

# TheLight

Issue 206: Sept 2014

Enjoying the  
sun in Co.  
Wicklow

**Rev Mervyn Ewing**  
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THE MAGAZINE OF THE LISBURN AND DROMORE METHODIST CIRCUIT



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### Front cover:

*Shirley Carrington with Diane Farrelly on  
the Seymour Street trip to Wicklow*

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The Light please send them to the address above or  
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## ***Around the Circuit***

### **Dedication of Communion Silverware**



At a Seymour Street Service on 22nd June a silver Communion Cup Holder, donated by Violet Dawson in memory of her husband Raymond and his parents Harold and Sadie Dawson, was dedicated by the Rev Brian Anderson. The silverware was made specially to match the existing communion silverware used by Seymour Street.



### **Jack Easson prepares for working on a project in the slums of Delhi**

In October Jack will be one of a team of 9 pupils from Wallace High School who will take part in a project working with the charity **asha** in the slums of Delhi.

**asha** was founded in 1988 after a young Christian paediatrician, Dr Kiran Martin, went to treat cholera victims in the slums of Delhi. Having witnessed the appalling conditions she realised much more than healthcare was needed and felt called to try to bring about better education, health and employment opportunities for slum children. She talked to the people, won their trust and began to work out how she could help.

Now **asha** is working in 50 slum areas, helping to transform the lives of 400,000 children. Through **asha** over 1000 children from the slums have progressed to University and the charity is aiming to raise this to 5000 over the next 5 years.

A number of Northern Ireland schools send teams to work with **asha**, but this is the first from Wallace High School. The team will be taking part in educational, craft and sporting activities with Indian young people over a period of a week.



**Dr Kiran Martin**



## Priesthill Remembers WWI



Recent research for a Remembrance Sunday service has brought to light the names of four young men from the Priesthill (Zion) congregation who fought and died during the First World War. Their ages ranged from 20 to 23. It seemed most appropriate that the congregation should mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War by planting poppies.

Ronnie and Anne Campbell had discovered that Dobbies Garden Centre in association with the British Legion provided poppy seeds to churches, schools and community groups free of charge. The seeds were nurtured into tiny seedlings by Paul Laffin and on the occasion of the Sunday School Anniversary service, the boys and girls planted the tender shoots near the entrance to the church.

By August 4th- the anniversary date- the poppies had come into full bloom. All who enter or leave the church can admire the delightful display and yet be reminded of the great sacrifice that these flowers symbolise. ■



## Sally's 100th at Dromore

This summer has been notable for centenary celebrations and it is no less true for Dromore. July 2nd marked the 100th birthday of Sally Forsythe, the first time a member of the congregation had marked such a milestone.

Mention Sally's name to anyone and the first reaction is always: "Those heels!" for Sally has always dressed her best and it was no different on her birthday. Sally was delighted to receive a visit from the Chairman of Banbridge Council, along with visits from members of the congregation, family and friends. Of course, pride of place was given to a special message of congratulation from the Queen!

Sally has spent all her life in the town and it was her marriage to Matt Forsythe that brought her to the Methodist Church, where she has remained a member ever since. ■





# The Methodist DNA

Rev Mervyn Ewing

*The Superintendent of the Lisburn & Dromore Circuit shares his thoughts on how to develop the life of our circuit*

By the time you read this issue of 'The Light' Methodists from across the island of Ireland will have gathered on what is known as 'Mission Ireland' day in Edenderry Methodist Church, Portadown, to reflect on Conference and consider the theme "Living faithfully in the world".

I have attended all of these days since 1999 and I have found them to be a really helpful and inspirational beginning to the Church year. Over the summer I have been giving a lot of thought and prayer, reflecting on what are the essentials for ministry on the Lisburn and Dromore Methodist Circuit. My thoughts turned to the Mission Ireland day in September 2012 when approximately 130 people gathered to reflect on the 2012 Conference.

The stimulus for this particular 'Mission Ireland' day originated from conversations at previous Conferences about what God may be calling Irish Methodists to be and do today.



One of the keynote speakers at the day was the Church of Ireland Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Bishop Ken Good, who was invited particularly to offer some perspectives on the genius of Methodism. He made a number of pertinent observations; he said he was speaking as an observer of Methodism and what he was about to say was for consideration rather than being a diagnosis of our condition. He offered his comments as **four pleas** to the Irish Methodist Church summarised below:

## **PLEA 1. Remind the rest of the Christian Church about the genius of Methodism.**

The genius of Methodism is your DNA which is worked out through:

- Personal holiness – a people whose lives are lived in a counter cultural manner, even regarded as being "goofy"!
- Courageous evangelism
- Compassionate social action

These particular emphases formed the basis of a document published by the Faith and Order Committee of our Church this year entitled ***God's Mission Our Mission*** which you can read or download from the Seymour Street website [www.seymourstreet.org/newssheet](http://www.seymourstreet.org/newssheet)

## **PLEA 2. Show more examples of the genius of Methodism which are happening now in Ireland**

He said that there "are many places where

## The Methodist DNA (continued)

there is energy, passion, and stepping into the community to serve and share Christ. Your DNA still bursts out in places.” He made an impassioned plea that Methodists would go on showing the rest of Christ’s Church that risk taking and creativity are still part of that DNA.

### **PLEA 3. Let your calling be more than being a traditional church.**

He said that “we have many of these - enough of these – and Methodism was never meant to be a traditional church.” Methodism is and always has been a ‘movement’. The point here is that as Church we cannot expect not yet followers of Jesus to come in from outside and join in in what we do; this model of evangelism is out of date. What is required is that we re-ignite our passion for coming alongside not yet followers of Jesus and showing of God’s loving care.

### **PLEA 4. Ask if your leadership system facilitates your genius.**

He said “When you deal with a vision question you are also asking leadership questions.” Leaders have the task of facilitating Church growth, not through programmes, but by identifying gifts in people and releasing them in those gifts ‘so that the body of Christ may be built up’ (Eph.4:12). When the body (church family) is mobilised and equipped only then can the church work at its optimum best.

This is obviously an edited version of what the Bishop said that day, and it has informed many conversations since, but I believe the September 2012 ‘Mission Ireland’ day was a very significant day and has become the catalyst for a new emerging Methodism, a Methodism that has the courage to revisit its ‘emphasis’ and is willing to refocus itself on Missional discipleship.

As I have reflected on my journey which has now brought me to this place I am convinced that under God we together have a unique opportunity here on the Lisburn and Dromore Methodist Circuit to live out the purposes of God for our generation (Acts 13:36). For as we stand together on the shoulders of all those

visionary and courageous Methodists who have gone before us we are tasked with the responsibility to continue the journey and realise their hopes and dreams as well as our own.

In Methodism we boast about the fact that we are a ‘Connexion’ – a family gathering, that’s our strength let’s not make it a weakness. So are we up for the challenges? Are we willing to take the risks associated with such responsibility? Are we prepared to ask the ‘big’ questions and are we willing to listen to each other and compromise were necessary as we reason together answering the big questions and honouring those who have gone before us.

To that end we will face many issues none perhaps more so than how can we improve our Circuit relationships. What can we practically do that will enhance and enrich the witness and mission of the people called Methodists across this Circuit? As a Methodist of some 61 years my observations are many and varied, but this I can say with relative certainty: we are terrible travellers! “That’s not my church” and so we stubbornly stay put rather than support and encourage fellow Methodists at a Circuit event. This might sound trite, but it’s a fact that we will have to do something about. I am willing to make every effort to be present at worship with all six of our Societies, which in return might involve a little rethinking and some compromise on your part and that all of us will make every effort to be present at the variety of Circuit events that will be planned.

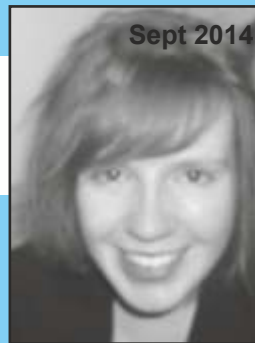
On the flip side of my visiting card I have deliberately chosen to make mention of each of the Societies/Church families in an effort to demonstrate my seriousness as Superintendent of the Lisburn and Dromore Methodist Circuit.

I look forward to meeting you in your respective church family and journeying with you as we endeavour to live out the gospel of Christ among our families, friends and neighbours.

**God bless ■**

# Walking with Gott in Germany

Chloe Smyth from Trinity



## September 2014.

I can't believe that a year has passed since I set off to spend 9 months in Germany, extremely excited but not without a few butterflies in my stomach. From September to May, as part of my languages degree at university, I lived and worked as an English Language Assistant in a secondary school in Reichenbach im Vogtland, a small town in Saxony in eastern Germany and a place which became really dear to me.

During the year I learnt so much about a different culture and way of life, I improved my language skills tremendously and got to know many great people in the local community, including in the church. On the hunt for a Christian community I could settle into, on my second Sunday I nervously wandered into the *Landeskirchliche Gemeinschaft* (whose style of services and events is similar to the Methodist or Baptist traditions in Ireland), not knowing what to expect. Luckily I immediately felt at home.

The congregation (about the same size as at Trinity) welcomed me into their church life and supported me throughout the year in many ways. One Sunday the preacher even paused during his sermon to ask if I'd understood a very old-fashioned German word he had used (I hadn't, so was very glad he asked!).



## Being a waitress at a church dinner

Possibly the most uplifting experience for me was getting involved in their youth and young adult group, organised through *Entschieden für Christus* (part of the global American Christian Endeavour society). I was really blessed to get to know about 15 other young Christians, who either grew up in Reichenbach or study at the technical college there, and we met once a week for worship, discussion of a theme and some food together. We took it in turns to cook for the group and when it was my turn I made sure the Germans tried things like Shepherd's Pie, scones and 15s, all of which received an excellent reception!

People at Trinity will know that music plays a big part in my personal worship and I was lucky to continue that in

## Lego City built at Kids Holiday Club



Germany, playing my violin in the praise group and singing with the other young people in the youth choir. Other events throughout the year which I took part in included baking Christmas biscuits with the children from the Kids' Church, building a Lego city out of thousands of bricks at a kids' holiday club and acting as a waitress for a "Candlelight Dinner" event.

The church and my experience with God during my time in Germany really helped me to develop personally this year. The time wasn't without challenges (trying to read and understand Ezekiel at a fortnightly Bible study group was just one of many - it's

hard enough in English, let alone a different language!) but it most certainly wouldn't have run so smoothly without the support of God's community in Reichenbach. I'm really grateful that God pointed me in the right direction to bring me to the church and I find it simply wonderful how God's church is international, just as Paul sums up, united under Jesus no matter their cultural differences, no matter what language they speak:

*"Viele einzelne Glieder bilden gemeinsam den einen Leib" (1. Korinther 12:20)*

*"Many individual parts build the one body" ■  
(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:20)*

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## Church of Ireland Bishops take formal part in installation of the Methodist President

At the Methodist Conference the Revd Peter Murray was installed as the President of the Methodist Church at a ceremony in Christ Church, Leeson Park, Dublin.

For the first time, Church of Ireland bishops took part formally in the installation of a Methodist President, with the laying on of hands: Archbishop of Armagh Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Dublin Michael Jackson and Bishop of Down and Dromore Harold Miller.



In May the General Synod of the Church of Ireland passed historic legislation to provide for interchangeability in ministries between the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland, the two Churches being in a Covenant relationship.

The Special Bill passed its final reading at the General Synod by the required two-thirds majority of each order present. ■



## Meet DaeSuk Yang - a worker with 'World in Need'

*DaeSuk is a very good friend of Clem and Margaret Gilbert from Magheragall. They met while DaeSuk was providing Bible teaching at the Disabled Holiday Home, Newcastle.*

DaeSuk is from South Korea. One of his sisters married a British man and DaeSuk came to work for him in the Cardiff area. Around the time that his brother-in-law took ill and died DaeSuk came to know The Lord Jesus in a personal way through a Korean Pastor. He was guided to go to Faith Mission College in Edinburgh. After completing his course in Edinburgh he continued further studies at All Nations College and obtained a degree in Theology.

He now works for 'Mission in Need' reaching people in the Cardiff and surrounding areas. His desire is to see souls won for The Lord.

Here are his answers to some questions Margaret put to him.

### YOUR IDEA OF HEAVEN

In spite of the biblical description of Heaven being "absent of pain, suffering, tears and death" Rev 21 v 4, I would think that it will be full of meaning and full of purpose of our being for God.

### ETERNITY - WOULD IT NOT BE BORING?

I often talk to people about Heaven and what it would be like. To help people to understand I ask them what would have been their best day on earth, as if it stopped there? We don't feel Heaven on earth because of sin in us, but without sin we can truly get a glimpse of what Heaven would be like. If Heaven is one thousand times better than your best day would you say Heaven is boring?

### COULD GOD BE A WOMAN?

Firstly, God is spirit so doesn't have specific gender. Secondly, in the Bible God uses genders to help us understand the relationships and context. Thirdly, If God



wanted to reveal himself to us as male and female we shouldn't argue with Him, His way is the best way in order for us to know Him.

### YOUR FINEST MOMENT OF SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT?

That would be 14 years ago when I met the Lord personally and He revealed himself through Jesus, His only begotten Son, to me so that I know He is a living and loving God.

### THE PERSON ALIVE TODAY YOU MOST ADMIRE?

A pastor Chan-Soo Lee, Bundang Woori Church in South Korea, who sincerely preaches and lives as servant of God.

### IF YOU HAD ONE QUESTION TO ASK GOD FACE WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Which came first the chicken or the egg?

### YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK/MUSIC/FILM?

**Book:** Pilgrims Progress

**Music:** Living He loved me, Dying He saved me

**Film:** Ben Hur ■

# The Circuit says farewell to Rev Brian Anderson



Two very different events were held to say farewell to Brian. The first was a social gathering on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June and the second a farewell Service on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June.

Compèred by Wilson Stewart the social gathering featured a number of humorous, even hilarious, reminders of various facets of Brian's ministry in pictures, words and songs. Brian, Leslie and the family were drawn into the fun as Brian was trained in the art of speaking Ban-gor-ese and various members of Seymour Street recounted their experiences of working with Brian. There was a return to the stage of the pantomime 'Anderson

Sisters' (with Brian ably replaced by Nigel) and the evening was rounded off by a fulsome supper and a massed choir rendition of 'You'll never walk alone'.

The Circuit Farewell Service was led by the Rev Colin Gracey, along with Peter Mercer David Turtle, and featured music by the Seymour Street Men's Choir and an entertaining poem composed and read by the Society Steward, Deborah Kinghan. Afterwards the Circuit Steward, Tom Millar, thanked Brian for his ministry on the Circuit, and presenting him with a gift from the circuit wished him, along with Leslie and the family, every blessing as they move to their new field of work in Bangor. ■

## Interview on the sofa



The Big Faces of Seymour Street created by the Shell Club leaders

## The Anderson Sisters



Seymour Street Men's Choir

# Moving On: to Love Ethnic Minorities and Muslim Neighbours

**Rev Steve Stockman, Minister of Fitzroy Presbyterian Church**

Reprinted with permission from his Soul Surmise Blog  
(<http://www.stocki.typepad.com>)



There has been a lot of talk in the Northern Ireland media recently about Muslims and racism and what Church and political leaders have said. I have blogged enough in response to all of that. It is time now to move on. I don't mean leaving it behind. I mean moving on to the next stage. We have responded to the lazy stereotyping of races and religions and the tone that sometimes incites wrong reactions. We have looked at how Jesus name can be easily discredited for the wrong reasons. It is now time to move from the negatives to imagining creative positives.

Was it Shane Claiborne who said that if we want to reach the poor we could start by getting to know them. The same needs to be said about our ethnic minorities, particularly in our recent debate the Muslim community. It is when we connect with people on a personal level that we stop seeing them through stereotype and caricature. Our relationships with flesh and blood is always more knowledgable, honest and authentic than when we relate to people through impersonal beliefs, ideologies and histories. Goodness but hasn't this been the problem between our Catholic and Protestant communities over the centuries. Surely we should learn

from our past mistakes as we find a new future with a plethora of ethnic neighbours. One of the positive things to come out of recent events is how many Church leaders have visited the Belfast Islam Centre for the very first time.

**As I have thought about how to move forward I have been reminded of a powerful story that Jim Wallis tells in his book On God's Side. It is of how Steve Stone, a Christian pastor in Cordova, Tennessee, was concerned when**

**he heard that the Memphis Islamic Centre was moving onto his block. However, after praying, Steve decided that Jesus was telling him to love his neighbour. Having put a sign in front of his Church that read, "Heartsong Church welcomes Memphis Islamic Centre to the Neighbourhood," friendships developed and both communities learned about one another.**

**When a national media hot story arose over another pastor Terry Jones' planned burning of Qu'rans CNN ran a piece that interviewed Steve Stone and his neighbouring Imam. A group of Muslim men seeing the news package in a Mosque in Kashmir responded in a remarkable way. They were so moved by Stone's welcome to the Islamic Centre that one of them went to the local Christian Church and cleaned it inside and out. They phoned Steve Stone to tell him that they would now be supporting this neighbouring Christian community in whatever way they could.**

This is not a diluting of Steve Stone's theology or his belief in

**Let us move on. Let us follow. Let us surprise the world. Let us live Jesus to our neighbours.**

Jesus. It is the very opposite. This gives the life, cross and resurrection of Christ a robust proof and positive witness. The radical way that Jesus laid down his life for the world is preached in our actions as the word is literally made flesh in our neighbourhoods, media centres and across the world!

Let us move on. Let us follow. Let us surprise the world. Let us live Jesus to our neighbours. ■



# Thanksgiving for the life of Margaret McIlhenny

***After a long period of illness with cancer, which Margaret bore with exemplary courage and faith, Margaret died peacefully at home surrounded by her family on 16<sup>th</sup> July.***



*The editor is grateful to David Twyble for permission to print this tribute which is based on his words at the Service of Thanksgiving. During the service there were also tributes by members of her family, the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland and by Tim Dunwoody, Director of MMS (Ireland).*

"Before I begin, I would just like to say a sincere word of thanks to Alan for granting me this very great privilege and honour of paying this tribute to our dear friend Margaret. Of course I quickly realised that this wasn't just his idea. Behind every good man there's an even better woman. So it is for Margaret, even though I feel far from adequate, that I am more than happy to share these memories in thankfulness for a wonderful life well spent.

I have had the privilege of knowing Margaret and Alan for many years. It was way back in 1970 that I came to live and work in Lisburn a joined in the worship and joyful fellowship of Seymour Street. It was there throughout the 70's, that I gradually got to know about and respect Margaret and Muriel as the missionary sisters of Daphne and Ruth Twinem - but of course, later on, Daphne and Ruth also served overseas.

Alan and Margaret met at one of the famous Methodist Summer Schools held in Mourne Grange, Kilkeel, and they were married in Seymour St in 1972. Shortly afterwards she flew off to the Seychelles with Alan on their first overseas appointment.

At some point in the 80's Alan & Margaret bought their first house. It was in Newtownards and so they joined Regent Street Methodist Church where they worshipped when home on furloughs. However it was only in the early 90's, when they had completed their work in Nepal, that they came

## **Margaret's role in the Mission Field**

**Both Alan and Margaret worked as teachers in the Seychelles from 1974 until 1980 when they returned with their daughter Lisa to Northern Ireland, and their son Stephen was born. In 1981 Alan and Margaret felt called to serve with the Methodist Missionary Society (Ireland) and after a period of training they were led to take up University teaching posts at Pokhara in Nepal.**

**Alan and Margaret were challenged by the lack of secondary education facilities for the children of missionaries and other expatriates in Nepal. So it was after completing a PhD Alan founded the Katmandu International Study Center in 1987 which he and Margaret ran until 1995 when they returned to Northern Ireland where Alan was appointed Irish Director for Tearfund.**

**Throughout their times overseas Margaret was always by Alan's side as his close confidant and partner in the work to which they felt called together. And this has continued in Alan's most recent project supported by MMS(Ireland) setting up the work of Open Schools Worldwide which was initiated in South Africa and now works in several developing nations.**

# Margaret McIlhenny

to live full time in Newtownards. In those days Movilla Abbey Church was an exciting new Methodist and C of I development on the outskirts of Newtownards and naturally, Margaret and Alan



got involved in this new joint venture. Margaret especially became a much loved member, actively involved in many aspects of the life and witness of the Methodist congregation.

It was not until 1996 that the news broke that Alan and Margaret had bought a house in Lisburn. In 96, Trinity Church was just two years old and I clearly remember thinking - wouldn't it be wonderful if Margaret and Alan would join Trinity - but perhaps naturally I assumed they would join Seymour St. But God had other plans, and so His call went out. I suspect our Circuit Superintendent at the time, Rev Ken Wilson, had something to do with that, and in response the McIlhenny's joined Trinity. And so began 18 years of faithful service in this place.

The contribution that Margaret has made to the life of Trinity over these 18 years, can only be described as immense.

## Margaret's contribution to Trinity

Some time ago, knowing that her years of service were soon to come to an end, Margaret made a list of some of the different aspects of her involvement in Trinity - the different roles and positions she had occupied. When Alan gave me the list the other evening, I noticed my name was at the top of the

page. I guess Margaret knew that my memory might well need a bit of jogging.

However Margaret's list which filled just over half a page also revealed something of her modesty - because before Alan had given it to me, I had asked my wife Ruth to help me by making a list of her memories of Margaret in Trinity. Ruth's list stretched to two full pages. I don't have time to mention everything on these lists this afternoon, but I do want to share just some of the highlights.

In the early years, one of the first ways Margaret became involved was in our Sunday School. Working alongside a dedicated team she taught the children faithfully week by week in two small mobile classrooms that we had placed at the back of our first building. Its hard to believe that at one time in those years we had over 100 children on our rolls - I'm not sure how many children could have been packed into the mobiles at any one time, but what is certain, Margaret was there in the midst of them.

In those years Margaret also took a leading role in organising a ladies group, which met monthly. I know they had many great evenings and activities but one of highlights of that group was the production of a Cookery Book. Along with a few of the ladies, Margaret organised the publication and sale of the book, successfully raising significant funds for the Oasis Babies Home in Johannesburg, a project identified by Alan.

One of Margaret's most influential and enduring roles has been her service on our Leaders Board, now our Church Council, and in particular two of our committees or task groups.

Firstly, there was our Mission Committee. Margaret was for many years a very active member and then latterly, until quite recently when illness overtook her, she was convener of our mission task group. Margaret's commitment, her enthusiasm and energy in this role were simply amazing. I confess that on many occasions on my way to a mission committee meeting, I have found myself wondering, what new initiative would Margaret have for us tonight.

## Margaret McIlhenny



And then her other great love was our Prayer Task Group. Prayer was very much at the centre of Margaret's life. She rarely would miss an opportunity for corporate prayer and when she took her turn to lead the prayers in worship, her words were chosen with so much care and consideration. And nothing gave her more satisfaction or exhilaration than issues like the establishment of our prayer room, or the organising of special prayer events, and the development of our prayer ministry.

I could go on - there's so much more that could be said about Margaret's involvement in our fellowship here. For example, I haven't mentioned her passion for making sure that Trinity was kept well informed about our Mission partners overseas, or that Tearfund, or the Container Ministry, or Fair Trade or lots of other worthy causes were well supported. I haven't mentioned her leadership for several years of English Classes for foreign nationals or more recently her service as a leader in our Toddlers Group and as a helper in our Tuesday evening hospitality outreach to parents of our G.B. girls.

### Margaret's greatest gift to Trinity

But as I thought about all of that, I came to realise that the greatest gift that Margaret has given to Trinity, and indeed to all who have known her down through the years, has not been her involvement with all these activities, but rather her personal example of Christian Living. Margaret was a real Christian, through and through, the genuine article. Margaret's deepest passion was for everyone, here and across the world to know God's love. She was a true missionary in every aspect of her life.

And so we give thanks to God this afternoon for Margaret

*- for her warm, gentle, loving personality, yet underlying that there was real strength and tenacity.*

*- for her concern for others and for the countless number of unseen acts of love and kindness - which so many in this church can testify to this afternoon.*

*- for her skill as a homemaker and as a loving parent and devoted wife*

*- for her gracious hospitality.*

*- for her courage often in the face of real danger, and there are many stories we could share here, but above all we have seen her courage in recent days as she faced up so bravely to her illness.*

And finally we thank God for her faith - her love for her Lord and her certainty that no matter what adversity she experienced, and Margaret did experience her share of life's darkest moments - but no matter what came her way, there was never any anger, for she knew, she knew just how much her Lord loved her.

When we think of Margaret, we remember her in the midst of her family, to whom she was absolutely devoted. Her love for them all, shone from her eyes, and how much she deeply appreciated their love for her down through the years, and especially in these recent days.

And lastly a verse to sum up all I've said from Proverbs chapter 3, where we are all exhorted -

"Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart and you will win favour and a good name in the sight of God and man".

Love and faithfulness - just sums our Margaret up, doesn't it.

Thanks be to God for Margaret McIlhenny. ■



# Mega Makers

## A report by Sian and Niamh Porter

At the end of June, a large team of members of Trinity Methodist Church took on the great task of leading the annual Holiday Bible Club, armed with glue, biscuits and footballs. The theme this year, Mega Makers, was centred around explaining how great God's love is.

The hall, decorated as an inventor's workshop, set the scene, with around one hundred children arriving on day one. They were welcomed by the hosts, the crazy inventor, Boffin and his assistant, Brainwave. They showed off the wonderful, new machine they had built, and set the theme for the day.

Next, some fun workout time with songs and dancing to help warm the team up for the rest of

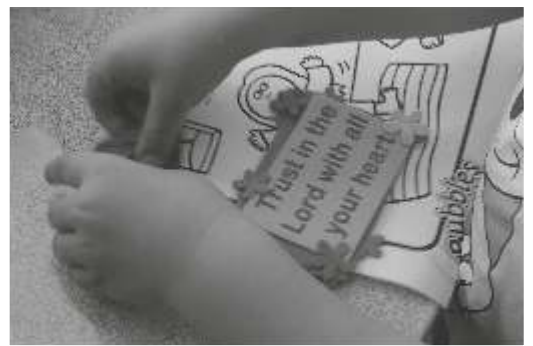
was brought to a close by a prayer thanking God for the various events at club and praying that all return safely the next night. Despite all the fun had, the main focus for the leaders was getting the message of God's amazing love across to the children, which we think we did in a fun yet honest way.

We're very happy that over one hundred children from the local community attended. Some, regular church goers, some with various connections to the church and some who had never heard The Good News before. We all came together to worship and learn more about the LORD. We pray that all those who attended may remember what they've learnt, and hope that we have helped them along the way to making the greatest commitment of their lives■



the programme, followed by the memory verse. Taken from Ephesians 3:18, this memory verse was teaching the children how wide, and long and high and deep Christ's love is for them. The Bible lesson was then brought to the children; varying from Peter walking on water to the good Samaritan. This was the main teaching session of the club and was thoroughly enjoyed by both child and leader alike.

After, the children got a chance to do craft reflecting the theme of the day, followed by some games including the infamous parachute before they received their juice and biscuits. The always competitive quiz followed, testing how well the children had listened to the lesson, with the teams consistently staying as boys versus girls. I believe the girls won almost every day! The club



# Conference 2014 - Be inspired - Be informed

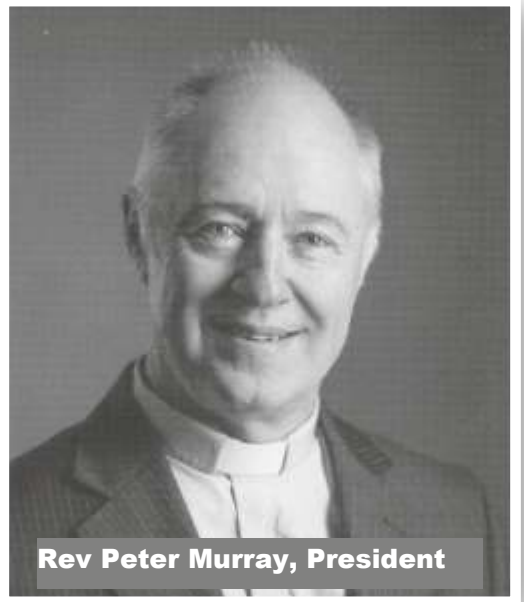
Roberta England

## Be inspired - Be informed

Those were the words on the screen which met us every morning of Conference, and they have stuck in my memory better than the President's motto of "Moving Out Together". The three central themes were WARM HEARTS, TOUGH HANDS and WET FEET. Conference was a very informative and inspiring event, and we were also blessed with fine weather, meaning we were able to leave behind the umbrellas, but not the cushions. Those pews in Leeson Park were a bit hard to tolerate.

## The People

It was, as always, sad to hear of those ministers who had died since last year, but great to hear the tributes paid by those who knew them well. Seven ministers have now retired, and four more were ordained. With a new President and confirmation of a new Secretary of Conference in July 2015, it would be easy to overlook two other significant changes this year. Dr Heather Morris moves to the Home Missions Department, and will bring her own enthusiasm and insight to that key position; Rev John Alderdice moves to the post she has vacated as Director of Ministry. In this role, he shares with others the responsibility for the new Board of Ministry.



Rev Peter Murray, President

## The Reports

All Conference delegates receive, in advance, the Blue Book, containing all reports from Departments, and they are expected to have read, if not fully digested, these before coming to Conference. Some are fairly routine, and are agreed without debate; if necessary, small modifications can be made on the floor of Conference.

**GOD'S  
OUR MISSION**  
WARM HEARTS TOUGH HANDS WET FEET  
Marks of our whole-life discipleship

I do just wonder if members of our congregations have the slightest idea of the sheer amount of time and effort put in by the Committees to promote the work of God in Ireland through these reports. This year, I would like to highlight two:

1. The new Board of Ministry will develop and oversee all lay and ministerial training for our church. The report is very detailed, very comprehensive, and aims at

developing improved provision through Edgehill and other colleges. Building on the solid foundations of past training and education, they are seeking to continue to "serve the present age".

2. The second report comes from the Faith and Order Committee. These 24 pages of closely packed print reflect a root and branch approach to examining the mission of our church. Every Methodist should have a copy of this, and read, and reread it. It is a tremendous piece of inspired writing, and does call for careful study by anyone who cares about their faith and God's mission. I give it 5 \*\*\*\*\* !

## The informal parts

There was the opportunity to discuss with others local situations and issues in our churches. There were also chances to meet old friends, make new ones, and chat about things other than the weather, the hardness of the pews and the price of Conference meals. We were informed that in Dublin some believed the red traffic lights to be optional, and pedestrian crossing only advisory. And then there was THE DVD shown on Saturday, featuring various delegates in very informal mood. I think it is still available on the www (see page 17 of The Light).

## CONFERENCE 2015 and onwards

If you are approached to be a delegate, please do not just assume that you will not enjoy it; it might surprise you. 2014 Conference was very inspiring, from the lead given each morning by Archbishop Richard Clarke right through to the evening sessions, and will be well worth attending. One final quotation from Conference:

"Methodism is not an institution, but a lay-centred contagious movement".

And a question put to us to be addressed by our people:

"Are you, the individual, following the Great Commission?" ■

## Trinity Zone Bun and Craft Sale

In June, Trinity Zone was a hive of activity as the older children worked hard to prepare for a Bun and Craft Sale. They made cards for all occasions and colourful foam bookmarks of The Lord's Prayer. On the day of the sale, they set up and manned stalls with crafts and lots of tasty treats, kindly made by children, parents and other members of the congregation. Thanks to the generosity of donations from the congregation, Trinity Zone raised £116.23 which will go towards this year's JMA project in Wesley Upper School in Belize. Trinity Zone would like to thank everyone who supported the sale. ■





## ***'The Methodist Church is Happy ' and that's official!***

Of all the Churches in Ireland only the Methodist Church could produce a video from its official annual meeting which simply says 'We're a happy people!' As well as the past and current Methodist Presidents the video stars several people well known to Seymour Street. You can view the lip-sync video on Youtube if you do a search for the Methodist Church in Ireland,



**Past and current Presidents**



**David McCrea**



**Donald Ker**



**Fiona McCrea**



**Mervyn Ewing**

## **From the registers..**

### ***Seymour Street***

#### **BAPTISMS**

Annie Marie Elizabeth, daughter of Ian and Louise Farr  
Sophie Grace, daughter of Neil and Crystal Anderson

#### **WEDDING**

Cathryn McCart and Christopher Patrick Rooney  
Michelle Hazel Pierce and Alastair Scott McCollum  
Jennie Carita Mörk and David James McCrea

#### **DEATH**

Mrs Elsie Fullerton, Park Manor Nursing Home, Dunmurry  
Mr John Bell, 28 East Down View

### ***Magheragall***

**BIRTH** - Peter Lewis Davis

### ***Trinity***

#### **DEATH**

Mrs Margaret McIlhenny, 11 Thornhill Park,  
Lisburn

#### **BAPTISM**

Daniel Cain Bushe, son of Damien Bushe &  
Margaret-Ann Thompson

#### **THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION**

Michael James & Zara Rebecca, son &  
daughter of Russell and Angela Dickson

#### ***Priesthill***

**DEATH** Mrs Edna Boyd

**MARRIAGE** Emma Murphy to David Bolton  
Graham Wright



On a lovely sunny morning in May, over 40 folk from Seymour Street took off to Wicklow for 3 great days of scenery, laughter and wonderful food.

Our trip included tours of the 'Battle of the Boyne Site', Orchard Homes & Garden, Powerscourt, Avoca, meeting of the Waters and much more. We stayed at the 'Courtyard Hotel in Leixlip where we enjoyed some wonderful bed, breakfast and evening meals.

The 'craic' was great and we enjoyed numerous times of fellowship and fun together (we even got a few Daniel O'Donnell numbers sung as well !!).

Watch this space – we might even go 'on tour' again!!.







## CASTLEWELLAN HOLIDAY WEEK 2014

More than half of the 400 or so attending CHW14 this year were young people and children, a witness to the excellent and innovative youth programme and the commitment of the team of more than 60 leaders. The adults were not disappointed either with excellent Bible studies on the Lord's Prayer by Dr Neil Hudson from the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity. The Circuit was represented on the youth team by Caitlyn McCreagh & Catherine Easson, and Colin Patterson is a stalwart of the Technical Team behind the week. Many families from across the Circuit were there for the week. ■



Photos kindly supplied by Janine Mayes

The theme of the REFRESH Holiday Club at Seymour Street was Superheros of the Bible, with talks by the Rev Mervyn Ewing, and local sporting heros added their experiences of taking part in big challenges in their lives. Over 100 children and young people came along and the numbers swelled to over 250 for the Parent's Night. ■