

# TheLight

Issue 205: June 2014



## **Rev Brian Anderson**

reflections on his ministry in Seymour Street

## **London in the Blitz**

Kitty Maze tells of her experiences

## **Young people on a mission**

Who's going where this summer

## **Conference 2014**

A message from our new President



THE MAGAZINE OF THE LISBURN AND DROMORE METHODIST CIRCUIT

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## ***Around the Circuit***



### **Surprise party for Winston**

Friends of Winston & Kathleen Good organised a surprise 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party for Winston in the Church Hall. Winston could not understand why he was not allowed to go to a school rugby match to watch his grandson play - but when he arrived at the Church he was amazed to find over 70 of his Seymour Street friends gathered to wish him Happy Birthday!



### **Sunday Lunch raises funds for Zoe Rainey**

A large number of Seymour Street members supported a Sunday Lunch held on 13<sup>th</sup> March which raised £2500 towards multi-sensory equipment which will be installed in the new room being built for Zoe at her home. The next issue of The Light will give a full update on this new development and on Zoe's progress. (Photos - Zoe with her sister Cara and the crowd attending the fund-raising lunch)



As Brian moves from us to Hamilton Road, Bangor, Rev Fiona McCrea will be moving from Primacy to Carnalea Methodist Church, also in Bangor

### **Dromore Fun Run team in 2013**

A team from Dromore are preparing once again to take part in the Lisburn Fun Run to raise money for the Building Fund



## Methodist Conference 2014 - Moving Out Together.

This year's Conference, taking place in Christ Church, Leeson Park, Dublin, from June 11<sup>th</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup>. The incoming President, Revd Peter Murray, has chosen as his theme "Moving Out Together", with its encouragement to all of us to take new steps into the community where God has placed us in the name of Christ. As with last year's Conference the formal business sessions will blend with a number of facilitated Circuit Conversations, where members can confer together on how we are responding to God's call.

A highlight of this year's Conference will be a statement on the Mission of the Methodist Church in Ireland, which can be summed up under the headings of "Warm Heart, Tough Hands, Wet Feet". Each of the three mornings of the Business session will open with a Bible Study, led by Archbishop Richard Clarke, on one of these aspects.



The Conference will also be significant in that it will mark another step along the road which will allow



Rev Peter Murray and his wife Liz

Methodist Ministers and Church of Ireland clergy to be inter-changeably used.

Four ministers are due to be ordained this year. They are Revds Kenneth Connor, Samuel Livingstone, John Montgomery and Ruth Watt.

Conference members will be interested in their surroundings. Christ Church, Leeson Park is now home to a Romanian Orthodox Congregation, and so the church features some of the icons and a golden screen. Perhaps they will act as reminder of the variety of Christian expression which is in Ireland today,

and encourage us to find, and be confident in, our calling as Methodists. ■

## A personal message from our new President to the readers of The Light

*I am aware of the very great responsibility this role will place on me as a representative of the people called Methodist. The government and the media, other churches and our own members will look to me to speak out and explain what Methodist believe about a great many issues. I hope that I will be an able representative for the Lord and the Methodist Connexion. I ask for your prayers that I will be able to do that.*

*The role of President also brings its privileges and opportunities. I will have doors opening into places where people have significant influence. I will want to share the values of the King of kings in those places and encourage policies which lead to fairness, justice and peace. I ask for your prayers that I will be able to do that.*

*Heather Morris' year as President has been a remarkable one. She has helped to put us on a course by inviting us to follow our Master, the Lord Jesus, 'getting our feet wet' by taking steps of faith to connect with people who need to see and hear the good news of Christ from us. The theme for my year will be 'MOVING OUT TOGETHER': The Master needs us to keep moving, more outward than inward, and to do it*

*together as a family which is all ages, men and women, all churches too. I think the word for that is holistic. I ask for your prayers, that I will be able to communicate effectively what the Lord has put on my heart for the Methodist people.*

*So I am excited by the prospect of what the Master is going to be leading us on to in the coming year. The Conference in Dublin will have significant time, as last year, for discussion, sharing of experience, and prayer, as well as the necessary proposing and passing of reports on the work of the Church. I am pleased that there will be additional young people at Conference from across the Connexion. We need to hear from them and affirm their importance.*

*I ask your prayers for the Conference...that it will be united in love, correct in its decision-making and inspirational for the life of the church.*

*I am looking forward to meeting Methodist sisters and brothers across the Connexion and hearing their stories. I ask your prayers for safe travel for Liz and me, for energy to listen and absorb what we see and hear, and for wisdom and grace to really help and encourage the people we meet.*

*Peter.*

# Young people of the Circuit serving on overseas projects this summer

## Lauren Allen

### Seymour Street

This summer I'm leading a team of 8 young people from Exodus to a town in the south of Poland called Rabka. We are away from 29th June-10th July and while we are there we will be joining up with the local church to reach out to the teenagers in the area by holding English lessons, doing sports and dramas with them and leading Bible studies and discussion groups. We hope to show the Polish young people by words and actions what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and to encourage the church and the missionaries living in Rabka.



## Sophie Kinghan

### Seymour Street

Hi. I am Sophie Kinghan and I am flying to Transylvania in Romania on 18 July with my Exodus Team. I am on Team 6 where we hope to spread the word of God through doing Kids' Clubs and taking Church services in the local village.



## Susy Good & Matthew McCrea

### Seymour Street

We are both on the Exodus Team 17, 8<sup>th</sup> August – 18<sup>th</sup> August, going to the Czech Republic. We are part of a group of 12 sixth year pupils and 2 older guys i.e. John and Rebekah, team leaders) and we will be working in what is considered to be the most atheist nation on earth that desperately needs the light of the Gospel – we will be staying in Camp Immanuel in the heart of the Czech highlands.

Here we will be working alongside the Hands of Hope Project within an orphan camp. The Hand of Hope project is a ministry of Youth for Christ Immanuel directed by Simon and Hannah Marriot from Northern Ireland. Their mandate and vision is to reach out to orphan children with the hand of hope of the gospel, establishing a healthy self-image, empowering their physical, emotional and spiritual lives, connecting them with a local Church family and establishing a life for the in the community. Through the daily workshops (in sport, music, arts, photography, video and other forms of creative expression), we will spend all day with the children, introducing them to Jesus and sharing our faith. So a busy 10 days for us then!!!





## Holly Hutchinson

### Seymour Street

During the summer myself and two others are going to Malawi for a month, leaving on 9<sup>th</sup> June, to gain experience in working with underprivileged children. For our first two weeks we will spend time volunteering in the Early Childhood centres in Mzuzu. We shall then travel down to Zomba to take part in a children's Bible week.

I would ask you please to pray for the children in Malawi were only 38% have access to any form of early childhood services. I would also be grateful if you could pray for both myself and two friends safety whilst travelling and in the country.



## Cathryn Kinghan

### Seymour Street

Hello. I'm Cathryn and this summer I am going on a team to Val De Penas, a town just outside Madrid, Spain. I am going with the organisation Exodus and there are 12 of us, 4 girls, 7 boys and the Leader. I am going out to work with a Spanish Clubs and working late into the night on the streets and plazas using music and drama to spread the Gospel to young and old!

I am really involved at Exodus and this is my 2<sup>nd</sup> team with them. I go every Friday and Saturday nights as I volunteer at the venue as well. It is almost like a Christian youth club with music, food and good fun! I would recommend anybody from 4<sup>th</sup> year and up to get involved as it changes lives!



## Grace Hinds

### Seymour Street

Hello, I'm Grace and I'm going to Gran Canaria from the 2<sup>nd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> of July with a group of 12 of us from Exodus Lisburn. We will be staying in a place called Jinamer and will be helping and encouraging a local Church there. The area is poor and a lot of the people struggle with alcohol, drug and theft addiction. We will be running kids clubs and organising an international festival. We are there to bless the Church and to be light and hope to the people.



## Joanne McConnell - Magheragall

Joanne is returning to Uganda this summer to work with **Dwelling Places**. Dwelling Places is a Christian charity which works primarily to rescue, rehabilitate and reconcile street children with their families. Additionally, we speak out for children at risk - informing, motivating and equipping local families and communities to promote positive change in the Ugandan society.



## Andrew Matthews, Joshua McCready

Priesthill and **David Fairlie** Dromore

**Team Chemnitz 14** It may not quite be "Auf Weiderson Pet" but three young lads are going to have taste of German life this July courtesy of IMYCD. Joshua McCready, Andrew Matthews (Priesthill) and David Fairley (Dromore) will travel to Chemnitz, the home of Barry and Gillian Sloan for two weeks of mission as part of "Chemnitz 14" organised by IMYCD. As part of their time they will be involved with street parties, culture nights, drop-ins and kids clubs along with the Big Yellow Bus that Barry Sloan brought to Global Vision in February. Most of their outreach will take place an inner city setting where there is little understanding of meaningful Christian faith.

Whilst the boys and their families have had to fund their own travel expenses, the two congregations have been supporting them through a "cash for clothes" collection. A small mountain of bags has already accumulated in Priesthill's Minor Hall which will soon be converted into cash that the boys can bring to Germany to support the mission work there.



## Shannon Elliott Seymour Street

On the 4th of July 2014 this summer myself, 12 other team members and 3 leaders will be travelling to Romania to do some missionary work with Exodus. We will be going away from 12 days and some of the activities we will be doing are as follows, a two-day Bush Camp adventure experiencing what it is like to live with poverty and injustice. We will be partnered with a local church, serving in a community supporting local villagers. We will also be

running a kids programme, which finishes with the opportunity to provide the kids with a meal. The afternoons will involve practical work and visiting some of the poorest families in the community, bringing a food parcel and spending time with them learning about their family. Lastly, we will also have the opportunity to organize an event for the Church or the local community.

## Prayer Pointers

*Please use the information above about each of these young people to support them in prayer. Specific prayer points are:-*

- For safe travelling
- That each team will be united
- For the leaders of each group
- For God's guidance in each task they undertake
- For good health
- That their food will be enjoyable (or at least edible!
- For sensitivity and patience as they work with children, local people and each other
- That they will display the love of Jesus in their lives
- That they will overcome the language barriers
- That local Christians will be helped and encouraged

## ***Living in London during the Blitz***

***Kitty Maze recounts her wartime experiences***



When, after leaving school, Kitty passed her Civil Service entrance exam in 1939 she was posted to be a secretary at the Post Office HQ in London, where she was to remain until the end of the war. Initially it was thought that the war would be over in a matter of weeks or months, but when the Netherlands fell to the Germans and the

British Expeditionary Force had to be evacuated from Dunkirk in June 1940 the mood in London was sombre and everyone expected an imminent invasion by the Germans.

For Kitty living in London the dismal view from the window of the girls' Hostel where she stayed in South London was a far cry from her bedroom view of the Mourne Mountains back at home! But soon things were to get much worse when the night-time

when the planes were overhead. With hindsight, we were sometimes foolhardy.

I remember during a particularly bad raid on a sunny afternoon, going to the door to see what was happening. Had it not been so life-threatening to so many people it was a wonderful sight: glistening in the sun were several Spitfires doing battle with German aircraft. At other times during night raids we watched as the flashes of gunfire coupled with the searchlights criss-crossing the sky took on a resemblance to a fireworks display. But these were dangerous times and one friend who stayed too long to watch lost her leg in an explosion, while the mother of another was killed when she did not make it to the air raid shelter in time. Girls would arrive at work in tears because their homes had been destroyed.

One particularly close shave was when returning to London from a day away Kitty and a friend missed the last train from Wimbledon Station.



bombing of London began with a devastating attack on London Docks which set the area ablaze. Night after night the centre of London was attacked with high explosives and incendiaries. When shopping in Brixton one day Kitty saw a convoy of 40 fire engines arriving from the South Coast.

In Kitty's own words: "These were very scary times, but Londoners were resilient and after a few months many of them tired of running to air raid shelters and went about their business except







They were about to shelter for the night there when a policeman moved them on. That night Wimbledon Station was hit by a bomb!

"The rockets came later in the war and at first we were mystified as to what these strange things could be. I shall never forget the distinctive throb/drone of the V1 more commonly called the doodlebug, flying bomb. It was time to take shelter when the engine stopped as that was the sign that the rocket was about to fall with an unbelievably ear-piercing scream. But where do you think we sheltered? At night it was a quick hop out of bed and under it until after the explosion, then back between the sheets and off to sleep again.

Although there were many tragedies there were also miracles. How else can you account for eleven of the V1s landing in one park and not on the many large blocks of residential flats nearby. Any one of them could have caused death and destruction many times worse than anything we have known during the troubles here. There were of course many other times when the miraculous happened and I believe the answer is that Winston Churchill called the Nation to prayer and the people knew that they needed to pray and responded.

The first sign that the war might be on the turn was a slight easing in blackout and gradually other pieces of heartening news came out until May 1945 when it was clear that it was all over. The people thronged the Streets in a frolicking mood, crowding into and on top of buses but nobody asked for fares. All down Piccadilly, Trafalgar Square, The Mall, and around Buckingham Palace was a tightly packed mass of rejoicing and frivolous people trying to reach a spot where they could see the Royal Family. Yes, I was there too adding my voice to the thousands calling for the King and was fortunate enough to see the whole family several times as they came out on the balcony of the palace. I even had a close-up view

of Queen Mary; the then Queen Mother, and later Winston Churchill as they drove to the palace. Again while Winston made his official announcement that the war was over, I was in Whitehall outside the building from which he spoke.

It would be unfair and untrue to imply that everybody was joyous. There were many who, though glad the war had ended, could not take part in the fun because their hearts were sad from the loss of loved ones either in the forces or through air raids. One thing is certain, we shall never know the debt we owe to the men and women who fought in the battles or defended in our own land. Those who survived the war have so much to be thankful for.■



# Seymour Streets Bowlers celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**The Editor talks to Marjorie McCrea**



**Marjorie & Jim McCrea**



**Marjorie with some members of the Bowls**

The Seymour Street Bowling Club was founded in 1964 by David Buchanan, who was Society Steward and a prominent member of the church. George Orr recorded in his book on the Story of Seymour street that:

"the large hall in the William Foote Memorial School was named The David Buchanan Room in his memory and honour in 1968. Mr. Buchanan, who was converted during the Nicholson Mission of 1921, served with distinction in almost every office of the church until his death-about 45 years in all"



Marjorie McCrea was, along with her husband Jim, one of the 20 or so members at the opening night who then witnessed the rapid growth of the Club which met in the hall under the church. As they had a young family (not so young now!) Marjorie and Jim had to arrange babysitters so that they could go the Bowls together, but if the arrangements didn't work out it was Marjorie who had to stay at home! After Jim died it was hard for Marjorie to go back to the Club, but after a time she was able to return and over the years since then she has held the offices of secretary and Captain, and is still active in the club today.

From the start the main aim of the club has been to provide fellowship and friendship along with the not too strenuous recreation of indoor bowls. Although friendly competitive matches are played with other clubs each year, both home and away, the Bowls have never been part of a league, preferring to maintain a more relaxed atmosphere. However, over the years many cups have been given by members and former members and these are presented each year in a range of competitive evenings and tournaments.

Although many churches around Lisburn have Bowling Clubs Seymour Street is the only one which meets twice a week, which it has always done. With so many other organisations also using the Church Halls this requires a significant measure of collaboration and flexibility to maintain good relations! It is a measure of both the support of the Church as a whole for the Bowls, and of the Bowls members, at least 70% of whom are from Seymour Street, that there is seldom any friction.

For many years The Bowls have shared a Thursday evening with the children's Shell Club and each year the Bowls have an evening

when the Shell Club young people are invited into the Bowls to play, no doubt also enticed in by the delicious supper laid on by the members of the Bowls!



**Members of the Bowls on a visit to Stormont**

**Current and past Presidents along with some of the  
committee at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service**

Through the years of the 'Troubles' the Bowls continued to meet on its regular nights, only occasionally having to cancel due to disruption, or more probably the weather. At times of illness and family loss the members of the Bowls have always supported one another. In many ways the Bowls is an important 'outreach' of the church as it provides a friendly and supportive time each week for those who may be alone for much of the rest of the week.

An important event in the Bowlers' calendar is the Annual Bowlers' Service, which has for a number of years featured the Men's Choir brought together by Richard Wright, along with a visiting speaker. The minister of Seymour Street is the President of the Club and at this year's Service seven former Presidents were present - four of whom have also served as President of the Methodist Church in

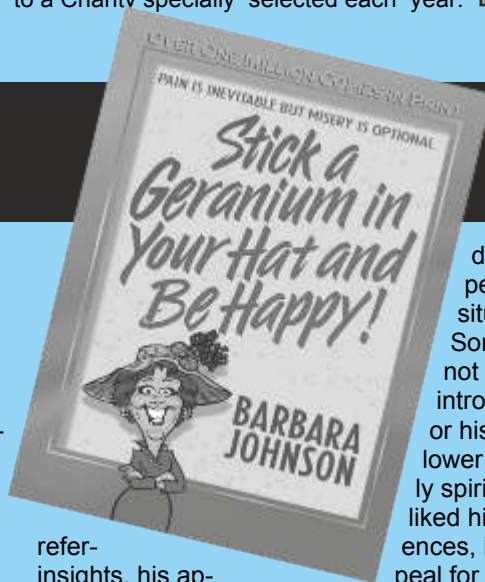


Ireland. An offering taken at this Service and this along with money raised throughout the year is given to a Charity specially selected each year. ■

## Circuit Book Club

**Rev Ken Todd**

The Circuit Book Club had a lively meeting in April in Trinity Methodist Church and reflected on "FRESH AIR" by Jack Levison (an exploration of the Holy Spirit.) The book met with a mixed reception. Some did not like it and others liked it a lot. Levison lectures in Biblical Studies at Seattle Pacific University and his wife is a Methodist Minister. He has witnessed painful divisions in some churches arising from extreme opinions about the person, work and manifestation of the Holy Spirit. His purpose in writing the book (211 pages) is to help the Christian reader avoid the twin dangers of a formalism which risks underestimating the role of the Holy Spirit, or a pentecostalism which can over-dramatize the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He gives refreshing insights into biblical passages showing how the Holy Spirit works in different ways in different situations. The Holy Spirit works in churches and not just individuals. He uses the Hebrew and Greek words (ruach and pneuma) to describe the Holy Spirit as "Spirit breath." From the Genesis creation stories he concludes that, every human being is God breathed and has the Holy Spirit. From stories of Job, Daniel, Joel and Ezekiel in the Old Testament and from examples in the New Testament of the life of Jesus, Simeon, Peter and Paul, he shows how the Holy Spirit operates differently in



different people and situations. Some did not like his introduction, or his use of lower case (holy spirit.) Others liked his family ences, biblical peal for humility Spirit impacts people differently. He brings to life less well-known bible passages and unearths deep treasures from familiar ones.

We take a break for the summer and commend two books for your holiday reading. We meet (D.V.) in Trinity Methodist Church at 8 p.m.

Wed. 10th September: "Stick a geranium in your hat and be happy" by Barbara Johnson.

Thurs. 16th October: "The Grand Weaver" by Ravi Zacharias.

All are very welcome. See Shirley Carrington for more information. ■



## Introducing The Rev Mervyn Ewing who will move to Seymour Street in July



Mervyn grew up in Omagh and attended Omagh Methodist Church. As a young man he sensed the call of God towards ordained ministry but allowed circumstances to talk him out of it. He served his time as a joiner which is where he learned the discipline to 'measure twice and cut once'. He served the Omagh and Fintona Circuit as a Local Preacher and is a past president of the Omagh chapter of the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship. Mervyn worked for many years in the Double Glazing industry before candidating for the ministry in 1995. He describes himself as a 'slow learner' or 'late developer', which may explain why it took him from 1968 to 1995 to candidate for the ordained ministry.

Leaving Edgehill in 1999 Mervyn served on the Castlederg Circuit for six years during which time he was ordained before being stationed to Jennymount Methodist Circuit in 2005 where he has just completed 9 years. Passionate about Community Development and Community engagement Mervyn believes that Jesus' metaphors of 'salt' and 'light' contend that the church is in the community for the community which means that disciples of Jesus (the local church) are mobilised out of the safety and comfort of our pews (holy huddles) and into the public square. One of Mervyn's favourite Bible passages is where Jesus tells his disciples to "...preach...the kingdom of heaven is near. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give..." (Matt. 10:6-9) Jesus insists that his disciples engage with those around them in the ordinariness of everyday life. We are blessed to be a blessing.

During Mervyn's time in Jennymount two young men who actively participated in the First Step Centre, Jennymount's outreach project, died by suicide. These two deaths were the catalyst for change in the Lower North Belfast Community.

A meeting with one of the young men's mother impacted on

Mervyn and this became a significant time in drawing Jennymount Methodist Church into deeper community integration. He helped set up a charity that was a support group for parents affected by substance abuse and suicide and members of the Jennymount church family joined. These relationships were key to the church becoming an accepted contributor to the local community and led to him being involved with organisations like Lighthouse, a suicide prevention and awareness charity.

Also from this 'Flourish!' a churches initiative on Suicide was born. Representatives from the Health Trusts, Public Health Agency, Churches and Voluntary sectors came together and 'Flourish!' was launched at the beginning of March at Stormont by Health Minister Edwin Poots MLA.

Mervyn believes in 'team'; he strongly supports the idea of 'body ministry' believing that leaders (plural) are gifted by God '...to prepare God's people for works of service...' (Ephesians 4:12). As the Connexional Ministerial Secretary for Local Preachers Mervyn has been the driving force behind a thoroughly comprehensive review of LP training and procedures that will come to Conference this year for implementation. He is a strong advocate of LPs forming part of a collaborative approach to Circuit ministry.

Mervyn is a keen walker and is looking forward to joining with other local walkers. He is married to Helena and they have two grown up children (and three grand-children), Laura who works in Regent Street Methodist Church as youth pastor and Stephen who is married and manages the health club and spa in Cheshire. ■

# Trinity Evergreens visit new Methodist Centre in Dublin

**Trevor Smith  
with  
Philip McKinley  
outside the new  
Centre**



As a culmination to this year's activities a party of 18 from Trinity Evergreens embarked on a three day outing from 6th to 8th May. It was the 7th year of this popular trip which always includes eating and shopping highlights as well as interesting visits! Having taken a scenic route via Market Hill, South Armagh and Carlingford the first shopping experience was at the Marches' in Dundalk before the party arrived at The Ballymascanlan Hotel which was to be their residence for the two nights.



On the Wednesday the party set off for Dublin and after stopping for coffee visited the National Leprechaun Museum where visitors discover the sounds, sights, stories and magic of mythical Ireland, home of the Leprechaun!

Although Irish tray-bakes were not on offer with their refreshments, Philip explained that they were being offered traditional Polish snacks, reflecting the high proportion of Eastern European nationals who come along to the Centre.

After their enjoyable evening meal each evening back at the Hotel, devotions on the theme of 'Promises' led by Angela Sofley were followed by a light-hearted programme including a quiz, singsong.

After the exertions of Wednesday the party made a leisurely departure on Thursday and again took the scenic route home, this time via the coast road to Newcastle, the Downpatrick Centre and the Strangford Ferry. They were in time for High Tea at Harrisons Restaurant on the Ards Peninsula and were able to enjoy the stunning views across the Strangford Lough.

For future trips Trinity Evergreens would be pleased to welcome others from across the Circuit. For further information contact Trevor Smith on 07799 711781 or Angela Sofley on 07795370848 ■

After lunch at the Blanchardstown Centre the party rendezvoused with Philip McKinley, Lay Worker at the new Methodist Centre in Tyrrelstown. This multi-purpose space for both community and worship use, was opened on 17th March 2014 by the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland Rev Dr Heather Morris and the Mayor of Fingal, and the Trinity Evergreens were the first visiting group from an outside Methodist Church! Philip gave them an enthusiastic and warm welcome, and they were impressed by his vision and commitment to the work of the new centre. The evergreens were pleased to be able to bring greetings from Trinity Methodist Church.

## Inside the Tyrrelstown Methodist Centre



## **Rev Brian Anderson**

***The editor has gathered together the thoughts of some members of Seymour Street about Brian's contribution to the life of our Church and Circuit***



The Rev Brian Anderson is the longest serving minister to have been stationed at Seymour Street in its 139 year history. He and Lesley, with their family Michael and Nicola moved here in 2004 having previously been stationed at Glenburn and Magherafelt following Brian's ordination in 1994. Brian was following a series of eminent ministers but he brought his own distinctive style, message and vision to Seymour Street and will leave having had a profound influence for good on many lives, and having given the church a fresh vision and impetus for its role within the local community.

Talking informally to members of Seymour Street perhaps the gift most often mentioned has been Brian's role as an 'encourager'. With his ready smile and positive attitude to things Brian has been someone who believes that 'Through Christ all things are possible' and in that belief he has encouraged many of us to take that step forward in our faith, in our lives and in our actions. As an encourager Brian has not tried to control people, but has given them the opportunity to take things forward in their own way - or should I say as they are led by the Spirit!



A number also spoke highly of Brian's pastoral care, having experienced at first hand Brian being there at that moment of need whether at home or at hospital. It was mentioned that some who now

attend Church regularly were neither Methodists or church attenders, but having received a word of comfort and a prayer from Brian in hospital found their life changed. It cannot be said that old-style visits from the minister were on his agenda - no doubt to the disappointment of some, but he was likely to turn up after sending you a text message to say he was on the way in 5 minutes and wanted to discuss something! He has engaged with every generation from the oldest to the youngest and can relate to everyone. The elderly find him so easy to talk to and the children just treat him as a friend.

Even before Brian's time Seymour Street had worked hard to allow young and old to feel part of worship through different forms of praise and expressions of worship. Brian has continued to take that forward, encouraging modern praise and the use of 'powerpoint' in worship, not simply to put up the words of praise items, but to illustrate and bring out his message, making it accessible to all. Whether it was in children's addresses, carrying newly baptised children round the church or giving out birthday sweets, (I don't know of any other church where that happens!) Brian wants everyone to feel part of what is happening in worship, and to know that we don't have a 'stuffy' God, but one who understands and wants to share in our everyday joys and sorrows.

His preaching has been down to earth, easy to understand, and relevant in today's world. On one occasion he asked us to consider if we were "B&Q Christians". He explained that B&Q is a shop that you usually only visit when then you need something, often in an emergency. We can so often treat God like this, hence being "B&Q Christians".

However, there is more to Brian than his role as a pastor or worship leader. Those I spoke to were clear that he also brought a vision of where he thought Seymour Street should be going - and that



was out into the community! When Brian was able to take a few months sabbatical he took the opportunity to look at the community around Seymour Street and the different ways in which a church can engage with its local community. He then encouraged the Church Council to support a survey of the needs of the local community which was designed to identify practical ways in which Seymour Street could start to meet those needs.

Brian was particularly concerned to bring the whole congregation with him and for people to recognise the close link between traditional 'Mission' and community outreach. When the programme for 'There's More' was planned the congregation was led first by a Lay Witness Team, followed by Bible Studies in the SAP Groups to pick up on the theme of sharing our faith. He then encouraged each organisation in the Church to organise an event that involved 'going out' and at which the Christian message could be spoken of.



**Launch of Horizons Suicide help group**

But Brian was also leading by example as through his concern about the number of young cases of suicide in the Lisburn area he was instrumental in the setting up of the 'Horizons' suicide support group.

Brian's support for community action has, in the last few years also culminated in the development of Damask Community Outreach as part of the work of Seymour Street, and the Prayer Project along our local streets

Another facet of Brian has been his willingness to participate, whether in the Lisburn Fun Run, taking a role in the two Seymour Street pantomimes, joining the men's choir, having his leg pulled at a



GB or BB Parents' Night, leading a team going to Uganda, or going down the water slide at Castlewellan Holiday Week. He is not someone with airs and graces. If things do not work out as expected he is able to adapt to the new reality.

On top of the responsibility of his own congregation Brian has maintained his role as Superintendent of the Circuit, and latterly also Chairman of the Down District a role he will continue when he moves to Bangor. Brian has also taken a lead in the cooperation between Lisburn City Centre Churches

In spite of all the pressure of such a large congregation and Circuit Brian always placed a high priority on his family life, and it was no doubt a considerable help when Lesley and the family were able to move to the new manse in a more residential setting. In recent months the challenge of fostering Colin, and moving towards adoption has also shown the commitment that Brian and Lesley have towards expressing their faith in action.

While I am not really into football I was asked to mention that Brian has been very wise in not making **too** frequent mention of the fact that he is a LIVERPOOL SUPPORTER!

We all wish Brian, Lesley, Michael, Nicola and Colin well in their new life in Bangor. ■



**Adult Membership Class led by Brian**

# Lou Monroe - my first year at Edgehill



As I'm writing this I can hardly believe that I only have a couple of weeks left in my first year as a ministerial student at Edgehill Theological College. It is a year that has been filled with all

things new, challenging, fun, heart breaking and hopeful.

I was placed in Woodvale Methodist Church under the supervision of Rev Margaret Ferguson, who is Superintendent Minister of the Greater Shankill circuit. I was made to feel part of the church family with a warm welcome and wonderful fellowship. I have had the opportunity to be involved in Sunday worship, gone along to the 'C'mon in Cafe', attended the mid-week bible study and visited people in their homes. I've also had the chance to be involved in some of the community aspects of ministry which Margaret is doing on the circuit and have went along to the Welcome Organisation a wonderful organisation which does so much of the homeless living on the streets of Belfast. I also went along to Forthspring a fantastic cross-community organisation which works out of the old Springfield Methodist premises.

Margaret is also the Methodist Chaplain to the Mayor of Belfast, Máirtín Ó Muilleoir this year, so I was able to go along to the Titanic Memorial service which is held each year in the grounds of City Hall. Our mid-week bible study group were also

privileged to be invited along for a tour of the City Hall along with the opportunity to pray for the City and for the Mayor and the whole council in the Mayor's parlour; this was a very moving event to be involved in.

Woodvale Methodist became my home for this year and I was so willingly accepted as one of them. I will treasure my time there and all I have learnt from them and from Margaret.



In my first semester I also had a placement in the Royal Victoria Hospital as part of the chaplaincy team, working alongside Rev Derek Johnston, who is the lead chaplain for the Belfast Trust. This was a very difficult but extremely rewarding time for me. I have never felt comfortable in the hospital environment and I would not yet claim to be fully at ease, however, my time in the RVH was a very formative time for me in my ministry and the realisation for some people the visit they receive from me may be the only 'church' that they ever know. Many patients are very vulnerable and it is an honour to spend time with them at their bedside whether it is a sad, difficult, traumatic, exciting or happy time.

Many people ask if this year put into question or confirmed my call to the Methodist Ministry. My answer is that it has indisputably confirmed my call to ministry. Even though it can be difficult sometimes - even a lot of the time -, it is very humbling how people accept you and open up their lives to you in the name of God. We are His only hands and feet on earth and if we do not use them for His use and proclaim the Good News, who will? ■

## Louise receiving her Local Preacher Accreditation



## Crossing the Generations

**Damask** has embarked on a programme of activities which bring together young people and some older people to learn and work together.

The first sessions have been on cooking, and Dorothy McAllister proved to be an excellent

tutor. The kids are from Forthill College and the 'GG's' (Glamorous Grannies) are from our Church.

This is a very worthwhile programme in which respect and understanding is developed between the groups and new relationships formed.



## Priesthill Membership Class

Sunday may 4th saw seven young people received into Full Membership at Priesthill (Zion). They had met on Sunday evenings since January to explore their faith and what it meant to be a member of the Church ( ...and quite a few Pringles were munched on the way!).



Back Row left to right - Patricia McCarthy Society Steward, Joshua McCready, Jason Hassard, Andrew Matthews, Rev Colin Gracie. Front Row left to right - Ciara Boyd, Rebecca Hawkins, Alice Davison, Sarah Watson, Edith Watson Society Steward



## ***Magheragall & Broomhedge News***

### **'High wire' fun for Magheragall Youth Fellowship**

The Magheragall Youth Fellowship meets on the third Friday of each month and, on 21 March, used the evening session to go out to the Vertigo activity centre at Newtownbreda and had a marvellous time scaling the heights (although at all times safely strapped in harness)

*Rebekah Macauley on the high beams at Vertigo*



### **The interesting times of the Rev Edmund Mawhinney**

Magheragall has a so-called Wednesday Group that meets on the last Friday of each month. In March, the group went off to Antrim to a small barn tearoom where they had a very nicely served tea and were then entertained by reminiscences from Edmund Mawhinney of his time in ministry.



### **Broomhedge Youth Club**

Broomhedge Youth Club has had another successful season under the loving leadership of Maudie Boal. The season always ends with a barbecue and this year was no exception. The weather on 10 May was a bit damp, but the noise level was just as high as usual, perhaps more so as the bouncy castle had been moved into the hall from its accustomed position outside. Curtis Connolly did a manful job in keeping a steady supply of beef burgers coming in spite of the weather. An enjoyable evening was had by all concerned.

## **From the registers..**

### ***Seymour Street***

#### **BAPTISMS**

Joshua Philip Trevor, son of Philip and Ruth Hall  
Charlotte Elizabeth Irene, daughter of Edward and Sarah Hanna

Abigail Rose, daughter of Bryan and Jacqueline Nesbitt

Noah Porter McBride, son of Andrew McBride and Toni Porter

Cameron Victor, son of Victor and Debbie Kerr

#### **WEDDING**

Philip Andrew Carswell and Mandy Susan Gibson

#### **DEATH**

Mr George Hunter, 3 Harris Crescent, Dunmurry

### ***Trinity***

#### **DEATH**

Mrs Gertie Nelson, 8 Thornleigh Close

### ***Dromore***

DEATH - Dora Greer,

### ***Priesthill***

DEATHS Windsor Clarke  
Ronnie Murphy

BAPTISMS Jack Darren  
Graham Wright

### ***Broomhedge***

DEATH - James McKinstry

# Blackberry Farm visits the Toddlers

The Toddlers group in Seymour Street had a very special set of guest's visit them – a variety of different animals from Blackberry Farm arrived into the premises.

Many of the Toddlers could not believe that Lambs, Rabbits, Chicks, Duckling and the 'Little Red Hen' came to Toddlers. The children combed the rabbits hair, fed them carrots, stroked the chicks and the highlight of the visit was that they

got to feed the lambs.



The visit caused a lot of excitement and Claire,

from Blackberry Farm told the children 2 wonderful stories. We heard about the 'Little Red Hen' and 'A Squash and a Squeeze' – everyone really enjoyed the visit (I think the mum's enjoyed it even more than the kids).

One little boy even cried when the lambs left because he wanted to take it home with him!!!

It was a great visit and enjoyed by all.



## Fun on the Farm for Trinity kids

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 27 excited children from Trinity Zone Sunday School and Shell Club headed to Streamvale Farm in Dundonald, along with their leaders. The children enjoyed feeding the chickens. They also got to bottle feed kids and lambs and give cabbage to the rabbits. There were also fluffy chicks and cute baby rabbits to cuddle. After a quick lunch break the children were all set to enjoy the afternoon's activities which included go-karting, hay slides and an epic battle with ball shooters in which the attack was led by Ivan! We managed to dodge the rain showers and ended off the day by a trip to the shop to buy ice cream and playtime on the ropes course and zipline. Here's what some of the children thought of the trip:

"I really enjoyed the trip and loved getting to feed the chickens." Gillian

"I thought the play park was the best." Cameron

"I had great fun with all the other children and especially enjoyed the hay slide, go-karts and holding the rabbits."

The children all went home tired but happy after a really enjoyable day, in fact one of the first questions in the car on the way home was, "Where are we going on our next trip?"



# SUMMER BIBLE CLUB

## mega makers!

16<sup>TH</sup> - 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

6.30 - 8.00PM

FOR ALL P1 - P7 AGE CHILDREN

GAMES, CRAFTS, STORIES AND FUN! :-)

For more information  
Contact:  
Office - 028 9260 5335  
Email - bibleclub@trinityburn.com  
[www.trinityburn.com](http://www.trinityburn.com)



# The Life of Brian

with thanks to the photographers of Seymour Street

