



CHRIST CHURCH PRIMACY

1 Balloo Road, Bangor, BT19 7PG

‘Growing disciples, making disciples.’



OUTREACH

Volume 2 : Issue 12

Summer 2023

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Times of Refreshing

A sideways swipe on the phone or tablet, a quick click on the refresh button of our laptops, is all that is required to update the latest news feed, resolve a failure to load, or unstick a frozen screen.

I write this introduction at Dublin airport; it's 3:30am - the last task on my to do list, that didn't get done before I left home. It's been a busy, yet fulfilling number of months, with lots of answered prayer, mission and a growing sense of community with our Methodist family (see inside for more details). I'm sure, like me, you are ready for a break!

Despite the speed of our internet or the quality of our technology, we still are required to wait, even if only for a millisecond, for the page to refresh and reload.

At this time of year, everyone is ready for a holiday or a break. We all need 'times of refreshing'. Acts 3:19. Peter reminds us that our refreshment comes from repentance and spending time in God's Presence. It also requires an intentional time of waiting in His Presence, letting God strengthen the dry and weary landscapes of our souls, Isaiah 40:29-31

I hope as, you read the following pages, that you will rejoice in all that God is doing in and through His church, at Primacy. I also hope that you take some time, over the next weeks, to hit the refresh button and allow the Lord to fill you up so that you can soar on eagles' wings into Autumn.

Well done everyone and thank you for all the hard work!

Denise

On Sunday 2 April, we were delighted to celebrate a **Service of Thanksgiving** for Rose Margaret Agnes Gray, with parents Marcus and Charlotte Gray supported by the wider Gray and McVeigh family circle and friends. The family were welcomed by both the Methodist and Church of Ireland congregations.

Rose was in fine form and played her part perfectly - looking beautiful and smiling for everyone. It was impossible not to feel uplifted by such a service. As I walked around the congregation to introduce Rose, there were only smiling faces turned toward us. I was struck by how much joy and enrichment children can bring to each of our lives.

Although Charlotte, Marcus and Rose live in England, they will be frequent visitors with us. Let's remember to pray for them, between visits, asking God to bless them and praying that Rose would grow in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man. [by Denise Wilson](#)



On 16 April we held our **Annual General Vestry** with our now customary breakfast. Canon Rev'd Simon Doogan, Area Dean officiated, and Denise gave a roundup of what has been a very busy year, extending her heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed to the service of the parish and the community in which we are placed. The following appointments were made:

Incumbent's Churchwarden:	Carol Graham
People's Churchwarden:	Doreen Dunwoody
Incumbent's Glebewarden	Desie Wilson
People's Glebewarden:	Tim Parr
Honorary Secretary:	Jim Simpson
Honorary Treasurer:	Moira McVeigh
Select Vestry:	Brian Curran, Audrey Derby, Helen McGlinchey, Maura Mooney, Colin Parker, Ann Scott, David Symington, Rory Wilson

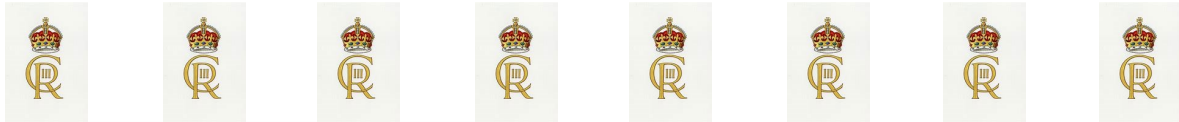
As this was a Triennial year the following elections were made:

Parochial Nominators:	Moira McVeigh, John Shannon., David Symington
Supplementalists:	Maureen Carson, Audrey Derby, Brian Martin

Parochial nominators are the parish representatives in the nomination and appointment process should the parish find itself in a vacancy position. Nominators should have a clear understanding of the life and witness of the parish, its challenges and opportunities.

Diocesan Synodsmen:	Denise Wilson, Jim Simpson
Supplementalists:	Anna McCullough, Ann Scott

Synodsmen are the parish representatives at the Diocesan Synod and are there to work in collaboration with each other and the officers of the Diocese to forward the mission of the Church.



Sunday 7 May 2023 saw us celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen with a United Service followed by a picnic “Big Lunch” on the lawn and we were mindful that we celebrated this great event with people across the nation and the Commonwealth.

We had a great turnout and many thanks to all who contributed goodies to make the picnic a huge success, and special thanks to Rory and Gideon who led us with a rousing rendition of our National Anthem – God save the King.





On the first Sunday in May we welcomed Lynda Francis from Christian Aid to our united morning service to tell us about this year's key project, and to enthuse us

ahead of a resumption of door-to-door collecting after a lapse of three years, due to Covid.

Many of our regular collectors were willing to knock doors, albeit reluctantly in some cases. Twenty-four members of both congregations, plus some friends, rose to the challenge in Christian Aid Week, with a total of £2,500 being the result of their perseverance. Given that so many collectors returned with stories of fewer envelopes being collected than in previous years, and people not having cash, those who made donations were certainly very generous.



Once again, we organised a Big Brekkie in the church hall, prepared by a team from both congregations. Good food and fellowship were enjoyed, and the diners were generous in their desire to help families facing poverty and injustice around the world. A total of £600 was raised on the morning.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all those who provided food items for the Big Brekkie, including one

generous donor who gave a donation specifically to help defray the cost of the bacon and sausages; those who helped prepare and serve the breakfast, those who helped deliver envelopes, those who both delivered and knocked doors, my counting team and everyone who made a monetary donation.

by Audrey Derby





Bishop David McClay has a heart for mission and ministry. This year at the Lambeth Conference, Bishop David and Richard Moy of SOMA (Sharing of Ministries Abroad) birthed a vision to hold two weeks of mission in the Down and Dromore Diocese, inviting willing participants from all over the world. As a result, the first few weeks of June saw over 60 people from Australia, Africa, Asia, North America and the UK arrive ready to share the Good News of Christ.

Christ Church Primacy was blessed to welcome Rev Kevin Roberts (team leader) from England, Rev Promise from Nigeria, Rev Joshua from Kenya and finally Delight, a law student from Uganda.

The team was involved in prayer walks around Bangor, praying for individuals, speaking to our Sunday School and sharing in the main service. Rev Joshua put on his dancing shoes for the line dancing and BBQ on Saturday 10 June, and gave us all a laugh.

We were delighted to welcome some news faces to the church that weekend. Even more delighted to have 2 testimonies of real healing! Sandra, who gave testimony in church (you can watch the archived service at...) shared how her husband had wakened her in the middle of the night to see if she was alive, because she hasn't had a proper night sleep due to pain for years! Praise God.

Over the two weeks that the teams were here, there have been many similar testimonies, miracles and people coming to faith. We thank God for Bishop David's listening heart, for those who have come to minister to us, but most of all to the God who hears and answers all our prayers.





On 28 May I completed a cycle ride in London on closed roads. The total mileage covered that day was 115 miles or 185km

and it was completed in just over 5 hours.

Starting on the Mall in brilliant sunshine and heading to Essex, it was really good cycle; so many diverse groups and lots of good chat and encouragement. When I registered for this initially, I was just looking for a really good challenge and the opportunity to ride it as I had wanted to years before but surgery prevented me. After achieving a place in the cycle with 22,000 other cyclists, I thought it would be good to have a Just Giving page and raise money for CAP.

As I don't have social media, I was unsure of what I would target. Normally I hate fundraising, so, I set a target of initially of £250. Oh, what little faith!

After a few days I had to raise this to £500 and then £1000. With the fantastic giving from Christ Church (Col and Methodist) congregations, my cycling friends, family, colleagues and also my employer, we ended up with a phenomenal amount of £1,470 and gift aid of £247.50, bringing the overall total raised to £1,717.50 and Ashleen was ecstatic, as was I!



by Jim Simpson



Quiz
night

Thank you to all who participated in this year's Table Quiz! We raised the grand sum of £457!! Mr Ronnie McClements, hailing from Ballyholme Parish, was our esteemed quiz master. The money raised has been allocated for mission funds and the Mission Committee will keep us updated on the benefactors in due course.

THY KINGDOM COME

by Maura Mooney

Thy Kingdom Come 18-28 May was a busy time in the life of Christ Church Primacy. TKC is a time of focused prayer between Ascension Day and Pentecost Sunday during which everyone was encouraged to pray for 5 people to come to know the life changing love of Jesus. Prayer journals and accompanying videos encouraged us to deepen our own relationship with God as well as praying for others. Stories of God at work from our congregations were also shared on the church WhatsApp.

The prayer room was set up with a number of prayer stations which focused on praying for other churches in the area, the persecuted church, and praying for who is missing from our church family.

People signed up to pray for an hour and we almost filled our 24 hours of prayer.

There was also a prayer space set up for the children with activities to encourage them to pray and think about how God has made them to be

unique and how special they are to Him, forgiving others and praying for others. This space was really enjoyed by the children from our Sunday Schools as well as some grandchildren of members of our congregation who came in during TKC.

During the week 22-28 May the church was open for tea, coffee and a traybake as well as a book swap. This provided a space to have a chat with others from our congregations as well as a chance to meet members of our community. This was a great time of fellowship and creativity as we had a go at card making and crochet.

TKC came to a close for 2023 with a worship evening on Pentecost Sunday led by David Whiteside. This was a powerful time to join with members of other churches and contend for a move of the Holy Spirit in our lives, churches and community.

Thanks to everyone who baked, opened up the church, chatted and prayed with people during TKC.



Anyone recognise that clown??

MONDAY MADNESS ran on Monday evenings for 6 weeks, from 5 June to the 10 July. We had 75 children registered, with an average of 50 children per Monday evening. We had 22 members from both congregations, young and not-so-young helping in different areas - i.e., security, craft, refreshments, leaders, and helpers with children.

We used the Big Top programme, sharing stories about heroes from the Bible. We focused on Samson, Daniel, Noah, Moses and Jonah this year. Each session included a script for each hero, games, craft, and refreshments. Some leaders dressed up as clowns.

We had a visit from Tesco's where children got to taste different fruits and vegetables on the first Monday evening; a visit from Guide Dogs for the Blind; a visit from the K9 Search and Rescue; a visit from Fireblade Ministry (a motor bike ministry), and an evening making buns with Brian Martin.

We finished on 10 July with a family night. Each group shared a short clip of one hero learnt during the previous 5 weeks. After a time of praise and a short prayer, hot dogs, refreshments and nibbles were served.

Thank you everyone.

by Pat Irwin



TOTS@PRIMACY

We had another great session at Tots@ Primacy with around 40 adults and children coming along each week.

We were sad to say goodbye to some of the children who have been coming along since we restarted after COVID, as they move on to nursery next year. They were given a certificate and book as a reminder of their time at Tots@Primacy.

Tots@Primacy will be back for a summer special Teddy Bear's Picnic on 31 July at 11.00 am.

by Maura Mooney



BLOOMFIELD BUTTERFLIES

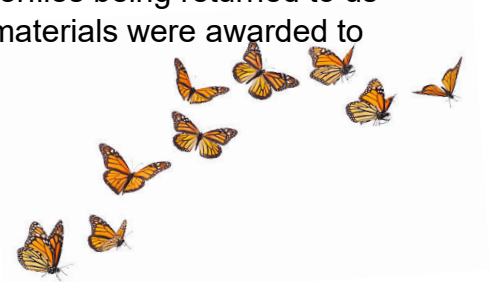


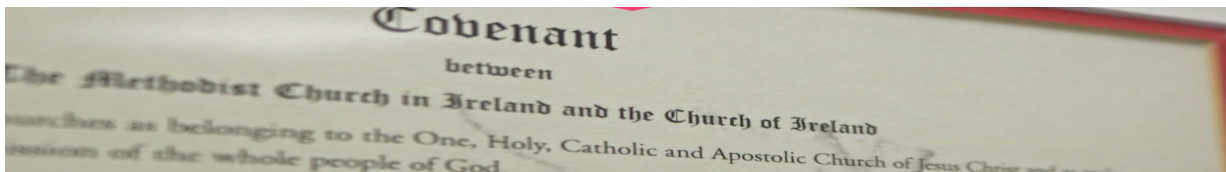
As part of the 40th anniversary year at CCP we got in touch with Bloomfield Primary School and asked them to help us with our celebrations. Butterflies have long symbolised new life and resurrection and as we celebrate the last 40 years we look forward to the 'new things' that God is going to do among us.

Different butterfly colouring pages were sent into the school for three different age groups P1- P2, P3-P4, and P5, P6 and P7. The children did a fabulous job with beautiful colourful butterflies being returned to us which we have used to decorate the church. Prizes of art materials were awarded to first, second and third place in each of the age categories.

Well done and thank you to everyone who took part.

by Maura Mooney





Over recent months conversations around the subject of forming a local covenant partnership culminated in an information evening held on Sunday 4 June. Archdeacon Barry Forde, (Connor Diocese, also sits on the Council of Covenant Churches) and Mr Colin Ferguson (The Church on the Hill, Maghaberry) provided us with background to the Covenant between the Methodist Church in Ireland and Church of Ireland. It also provided an opportunity to hear of the practical outworking of Covenant Church in two very different contexts, from a personal perspective.

The following points were very evident from the presentations:

- Different forms of structures, governance within our denominations only exist to support the Mission of the Local church.
- Christ has commanded us to be 'one' in his service
- NI Society has already changed in terms of church attendance and affiliation
- Waiting until all the legalities are sorted results in lack of growth
- Reaching agreement on one format of service had proved very beneficial for those who had formed a single worshipping community.
- The Covenant Churches we have heard from have first started by becoming a United Worshipping Community.

It was clear on that evening that the majority of people, from both congregations, were supportive of the idea. This feeling was underlined at subsequent Select Vestry and Council meetings, with unanimous votes to

continue to worship as one congregation, after the summer months.

Going forward the agreed plan is as follows:

1. That the annual joint July and August services should be extended beyond the summer months.
2. Early in 2024 and prior to Easter there should be a review as to how worshipping as one community in a way that respects and honours both traditions has developed.
3. Subject to that review, we then determine if it would be appropriate for us to take the next steps towards becoming a 'full' covenant church.
4. The service will begin at the new time of 10.30am, the intention being that this will also be reviewed pre-Easter.

Please continue to pray as we move forward, for the leadership of both churches and especially for those who are finding the change difficult to negotiate. This is an exciting for the Church at Primacy. I am reminded of Joshua and the people of Israel as they began to move into the Promised Land, after 40 years in the desert,

"When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before.' Joshua 3:3-4

God is ahead of us and understands that this is new territory for all of us. He knows the anticipation and fears that we have between us, but He asks us to step out behind Him, so that we can receive all that He has by way of life and blessing for us and the surrounding community!

by Denise Wilson

GRACE had a varied and interesting year with some of our highlights being: our Christmas dinner; a jewellery making evening; a powerful personal testimony from a lady from Belfast Chaplaincy; a talk by Jill from Flourish about Human trafficking in Northern Ireland; and a summer trip to The Titanic Centre, with a big thank you to Katrine for organising.

Looking at the new season starting in **September** it is suggested that we meet on the **third Monday** of the month to see if we can facilitate more women attending and extending our reach.

When I was asked to take a lead in **GRACE**, I certainly knew the truth of the words in 2 Corinthians 12:9 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness'.

I have been totally amazed by ladies coming up to me with great ideas for the meetings and am looking forward to the new season with God leading us to experience some amazing times together. Have a great summer.

by Liz Shannon



I'm excited to announce, beginning on 17 September, we will host an ALPHA course in Christ Church Primacy. Alpha is a course that creates a space in person, where people are excited to bring their friends for a conversation about faith, life and God.

The course will run on Sunday evenings at 7.00pm in the church, for 11 weeks with a two week break for half term and our 40th Anniversary celebration and will finish in early December.

We believe that everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and share their point of view.

by Jim Simpson

LADIES' NIGHT AWAY

**21 – 22 October 2023, Dromantine Conference Centre, Newry
(1 hour drive and we share lifts)**



This year Glynis Matchett will be the inspirational speaker. Glynis works as an Evangelist and Leader of Prayer Ministries at Willowfield Church in Belfast.



Last year's event was hugely enjoyed by everyone who attended and was a very serious affair – as you can see from the pics!!! Everyone is welcome. Please speak to Denise if you are interested in attending.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

All morning services will start at 10:30am unless otherwise indicated.

There is a short time of prayer before the morning service at 10am - all welcome!

AUGUST	
5 August 9.30 am – 4.30 pm	First Aid Training (for those registered)
29 August – 1 September 7.45 pm	Diocesan Bible Week, Willowfield Church Speaker: Rev Gregory Downes (see Diocesan website for more details)
SEPTEMBER	
2 September 11.00 am – 2.00 pm	Community Fun Day
7 September 7.00 pm	Ballyholme Parish – Rise Again BBQ
17 September 10.30 am	CAP Sunday – Ashleen Johnston
OCTOBER	
8 October	Harvest Sunday – Rev Philip Corrigan
21 and 22 October	Ladies' Night Away, Dromantine Conference Centre (speak to Denise, Audrey Burrows or Maura Mooney for more information)
NOVEMBER	
5 November	40 th Anniversary Service (more details to follow)
12 November	Remembrance Sunday – Pastor Denise Wilson
DECEMBER	
17 December	10:30 am – Nativity 6.30 pm – Nine Lessons
24 December	Christmas Eve Service - 10.30 am
25 December	Christmas Day Service – 10.00 am

NEED TO GET IN TOUCH?

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