

# Magheramason Presbyterian Church Newsletter December 2018

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105376)



## INDESTRUCTIBLE JOY!

My favourite Christmas Carol is Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Glory to the New Born King! This famous carol was written by Charles Wesley many years ago, full of Biblical truth centring on the miraculous coming of Jesus into this world. In his daily devotional readings for advent John Piper describes the birth of Christ as the 'Dawning of Indestructible Joy.' Another famous Carol written by Isaac Watts underlines this fact "Joy to the World the Lord is come, let earth receive her King!" The question I ask is, do you know this JOY personally?

The Angels sang on the night that Christ was born because God the everlasting Father had come to extend his arms of redeeming grace to all who would give their hearts to him. The Eternal Lord of all Glory - Jesus came in human flesh to invade

## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

### Sunday 23rd December 2018

**11.30 a.m. :** Christmas Family Service. Boys and Girls from Sunday School will be taking part in this special Christmas Service

**6.30 p.m. :** 'Candlelight' Community Carol Service. Special items of Christmas Praise by the Church Choir and we will also be joined by Bready Jubilee Primary School Choir. Supper after the service.

### Tuesday 25th December 2018

**10.30 a.m. :** Christmas Day Service - Children are welcome to bring along toys/gifts received as we celebrate the birth of Christ together.

this sinful broken world with his wisdom, power, glory and grace and to offer Joy to all who would receive him as Saviour and Lord. No wonder the message of the angel to humble shepherds as recorded by Doctor Luke in his gospel Chapter 2 was JOY! “Fear not for behold I bring you good news of great Joy!” Not small joy. Not modest joy. But “great Joy!”

In the business of the Christmas season it is easy for us to loose sight of this offer of true Joy. December is a busy month. Christmas trees, lights, presents, school plays, family and friends to visit, festive parties and dinners, the list is endless! In all the hustle and bustle we can end up exhausted, stressed and feeling empty.

During December Magheramason Church has a number of opportunities for you to come along with your family and friends to reflect on this dawning of Indestructible Joy. On Sunday mornings we will be considering the wonder of the Christmas Story using Luke’s account in his gospel which is Good News! There will be opportunity through the month to thank and praise God together using familiar and some modern Christmas Carols as we look forward to the Choir leading us. The Community Carols by Candlelight service on Sunday evening 23rd December is another opportunity for you to come and prepare your hearts to consider this Joy of Jesus coming for you!

Christmas will come and go past all too soon. Some toys received by wide eyed children will be broken within a day or two of use. Initial excitement and joy may soon turn to tears for some! The Joy that God offers in Jesus is truly Indestructible. It will last not just for Christmas, but into 2019 and indeed through all of the years of life God gives to us, even through tough times of suffering. Ultimately This Joy will see all believers through the pain of death for it comes with the promise of Eternal Joy in Heaven where all of God’s people will join with the angels forever praising the Saviour of the World - Jesus! May we all prepare room in our hearts to be awe struck with this Joy of knowing Jesus in a new and vibrant way this Christmas.

I want to wish all who belong to our Church Family a Happy Christmas and a Spiritually Prosperous New Year as we celebrate the Dawning of Indestructible Joy together!

Your servant in the gospel

Graeme Orr

## KIRK SESSION

Over the past few months we have been very busy in the Congregation as our Organisations began their programme of activities for another year. A special 'Back to School' Family Service was held on Sunday morning 8<sup>th</sup> September. On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October our Harvest Thanksgiving Services were led by the Rev. Graeme Orr in the morning and by the Rev. Caldwell Darragh in the evening, with the Church Choir providing special Harvest Praise at both Services. The Church was beautifully decorated by the ladies and the various organisations with tasteful displays of flowers, fruit and produce, to remind us of God's great goodness and the bountiful blessings He has bestowed upon us.

We celebrated the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October and we were delighted to welcome the Rev. Daniel Grimwade to preach God's word to us at the morning Service. Daniel is the Pastor of Dewsbury Evangelical Church in West Yorkshire and is of course the son-in-law of our own Mr Billy Crumley. Daniel brought us a most challenging address and we were totally blessed by his message. Our Act of Remembrance on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November was particularly poignant this year as it marked 100 years since the ending of World War One. The wreath was laid at the War Memorial by Mr John Kincaid and the Offering in aid of the Earl Haig Fund was taken up by Colin Kennedy, John Kincaid, Cyril Sommerville, John Hamilton, Liz Kennedy, Ethel McClintock, Ruth Roulston and David Thompson.

### **Data Protection**

The Kirk Session is delighted to confirm that Mrs Helen Walker has agreed to be the Data Protection Lead for the Congregation, and I would ask that all Organisation Leaders give their full co-operation and assistance when required.

### **Sally Thompson in Kenya**

At the time of writing Sally Thompson is coming to the end of her time with KindFund in Kenya. We pray that she and the others on the team will have known God's blessing as they carried out their Mission Work and we trust that they will have a safe journey home.

### **Prayer Times**

The Kirk Session has agreed to start the New Year with three mornings of Prayer times on Wed 2<sup>nd</sup>, Thrs 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Fri 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019. We encourage the Congregation to greet the New Year in prayer and seek God's blessing on our own lives, the lives of others and the life of the Church.

## Condolences

The Minister, Kirk Session and Congregation express their sincere condolences to Mrs Frances Henderson on the death of her mother Mrs Kathleen Hamilton and trust that she and her family will know God's comfort and presence at this difficult time. We also offer our sincere sympathy to Catherine and John Kincaid and their family on the death of Catherine's brother Mr Wallace Robb, and all members of the congregation who have recently been bereaved through the loss of a loved one.

## Christmas Greetings

The Kirk Session would wish each member of the congregation a Happy, Blessed and Peaceful Christmas and trust that we will all remember the real meaning of Christmas and give grateful thanks for the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

*Colin Kennedy (Clerk of Session)*

## NEW YEAR PRAYER TIMES

Prayer meetings will be held from  
**Wed. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Fri. 4<sup>th</sup> Jan.2019**  
meeting each morning at **7.00 a.m. – 8.30 a.m.**  
and then weekly  
**every Friday morning 7.00 -8.30 a.m.**

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

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

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

Overseas Missionary Fellowship (O.M.F.)	£ 347.00
European Missionary Fellowship (E.M.F)	£ 83.50
Christian Institute	£ 400.00
Harvest Offering	£ 3,013.50
RBL Poppy Appeal (Remembrance Day)	£ 211.40
Moderator's Appeal for Indonesia	£ 872.60

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

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. 2018 - 7.00 p.m.** Magheramason Community Association: Christmas Tree Switch On and Carol Singing followed by tea in Church Hall.
- Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2018 - 10.00 – 12.00** BB Coffee Morning in Church Hall
- Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2018** BB Battalion Christmas Celebration Service at 3.30 pm. In Magheramason Church. All boys are expected to be in attendance at this Special Service. Friends and family welcome
- Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2018** Cafe Church at 6.30 p.m. with Gareth Hayes from HOPE BUS Ministry in Londonderry will be along to share about their work.
- Sun. 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. 2018 - 11.30 a.m.** Christmas Family Service. Boys and Girls from the Sunday School will be taking part.
- 6.30 p.m.** ‘Candlelight’ Carol Service followed by supper with Christmas Praise by the Church Choir and Bready Jubilee P.S. Choir.
- Tue. 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2018 - 10.30 a.m.** Christmas Day Service of Worship (boys and girls are invited to bring a gift received to Church as we celebrate the birth of Christ together)
- Sun. 30<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2018 11.30 a.m.** Praise Service for 2018 and looking forward to New Year 2019.
- Mon 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 2018** New Year’s Eve Family Party from 8.00pm to late in the Church Hall. A time for all the family and friends to come along and enjoy a night of fun, games and good food, as we see out the Old Year and seek God’s Blessing into 2019.
- Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019 -11.30 a.m.** Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper with the Rev. Eddie Kirk.

**N.B. There will be no Sunday School or Evening Service on Sun. 30 December 2018.**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>Wed. 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan. – Fri. 4<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019</b>	<b>Morning Prayer Times 7.00 – 8.30 a.m each morning.</b>
<b>Wed. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019 7.30pm</b>	Magheramason Bowling Tournament
<b>Mon. 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019 - 7.30 p.m.</b>	Magheramason Bowling Tournament
<b>Fri. 4<sup>th</sup> Jan - Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019</b>	Londonderry Young Peoples Convention Lisneal College (Crescent link) 8.00p.m. Speaker: the Rev. Darran McCorrison.

**Sunday Evening 13th January 2019 at 6.30PM -  
Launch of the Community Bible Reading Experience!**  
*A REVOLUTIONARY WAY TO GATHER TOGETHER AND READ  
THE BIBLE, ENCOURAGING REGULAR, MEANINGFUL,  
ENGAGEMENT WITH GOD'S WORD!*

<b>Sun. 28<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019 - 7.30 p.m.</b>	Presbytery RIPPLE EFFECT: Youth Coffee Bar for all teenagers at the Exodus Centre, Strand Road.
<b>Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2019 - 11.30 a.m.</b>	Presbyterian Women's Service, with Guest Speaker.
<b>Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> Mar. 2019- 9.00 a.m.</b>	OMF Breakfast – White Horse Hotel
<b>Friday 5th April 2019 8.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Gospel Concert</b> with Mr John Porter, the Montgomery Family and Amy Gardiner. All proceeds received will go towards New Church Organ Dedication.

## CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

As we approach the festive period the Congregational Committee would take this opportunity of wishing all members of Magheramason Church a Happy and Holy Christmas.

The Committee would like to thank all of those who have helped the Church throughout the year, and especially all members who have contributed to the Church's finances throughout the year.

The new Freewill Offering Envelopes will soon be available and the Committee would encourage members to contribute as generously as possible to ensure that our suite of buildings is kept in good repair throughout 2019.

Sam McPherson (Congregational Secretary)

## COMMUNITY BIBLE READING EXPERIENCE (C.B.E.)

**Beginning**

**Sunday Evening 13th January 2019 at 6.30PM**

*A REVOLUTIONARY WAY TO ENCOURAGE THE READING OF  
THE BIBLE STORY TOGETHER AS A CHURCH FAMILY AND  
COMMUNITY. ENCOURAGING REGULAR, MEANINGFUL,  
ENGAGEMENT WITH GOD'S WORD!*

## DEATHS

*"Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted."*

16 October 2018 Mrs Kathleen Hamilton, Victoria Rd. Ballymagorry.

## IN LIEU OF CHRISTMAS CARDS (Organ Fund)

*Greetings and Best Wishes for Christmas and New Year 2019.  
To all our Family and Friends  
From: Billy & May Doherty*

## Weekly Freewill Offering Contributions

### REMINDER/APPEAL

The Church Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for their regular weekly contributions and for their support in the past, especially when responding to appeals for an increase in contributions, to ensure that the congregation was able to meet its financial commitments. This has indeed been very much appreciated. The Weekly Freewill Offering is the means by which the regular ongoing work of the congregation is financed.

However the Church's financial needs will just be as great in the year 2019, and so we would again appeal for each and every member **to endeavour to maintain (and increase if possible) their Weekly Freewill Offering contributions, and to remember that your contributions are important and vital to the work of the Church.** It is only through the weekly offerings that the work of the Church can continue, unhindered by lack of finance.

We also appeal to all non-contributing members that the Church needs your support and to seriously consider making a weekly contribution to your Church.

## Mission Boxes

Thanks to all who took and filled the PW Mission Boxes; the amount collected this year was £1,720.00, a very commendable amount. Spare Mission Boxes are available and anyone who would like one, please contact Pamela Davis or Helen Walker

**P.W. Service on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 11.30 a.m.**

Guest Speaker  
Helen Walker (Secretary)

Presbyterian   
Women

## ***The Prophecy of the Birth of Jesus***

*For to us a child is born,  
To us a son is given,  
And the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and peace  
There will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and for ever.  
The zeal of the Lord Almighty  
will accomplish this.*

*Isaiah 9:6-7*

## ***The Birth of Jesus Announced to the Shepherds***

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests."*

*Luke 2: 8-14*

## IN LIEU OF FLOWERS

### In Memory of Mrs Kathleen Hamilton (Organ Fund)

Desmond, June & Lewis Hamilton  
Eddie & Dorothy Campbell  
Dermot Walker, Madden & Co.  
Witherow & Roberta Shannon  
Kathleen Doherty  
Douglas & Caroline Caldwell  
Smith family  
Margo Heffron & family  
Ivan & Frances Henderson & Family  
Brenda Mullen  
Magheramason P.W.  
Liam & Maureen Devine  
Doris Thompson  
Billy & May Doherty  
Andy & Jean Nelson  
The Lowry Family  
Pauline Doherty  
Sheena McClure  
Lorna McNeely  
Audrey Robinson  
Karl & Sylvia Rankin  
Lyla Robb  
Christie Family  
Dorothy Harkness  
From Kathleen's Carers as follows:  
Elizabeth Given, Diane James,  
Dorothy Hamilton, Kathleen Wallace,  
Lavinia Ross, Isobel McCauley, Carol Hayward.

### In Loving Memory of Mrs Hester (Hessie) Doherty, Died 15th July 2018

Bready Cricket Club  
Mary Doherty

## IN MEMORY

### In Loving Memory of late Mr Billy Johnston, Died 1st December 2016

Sadly missed by his wife Bette and Family.  
Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts.

### Mr Jim Charles Robb – Died 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012

In Loving Memory of Mr Jim Robb  
Always remembered by his wife Margaret, daughters Heather, Jennifer, Joanne,  
Lynda and their families.

In Loving Memory of Jim Robb, a dearly Loved Brother,  
Brother in Law and Uncle  
Remembered always by Catherine, John & family.

In Loving Memory of Jim Robb, a dearly Loved Brother,  
Brother in Law and Uncle  
Remembered always by Sharon, Mark & family.

### *Magheramason PC Walking Club*

*If you enjoy a good walk and are free to join us  
We meet at 9.30am each Tuesday in the church car park.  
Our destinations vary but generally within a thirty minute drive.  
The walks last between ninety minutes to two hours.  
You choose your walking pace and how far you want to go.  
We then meet up for coffee afterwards in a local coffee shop for a time of fellowship.  
All Welcome*

### *Magheramason Wednesday Afternoon Club*

*Invites you to drop in at the church hall  
Each Wednesday from 1.00 - 3.00pm  
“Drop in and Chat” over a cup of Tea / Coffee & Eats.  
Take part in the fun  
Games, Table tennis, Bowls and good fellowship.  
Come along and join in if you are free*

## **Next Time It Will Be Different**

The First Time Jesus Came  
He came veiled in the form of a child.  
A star marked His arrival.  
Wise men brought Him gifts.  
There was no room for Him.  
Only a few attended His arrival.  
The Next Time Jesus Comes  
He will be recognized by all.  
Heaven will be lit by His glory.  
He will bring rewards for His own.  
The world won't be able to contain His glory.  
Every eye shall see Him.  
He will come as Sovereign King and Lord of all.  
*- John F. MacArthur Jr.*

### **Londonderry Young Peoples Convention**

**On Fri. 4 Jan. - Sun. 6 Jan. 2019**  
**At 8.00 p.m. each evening (Prayer meeting 7.30 p.m.)**  
**In Lisneal College - Crescent Link**

**Speaker: Rev. Darran McCorrison**

**Fri. - Sun. 9.20 -10.30 p.m. : The Source**  
**(12 years of age +) - Lisneal**

**Ladies Coffee Morning : Sat. 5 Jan. 10.30 a.m.**  
**White Horse Hotel**

### **SNIF - Sunday Night in Fellowship**

Continues fortnightly in the Upper Room of Church Hall for all young people of secondary school age. 7.30 – 9.00 pm

Megan, Amy and Elaine would really love to see more young people coming along for good fun, good food and good fellowship and some Biblical reflections.