

Magheramason

Presbyterian Church

Newsletter March - April 2017

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105376)



The Most Important Meeting?

It is hard to believe that Easter is upon us again! Each year seems to pass ever more quickly. We thank God for recent good weather and His enduring faithfulness to us as a church here in Magheramason over the past year.

2016 and into 2017 has proved a busy period for our church with the highlight being our “Soul” Gospel Mission back in October. We thank the Lord for the many who attended and were greatly challenged and encouraged in the Faith under the dynamic preaching of Mr Trevor Matthews. Many lives were impacted by the Holy Spirit and some were saved and changed spiritually by God’s good Grace. The work continues from week to week and we are thankful to the Lord for his near presence with us as we meet each Sunday morning and evening for worship and the number of folk attending has been encouraging over the winter season. It has been especially encouraging to see increasing attendance at the evening service where the monthly “Cafe Church” has proved popular with families able to come along together and

EASTER WORSHIP

Sun. 9th April: Palm Sunday – Family Service 11.30 am.
Evening Service 6.30 pm.

Wed. 12th April: Billy Graham DVD – “The Value of a Soul”

Fri. 14th April: Good Friday Communion Service 8.00 p.m.
Rev George Moore

Sun. 16th April: Easter Sunday
6.30 a.m. Easter Dawn Service – Rev. Stuart McCrea
11.30 am. Easter Day Service – Rev. Graeme Orr
6.30 p.m. Easter Evening Service – Rev. Graeme Orr

relax over some good food, while enjoying some praise and hearing from various missionary speakers.

In January we began small groups to allow growth in fellowship with each other and develop positive prayer themes based on the needs of the church. These meet each Wednesday from 8 - 9.15 and if you have not been to date, a very warm welcome awaits you. There has been a good interest in these meetings and many have shared of the blessings received. Organisations continue with many enjoying BB and GB and officers are diligently preparing for upcoming displays! Mums and Tots has grown in number over the past few months with a local 'baby boom'! Also a Wednesday afternoon club that meets from 1.30 has proved popular with local people popping in for a cup of tea, a chat and the offer of interesting presentations on various topics from time to time. The Friday Night Youth Club continues to meet the needs of many young people as well as Youth fellowship who meet fortnightly on Sunday evenings. In all it is great to see our church as a hive of activity from week to week. You are invited to pop in at any time to witness what the Lord is doing as he brings many people through our open doors from day to day. With much activity you might ask, which meeting / organisation is most important?

The story is told of a committee that was assigned to tour a factory to judge its efficiency. They were shown the various departments where many large machines were making a great deal of noise. They were led to a much smaller and quieter room containing nothing but panels. One of them said, "This isn't very important, nothing is happening in here." The guide smiled, "Oh but you misunderstand sir, this is the most important room of all. This is where the power is distributed to the entire factory." The most important meeting? The meetings for prayer! These are vital and act as the 'oil in church machinery!' Without the Lord we can do nothing! Prayer helps us focus on God together as He leads us forward in all He wishes to do through us here for His glory. We appreciate those who pray for the ongoing work in Magheramason and encourage you to become more involved! What blessings flow into our lives both personally and corporately through prayer.

As we near Easter we are reminded that Jesus set us a great example as a man who prayed often. His life was primarily a life of prayer. He prayed earnestly before the cross in the garden of Gethsemane where great drops of blood mixed with sweat from his precious brow fell to the ground as He considered the magnitude of the cross and bearing the sins of a lost world. He prayed with compassion on the cross "Father forgive them for they know not what they do!" He prayed after the cross for an individual Peter, who denied him and was again restored into a close relationship with Jesus as he assured him of his everlasting love for him, despite past failure. Jesus is risen and in heaven He continues His ministry of prayer as "The great high priest who ever lives to make intercession for his people!" The Son of God prays for us still in 2017!

You matter to God! You matter to the church family here in Magheramason! Perhaps you know past failure and are burdened with much anxiety at this time? Perhaps it has been a while since you were at church? Failure is not final with God! The Love of Christ for sinners is deep and eternal in nature! You may pray and seek the Lord for help now, just where you are! The Church family is here to encourage you! Why not come along any time and especially as we give thanks for Jesus and the Cross at this beautiful time of Spring! As the sun has shone while these words were written I assure you a very warm welcome awaits at church any Sunday! May the Lord bless and keep you and your family safe as you reflect on the Risen Saviour Jesus over this Easter season.

Your Servant in the Gospel of Christ

Graeme Orr

PRAYER WEEK

Prayer meetings will be held each morning from Mon. 3rd - Friday 7th April from 7.00 am – 8.30 am.

If you are available and desire to seek God's blessing, for His Church and in your own life and the life of others this Easter time, please join with us in these special times of prayer.

The emphasis and focus of the prayer times will be on intercessory prayer for families in our congregation and local community and for those who are sick/ill/suffering or facing other difficulties or pressures.

If you have any specific prayer requests for yourself or family or friends please tell your District Elder.

Friday morning prayer times will continue 7.00 - 8.30 am until the end of May.

***“Lo Jesus meets us risen from the tomb;
Lovingly He greets us scatters fear and gloom;
Let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.***

***Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.”***

Edmond Budry

KIRK SESSION

Easter

As we approach Easter which is the most important event in the Christian calendar we would remind the congregation of the Special Services which have been planned leading up to Easter and over the Easter weekend, and encourage members and friends of the congregation to make a special effort to come along and share with us on these occasions. There will be a Family Service on Palm Sunday, a Service on Wednesday 12th April at 8.00pm. when we will watch the Billy Graham video on 'The Value of a Soul', a Service of Communion on Good Friday at 8.00 pm., a Dawn Service on Easter Sunday morning at 6.30 a.m., and Easter Sunday Services at 11.30 am. and 6.30 p.m. There will also be a week of morning prayer meetings from Monday 10th April - Friday 14th April from 7.00 – 8.30 am. These services and prayer times will help us to remember, and to focus our minds on Christ's redeeming sacrifice on the Cross at Calvary and His victorious resurrection on the third day. May God grant to each one of us the grace, strength and desire to join together in thankful praise and adoration of Him who suffered and died for our sins so that through faith we could have His righteousness to be acceptable in the presence of a Holy God.

Organisations

This is a busy time for our youth organisations as they bring their winter programmes to a close, with the Girls Brigade and Boys Brigade holding their annual Displays. The Kirk Session would again express their thanks to the Leaders of the Youth Club, the Captains and Officers of the Boys Brigade and Girls Brigade and Youth Fellowship for the work which they have put into these organisations during the year in the interest of our young people, and for the extra work and commitment at this time of the year. This is appreciated not only by the Kirk Session but also by all the young people who attend the organisations each week and by their parents.

Christmas Services

A Christmas family service was held in Magheramason on Sunday 18 December at 11.30 am. The service was led by the Rev. Graeme Orr, with all the boys and girls from the Primary and Junior Sunday School enthusiastically taking part in the telling of the birth of Jesus in a 'game of pass the parcel', and in song. Blair Killen, Andrew Mulholland, Ben Crumley and Benjamin Orr read a passage of scripture from Isaiah Chpt 9, and the boys and girls from the Sunday School sang a number of Christmas pieces including 'Away in a Manger' with the first verse being sung by Courtney McNeely, Kezzi Mulholland and Kate Dougherty. Reuben Orr, Annie Clarke, and Ryan Clarke read the well-known passage of scripture from John Chpt 1. Jonathan,

Benjamin and Reuben Orr played 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' on their flutes during the lifting of the offering. Iris Smyth lead the congregation in a Prayer of Intercession, and Paul Davis and Elma Mitchell read appropriate and well known passages of scripture. The Rev. Orr gave a very appropriate and interesting address on the 'Birth of Jesus' from the viewpoint of one of the shepherds.

A traditionally Candlelight Carol Service was held in the Church in the evening when the Church was tastefully and appropriately decorated with window displays. The Magheramason Church Choir led the congregation in singing the well-known and well-loved traditional Christmas carols, and Mr Trevor Matthews from the Faith Mission was the guest speaker. Bready Jubilee Primary School choir who were also present sang 'Jesus Christ is Born', 'What a Glorious Night', 'Christmas is a time of Love', 'Good News', 'Light of the World' and 'Silent Night' with the first verse being sung in French. The Scripture Lessons were read by Liz Kennedy, Richard McNeely, Melanie Darragh, Allison Faulkner and Mr Brian Gutherie the principal of Bready Primary School.

On behalf of the congregation the Rev Graeme Orr presented Mrs Lorna McNeely with a Bible to mark her retirement and in recognition of her faithful and dedicated service as an Elder in the congregation of Magheramason for 42 years.

Amy Gardiner sang a solo of 'O Holy Night' and Trevor Matthews who was the guest speaker gave a short appropriate and challenging address based on Isaiah Chpt 9 on the 'Names/Titles' given to Jesus. Following the service everyone enjoyed fellowship and supper in the Church Hall.

The Christmas Day service held in the Church at 10.30 a.m. on Christmas morning was conducted by the Rev. Graeme Orr when the congregation was joined by family friends and visitors home for Christmas. Amy Gardiner sang a rendition of 'Halleluiah' and the Rev Graeme Orr gave the address. The Christmas Offering for World Development realised £910 and we express our sincere thanks to all who generously contributed to this Appeal.

New Year's Eve

Members of the congregation and friends and families of all ages enjoyed an evening of fun, games, fellowship and praise in the Church Hall on Saturday 31 December. Children and adults enjoyed the lively and entertaining games. Everyone enjoyed a scrumptious supper, and engaged in a short time of praise and worship, before tuning in to BBC to hear Big Ben chiming the mid-night hour signalling the end of the old year and heralding in the new year 2017.

Mid-Week Fellowship

Since January the Mid-Week Fellowship has been meeting in smaller groups. After the communal opening those attending split into 4 groups of 6 or 7 persons and consider/discuss a passage of scripture and how it applies to ourselves as individuals and how it applies to our Church, and then engaging in a time of prayer. This informal format provides an opportunity for people to engage more easily in discussion and prayer and to support and encourage one another. We still have a combined group meeting on the first Wednesday of each month or other occasions if appropriate.

Prayer Week

We commenced the new year with a week of prayer from Monday 2 – Friday 6 January 2017 meeting from 7.00 am – 8.30 am. Approximately 20 people met faithfully each morning to pray for God's blessing on the Church, the Church organisations, the spread of the Gospel in the community and further afield, and to remember those facing difficult times of sickness/illness and bereavement. We continue to meet for prayer every Friday morning from 7.00 – 8.30 a.m.

Paul Darragh

The Kirk Session, would express their sincere appreciation to Paul Darragh who was employed as a part-time Community Outreach Worker for the past year. We thank Paul for his work and his enthusiasm and his visitation in the local community and for extending the hand of friendship and encouraging those with whom he had the opportunity to talk and to build relationships. We also thank Paul for his work with the youth in the Congregation and for running the Christianity Explored course and more recently the Life Explored course in Newbuildings Community Centre. We pray that God will continue to bless Paul and his wife Karen and their family and that He will open doors for Paul and continue to use him in His service of drawing people to Himself.

Easter Dawn Service

Preparations are under way for the Easter dawn service on Sunday 16th April. We plan to meet in the Magheramason Church car park at 6.30 am and then (weather permitting) proceed to the usual outdoor venue at the edge of the river Foyle. The guest speaker at the service will be the Rev. Stuart McCrea, minister of Donemana Presbyterian Church.. Breakfast will be served in the Church Hall after the service and we extend a warm welcome to everyone who would like to join us for this service on Easter Sunday morning.

Walter Hoy (Clerk of Session)

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Fri 7th April:** Annual Girls' Brigade Display at 7.30 p.m.
- Sun 9th April:** Palm Sunday – Family Service. 11.30 am.
Cafe Church 6.30pm. – Leanne Dunlop (Scripture Union)
- Wed 12th April:** Billy Graham My Hope DVD -
“The Value of a Soul” - 8.00 pm.
- Fri 14th April:** Good Friday Communion Service 8.00 p.m.
Rev George Moore
- Sun 16th April:** Easter Sunday
6.30 a.m. Easter Dawn Service – Rev Stuart McCrea
11.30 am. Easter Day Service – Graeme Orr
6.30 p.m. Evening Service – Rev. Graeme Orr
- Sat 29th April:** Derry and Donegal Presbytery YOUTH FUN DAY:
2pm – 5pm at Carrowmena Activity Centre. Loads of
activities; Team Building/ High Ropes/ Zip Line/Absailing
/and more. It promises to be a great day out for all the family.
- Sun 24th April:** Youth Services 11.30 am. speaker Nigel Kissock
6.30pm. ‘Love for Life’
- Wed 3rd May:** Pre-Communion Service at 8.00 p.m.
- Sun 7th May:** We celebrate the Lord's Supper.
Services 11.30 am. and 6.30 pm.
- Ladies Fit 4 Life Programme** running for 4 weeks during May on Tuesday
Evenings 9th, 16th & 23rd in Magheramason and 30th May
in Bready, at 7.30 pm. each night.
- Sat 20th May:** Derry and Donegal Presbytery Sunday School FUN DAY:
2pm – 5pm at Aura Letterkenny Leisure Complex. Loads of
activities/bumper balls/bungee run/mini golf / archery /
football /a nd more. It promises to be a great day out for all the
family. Meeting in Magheramason car-park at 1.00 pm.
- Sun 18th June:** Children's Day Services: 11.30 am. – Sam Shaw
6.30 pm. – Paul Darragh
- Mon 19th to Fri 23rd June:**
Five Day Bible Club - “Amazing Treasure” 6.30 – 8.30 pm.
for all children of Primary School age.
- Sun 25th June** Special Holiday Bible Club Service. 6.30 p.m.

BAPTISMS

“Suffer the little children to come unto me”.

- 12th February 2017 Jensen Thomas
 Infant son of Mr & Mrs Robert & Karen Killen
- 12th February 2017 Katie Louise,
 Infant daughter of Mr Mrs Philip & Mandy Killen

DEATHS

‘Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.’

- 1 December 2016 Mr William Johnston,
 Woodside Pk., Newbuildings.
- 8 February 2017 Lorraine Friel (nee Hamilton),
 Victoria Rd., Ballymagorry.

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS

Donations in Lieu of Flowers for **Lorraine Friel** (nee Hamilton)

Mrs Kathleen Hamilton.....433 Victoria Road Ballymagorry, Strabane
Frances & Ivan Henderson..... 6 Whin Road, Bready, Strabane
Desmond & Julie Hamilton.....19 Tamworth Crescent, Londonderry

IN MEMORY

Mr Sam McConnell,
lovingly remembered by Geoff & Wendy McConnell.

John & Evelyn Campbell
(Anniversary 11 Feb & 14 April 2016 respectively)
Fondly remembered and sadly missed by their loving family. Lynn
McMullan & family – Portstewart.

EASTER OFFERING

The Special Easter Offering this year is again in aid of the Building Repair Fund (General maintenance of Church property)

In the past year a disabled ramp was provided at the front of the Church and a disabled toilet in the Vestibule of the Church. A new sound system has also been installed in the Church Meeting House.

We would encourage members of the congregation to give generously to the Easter Appeal to help with the cost of the on-going maintenance work of our extensive property.

The Easter Offering last year realised £2,154.00, which was a very commendable amount.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS/FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Recent special offerings/events in the congregation of Magheramason realised the following amounts:

Christmas Appeal for World Development.....	£ 910.00
Prison Fellowship.....	£195.00
Ambassadors Football.....	£170.00
Mission to Romania (Wills Lynch).....	£270.00
Gospel Concert.....	£1,350.00

We express our thanks to everyone for their support and generous contributions

Missions Committee

The Missions Committee would thank Joan Turnbull for collecting, checking and boxing unused NHS medical supplies for hospitals in Malawi. From the beginning of 2017 Joan has shipped 24 boxes at a cost of £20 each funded by gifts to the Mission Fund. The volume of work is increasing and we do most sincerely appreciate all donations from our congregation for this project.

Elma Mitchell

Gospel Concert

Many Thanks to all who helped make our Gospel Concert such a success on Saturday 25 March. There was a good attendance and it was great to see the Church well-filled. It was a very enjoyable and uplifting evening of singing, worship and praise to almighty God. 'Thank you' to everyone who came along and supported this event in aid of the new sound system, and for the generous contributions which amounted to £1350.

We thank especially the singers: John Porter(Ballymoney), the Derramore Quartet (Limavady), Amy Gardiner (Magheramason), the Montgomery Family (Castledawson) and the Magheramason Church Choir. Also we are very much indebted to Stuart Smith and Leslie Hamilton for all their work with the sound system. Thanks also to those who supplied and served a very enjoyable supper.

Anyone wishing to make a contribution to the new sound system should pass their donation to Leslie Hamilton.

LADIES FIT FOR LIFE PROGRAMME

All women in the congregation and the wider community of Magheramason, Bready, Donagheady, Newbuildings and beyond are cordially invited to a series of four meetings organised for the month of May 2017.

Tue. 9 May	at 7.30 pm.	in Magheramason Church Hall
Tue. 16 May	at 7.30 pm.	in Magheramason Church Hall
Tue. 23 May	at 7.30 pm.	in Magheramason Church Hall
Tue. 30 May	at 7.30 pm.	in Bready Reformed Church Hall

Exercise training - Walking - Epilogue
Light supper each evening.

***“He died that we might be forgiven
He died to make us good
That we might go at last to Heaven
Saved by His precious blood”***

Cecil Frances Alexander

Bowling Club

Christmas over, it was time for the Magheramason Bowling Club to roll out the mats for their annual Pairs Bowling tournament which started on Tuesday 27 December 2016. Approximately 95 teams keenly competed for a place in the finals which were held on Monday 2 January 2017. The overall winners were James and Rachael Cochrane from Largy Bowling Club (Limavady) who beat Robert Allen and Craig Marshall from United Services Bowling Club (Limavady), in a closely contested final. Mrs Evelyn King, a senior member of Magheramason Bowling Club, presented the prizes and Mr. John Hamilton, club captain, thanked Evelyn for presenting the prizes, congratulated the winners, and thanked all who had taken part, and expressed sincere appreciation to Mr Alan Frazer of A & J Long (Tyres) for their support and generous sponsorship of the tournament, and also Raymond Hutchinson and Melody Leonard for organising the tournament. A presentation was also made to Mrs Catherine Kincaid for organising the teas during the tournament and throughout the year.

Raymond Hutchinson (Secretary)

EASTER (OUTDOOR) DAWN SERVICE

SUNDAY 16th April 2017

MEETING IN MAGHERAMASON CAR PARK AT 6.30 A.M.

SPEAKER: REV. STUART McCREA
(Minister of Donemana Presb. Church)

BREAKFAST IN CHURCH HALL AFTERWARDS

EVERYONE WELCOME

Retiring Offering for Foyle Search & Rescue.



Church Community Together

Invite you to Drop In at the Wednesday Cafe
Meets on Wednesday from 1.30 – 3.30 pm.
in Church Hall

“Drop in and Chat”- over a cup of Tea/Coffee and Eats
Something to suit everyone

Speakers will be along to give short talks on relevant
topics and to offer advice
with information and demonstrations etc.

We welcome you along and to be involved.
Meet old friends, and not so old, and welcome new.

Presbytery of Derry & Donegal

FAMILY FUN DAY

on

SATURDAY 20th MAY 2017 : 2.00 – 5.00 pm.

at

Aura Letterkenny Leisure Complex

Loads of Fun Activities including Bumper balls, bungee run,
mini golf, archery, football and loads more!!! Finishing off
with a trip to McDonalds! It was a brilliant day last year and
greatly enjoyed by all who attended! Open to ALL the
Family! Meeting in Magheramason car-park at 1.00 pm.

Promises to be a great day out for all the family

Congregational Committee Report

The main focus of the Committee is to ensure that our Church Property and finances are used to best advantage, and to this end several projects are ongoing or are being considered at present.

Our new Sound System in the Church is almost complete and we are enjoying the benefits of bringing our sound system up to date. New monitors will soon be erected in the church and this will bring our projection system up to date as well.

Consideration is also being given to the provision of a new metal shed at the Sexton's house, and to improving the insulation in the Main Hall. The congregation will be kept informed of the progress in the development of these projects.

Sam McPherson
(Congregational Secretary)

MID-WEEK MEETINGS JULY & AUGUST

Mid-week prayer meetings will continue in Magheramason during the summer months as follows:

Wed. 19 th July	8.00 pm.	Elma Mitchell
Wed. 26 th July	8.00 pm.	Rev. Graeme Orr
Wed. 2 nd August	8.00 pm.	Elizabeth Davis
Wed. 9 th August	9.00 pm.	Catherine Kincaid
Wed. 16 th August	8.00 pm.	A.N. Other
Wed. 30 th August	8.00 pm.	Walter Hoy

If you are not away on holiday and are available and would like prayer for yourself or someone you know please do come along to the prayer meetings or contact any of the above people.

MY HOPE 2017

Special Service on Wednesday 12th April at 8.00 pm.

Billy Graham Video/DVD

“The Value of a Soul”

Everyone including young people encouraged to attend

GIFT AID

An Appeal to all Tax Payers

As a UK taxpayer you can increase your contributions to the Church by 25% just by completing and signing the Gift Aid form overleaf.

As a taxpayer, for every £10 of taxable income which you earn, £2 (20%) is deducted by your employer as income tax, and you receive the other £8. So for every £8 you donate as a gift to the Church, the Church can claim back from the government the £2 tax as a refund.

Examples

Tax Payers Gift	Tax Refund Available	Total value of Gift
£8.00	£2.00	£10.00
£100.00	£25.00	£125.00
£400.00	£100.00	£500.00

All you have to do is complete and sign the form overleaf, and put it on the Offering Plate, or give it to Roger McCorkell or Jean Walker, or someone who will pass it on to them.

If your circumstances change and you stop paying income tax (e.g. unemployment, retirement etc.), just tell us and we will not make a claim for a tax refund.

The Church would really encourage everyone who pays income tax to use Gift Aid as a way of maximising their contributions to the Church.

Roger McCorkell (Gift Aid Secretary)
Magheramason Presbyterian Church

Gift Aid Declaration

I, _____ (full name)

of _____

_____ (Post code) (correct postcode is essential)

ask that Magheramason Presbyterian Church benefits through the GIFT AID Scheme on all donations I make.

Signed: _____ Date _____

Gift Aid Notes

1. For the scheme to work all donations must be identifiable as coming from you, either through using the FWO or other gift envelopes, a cheque or standing order. Loose cash placed in the collection plate cannot be identified as coming from you and cannot be included in Gift Aid
2. You must pay sufficient tax in the UK to cover the amount the church will reclaim for your donation. In 2016/2017 this is 25p for every £1 donated.
3. You are not committed to any particular level of donation. Tax is reclaimed on whatever your actual donations are each year.
4. You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the Treasurer
5. Please notify the Treasurer of any change in your name or address.
6. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return

Gift Aid and your signature can ensure cash back to the church from tax you have already paid. Please complete the form above (if you have not already completed a declaration in favour of the church) so that 25 p is added to every £1 you donate at no additional cost to yourself.

Please return the completed form to the Treasurer, Colin Kennedy, or the Gift Aid Secretary, Roger McCorkell, or Jean Walker.

A HYMN FOR EASTER

Man of Sorrows! wondrous Name
For the Son of God, who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim!
Alleluia! what a Saviour!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned he stood,
Sealed my pardon with his blood:
Alleluia! what a Saviour!

Guilty, vile, and helpless we;
Spotless Lamb of God was he:
Full atonement, - can it be?
Alleluia! what a Saviour!

Lifted up was he to die,
'It is finished' was his cry;
Now in heaven exalted high:
Alleluia! what a Saviour!

When he comes, our glorious King,
All his ransomed home to bring,
Then anew this song we'll sing:
Alleluia! what a Saviour!

Phillip Bliss, 1838-76

Magheramason Presbyterian Church

*All children of primary school age in the congregation and
local community are invited to a*

5 - DAY BIBLE CLUB

Mon. 19 - Fri. 23 June 2017

in

Magheramason Church Hall

6.30 p.m. – 8.30 p.m. each evening.