

Magheramason Presbyterian Church Newsletter April 2019

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105376)



Why Do Christians Not Go to Church?

This important question was posed by Rev Gareth Stewart in an article published recently in the Presbyterian Herald. In it he identifies a worrying tendency among Christian people towards a lack of commitment to the discipline of being an active, participating member of a local congregation. In a study of the early church (Acts 2:42) we find such an attitude was inconceivable. There we read of a relatively small, but whole hearted people that were devoted to congregational membership, meeting as often as they could together to receive apostolic teaching and enjoy fellowship through the breaking of bread (communion) and prayer. This was their spiritual life blood in seeking to build each other up in the Faith and to be effective in reaching out to others with the good news of Jesus Christ's death and glorious resurrection and the hope we only find through a living relationship with Him.

EASTER WORSHIP

Sunday 14th April: Palm Sunday

Family Service - 11.30 am.

Evening Service - 6.30 pm.

Friday 19th April: Good Friday

Service of Worship - 8.00 p.m. – Rev. Alistair McNeely

Sunday 21st April: Easter Sunday

6.30 a.m. Easter Dawn Service – Rev. Dr. Rob Craig

11.30 am. Easter Day Service – Rev. Graeme Orr

6.30 p.m. Easter Evening Service – Rev. Martin McNeely

In 2019 the Spiritual needs of our nation are obvious. There is much uncertainty over Brexit, knife crime among a younger generation is reaching epidemic proportions and tragically many are living and dying without hope. If more people attended church where they were confronted with the root problem of their sin and encouraged to seek the solution of forgiveness through the blood of Christ, surely this would impact our nation dramatically. But what about the need for Christians to be an example to their needy neighbours in attending church on a Sunday? Why do many Christians decide not to attend church regularly?

Busyness: It seems people are busier than ever before. The rhythm of working six days a week and resting on the first day of the week is a thing of the past for a great many people. Yet I know of no one who is fit and able that could not commit at least one hour per week to be present at church to worship Almighty God. I am convinced that this discipline is positive for all people and would help reduce the evident stress many complain of. It is good to turn our minds away from ourselves and our own needs and to turn our hearts and minds towards God and the teaching of His Holy Word in the Bible to help us in our time of need!

Family: For many families Sunday is the only day of the week they have to spend together and many opt for an outing to the cinema, the shops, the sports club etc instead of beginning the week together in divine worship. It is said “The family that prays together, stays together.” We should remember the 4th commandment and seek to lead our families to remember the Sabbath day and keep this one day in seven Holy or separate and most importantly as a day for the worship of God together.

For the first Christians to be part of a local congregation could be a very dangerous thing. The risk of persecution and opposition was a daily reality for many. Yet, there was priority and devotion to local congregational life. Perhaps things are too easy for Christians today and church membership is seen as a club rather than an identity. When we embrace a Christian club we come when we can, we give what costs nothing and we have a chaplain to tend to our needs. The option to come to worship or not each Sunday may be viewed as a preference for some, but it is a priority to God!

As we approach Easter and consider the great cost to God in sending his Son Jesus to die on the cross of Calvary, may we wholeheartedly decide to take

up His cross daily in the service of Christ. As Hebrews 10.25 exhorts us, in the light of the sacrifice of Christ's blood to cleanse us from all sin, may we not give up meeting for worship together, especially as we near the time of Christ's soon return as Judge of all the world, when each one of us will give an account of how faithfully we have followed and obeyed Christ! At a very basic level this should be evidenced in our determination to let nothing hinder us in coming along to the house of God every Sunday. In making this a priority on our lives and the lives of our children surely we will be inspired, encouraged and empowered to maintain a cutting edge in our faith and witness for Jesus in 2019, that will deeply and positively impact our local communities for Christ.

If you have not been in the habit of attending church I would encourage you to use the Easter services as a kick start in coming back to worship in Magheramason and to evidence what Almighty God is doing among us for your good and His greater glory! A warm and sincere welcome awaits you!

Your servant in the Gospel
Rev Graeme Orr

Magheramason Presbyterian Church

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

5 - DAY BIBLE CLUB

Mon. 17 - Fri. 21 June 2019

In

Magheramason Church Hall

6.30 p.m. – 8.30 p.m. Each evening.

Kirk Session

Easter

The Kirk Session would encourage all members of the Congregation to join with us to celebrate our Special Easter Services. There will be a Good Friday Service at 8.00 pm. Which will be led by the Rev. Alistair McNeely and our Easter Sunday Evening Service will be led by the Rev. Martin McNeely. Please plan to support them as they return to our pulpit to lead us in praise and adoration of our Saviour and remind us of His suffering and sacrifice on the Cross and His glorious resurrection on the third day.

Our usual Easter Dawn Service at the Riverbank at 6.30 am. will be led by the Very Rev. Dr. Rob Craig and breakfast will be provided in the Church Hall at the conclusion of the Service.

Organisations

Our Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade companies are currently preparing for their Annual Displays and the Kirk Session would like to express our thanks to the Captains, officers and leaders of both Companies for all the work and commitment they put in to serving the interests of our young people. We particularly acknowledge Mr David Thompson who is stepping down from the B.B. after this year's Display. David has given exemplary service to the Magheramason Company for some 40 years and we sincerely wish him God's richest blessing for the future.

Paul & Elizabeth Davis

Paul and Elizabeth Davis are planning to return to Kenya in April for approximately 5 months. We trust that their preparations are well under way and we pray that they will know God's blessing as they work with Stephen and Angelina Cowan in the mission field with the Samburu people in Kenya. We trust Paul and Elizabeth, the Cowans and indeed the local people in Kenya will know the Lord's presence throughout this extended time away.

Community Bible Experience

The Community Bible Experience was launched in January and we give thanks to God for the approximately 60 people who meet each Sunday evening to discuss the weekly readings. This format is more like a Book Club and everyone has enjoyed this new experience of reading God's Word.

Gospel Concert

A Gospel Concert has been planned for Friday 5th April at 8.00pm., featuring the Montgomery Family, John Porter, Amy Gardiner and the Church Choir. Everyone

is invited to come along and to bring a friend to this concert. The offering will be in aid of the Church Organ Fund.

Condolences

The Minister Kirk, Session and congregation express their sincere sympathy to Mrs May McCrea on the death of her husband Noel. Also to Rosemary, William, Pamela and Graham and their families on the death of their father. A tribute to Noel is published elsewhere in this Newsletter.

We also offer sincere condolences to Mr Trevor Kee on the death of his father Lexie and pray God's comforting presence on Trevor, Geraldine, Diana and Charlene and their families.

New Elders

We have just completed the process for electing new Elders and this has resulted in two members of the congregation accepting this position. To Gareth Kirk and Leslie Hamilton we wish God's blessing as they embark on this latest stage of their Spiritual journey.

Colin Kennedy (Clerk of Session)

Special Offerings / Fundraising Events

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

Christmas Appeal for World Development	£ 1073.25
'Adopt a Child' Ministry in Albania	£356.00
Romanian Ministries	£ 400.00

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

**“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

Congregational Committee Report

As Easter approaches the Committee continue to be involved in ensuring the Church property is kept in good repair and where necessary improvements made to the Church estate.

To this end some painting in the Vestibule of the Church and the Manse will be completed over the summer and consideration will be given to insulating the roof space in the Main Hall and the provision of a fixed projector in the Wallace Room.

A new pulpit fall to replace the old pulpit fall will be in place soon in memory of Mrs Margaret Thompson.

Consideration will also be given to purchasing a dehumidifier for the Church to combat the condensation that contributes to the discolouration of the painted walls. The two windows on the Strabane side of the Church are in need of major work and it is anticipated that these will be repaired over the summer period.

Members are reminded of the Annual General Meeting of the congregation which will take place in the Minor Hall on Wednesday 17th April 2019 at 8.00 pm. If you are free on this date please plan to attend where you will be made very welcome.

Sam McPherson
(Congregational Secretary)

EASTER OFFERING

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

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 £2,050, which was a very commendable amount.

Dates to Remember

- Fri 5th April: **Gospel Praise Night at 8.00 pm.**
- Frid 12th April: **Annual GB Display at 7.30 pm.**
- Sun 14th April: **Palm Sunday Family Service at 11.30 am.** The Boys and Girls from Sunday Explorers will be taking part in this Special Service.
- Wed 17th April: **Annual General Meeting of Congregation at 8.00 pm.** with Supper served at close of meeting.
Everyone Welcome!
- Fri 19th April: **Good Friday Service 8.00 p.m. - Rev Alistair McNeely**
- Sun 21st April: **Easter Sunday**
6.30 a.m. Easter Dawn Service – Very Rev. Dr. Rob Craig
11.30 am. Easter Day Service – Rev. Graeme Orr
6.30 p.m. Evening Service – Rev. Martin McNeely
- Wed 1st May: **Pre-Communion Service at 8.00 p.m.**
- Sun 5th May: We celebrate the **Lord's Supper.**
Services 11.30 am. and 6.30 pm.
- Wed 8th May: 8.00 pm. Visiting speakers from Kenya representing Kindfund.
- Ladies Fit 4 Life Programme** running for 3 weeks during May on Tuesday Evenings 14th and 21st in Magheramason Church Hall and 28th May in Bready R.P Hall at 7.30 pm. each night.
All Ladies Welcome to join others for a walk, followed by an inspiring talk and healthy supper!
- Mon 17th
to Fri 21st June: **Five Day Bible Club** 6.30 – 8.30 pm.
for all children of Primary School age.
- Sunday 23rd June **Annual Children's Day Services at 11.30am. And 6.30pm.** Boys and girls from Sunday Explorers will be sharing in these special services and prizes will be distributed.

Ambassadors in Football Camp for Boys and Girls of Primary and Secondary School age at the MUGA Pitch, Newbuildings Football Club. Tuesday 20th - Friday 23rd August 1.30 - 4.30 each day. This Camp will be led by international coaches from Germany and there will be 2 separate camps for boys and girls of Primary Age (P5 - P7) and Secondary Age (Y8 - Y12).

Fri 20th Sept: **Community/Congregational Meal**
at 7.30pm. in Church Hall

Sun. 13th **Harvest Gospel Mission with the Rev Eddie Kirk.**
Please pray for this special event in the life of our church.

Mr William Noel McCrea

Mr Noel McCrea of 31 Dunnalong Road, Magheramason passed away peacefully on Sunday 25th February 2019. His funeral took place from Magheramason Presbyterian Church on Wednesday 28th February.

Noel was born and raised in Magheramason Church, where he became a member in his younger years. He was ordained as a ruling Elder in the congregation on the 17th November 1974 and served faithfully for many years while in good health.

Noel was a well known local farmer and was a very practical man. He was convenor of the Property Committee for many years, where he served the church in the organisation of and often times completion of very many practical jobs that had to be attended to in both the Church and the Manse. This work in the past was greatly appreciated by the congregation of Magheramason who benefitted from Noel's 'get up and do it' attitude and example.

Noel was a hard working family man. In recent years with age and infirmity his health deteriorated, although he retained a quick wit right into his last days. He was granted 91 years on this earth; he leaves behind his wife May and a marriage that lasted some 58 years. Also his four children Rosemary, William, Pamela and Graham, his brother Tom and his 8 beloved grandchildren. Our thoughts and prayers are with his dear wife and family in this their time of loss as we give thanks to God for Noel's life and witness over many years of service in Magheramason.

In Lieu of Flowers

Donation in Lieu of Flowers in memory of Mr William Noel McCrea, February 24, 2019

Mrs May McCrea
Graham & Janice McCrea & family
Rosemary McCrea

William, Jacqueline, Jennifer & Ross McCrea

Pamela McCrea & Family

Mr & Mrs A Hiscox

Andy & Joan Cole

Billy Taylor

Jean Bradley

Mr & Mrs Stanley Gardiner

Ronnie, Myreta & Elma Mitchell

Dorothy Waring

Kathleen Doherty

Jean Malcolm

Robert Orr

Ken & Janette Connor

Paddy & Pearl Malone

Anna Scott

Billy & May Doherty

Witherow & Roberta Shannon

Dougie & Caroline Caldwell

Joseph & Pamela Davis

Billy & June Elder

Ronnie & Pam Mayers

Mr & Mrs S Baxter & Family

Colin & Liz Kennedy

Frances Henderson

Jennifer Henderson & Robert Dixon

**Donation in Lieu of Flowers in memory
of Mrs Kathleen Hamilton**

The Mitchell Family

In Loving Memory

Mr Harold Loughlin

In Loving Memory of Harold Loughlin - Died 30 December 1993.
Never more than a thought away, Loved and Remembered every day.
Missed Always by his daughter, Carole Darby and Family.

EASTER (OUTDOOR) DAWN SERVICE

Sunday 21st April 2019

Usual Riverside Venue at 6.30 a.m.

Speaker: **The Very Rev. Dr. Rob Craig**
(Minister of Kilfennan Presb. Church)

Breakfast in Church Hall Afterwards.

Everyone Welcome

Retiring Offering for Charity

DEATHS

'Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.'

25th February 2019

Mr Noel McCrea, Dunalong Road, Bready.

FOOTBALL TRAINING CAMP

Ambassadors in Football 3 Day Football Camp

**Tuesday 20th August - Friday 23rd August 2019 from 1.30 - 4.30 p.m.
each day.**

At the MUGA football pitch in Newbuildings.

**The Camp will be led by international coaches from Germany and
there will be 2 separate camps for boys and girls of Primary Age
(P5 - P7) and Secondary Age (Y8 - Y12)**

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 three meetings organised for the month
of May 2019.*

Tue. 14th May at 7.30 pm. in Magheramason Church Hall

Tue. 21st May at 7.30 pm. in Magheramason Church Hall

Tue . 28th May at 7.30 pm. in Bready R. P. Church Hall

Fellowship - Walking - Epilogue

Light supper each evening.

“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

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 Wednesday 2nd January 2019. Approximately 105 teams keenly competed for a place in the finals which were held on Monday 7 January. The overall winners were Keelin Nelson and Shauna O'Neill from Drumachose Bowling Club (Limavady) who beat Trevor McIntyre and Sophie McIntyre from Magilligan Bowling Club, in a closely contested final. Mrs Catherine Kincaid presented the prizes, and Mr. John Hamilton, club captain, thanked Catherine for presenting the prizes and organising the teas each evening, congratulated the winners, and thanked all who had taken part, and expressed sincere appreciation to John and Linda Allen (NISA Local Magheramason) for their support and generous sponsorship of the tournament, and all who had helped in the running of the tournament.

Magheramason 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

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 2018/2019 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.

**MISSION
2019**



**TWO-WEEK
CONGREGATIONAL -
COMMUNITY MISSION**

With

The Rev. Eddie Kirk

In

Magheramason Church Hall

On

Sunday 13th October- Sunday 27th October

Week nights 8.00 pm; Sundays 7.00 pm

Special praise / personal testaments each evening

Everyone Welcome

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