts to wander and you look out of the window at the cars going by and you find yourself praying for the places in Dromore where people meet – you go to the map of the town on the wall and you pray for the schools, the other churches, the BASE and the young people who gather in the park.

You're just about to change the CD and explore some of the imagery around the room – the cross, the crown of thorns, the candle when the door knocks and your replacement is there – time to go – you pass the baton of prayer on after signing up for another shift (well, it was a nice way to spend an hour after all) and you go out into the street feeling strangely at peace – you have met with God in a new way.

*Louise Ferguson*

**Come on! - get involved in 24:2**

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## Catering

### 'Black' Saturday - Aug 08

The Co. Down RBP annual demonstration will be held in Dromore on Saturday, 30th August 2008. The Select Vestry has received a letter from the District Registrar regarding catering for the occasion. A meeting to consider catering in our Halls will be held on 8th October, 2007 at 8.00 pm in the Clayton Memorial Hall. A lot of help will be needed for this venture. The meeting is open to all ladies and gentlemen who would be willing to help. So, please give this your consideration and plan to attend the meeting. Thank you. Nan McMurray

## Missing Books

In a recent check on hymnbooks and prayer books in the pews it was noticed that a few have gone missing. Not enough to be worried about but too many to ignore. Please check any books at home are your own, and if you have accidentally brought a *church* book home with you, please return it as soon as possible. Take a moment now to check, please, and try to get the book back. Thanks

## SNYF to hold coffee morning

The Youth Fellowship would like to invite members of the Cathedral congregation and friends to a coffee morning on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 10.00am in the Clayton Memorial Hall. Why not come along and enjoy a cuppa, fresh scones and some chat and fellowship with each other and with us? There is no cost and we look forward to seeing you there.

## Tired? Overworked? Fancy a night out?

Then plan to join us on Wednesday 10th October at 7.45pm for a free buffet meal in the Cathedral Hall. We promise good food accompanied by live music and plenty of atmosphere. EVERYONE is welcome and why not bring a friend as there will be an opportunity to sign up for the Alpha course beginning at the end of October.

Put it in your diary and remember to book your table by phoning Louise

## **The Rectory Room**

What a transformation! When the Select Vestry had their first formal view of the repainted rectory room they were delighted. Since then a fine floor has been added and further refinements are on their way.

We would like to thank the volunteers who spent many nights over the summer at the work, and those who contributed their time and equipment to make this a very economic transformation.

### **Thanks**

In particular we thank Steven Buchanan for his advice and provision of paint, to our plasterer who repaired the walls, to Tom for his work on the floor and to the donor of the wood, to Joanne, Louise, Paul, Samantha and Ashley for the painting, and to Darrell and Brian for grounds clearance and more, and to Ian who helped mastermind the whole operation.

Tom's Sunday morning group and SNYF, our Sunday night youth fellowship, will be helping the vestry furnish the room. Its first public use outside youth work is the prayer weekend on October 26-28th see elsewhere in the Post.

## **A Fine Autumn Fair!**

A glorious morning made our first auction free autumn fair a wonderful success on September 15th last. Under the wise guidance of Simon Knox, and with the unending enthusiasm of young and old alike at their stalls, a great day was had by all, with a tidy hall and grounds before a late lunch could be eaten!

New features this year included the very popular nail painting stall, the "proper" coffee being made in the kitchen, and a non-stop car wash from start to finish [the debate continues as to whether this happened at last year's Fair or not]. Sustained entertainment was provided by the various food outlets, the conversation at the stalls from the very friendly and happy looking "staff", and the relaxed atmosphere which pervaded the event. The sum raised on the day was £2453.29 (which was just £18 down on last year's "on-the-day" figure. Final totals are always a little tardy coming in as one or two people have donations etc still to give. Well done everyone concerned.

The auction has been provisionally scheduled for the weekend including

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## **A Good Start 4 youth**

*update@DC*

It has been a busy and exciting start for all our youth organisations this Autumn. Registration numbers at GB and CLB were up, and numbers attending have been excellent. SNYF hosted parents and interested adults to an evening at the Clayton Hall and DC Rock (our Sunday morning youth programme) has started well too.

Over forty five boys have attended CLB at this the start of only its second year! While they are mainly at the younger end of the age range, called Martins, the second section, called the Y-Team is starting to grow too. Parents are asked to encourage the boys to keep going after their initial burst of enthusiasm so that a sustained Thursday night programme can be developed. Please keep encouraging the leaders of your children's organisations as it is sometimes a hard slog to keep going week after week.

Girls Brigade too has continued to develop its leadership team and build up numbers. Meeting on Tuesdays in the Cathedral Hall, girls from as young as three to as old as (I won't mention their names!!) you like take part as girls and officers in this enjoyable and Christ honouring programme.

## **Your parish website**

We now produce the Sunday news-sheet on the website, so those reading lessons can see the script before Sunday. It also gives up-to-date notices on a pdf file so you can print them/ see them for yourself from your PC.

If you have easily used suggestions for the website, let us know and we will try to respond. We won't repeat what others with more time and bigger resources are doing: we use the site mainly to keep the church informed of our activities and to present the message of the love of God in helpful and imaginative ways.

Email [office@dromorecathedral.co.uk](mailto:office@dromorecathedral.co.uk) or get in touch with Dave Lowry. To become a direct contributor to the site, contact Dave: his email address is on [www.dromorecathedral.co.uk](http://www.dromorecathedral.co.uk)

## **Reality 2007 Challenge of forgiveness**

On Tuesday 6th November at Craighvon Civic Centre, 7-30 to 10. Lesley Bilinda tells the story of her husband's death in Rwanda, and presents us with the reality of forgiveness. Music with Susi Young and Paul Campbell. £6 Presented by Care for the Family

### **How to... use the gifts of the Spirit *New Wine***

On Saturday 13th October David McClay of Willowfield Parish, who leads New Wine Ireland, presents a teaching day at St Mary's Ballybeen. There will be three sessions looking at an overview of the Gifts of the Spirit and using them in a naturally supernatural way. Last year's Alpha Course members may like to experience this day!

The day runs from 10 am to 4. pm and the cost (£15) includes lunch. To find out more speak to paul jardine ( he's a capital-free man) paul @ new-wineireland.co.uk

### **How to... lead youth work *Training in Dollingstown***

What a difference a course makes! Whether it is for your own confidence as a current leader, or you want to develop your skills further (formal or informal) a training course can give you so much! The Diocesan Team have arranged a course as follows:

Open College Network: Training for Youth Work Certificate. Dollingstown on Tuesday nights October to December. At a reduced cost, which the parish can be approached to reduce further if this is an issue, this is a course for people aged 18+. For further information and to check availability/eligibility of places, contact Andrew Brannigan or Andrew AT [downanddromore.org](http://downanddromore.org).

### **How to... improve your knowledge *Bible College***

The Belfast Bible College now has Tuesday evening classes which run from 6.30 to 9.30. Three separate strands of teaching take place each night and "students" can choose which strands to follow. The September course has already started, but a new term

### **How to...do Children's Ministry *Jordanstown***

The annual conference for Sunday School and Day school teachers seeking to present the Christian message to young people takes place on Saturday 24th November in Jordanstown Campus UUJ. A huge selection of relevant seminars is on offer. Tickets for this highly professional day are £26 but some subsidy will be made available for those who wish to attend for whom this cost is a barrier.

## Xpression

I just wanted to let you know about a big event that Xpression are having on October 19th, in St Mark's Church, Portadown.

Xpression usually focuses on outreach work in Portadown, but we felt that we wanted something that is a little more outward looking, so what we have come up with is a special night of worship and any profits made from money received on the night will go to Tearfund (suggested donation - £5).

We have booked Andy Flanagan to come over from England especially for this big night! Andy is a fantastic worship leader and speaker and has done a lot with Tearfund over recent years. He will be speaking on the night, as well as leading worship and singing some of his own songs. Also involved will be Lousie Mitchell from Tearfund, who will be telling us about an exciting new prayer adventure that Tearfund are launching very soon called 'Be Part of a Miracle' (see Tearfund website for more info).

So, please, please come along and bring others - it will be an awesome night, we are hoping for a really big crowd, St Mark's holds between 900

and 1000 people, so it would be great to have it full! Doors open at 7pm and we will begin the main event at 7.30pm.

Please come early to get good seats and also enjoy worshipping with the Xpression band who hopefully will be playing up to 7.30pm.

Hope to see you there.

*Malcolm Kingston*

## TEARFUND

### "BE PART OF A MIRACLE"

On Saturday 6th of October in Seymour Street Methodist Church, 9.30 to 11am Tearfund are having a special information morning about how we can encourage our churches to be involved in the Global week of Prayer. (12-18 November.)

The morning will include stories relating to climate change, Tearfund new vision to mobilise churches and ideas how we can help our local churches to make a difference.

I do hope that you or some folk from your church can be present and join with us in this important morning.

With best wishes

*Elva Stevenson*

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# Cathedral's GB Makes a Difference!

*youth@DC*

## **Girls and parents help secure safer school transport**

In late 2005, Dromore Cathedral Girls' Brigade members and parents took part in a focus group about their experiences of travelling to and from school. This was part of a research contract being carried out by the University of Ulster for the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY), the Department for Regional Development (DRD) and the General Consumer Council (GCCNI). I was one of the three researchers tasked with consulting with young people from schools and youth groups as well as hearing what parents had to say. The information was then collated and written up and a number of recommendations made. These recommendations were then put to the Government.

The GB was one of a number of youth groups drawn from across NI and included representation from all sections of society. The research mainly focused on the opinions and experiences of pupils and their parents in a number of schools (including Dromore High School, Banbridge Academy, Edenderry Primary School and The Wallace High School) but also took in youth organizations and discovered that many pupils and parents had serious concerns about the safety of travelling to and from school by bus.

Following the input of the GB and many others, the report recommended removal of the 3-for-2 seating rule, a ban on standing and the introduction of seatbelts on school buses, mainly operated by Translink through Ulsterbus and Metro.

## **What's been done?**

Shortly after the research findings and recommendations were published in June 2006, the Government announced additional funding to provide a fleet of buses fitted with seatbelts and to eliminate both the 3-for-2 rule where 3 children are legally allowed to sit on a seat for 2 adults as well as standing and overcrowding on school services.

## **How has this been done?**

Translink have refurbished 35 coaches as 69 seat school buses fitted with seatbelts – a further 20 are being similarly converted.

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2007 the first batch of 160 brand new 66 seat school buses fitted with a wheelchair lift and seatbelts were introduced into regular service. They feature better lighting, safety warning lights and notices as well as 6 CCTV cameras to enhance both safety and security.

A further 125 double deckers, most fitted with seatbelts are also being introduced.

So, well done and thank you to the GB for making such an important difference to safer school transport! You can read a summary of the report at [www.niccy.org/article.aspx?menuId=504](http://www.niccy.org/article.aspx?menuId=504)

*Page 17 Parish Post*  
**Scott Mackey**

now

<b>CHURCH Flowers for the Day Sound at 11.30</b>			
<b>7 Oct</b>	Mrs Ogle/Mrs Russell	Brian Mackey	
<b>14 Oct</b>	Mrs Pauline McMurray	Paul McFarland	
<b>21 Oct</b>	Mr Sam Johnston	Jamie McFarland	
<b>28 Oct</b>	Mrs Castles	Harvey Wallace	
<b>CARE Refreshments at 11 Creche at 10</b>			
<b>7 Oct</b>	Julie Scott Lorna Rodgers	Anne Cochrane Fiona Geddis	
<b>14 Oct</b>	Jill Ogle Ruth Mckinney	Leanne Teggart Nicola Wilson	
<b>21 Oct</b>	Phylis Mackin Iris Stevenson	Rachel Sudlow Tara Thompson	
<b>28 Oct</b>	Ruby Porter Mary Bradshaw	Wendy Tate Naomi McCartney	
<b>READING Reader at 11.30 Reader at 6.00</b>			
<b>7 Oct</b>	Sara McCorkell	Lynn McFarland	
<b>14 Oct</b>	Nicola Taylor	James Riddell	
<b>21 Oct</b>	Preacher	Preacher	
<b>28 Oct</b>	Darrell Stewart	Billy McCallum	
<b>GROUPS</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
<b>2nd-4th</b>	Magherabeg	Brackenridge	Spires
<b>9th-11th</b>	Ashfield	(Parish Meal)	
<b>16th-18th</b>	Magherabeg	Brackenridge	Spires
<b>23rd-25th</b>	Ashfield	(MU)	
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# Parish Register

## CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

13th July	Florence Bruce, Skeagh House
27th August	Martha McGreevy, Villawood Road
29th August	Agnes (Ida) Kirk, Mountvale Nursing Home
7th September	Edward Maguire, Seapatrick Nursing Home
27th September	Ellen Jane (Nell) Gregg, Maypole Park

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

23rd September Sylvia Nancy Wilson (nee Grier) Scotland  
*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord*

## Have a good hospital experience

Lately several parishioners have phoned Stephen or the church office with information about planned or unexpected hospital stays and have either had prayers before and/or after operations and comfort in the midst of anxious moments. Others may have been in hospital but will not have received any help from their clergy: we didn't know you were in. Get someone to call as soon as you hear. Please, please let us know, even if it is only a short stay: a short prayer can ensure it is as short as you hope! We'll not trouble you *too* much if you are anxious about that too.

## Evergreens

Tuesday 16th October at 2.30 pm in the Clayton Hall, when Mrs Lorraine Rankin will be the guest speaker. Everyone welcome.

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## Christian Institute: Discrimination, Liberty & Life

In their recent High Court case where they sought to ensure that Anti-Discrimination Laws did not impede churches following their conscience, an action supported by our diocesan synod, The Christian Institute once more upheld religious freedoms.

"Gospel Freedoms under attack: how political correctness threatens religious liberty" is a title which will ring a few bells with parishioners of all generations. The closest venue for us is Belfast: at Stranmillis Evangelical Presbyterian Church at 8.00 pm – 9.45 pm Thursday 4 October

## Crossword Solution

### Across

7 Church 8 Samson 10 Washing 11 Leper 12 Esau 13 Gnash 17 Flash  
18 Gong 22 Cream 23 Ezekiel 24 Ravage 25 Odious

### Down

1 Scowled 2 Tuesday 3 Scrip 4 Lawless 5 Asaph 6 Snare 9 Agonistes  
14 Plumage 15 Monitor 16 Ageless 19 Scorn 20 Weave 21 Leeds

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**Thursday 4th October***calendar@DC*8.00 pm Gospel Freedoms under attack *Stranmillis E P Church***Saturday 6th October**9.30 am TEAR Fund Information Morning *Seymour St Methodist*8.00 pm Out of the Ordinary: Graham Kendrick *Spires Centre***Sunday 7th October**

10.00 am Celebrate at Ten

11.30 am Holy Communion Two *Addington Setting*

6.00 pm Evening Prayer One

8.00 pm Worship at Eight: Preacher Bishop Ken Clarke

**Monday 8th October**8.00 pm Catering for 'Black Saturday' Meeting *Clayton Hall***Tuesday 9th October**2.30 pm Evergreens *Clayton Hall***Wednesday 10th October**12.15 pm Christian Aid Lunch *Clayton Hall*7.45 pm Alpha Supper *Clayton Hall***Sunday 14th October**

8.30 am Holy Communion One

10.00 am Celebrate at Ten

11.30 am Morning Prayer One

6.00 pm in Methodist Church for Harvest *with Shirley Alexander***Tuesday 16th October**2.30 pm Celebration of Hope Key Leaders' Seminar *Lisburn Cathedral***Friday 19th October**

10.00 am Church opens for harvest decoration

7.00 pm Xpression *St Mark's, Portadown***Sunday 21st October Harvest Thanksgiving Festival**

8.30 am Holy Communion One

11.30 am Celebrate Harvest Together

6.00 pm Community Evening Harvest Service

**Tuesday 23rd October**2.30 pm Clayton Hall Communion *Clayton Hall***Wednesday 24th October**8.00 pm MU Overseas Meeting *Clayton Hall***Friday 26th October**10.30 am Parish Post Team *Clayton Hall*7.00 pm 24:2 Launch Service *Cathedral***Saturday 27th October**Prayer continues all day *Rectory Room*10.00 am SNYF free Coffee Morning *Clayton Hall***Sunday 28th October**

10.00 am Celebrate at Ten

11.30 am Morning Prayer One

6.00 pm 24:2 Closing Service:

**24:2 prayer**