

Magheramason Presbyterian Church Newsletter December 2019

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105376)



20 / 20 Vision!

It is hard to believe that 2019 is almost gone as we stand on the threshold of 2020! It is said of someone with good sight that they have 20 / 20 vision. Christmas is a good time of year for us all to pause, rest a while with family and friends and to reflect. How has 2019 been spiritually speaking for you? Has your Vision for God become clearer or has it been dulled? What a Joy for all if we had 20 / 20 Vision for the deeper things of God going into the New Year!

Together as a Church Fellowship when we reflect on 2019, we can say wholeheartedly the Lord has been Gracious and Good! It has been another busy but blessed year culminating in a fantastic fortnight of Mission back in October when many souls were greatly encouraged through the faithful preaching of Rev Eddie Kirk and some were saved. The Lord removed the 'eye scales' that blind all spiritually so that some came for the first time to see and experience the Glory of God in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Christmas Worship

Sunday 22nd December 2019

- 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.

Wednesday 25th December 2019

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

At Christmas time we thank God for the opportunity extended to all who read, to not only read, but to COME! To come like the shepherds of old and humbly bow down and worship Jesus, who is the author and sustainer of all mankind! To know that Jesus humbled himself in leaving the glory of heaven and entered this sin sick world to save a lost humanity. The eternal God dwelt among us for a time in the flesh. The disciple John records "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth!" What a Vision he had of the Saviour!

God blessed us greatly on Sunday evenings in the early part of 2019 in the joint reading of the New Testament and the "Community Bible Project", when many families came along and were encouraged in the Faith. In 2020 we hope to take up the challenge of reading the opening books of the Old Testament and as we do so pray that together our combined Vision of God will be magnified! What better way to begin a New Year in the reading and discussion of the Bible together? Psalm 119 reminds us that "The entrance of your Word gives light, it gives understanding to the simple."

My prayer for you and your family at this Christmas season is that you will decide to COME to church to worship and wonder at the advent of the "Living Word" - Jesus. More than that to simply COME as you are to Christ and allow Him to be central in your thinking and actions not just for a day or two, but for a lifetime and then, by grace for an eternity in the nearer presence of the LORD.

May God grant us all 20 / 20 Vision for Jesus and His Word in 2020!

Praying you know a peace filled Christmas and a Spiritually Prosperous New Year!

Your servant in the Lord.
Rev. Graeme Orr

KIRK SESSION

The past few months have been very busy in the Congregation as our Organisations have begun their activities for another year, and we must acknowledge and give thanks to all the leaders and helpers who give freely of their time every week to ensure that our children and young people learn about the love of the Lord Jesus Christ and how to give their lives to Him.

We had a Congregational meal in our Main Hall on Friday night 20th September and this was a wonderful enjoyable evening of good food and fellowship for all who attended with entertainment supplied by the Sollus Highland Dancers and our own Church Choir. Our Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held on Sunday 13th October with the morning Service being lead by Mr George Barkley, a well-known farmer from Randalstown; and the evening Service, which was also the opening night of our two-week Gospel Mission was led by the Rev. Eddie Kirk. The Church was beautifully decorated by the ladies and our organisations with tasteful displays of flowers, fruit and produce.

Gospel Mission

We had a wonderful fortnight of blessing as the Rev. Eddie Kirk led our Mission each evening. The Lord's presence was evident as the Rev. Eddie Kirk brought challenging but simple messages from God's Word and large crowds benefited from Eddie's preaching and from the various singers and people giving testimony each night. May we continue to reap God's benefits as we reflect on this sacred time together. The Mission concluded with a Service of Thanksgiving on Wednesday 30th October led by the Rev. Caldwell Darragh.

Share Initiative

We commenced a new initiative at our Sunday evening Services called SHARE, which is to encourage all Church members to share better the good news about Jesus with their friends, neighbours and work colleagues. The three main strands are Building Relationships, Cultivating Community and Inviting Encounter, and everyone is warmly invited to join with us at these informal meetings and discussions.

Community Bible

The Community Bible project, which was such a success earlier this year will recommence in January looking this time at the Old Testament. Please continue to support these services as we meet in small groups and read and learn more about God's Word.

Church Committee Election

The process of electing a new Congregational Committee has been ongoing over the past few weeks and we pray for all those who are elected to further serve God in this place and also give thanks for those who are retiring from this role after many years of faithful and dedicated service.

Condolences

The Minister, Kirk Session and Congregation express their sincere condolences to the Connor family on the death of Mrs Violet Connor on 15th November and trust that they will know God's comfort and presence at this difficult time of bereavement and loss.

We also offer our sincere condolences to the family of Mr Robert Lowry of Drumenny Road and formerly of Dullerton, who passed away on 12th September 2019 in Melmount Manor Nursing Home. Robert was the husband of the late Florence and father of David and James, father-in-law of Barbara and Julie, and a devoted grandfather.

Robert was elected and Ordained as an Elder in the congregation of Magheramason on 19th September 1965 and faithfully served the Lord in this capacity until failing health meant that he was unable to carry out these duties.

We give thanks for the life and work of Robert and trust his family may be comforted by the ever present help of God as they come to terms with life without Robert.

Further condolences are offered to members of the congregation who have recently been bereaved.

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 who came into this world to save sinners that they may have eternal life.

Colin Kennedy (Clerk of Session)

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Special offerings in the congregation of Magheramason realised the following amounts:

Albania Adopt A Child	£ 356.00
Romanian Ministries	£ 400.00
Moderator's Appeal	£ 651.50
Friends of Seven Oaks	£ 265.95
Gospel Goal	£ 130.00
CEF Europe	£ 252.00
Ambassadors Football	£ 300.00
RBL Poppy Appeal (Remembrance Day)	£ 253.00
Kenya Ministries	£ 252.00
Harvest Offering	£ 3225.00

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

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

On behalf of the Congregation, I would like to thank all who have served on the Committee over the past three years so faithfully. The Church property and finances play an important part in the running of the Church and your Committee has carried out their work in these areas in an efficient and purposeful way.

The new Committee should be elected by the time you receive this Newsletter and I am certain that they will carry out their work with the same dedication as the out-going Committee, ensuring that the Church finances and Church property are dealt with in a proper and efficient way.

As we reach the end of the financial year I would like to thank all members of Congregation for supporting the Church financially and would ask that members would continue with this support throughout 2020.

On Behalf of the Committee I would like to wish all members a very happy and holy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Sam McPherson (Congregational Secretary)

DEATHS

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

15 November 2019 Mrs Violet Connor, Dunnalong Road, Bready.

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.

**P.W. Service on Sunday 16th February 2020 at 11.30 a.m.
Guest speaker Mrs Karen Craig - PW President 2019-2020**

Helen Walker (Secretary)

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Mon. 2 Dec. 2019 - 7.00 p.m. Magheramason Community Association:
Christmas Tree Switch On and Carol Singing
followed by tea in Church Hall.
- Mon. 16 Dec. 2019 Children's Christmas Club 6.30 – 8.30 p.m.
- Sun. 22 Dec. 2019 - 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.
- Wed. 25 Dec. 2019 - 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. 29 Dec. 2019 - 11.30 a.m. Praise Service for 2019 and looking forward
to New Year 2020.
- Tue 31 Dec. 2019 New Year's Eve Family Party from 8.00 pm 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
2020.
- Sun. 5 Jan. 2020 - 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. 29
December 2019 or Sunday 5th January 2020.**

- Mon. 30 Dec. 2019 - 7.30 p.m. **Magheramason Bowling Tournament**
- Thrs. 2nd – Mon. 6th Jan 2020
7.30 p.m. Magheramason Bowling Tournament
- Fri. 3rd Jan - Sun. 5th Jan 2020 **Londonderry Young Peoples Convention**
Lisneal College (Crescent link) 8.00 p.m.
Speaker: Matt Summerfield.

Sunday Evening 12th January 2020 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!* - "Covenant History" (Genesis - Kings)

Sun. 16th Feb. 2020 - 11.30 a.m. **Presbyterian Women's Service** - Guest Speaker Mrs Karen Craig
PW President 2019-2020

Sat. 7th Mar. 2020 OMF Breakfast – White Horse Hotel 9.00 a.m.



New Years Eve
FAMILY PARTY

**Family Evening of Fun, Games, Fellowship,
Food, Worship & Praise**

in Magheramason Church Hall
on Tuesday 31st December 2019 at 8.00 p.m.
Please do come along for an Enjoyable Evening
EVERYONE WELCOME

Londonderry Young Peoples Convention

on Fri. 3 Jan. - Sun. 5 Jan. 2020
at 8.00 p.m. each evening (Prayer meeting 7.30 p.m.)

in Lisneal College - Crescent Link
Speaker: Matt Summerfield

Fri. - Sun. 9.20 -10.30 p.m. : The Source (12 years of age +) - Lisneal Ladies Coffee Morning : Sat. 4 Jan. 10.30 a.m. White Horse Hotel

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

Everyone is Invited to join in this Revolutionary Way of Reading the Bible Story as a Church Family and Community Together.

Commencing Sunday Evening 12th January 2020 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!

- An informal time to meet with others around tables with a cup of tea and enjoy the deepening of fellowship together as we study God's Word.
- The Community Bible Project will run each Sunday Evening at 6.30 p.m. and Wednesday Evenings at 8.00 p.m. for around 16 weeks
- Sign-up Sheet in the Church vestibule.
- Cost of Bibles only £5 - an ideal Christmas Present for anyone!
- Please pray for God's Blessing as you come along and join in! 'The Books of the Bible: Covenant History'.

The Books of the Bible is a fresh yet ancient presentation of Scripture, using the full NIV text. Eliminating many distractions, this Bible allows you to experience Scripture the way its authors intended. Chapter and verse numbers, study notes, cross references, footnotes and red letters have been removed and natural section breaks have been restored. The Books of the Bible are arranged in an order that helps you see the unfolding drama more easily. Book introductions are included to prepare you for a more in-depth reading experience. The Bible text is presented in a clear single-column format and an easy-to-read 10.3 point font size. The New International Version (NIV) is an accurate, readable and clear translation with the goal of delivering the same Bible reading experience today that the first recipients of Scripture would have had in their natural language.

In The Books of the Bible: Covenant History, readers will learn about God's creation, humanity's rebellion, and God's plan to renew the world. The books included are, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel and Kings.

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.



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



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



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 Mary Doherty

Pam & Selwyn Robinson,
Violet & Geoff McConnell,
John & Helen Creighton,
Richard Brown
Bready Cricket Club.
The Christie Family

In Memory of Mrs Violet Connor

Karl & Melanie Rankin
Mrs Pauline Rankin
The Christie Family
Jean Bradley
Trevor & Doreen Marshall
Andy & Joan Cole
Dorothy & Lynn Marshall

IN MEMORY

In Loving Memory of the 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 17th 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.

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 2020, 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.

If at present you are not a contributor to the church but would wish to support the work of the church through regular Freewill Offering contributions please speak to Roberta Shannon.

Should you wish to set up a Monthly Standing Order please speak to Leslie Hamilton.

God Sent Us a Saviour

If our greatest need had been information,
God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology,
God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been money,
God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need had been pleasure,
God would have sent us an entertainer.

**But our greatest need was forgiveness,
So God sent us a Saviour.**

Roy Lessin