

Clogherney Presbyterian Church

2011
Christmas
Newsletter

Remember Christmas

By Valerie L. Plowman

Red reminds me of the blood He spilt
to wash away and cleanse all of our guilt
White is for His actions, most pure.
Through sinless perfection, He did endure.

Green is for the life eternal
we can obtain through our Lord supernal.

The *star* shines like the one so bright
that twinkled above that first Christmas night

The *fir tree* is for many things:
the tree of Jesse— the father of kings,
and for the needles pointing to the Lord—
that little babe we all adored.

The *wreath* shows one eternal round;
the begin' of the Lord cannot be found.

The *lights* remind us that this babe
is the light of the world, and born to save

The *candy cane* is for the crook;
not one sheep or lamb the shepherd forsook.

The *Christmas bells* we love to ring
proclaim joy! The birth of a newborn king

These symbols remind us that we,
more like the three wise men all now should be
Earnestly seeking to find the new babe
who humble in a manger laid.

Happy Christmas

Fintona Manse

Dear Friends at Clogherney

Who will be No. 1 in the music charts? How will the December sales go? Will we have a white Christmas? What will Santa bring me for Christmas? Much of the focus at Christmas is on the future. What sort of present, dinner, surprises, or weather will we get? Yet the focus ought to be on what has happened or on what have we already been given. 'Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.' The focus ought to be on another question that has been answered. 'How can I, a sinner, get right with God?' Paul tells us in 1 Timothy 1:15 that 'Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the worst.' To emphasise the importance of this statement he says that it is 'trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance.'

So among all the questions you may have concerning the economy and the Christmas season that is fast approaching have you asked the most important question that the Philippians jailer asked, 'What must I do to be saved? How can I get right with God? Am I right with God?' Know this – that some 2000 years ago a real baby was born into a real family in the real town of Bethlehem, the birth place of a former king of Israel, David. Know that his birth was no accident but planned from the very beginning, even before the fall and entrance of sin into the world. [Ephesians 1:4] Know that God became man in Jesus so he might offer himself as a ransom for many. [Mark 10:45]. Know that he lived a life of complete obedience [in contrast to our lives of complete disobedience]. Know that he died upon a real cross though innocent of ANY crime but as a substitute, in my [your place] to bear the penalty for my [your] sin. Know that he really did rise again and that the world was turned upside down by his disciples.

Know that a Saviour has been born to YOU. Have you been born again to him? John 3. 'Truly, truly I say to YOU, unless one is born again [from above] he [she] cannot see the kingdom of God'. Have you really got Christmas? Have you really got what it's about? Have you got the Christ of Christmas in your heart so that your life is radically changed so that you know what real joy is? Is Jesus No. 1 in your heart, life, family? If not, then you haven't got Christmas. May you know the real blessing of Christ this Christmas.

Yours in Christ's service

Alastair Gordon
(Convenor)



Mission Statement

Our Aims

To bring people to know Jesus

To be a welcoming, caring Christian fellowship

To develop people to Christlike maturity

To equip people for ministry in the Church and
outreach to others

To Glorify God

Bowling Club

Clogherney Bowling Club held their annual pairs tournament recently and attracted 128 pairs from a vast area off the country. After 4 qualifying nights 8 pair came back to the final, the eventual winners were I Duncan/M White from Ray in Donegal. Bertie Vance presented all finalists with their prizes on the night. The club party will take place on Mon 19th Dec at 7.45 after this night the club will close for the Christmas break and will reopen on Mon 2nd Jan 2012 at the normal time. Clogherney Bowling Club would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Trevor

Vance



Finances

Books for the year 2011 will close on Sunday 8th January 2012 All monies for the year 2012 must be received on or before this date. Any monies received after this will be credited to the 2011 accounts.

Would treasurers of the various organisations please have their Balance Sheets, Bank statements and receipts with Iris Clarke on or before 3rd January 2012 This is in order to facilitate the accountant.

If you are an Income Tax Payer and have not yet signed up for Gift Aid, please do. It does not cost you any extra, but will benefit the Church 20p. on every £1 contributed. Last year we were able to claim back over £17,000. Contact either David McClure or Iris Clarke re a Gift Aid Declaration. All we need is your signature.

The envelopes for 2012 are in the pews and if you haven't received yours or have not been contributing through the F W O and would

Congregational History.

Copies of the Congregational History are still available. This book will make an excellent Christmas gift and is also an update record on the life and witness of Clogherney Presbyterian Church Congregation from 1655 – 2010.

Copies can be obtained from:-

Iris Clarke telephone 028 85568664

Ivan Clements telephone 82840261 or

Tom Reid telephone 82841325.



Website

www.clogherneypc.co.uk

We would like to pass on our thanks to those who have helped contribute information and have used the website to share information. The website is for the church, to keep everyone informed and as a means of outreach but without your help we cannot utilise it as fully as we would hope. If you have not viewed the website yet, please do and feel free to give us feedback whether good or bad so we can improve as we go along. We will not be remotely offended if it is negative but value true and honest feedback. As a means of outreach we would appeal to you, the members of Clogherney Presbyterian Church to share your testimony, the reason for your faith with others by sending us a brief testimony along the lines of those already posted on the website. It is our hope to have many of these and to rotate them on the website. We know of many people who have come to know Christ after having read or heard a testimony given by others and we hope and pray that the website may be used by the Lord to reach others.

If you have any questions, please e-mail:-

clogherneypc@googlemail.com or see Richard Scott.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Richard Scott

Services and Special Events

December:

| | | |
|---------------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Sunday 11th | 7:30 pm | Johnston Memorial Hall Carol Service |
| Friday 16th | 8:00 pm | Senior Sunday School Party |
| Saturday 17th | 7:00 pm | Junior Sunday School Party |
| Sunday 18th | 12 noon | All age family Service |
| | 7:30 pm | Carol Service |
| Sunday 25th | 10:30 am | Christmas Day Service |

January 2012

| | | |
|--------------|---------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 8th | 12 noon | Sacrament of the Lord's Supper |
| Sunday 15th | 7:30 pm | Johnston Memorial Hall |
| Tuesday 24th | 8:00 pm | Omagh Presbytery Elders Fellowship in Seskinore |

February

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|-------------|---------|------------------------|
| Sunday 19th | 7:30 pm | Johnston Memorial Hall |
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March

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| Friday 2nd-Sunday 4th | | Tearfund Week-end |
| Sunday 11th` | 7:30 pm | Board of Mission Ireland in Drumquin Presbyterian Church |

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|-------------|---------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday 21st | 7:30 pm | Johnston Memorial Hall Service |
| Sunday 25th | 12 noon | PW Service |

April

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|------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Friday 6th | 8:00 pm | Good Friday Service |
| Sunday 8th | 6:30 am | Easter Dawn Service |
| | (Time to be confirmed) | |
| | 12 noon | Easter Day Service |

Tearcraft

The sum of £444.00 was raised at our Tearcraft evening and a big thank you to those who supported the evening. Again this was an opportunity to be partners in mission – making a positive impact upon the everyday lives of people. This is sharing our Christian faith and love as Christ has called us to do. The DVD also gave us an insight into one of the ongoing projects that Tearfund is involved with. Again, thank you.

Shoe Box Appeal

Thanks to all who responded to the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal again this year. The contributions, although slightly less than previously was very encouraging. The boxes, packed full of gifts, were sent from the congregation to be distributed to needy children at Christmas time and no doubt will be greatly appreciated.

Iris Clarke



Hospital Visits

Rev Gordon and Tom Reid would like to thank those who inform them when members of Clogherney go into hospital and would like a visit. Hospitals do not automatically send this information. It is helpful when such information is passed on as soon as possible. Of course, it is also helpful to be informed when patients come home.

Phone Numbers:

Rev Alastair Gordon 028 82841 1209

Mr Tom Reid 028 82 841325

Naomi Keefe. A message from Brazil.. A quote from Naomi. 'It is the time of the year when my little friends enter my house and with three strategically, placed, mouse traps, I managed to capture two of them'. Heavy rains have caused lots of flooding in many homes, fortunately Naomi has managed to escape with three drips inside her house. There has been lots of excitement and encouragement at the centre when Wanderson had his first art exhibition and sold two of his paintings. The first semester finished by the end of June and all families were shown the children's work on the Bible Devotional Study, in both words and music. The session of Casa Caiada along with directors have made several no-negotiable changes to the Vision and Purpose Project. Some of the decisions include suspending individual teenage courses, suspending the team's prayer and Bible Study on a Thursday along with a Bible Study with the young ones. Naomi and her team would greatly appreciate your prayers in this matter. Naomi continues to train and give guidance to the leaders and volunteers in the interior Baptist Church and also with a Presbyterian Church in Recife. Her devotional material has been going well with the children and teenagers and they hope to start a scrapbook series. Imagine starting with a group of six children and now seeing 50 children in small groups, each enjoying their activities and not wanting to return home. Naomi and her helpers greatly appreciate our continued prayers and support and knowing that Our Good Shepherds is in control and uses all things for His Glory in bringing us closer to Himself.

Barbara McDowell



Mission News



Stephen and Lesley-Ann Lockington (and Finn & Eric) We had a good Mullingar Mission Rescue Summer Camp reunion in mid-November – around 35 children came along to the 2 hour Saturday afternoon programme. It was good to renew contact with children and parents alike, and we pray on in anticipation of next years summer camp. We're equally encour-

aged by the 15+ teenagers who come along to the monthly Solid group. Both Mullingar & Corboy take the opportunity Christmas provides to engage folk with the Good News. Corboy carol service is on Sunday morning 18th Dec, while Mullingar is that evening. In Mullingar we will open the church for Christmas refreshments during the week before Christmas. In Mullingar we now have received planning permission for the new-church build. The current building is still for sale, though we may be close to selling it. We continue to meet in Educate Together National School and a few new folk have been coming along due to this change of venue. Thanks again – and trust all are encouraged in the Lord these days in Clogherney.

Stephen Lockington

Csaba and Ilona Veres with their daughters Jasmin and Carissa.

After some hiccup with e-mails we have again been updated by Csaba and Ilona with the following prayer updates. The 11th. 'Waiting for the Lord' Advent Christian music festival will have taken place when you read this. Last year over 1000 young people attended the festival. Csaba and his Team do all the organizing and running of this event as young people from all over the Transylvania region come to the event. Remember to pray for them and all the youth groups that attend that they will be challenged by the message of Christmas and the power of worshipping together at the Festival. The Bible Study Group which is held at Csaba and Ilona's house on Friday evenings is seeing an increase in numbers so pray for them as they prepare to celebrate Reformation Week in HRC. There are also two other house groups and they will all be coming together for a fellowship weekend shortly. Continue to pray for the students mission in Cluj and also in Tirgu Mures. Pray for the Youth Pastors and their volunteers as they lead weekly programs aimed to help university students grow in their faith and gain a passion for mission here in Transylvania.

Kenneth Clements

Craft Club

Over the Autumn season the Craft Club enjoyed making a great variety of Fabric Flowers and Christmas Decorations Our first meeting in the New Year will be on 5th January 2012 and we hope a good number will come and learn Scrap Booking. We will decorate our scrapbook pages using embellishments, quotes and our favourite photographs and have lots of fun in the process. In February we can choose to make a pin cushion or a tea cosy and at the first meeting in March we continue with Crochet or Knitting. We hope to have a



craft stall at the Flower Festival in May and make items for sale. If anyone can contribute to this it will be much appreciated.

Margaret White

Youth Fellowship

At the start of our new year together, we began by taking time to focus on the aims of the Youth Fellowship in relation to the church's mission statement. We came up with different practical ideas how we could achieve these aims.

In October and November we took up the Mark's Challenge – to read Mark's gospel over 4 weeks. On Sunday nights we began studying Ephesians together looking at knowing God's will and how we should pray. We've also had a number of visitors from the congregation who shared their testimonies with us.

We would love for more young people to join us, fortnightly, on a Sunday evening in the Hutton Room. Come along some time and see what we do!

Susan Lockington

Sunday School

Recently I listened to a question and answer programme on the radio. One of the questions put to an experienced investment fund manager was about money and happiness; strangely he said that he found happiness in his family, his children and his grandchildren. We too need to be reminded that money, important as it is, does not give us, as much happiness as our children smiling or playing or just laughing. Our children are vitally important and it is essential to teach them the things that will give them stability in life. With our home environment, church and Sunday School we can teach them the basis of happiness as found in Biblical principles. As your children and teenagers regularly attend church and Sunday School we are giving them something that they will in years to come will thank us for. As we come to celebrate Christ's Birthday we have arranged some parties.

*Senior Sunday School, Youth Club, Youth Fellowship December 16th
from 8:00 to 10:00 pm*

Junior Sunday School party Saturday 17th December from 7:00 to 9:00 pm
Parents are asked to provide tray bakes and teachers will bring sandwiches.

As Christmas Day and New Year's Day followed by our communion service on the 8th January are on Sundays there will be no Sunday School from *18th December 2011 to 15th January 2012.*

Finally the teachers would like to wish all our pupils a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ian McDowell



Praise Group



The Praise Group continues to take part in the Sunday services. If you are interested in playing with the group, watch out for details of practices on the announcement sheet or contact the members of the Praise Group for further information.

Susan Lockington

churches who will be made welcome. Again we will be looking for names and addresses of anyone you would wish to invite. All members of the congregation will be very welcome at both services. We would like to take this opportunity to thank members already working so willingly to make this weekend a success. Please remember we will be relying on the support and commitment of all the members and especially please remember this weekend in your prayer time.

Louie Reid

The 'winning' of Turf

The Youth Club & Youth Fellowship would like to say a big THANK YOU to all who helped out in any way with the plot of turf on Rock Road, it was a tough year to "win" turf. It was great to have all who helped at the various stages ranging in age from 6-70+, some were "seasoned" workers and some have a "whole new experience". To date over 800 bags of turf have been sold with the proceeds going to the Church Building Fund, so many thanks also to all who have bought some. There is still some turf for sale at £2 / bag. To order some contact Robert Clements 07821272899. Thank you.

Robert Clements

Youth Club.

It's been a good season so far with volleyball becoming a bit of a hit! Absolutely nothing to do with one of the leaders being on the team that won the volleyball league at camp in Romania back in the summer! It's good to see our young people coming regularly on Friday evenings and would encourage more to come along to what is a safe and fun environment for our young people to meet and socialise and to be challenged about what God has for them. Well done to Darryl who took part in Children in Need by sponsoring his long awaited haircut! We hardly recognised you lad with the makeover! Don't forget - the more that come the more the fun!



Thanksgiving Flower Festival Weekend

24th to 26th May 2012

The theme for the Flower Festival is 'Witnessing for Christ'. This will be depicted in flowers arranged by the Erne Flower Association. There will be many side attractions including Local Memorabilia etc. if you have items including photographs of local interest that would be suitable for display please contact Mrs Joan Clements. On Saturday morning and afternoon there will be cookery demonstrations by notable Belfast Chief Brain McCann. There will be musical items on Saturday all day and Sunday afternoon,



with activities for children including work sheets, more information on all the activities will be included in the Easter newsletter. Teas/Coffees scones and tray bakes will be served all day Saturday and Sunday afternoon. A variety of high teas will be served on Saturday evening for families and groups, menus for the high teas will be available from mid January 2012 on the Flower Festival web site. To reserve high teas on the Saturday evening please book on the email address on the web site or by contacting Ruth or myself. Flyers will be available in January. We would ask you to distribute these to your friends and neighbours and will be pleased to welcome everyone to view the flowers, watch a cookery demonstration in the morning or afternoon and then relax over morning/afternoon coffee/tea scones and tray bakes. On Friday evening the 24th May at 8:00 pm. the Flower festival will open with a thanks giving service of worship and praise for blessing received over the years. In keeping with the theme we are very pleased that The Very Rev. Dr. John Lockington Senior minister will conduct the service. Invitations will be sent to past members for this service, so please if you can assist with names and addresses of your family members who have now moved from the area, this would be appreciated please forward the names and addresses to clogherneypc@googlemail.com or alternatively give them to Ruth or myself. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet and renew former friendships in the context of thanksgiving. We are also pleased that The Very Rev. Dr. Stafford Carson will conduct the closing service on Sunday evening the 26th May. Invitations to this service will be ex-

Clogherney Presbyterian Women 2010/11

Motto: Living for Jesus

As Christmas approaches we are almost half way through our PW programme. So far our highlight has been Visitors Night when we were delighted to welcome a large crowd of visitors to the Hutton Room to hear Rev J Hagan. He proved to be a gifted speaker and captured his audience immediately with his very interesting talk based on John ch 10 v 10 "The thief comes only to steal and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"

As we look ahead to our meetings for 2012, we begin on Tuesday 10th January when we will spend some time "Under His Wings" with some of our ladies taking part.

Tuesday 14th February we will have a presentation from Marlene Nelson on the very worthwhile project supported by PW's that sends Containers to Malawi.

On Tuesday 13th March our guest speaker Liz Cooke will share a word of testimony.

Our PW Service is Sunday 25th March when we look forward to hearing all about the work of South Belfast Friendship House from Deaconess Jenny Robinson.

Tuesday 10th April is the Annual General Meeting.

All ladies in the congregation are warmly encouraged to join us.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas .

Rhonda Clements



Crèche & Junior Church



Below is the rota for Crèche and Junior Church to the end of April 2012. Please note the date you are on and if it doesn't suit, please swap with someone else. If there is anyone whose name is not on the Crèche or Junior Church Rota and would like to help out, please speak to either Thelma Rainey or Heather Jones. Thank you.

Rainey

Thelma

Crèche Rota to end of April

| | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1st Jan | Karen Young & Hazel Caldwell |
| 8th Jan | Barbara McDowell & Katie Palmer |
| 15th Jan | Lily Anthony & Pauline McDowell |
| 22nd Jan | Evelyn Armstrong & Karen McIvor |
| 29th Jan | Heather Jones & Susan Wilson |
| 5th Feb | Hilary & Victoria Kerr |
| 12th Feb | Lorraine Reid & Alison Todd |
| 19th Feb | Avril Patterson & Family |
| 26th Feb | Doreen Caldwell & Margaret Fenton |
| 4th March | Nicola Rainey & Lynne Fleming |
| 11th March | Margaret & Kathryn Morrow |
| 18th March | Shirlee McKeown & Wilma Irwin |
| 25th March | Sylvia Ewing & Avril McClure |
| 1st April | Lyndsey Fenton & Hazel Shortt |
| 8th April | Ann McFarland & Hazel Clements |
| 15th April | Margaret Rainey & Kathleen Clarke |
| 22nd April | Joan Clements & Lynda McClure |
| 29th April | Rhonda Clements & Ann Giles |

Junior Church Rota to end of April

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1st Jan | Samantha Jones & Ruth Jordan |
| 8th Jan | Janet Clements & Trevor McIvor |
| 15th Jan | Margaret Morrow & Pamela Adams |
| 22nd Jan | Nicola & Bethany Rainey |
| 29th Jan | Joy Young & Tanya Donnelly |
| 5th Feb | Robert & Hazel Clements |
| 12th Feb | Margaret Todd & Shirlee McKeown |
| 19th Feb | Alan & Jackie Gibson |
| 26th Feb | Rhonda Clements & Hazel Shortt |
| 4th March | Trevor & Lynda McClure |
| 11th March | Joan & Guy Clements |
| 18th March | Thelma & Amanda Rainey |
| 25th March | Heather McDowell & Susan Lockington |
| 1st April | Samantha Jones & Ruth Jordan |
| 8th April | Janet Clements & Trevor McIvor |
| 15th April | Margaret Morrow & Pamela Adams |
| 22nd April | Nicola & Bethany Rainey |
| 29th April | Joy Young & Tanya Donnelly |



These next four pages are for the children, so pull them out and perhaps they will keep the children occupied over the Christmas Holidays. The first page is for the little ones to Colour in, the next page has two Word Search Puzzles (Men and Women of the Bible). The third page is Super Stars and the fourth is Three More Wise Guys.

