



ESTABLISHED 1796

**ANNUAL REPORT
(Abridged)**



**YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER
2019**

OFFICE BEARERS

Charity Reg No: NIC105304

MINISTER:	Vacant		
CLERK OF SESSION:	Mr Stanley McFarland, 29 Forge Hill Court, Saintfield BT24 7LW Tel: 97511930		
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:	Mr Trevor Leaker, 51 Ballynahinch Road, Saintfield BT24 7ND Tel: 07740880932		
CONGREGATIONAL SECRETARY:	Mr Andrew Gibson, 10 Carraig More, Saintfield BT24 7PW Tel: 97510600		
TREASURER:	Mr Roy Copes, 5 Rockmount Close, Saintfield BT24 7AW Tel: 97510773 Miss Suzanne Blain FCA, 65 Crossgar Road, Saintfield BT24 7JF		
STEWARDING:	Mrs Agnes Black, 58A Lisburn Road, Saintfield BT24 7BP Tel: 97510227		
GIFT AID:	Mr Bryan Rea, 12 Ballynahinch Road, Saintfield BT24 7AE Tel: 97510155		
OFFICE SECRETARY:	Mrs Anne Laidlaw, 3 Carraig More, Saintfield BT24 7PW Tel: 97511409		
FLOWER LIST CONVENOR:	Mrs Valerie Raymond, 14 Creevytenant Road, Ballynahinch BT24 8UW Tel: 92638144		
CHURCH OFFICER:	Mrs Anita McNair, 61 Tullywest Road, Saintfield BT24 7LX Tel: 97510087		
ACCOUNTANTS:	Jones Chartered Accountants, 4 Comber Street, Saintfield BT24 7AZ Tel: 97519800		
SESSION:	Mr Milne Barbour (6)	Mr Colin Black (1)	Mr Robert Barr
	Mr Gordon Campbell (4)	Mr Roy Copes (1,5)	Mr Ernest Foreman
	Mr James Gilmore	Dr Scott Laidlaw (2)	Mr Garth Leaker (2,4)
	Mr Trevor Leaker	Mr John McAllister (2)	Mr Stanley McFarland
	Mr Bryan Rea (1,2,3,5)		
COMMITTEE: 2018	Mrs Jane Adrain (5)	Mrs Joan Agnew (1,5)	Mr David Barr (4)
	Mrs Agnes Black (1,6)	Miss Suzanne Blain (1,5)	Mr Michael Clarke (5)
	Mrs Janice Cockroft (6)	Mrs Irene Craig (4)	Mr Jack Fairbairn
	Mr Andrew Gibson	Mr Neville Graham (5)	Prof Desmond Greer (6)
	Mrs Anne Laidlaw (6)	Mr Jonathan McFarland (4)	Mr Gary McNair(4)
	Mr Arthur Maitland	Mr William Nugent(6)	Mrs Pamela Reid(5)
	Mr Peter Shaw (B'gowan)		
	1. Freewill Offering Committee. 2. Graveyard Committee. 3. Gift Aid & Church Insurance. 4. Property Sub-committee. 5. Finance Sub-committee. 6. Administration sub-committee		
TRUSTEES:	Mrs Jane Adrain	Mr Thomas Barr	Mr Ernest Foreman
	Mr James Gilmore	Mr Neville Graham	Mr Trevor Leaker
	Mr Norman Shaw	Mrs Deborah Thompson	

CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC WORSHIP	Sunday 11.00am Morning Service 7.00pm As announced
BAPTISM	At Morning service by arrangement with the Minister
THE LORD'S SUPPER	On the second Sunday in January in the morning, on Maundy Thursday in the evening, on the second Sunday in May in the morning, on the second Sunday in September in the morning and on the first Sunday in November in the morning.
SERVICE OF PREPARATION	Receiving New Members. As announced
MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER TIME	On first and third Wednesdays at 8.00pm

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	JAM	11.00am	Mrs Janice Cockroft Mr Gordon Campbell	Tel: 97511505 Tel: 44831314
	JUNIOR BIBLE CLASS	11.00am	Mr William Nugent	Tel:
07731302053				
MONDAY	IGNITE	6.45pm	Mr Robert Gilmore	Tel:
	LADIES' BADMINTON	10.00am	Mrs Kate McAllister	Tel: 97510685
	GIRLS' BRIGADE (Age 3-7) (Age 8 +)	6.15pm 6.30pm	Miss Helen Lamb	Tel:
TUESDAY	ANCHOR BOYS'	6.30pm	Mr James Gilmore	Tel: 97511696
WEDNESDAY	SENIOR BADMINTON	7.45pm		Tel:
	JUNIOR BADMINTON	6.30pm	Mr David Henry	Tel: 97511741
THURSDAY	TABLE TENNIS	6.30pm	Mr Andrew Gibson	Tel: 97510600
	PARENT & TODDLERS	10.30am	Mrs Valerie Raymond	Tel: 92638144
FRIDAY	JUNIOR BOYS' BRIGADE	6.45pm	Mr Paul McNamara	Tel: 97519836
	BOYS' BRIGADE (Age 11-18)	7.30pm	Mr James Gilmore	Tel: 97511696
	BOWLING CLUB	7.30pm	Mr Colin Black	Tel: 97510227

OTHER ACTIVITIES

TUESDAY	LUNCH CLUB	12.00 noon	First Tuesday (October – March) Mrs Irene Craig	Tel: 97510340
	CONNECT COFFEE BAR	8.15pm	First Tuesday of each month Mrs Julie Graham	Tel: 90813019
WEDNESDAY	P.W.	8.00pm	Fourth Wednesday of each month Mrs Hazel White	Tel: 97511027
	MID WEEK & MEN'S FELLOWSHIP	8.00pm	First & third Wednesday Mr Stanley McFarland	Tel: 97511930
THURSDAY	LADIES' BIBLE STUDY	8.00pm	Second & fourth Tuesday Mrs Isobel Fairbairn	Tel: 97510530

BAPTISM

Isaac Oliver, son of Jason and Laura Stewart, 30 Cedar Hill, Ballynahinch on 1st December

MARRIAGES

Mr Patrick Mack, 26 Rowallane Manor and Miss Rebecca McCarey, 92 Old Belfast Road, on 25th May.

Andrew Morrison and Jan Robinson, 86 Carsonstown Road, on 14th June.

DEATHS

Mr Phillip McCormick, 12 Lough Carragh Park, Carryduff	1 st January 2019	Aged 71
Mr Joe McKelvey, 24 Queen's Park	1 st February 2019	Aged 98
Mr Hans Klein, 80 Moss Road, Ballygowan	1 st March 2019	Aged 75
Mrs Alice Robinson, 17 Moyra Drive	30 th March 2019	Aged 85
Mrs Rita Williamson, 8 Grange Valley	21 st June 2019	Aged 79
Mrs Elsie McFarland, 20 Ballynahinch Road	23 rd June 2019	Aged 85
Mrs Diana Wells, 22 Rathmore Avenue, Lisburn	27 th November 2019	Aged 95

BOYS' BRIGADE (Company Section)

Our 63rd annual display took place on Friday 29th March 2019. Congratulations to the trophy and award winners who were as follows:

Robert Newell Cup - Recruit Proficiency
Robinette Shield - NCO Proficiency
Junior Physical Recreation
Minnis Cup - Junior Proficiency
Livingstone Memorial Shield - Badgework
Mr & Mrs Robert Barr Shield - Drill Down
Graham Memorial Cup - Physical Recreation
Barr Cup for drill
Mrs L Graham cup - Best Squad

Jack & Isobel Fairbairn Cup - Scripture
Johnston Perpetual Cup - Most enthusiastic
Smyth Cup - Highest marks in inspection
Junior Scripture Cup

Samuel Edgar
Isaac Gibson
Harry Pollock
Thomas Leaker
Sam Harpur
Ethan Leaker
Adam Reid
Ethan Leaker
Squad 5: Adam Reid,
Jacob Leaker, Thomas Leaker,
Harry Pollock, Oliver McFarland
Daniel Cockroft (88%)
Reuben Dickson
Sam Barr
Sam Barr (66%)



DofE Bronze Award recipients
Jamie Adrain Sophie Kane Adam Kane Rose Fennell



DofE Gold Award recipients
Lauren Gabbie Charis Gibson

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expeditions

We organized Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition training in May for our boys and their friends and 13 young people headed out on their Bronze qualifying expeditions in the Mourne's on 15th/16th June.



Judith Brown
Rebecca Damerel
Lydia Dobson
Anna George
Catherine Clarke
Charis Leaker



Harry Pollock
 Tai Campbell
 Ryan Neill
 Seb Seymour
 James Shaw
 Zach Campbell
 Thomas Leaker

Well done to the Bronze groups who successfully completed their adventure.

Cathy Holmes, Emma McFarland, David Barr and Jim Fennell helped with training and organization and we are grateful for the time and effort they give to helping with DofE activities.

At the end of 2019 there are 25 young people working to complete their DofE award.

The **2019/2020** session commenced on 12th September 2019 and our joint BB/GB Enrolment took place during the morning service on Sunday 6th October in 2nd Saintfield Presbyterian Church. The following boys were enrolled:

Pte. Sam Barr	Sgt. Jack Campbell	Pte. Tai Campbell
Pte. Zach Campbell	Sgt. Daniel Cockroft	Sgt. Reuben Dickson
Pte. Samuel Edgar	Cpl. Isaac Gibson	Cpl. Patrick Leaker
Sgt. Ethan Leaker	Pte. Thomas Leaker	Pte. Harry Pollock
Sgt. Adam Reid	Pte. Seb Seymour	Pte. Ben Thompson

Company Section officers and helpers are Jordan Barr, Stuart Black, James Gilmore, Robert Gilmore, Bob Stewart, Jason Stewart and Tommy Stewart.

Jonny McFarland has stepped down as an officer after many years of dedicated service to the BB in 2nd Saintfield. He joined as a boy in 1996 and went on to gain his Queen's Badge in 2005. He completed his Youth Leader Training and was appointed as an officer in 2004 in the Anchor Boys. He gained his Outdoor Leadership qualification in 2006 closely followed by his DofE expedition assessor accreditation. He was a leader in both Anchor Boys and Company Section 2007 to 2009 and then with Company Section from 2010 to 2019 where he was responsible for the games and gym activities. We are grateful for the time he has given to keeping his training up to date over the years. He gained his Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award in 2006 and has been dedicated to helping others gain their awards, in particular the expedition section with many enjoyable days in the Mourne and adventures further afield.

In Bible Class this year we followed the BB NI District Scripture Programme taking a closer look at the 10 commandments. We unpacked the key values and there was plenty of discussion on how they not only show us what God wants, but show us what God is like. They say something about his honour, his worth, and his majesty. They tell us what matters to God.

Our only participation in Down Battalion competitions was in the Badminton at Clough in October where Harry Pollock was winner in the Yr11 -14 section.

We're looking ahead now to our display on Friday 20th March and after that our Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions - we hope to do Bronze and Silver depending on numbers.

Thanks to everyone who helped us during the year.

Bob, James, Jason, Jordan, Robert, Stuart, Tommy



Object of the Boys' Brigade

The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness.

BOYS' BRIGADE (Junior Section)

We had 4 new recruits from the Anchor Boys this year and the fun continues with good attendance each week. The boys really enjoy the Bible Class, games, crafts, archery, football, figure marching, quizzes and puzzles.


Adam Blain	Joshua Brymer	Harry Campbell
Matthew Christie	Ewan Ferguson	James Ferris
Darren McConnell	Alex McSpadden	Harry Patterson
James Quinn	Alex Reed	James Thompson

The leaders this year are Ethan Barr, Jordan Barr, Donald Blain and Paul McNamara.

Jordan takes the Bible Class at the start of each night as we continue to bring the gospel message to the boys and explain what it means to be a Christian. We used the syllabus provided by the Down Battalion and the theme this year is "Peter". The passages covered were:

- Matthew 4:18–22: Jesus Calls Peter and the First Disciples
- Matthew 14:22–33: Jesus (and Peter briefly) walks on Water
- Matthew 17:1–9: Peter at the Transfiguration of Jesus
- Matthew 26:36–46: Peter Falls Asleep
- Matthew 26:69–75: Peter Lies about Knowing Jesus
- Luke 24:1–12: Peter at the Tomb
- John 21:1–17: Peter has Breakfast at the Shore
- Acts 3:1–10: Peter and the Healing of a Lame Man

We had an outing to Laser Quest which was enjoyed by boys and leaders alike. We are also planning an night at "We are vertigo" – looking forward to that!

If you know someone in P5- P7 who would like to join in the fun, they'll be welcome at  on Thursday nights, 6.45pm – 8.00pm.

We hope to see you at our display on Friday 20th March at 7pm.

Paul, Donald, Jordan & Ethan

BOYS' BRIGADE (Anchor Boys')

We have enjoyed another busy year at Anchor Boys this year.

We started 2019 and continued with our theme of "Nature", with our squads being topically named Spiders, Dragonflies and Grasshoppers. Each Tuesday night, the boys learned more Bible stories, enjoyed taking part in quizzes and crafts, as well as rounding up each week with a game of Dodgeball!

The boys had great fun planting bulbs one week at Anchor Boys and taking them home to watch them grow, so an end of year treat was organised for the boys to Dobbies Garden Centre. They took part in some planting and gardening activities, and enjoyed some lunch together. They even got to take some potted plants home.

In our annual display at the end of the BB year, three boys moved up into Junior Section, and it is encouraging to see them still attending and enjoying the fellowship within Boys' Brigade. Families and friends were entertained as Anchor Boys sang "He's Got The Whole World In His Hands" (with our own adapted lyrics to fit with our squad names) and they played team games such as Spiders Web and Go Fetch.

Our 2019/20 year commenced at the beginning of September, and started with a healthy number of 22 boys in our section:

P4	P3	P2	P1
TJ Bell-Cunningham	Liam Ferris	Ben Brannigan	Joshua Blackburn
Nathan Crawford	Callum Quinn	Halil Edemen	Joshua McCarter
Joshua Shaw		Aaron Ferguson	Josh McCormick
Jude Young		Harry Gillespie	Max Stewart
		Josh Gourley	Harry Tate
		Mark McLeod	Jay Jess
		Henry O'Neill	Cameron Jarvie
		John Stewart	Jack McSpadden

Our theme for the next academic year was "Our Body", with our topical squad names being Rapid Runners, Jolly Jumpers, Happy Hoppers and Speedy Skippers. We took time at the start of each Tuesday evening to listen to a Bible Story, learning about various biblical characters. We also spent sessions each week praising and thanking God for the abilities our bodies have, and using these skills in various activities such as team games, singing, sports and crafts... and obviously our weekly game of Dodgeball!

Christmas time came, and our annual visit from Santa took place at our Christmas Party! There was lots of excitement - he even brought a present for each of the boys. We got into the festive spirit and sang Christmas songs, had snacks and played games. We listened to the Christmas story and spoke about our highlights so far to round up the year.

Thanks to the families of the boys for their continued support throughout the year.

James, Peter, Christine, Claire, Reuben and Jamie

CLASSIC VEHICLE SHOW

14th September 2019





HARVEST











REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



LADIES' BADMINTON

We meet every Monday morning in the church hall and this year we commenced play on 7th January.

Our first event was the Easter Tournament and charity lunch held on 8th April. It was a close contest with only nine points separating the two teams. The Captain presented the prizes which included key rings made from materials purchased in a Ugandan market and then sold to fund a much needed nursery school there. Lunch followed and £140 was raised for our chosen charity Cancer Focus.

In June we invited the Rev Dr Graham Connor to join us for coffee and presented him with a gift to mark his pending retirement. A beautifully decorated chocolate cake was provided for the occasion by our catering officer Hazel.

Play finished in June and re-commenced in September.

We are grateful to Mrs Vera George who on behalf of the club provided a beautiful floral arrangement for the Harvest services and also for providing a delicious apple tart at Halloween. Thanks Vera for sharing the recipe too!



The Maxwell Shield was played for on 16th December and the joint winners were Mrs Kate McAllister and Mrs Hazel Pentland. We then retired to the White Horse for Christmas lunch and Secret Santa.

Our year is punctuated with small events but most days we just enjoy trying to outplay our opponents and over coffee share our woes and count our blessings! This year we were delighted to welcome some new players and see the return of others. We continue to extend a warm welcome to anyone who might like to join us. Crèche facilities are available for those caring for young children.

The Office Bearers for 2020 are:

CAPTAIN: Brenda Johnston

SECRETARY: Jane Orr

TREASURER: Carol McCarey

CATERING OFFICER: Hazel Pentland

MOTHER AND TODDLER

The mother and toddler group continues to meet on a Thursday morning from 10.30am to 12 noon.

Our numbers continue to be good. We welcome mums, dads, grans and child minders. If you know of anyone in the district who would benefit from our group, please encourage them to come along.

The children enjoy playing and meeting other children in the area. Snack time is always popular when the children enjoy a healthy snack. The adults also have a welcome cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit.

Many thanks to the loyal helpers Norma, Agnes and Averil who all can be relied on.

The mother and toddler group welcomes anyone in the community with a child under three years of age.

Valerie Raymond

CARE COMMITTEE

The members of the Care Committee continue to deliver each week the flowers from the Communion Table to members of the congregation who are unable to attend church because of ill-health or bereavement.

As always, our thanks go to the ladies who provide the flowers each week and leave them for us to distribute.

SOUP LUNCH

The lunch club meets on the first Tuesday of every month from October – March. A lunch of soup, sandwiches and cakes is provided and gives those who attend a time of fellowship together. We enjoyed entertainment from Graham Murphy and the school choir from Derryboy Primary came along in December and we enjoyed listening to them and singing carols.



There are usually around 30 people present. If anyone would like to come along and requires transport, this can be arranged by contacting Irene at 97510340.

CONNECT

CONNECT
COFFEE BAR



1ST TUE OCT - MAR FROM 8.15

Connect Coffee Bar is open on the 1st Tuesday of each month from October to March

The coffee will be on from 8.15pm and we always have some treats on offer

Come at whatever time suits

Meet up with a friend

Get to know new people
If you would like to stay connected send a text to Julie 07786938436

CATERING

This group of ladies provides hospitality for organisations that request it. They also provide a service for the bereaved by providing refreshments after a funeral. We are very short of helpers so if anyone would like to help out please contact Joan (97511555) or Irene (97510340).

You do not need to have any great skills but a willingness to work and enjoy meeting people from our own congregation and many people from all over the province who come along as visitors.

Irene Craig

JUNIOR BADMINTON

Blink and another year has flown by. The junior players have continued to support our club and as some come to the end of their time in the junior ranks, we hope that we have given them an interest in a sport they can enjoy for the rest of their lives. Not all players are destined to reach the top of the sport, but the camaraderie, friendships forged and sheer enjoyment of the game are to be treasured. Seeing the smiles and laughter after a long rally finally ends, or a miss-hit shot that leaves the opposition wondering what they could have done, is encouraging for players and coaches alike. Any parents who don't want to feel left out by this welcoming and rewarding sport are more than welcome at the Senior Club on a Tuesday night.

From the second Wednesday in September through to the end of April (sometimes into May), the Junior Club is open to anyone between the ages of approximately 10 to 16. The club runs between 6.30 and 7.30pm each Wednesday evening and new members are always welcome, so please come along and give this great game a try.

We do have a rough routine to the session each week, starting with some basic coaching of racket skills, followed by either half court singles, or doubles play, where we advise on basic strategy, and finishing with a game of 'all play' or 'round the net'. This latter game is great exercise and gets more competitive as the standard improves throughout the year.

Any new member is given some individual coaching on serving the shuttle, so that they can participate in the various games and start to develop their skills.

With the continued membership we have again entered a team into the Under-17 North Down Juvenile Badminton League Division 2. These matches are held on various Saturday afternoons at Strathern School - from November through to April. Games have been closer this year with some of the rallies being really great to watch. Our team continue to improve and I am very proud of them all for their continued effort and conduct.

We will have the club competitions to run towards the end of the season (April) as well as the remaining League and Cup fixtures, so lots to look forward to for the remainder of the season.

Appreciation once again to Sandra who consistently gives of her time to help run the Junior Club, and to James and Barbara for filling in on occasions. Thanks too, to the parents of the club members who ferry their wards each week and also to those who have helped out with transport to matches.

Your continued support and assistance is very much appreciated.

David Henry

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB



This year our Holiday Bible club in August took the theme of 'Maker Fun Factory'. As always, lots of our local children joined us for 3 fun mornings where they learned about Jesus through bible stories, memory verses, songs, games, crafts, science experiments and snacks.

- Each day, the activities were all designed around a Bible point, a story from the Bible, and a verse:
Day one: 'God made you'...the children heard from Psalm 139 and Genesis 1 about how we are lovingly made by God. 'Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!' Psalm 139 v14
Day two: 'God is for you'...we saw in Joshua 1-2 how Rahab believed in God's mighty power. 'If God is for us, who can ever be against us?' Romans 8 v31
Day three: God is always with you...we learned in Judges 6-7 about how God was with Gideon. 'The Lord your God is with you wherever you go.' Joshua 1 v9
- The morning started with all the children coming together in the main hall for 'Sound Wave Sing and Play, involving warm ups, praise, Bible verses.
- Then the children split into their age groups and with their team leader travelled around the 5 activity stations (Bible Discovery, Kid Crafts, Games M, Makers, Imagination station and Snacks Factory) before returning to the hall for the 'Funshop Finale' with more music, prayer and challenges.
- The bible point was reinforced in many different ways at the various stations, and each child had their favourite! At Game Makers, lots of fun was had taking part in energetic games to learn about the Bible point. Those children who enjoy creating loved visiting the Imagination Station and Kid crafts to do experiments and make something to take home. At Bible Discovery, the children enjoyed acting out the Bible stories, hiding on Rahab's rooftop and joining Gideon's army. A big favourite as always was the Snacks Factory, where the children made (and ate) their own snacks, all whilst hearing about our wonderful God.

- Our Holiday Bible Club finished with a fabulous (if wet!) family fun night on the Friday evening where the parents joined us to hear about all the fun and to share some food and fellowship.

- An important part of each day at HBC is our morning devotional, essential for preparing us for the day ahead through prayer and a devotional. We are grateful that our prayers that God would be with us and that the children would be safe were fully answered and the team members found their faith strengthened.

- Our Holiday Bible Club was truly blessed again this year – but this would not be possible without the combined effort of all involved, working together with the goal of glorifying God.

- A big thank you to all those who helped this year in so many different ways – to our 40 leaders and helpers (especially our energetic and inspiring teenagers and young adults), to those who helped decorate the halls under Julie’s creative direction, to those who made breakfast for the team each morning, to those who made and provided food, to the Church Committee for providing funding, to those who gave generous donations and to those who provided much appreciated prayerful support. Thanks also go to the parents for sending their children and trusting them to our care.





SENIOR BADMINTON

The Senior Badminton club continues to meet on Tuesday nights in the church hall. We have members of all levels of ability and enjoy many games throughout the evening. We enjoy both mens, ladies and mixed games with a break for tea and biscuits at 9pm.

In the 2018-2019 season, 2nd Saintfield entered the Saintfield Warriors team in the Ulster League. The Warriors played some great games throughout the season and finished up in 3rd position in Division 6. The team also got through to the quarter finals in the cup competition of Division 6 where they were sadly beaten by Alpha Lions.

Team Members:

Gareth Harrison, Mark Scott, David Henry, Peter Finney

Pamela Robinson, Sandra Frew, Emma McFarland,

Sheelagh English, Suzanne Blaine

Reserves: Sophie Kane, Aoifa Fisher

Committee 2018-2019:

President: Rev Dr Graham Connor

Secretary: Karen Maxwell

Treasurer: James Gilmore

Committee: David Henry, Mark Scott, Annie Fennell

The badminton club was very sad to note the sudden passing of our friend and esteemed member Trevor Corrigan. Trevor sadly passed away after club on Tuesday 5th February 2019 and our thoughts and prayers are with his wife and family.

Our friend, teammate and club secretary Karen Maxwell left us in April to travel the world and we enjoyed a lovely early end of season meal at Daft Eddys to send her on her way. We are missing her at club on Tuesday nights but enjoy seeing regular updates of their travels.

As usual, we enjoyed a Christmas celebration on 17th December with lots of fun badminton games enjoyed by all followed by a special festive supper.

Senior Badminton Club meets every Tuesday evening at 7.45pm from September to April. New members of any playing ability will receive a very warm welcome!

Emma McFarland

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



As women of our congregation we are invited to meet on 4th Wednesday of each month from September - March. Speakers are varied and during the year included Rev Wlm Harkness and our own Claire Laidlaw speaking about Friendship House, IJM, (International Justice Mission) who are involved in rescuing people from slavery and oppression and Joanna Tinsley an

artist in her own right and wife of Colin who runs Hope for Youth Ministry. The woman's service and soup lunch took place on Sunday 3rd February with Margaret Robertson as the speaker. We were delighted to be able to give £1500 to PCI and £500 to our church from box opening night. This money helps support our deaconess and missionaries.

The Outing took place on 24th May to a wedding dress and flower festival in Missile and Ballycopeland Presbyterian Church.



During the months from April to August we continued to meet on 4th Wednesday of the month from 2-4pm where afternoon tea and goodies were served. We were glad a good number came including those from the community.

Again we give a warm invitation to any lady to join with us as we encourage one another in our walk with God.

Isobel Fairbairn

JAM (Jesus and Me)



It was another good year in Jam. The number of children attending was down on previous years, so we had to make some changes. This included reducing from 3 teaching groups to 2. For many years the children's groups were known as Shrimps, Stingrays and Sharks. These have been changed now to Salt and Light.

Salt accommodates children at nursery age to p4, while Light includes children from p5 – p7.

When children become secondary school age they join Junior bible class. JBC leaders discuss relevant topics with a biblical perspective.

When the children leave the church service, all ages come together in Big Group. Here we worship with praise songs, prayer and our children's offering. We also have a short talk or DVD clip, readings, birthday spot and prizes. Following a drink of juice and a biscuit, the children split into their groups for teaching, which can include games and crafts.

Jam's Charity 2019

Our chosen charity to support during 2019 was The Bible Society. Catherine Little from the Bible Society came to speak to the congregation in March. It was good to hear about the Society's work and how the bible impacts lives all over the world. Bible translation into other languages is an important part of their work. In addition, the bible is published in brail for the blind.



Following the generosity of the congregation through the loose offering on Children's day and from the funds raised in Jam, we were able to donate £1000 to the charity.

Children's Night Out

The JAM outing in June this year was to We Are Vertigo. The children enjoyed all the climbing on the high and low ropes (harnessed of course) and various other climbing apparatus. Juice was on hand to rehydrate the thirsty and everyone had a great time.



Leaders & Helpers

We are on the lookout for new leaders and helpers to assist in delivering the JAM programme. Generally, each leadership team only covers a few weeks every term, so the commitment is not onerous. There is great teaching material as a guide for leaders and the responsibility is shared with another leader within each team.

Please prayerfully consider if you would be willing to help out in JAM. If you want to find out a little more, talk to Gordon or Janice.

New Members

As already highlighted our children numbers are down in JAM. Please do encourage your children to invite friends or neighbours, if they are not attending another church. If you know of any children in your area who may be interested, please pass on their name and address details and we will send an invite.

We would like to thank the congregation for their ongoing support.

Gordon Campbell & Janice Cockroft

GIRLS' BRIGADE

Tinies and Explorers

We started our 19/20 Session with 29 girls, welcoming some new faces into our section and welcoming back the others after our summer break.

The theme of this year's Scripture course is The Life of David. Carol has been sharing the stories of David from the Bible with the girls in an easily understandable way.

This is evidenced in the way that the girls can remember and recall lessons that have been taught in previous weeks when quizzed on them.

Louise has again been showing her creative talents, leading the girls in craft activities. The girls enjoyed making marshmallow and grape caterpillars that turned into butterflies when put onto decorated plates. They also made paper fans and praying hands cards.

Each week we start the night with a game of duck, duck, goose as the girls are arriving. Later in the night the girls enjoy playing a variety of different games such as Traffic Lights, Dodgeball and Cut the Cake. Stephanie has also been teaching the Explorers some basic marching skills as well as practicing their skipping.

We close each Monday evening with a time of prayer and singing. Each week one of the girls has a chance to tell everyone a few of the different prayer points they have been focusing on for that week and one for us to pray for in the coming week. The girls are always enthusiastic in raising their voices to sing a few songs at the end of the night, with the favourite songs being Shine! Rainbow, and Great Big God.

We are so grateful to everyone who contributes to make our GB session as successful as it is, with leaders and helpers turning up consistently each week, enthusiastic and ready to share their love for God with the girls.

Helen Lamb, Carol McCarey, Louise Reed, Stephanie Shaw, Ashleigh Thompson.

With thanks also to the Brigaders who assist on a weekly basis as part of their Duke of Edinburgh volunteering, and because they love it!



Juniors

Last year we said a fond farewell to our outgoing Captain, Rosemary Fennel, who was leaving Saintfield to work in Brussels and gave a big welcome to our new Captain, Helen Lamb.

We ended last year with a terrific GB Juniors Fun Day at JungleNI in Magherafelt as part of the GB 125 year celebrations. The girls and leaders got to participate in a number of activities with over 1300 other juniors including paddle boats, archery, puzzles, bungee trampolines and quad train.

This year there are 18 girls in Junior Section (P5 – P7) with a number of new members who have been made very welcome and have settled in extremely well.

We started the year with our GB camp at the YMCA in Newcastle in September. 32 juniors and seniors along with 9 leaders and helpers enjoyed a fun packed weekend. Activities included abseiling, climbing wall, zipline and laser tag. The highlight of our weekend was our trip to Mauds on the Saturday evening for ice cream plus the team games organised by Jayne.

Each Monday night is varied and busy with a range of activities including scripture, craft, baking/cooking, marching, drill and games, of which dodgeball is a firm favourite with the girls. This year in scripture the girls are learning about King David and have also been learning Psalm 23.

As part of our Christmas festivities the Junior section participated with the rest of the GB Company in a Parent's evening of musical pieces, poems and readings. This was a lovely informal evening in the run up to Christmas and showed how talented our girls are.

Many thanks to all parents for sending their daughters each week to GB and allowing us as leaders to get to know your child better and to teach them to "Seek, Serve and Follow Christ".

Pamela Brown, Sally-Anne Brown, Pamela Reid



Seniors

This year there are 24 girls in the Senior Section (School Years 8-10). Attendance is excellent and most weeks there is full attendance.

The year started with the GB camp at Greenhill YMCA. Juniors and Seniors along with the leaders and helpers enjoyed lots of activities, including abseiling, climbing wall, zip line and laser tag. The usual Saturday evening trip to Maud's for Ice Cream and treats was, as always, a big hit. As a few new leaders were joining this year to

help at GB, camp was a great way to get to know the girls before the regular Monday nights began.

Due to shortage of leaders this year we approached the parents of the Senior girls and asked for parent helpers to keep our GB running. It was really encouraging to receive a positive response to this request and I am pleased to say that we now have a rota of a few parents who come on a Monday night to lend an extra set of hands. This is invaluable to our work.

Ashleigh Thompson who helps in Tinies/Explorers also offered to stay on for Seniors to help and this was a really big benefit to the girls and leaders. Rebekah Dobson, a previous Brigader in the company, attends on a Monday night to take the girls through drill and PE. The girls work really well with Rebekah and we are extremely grateful to her for giving up her time to help in this way.

Each Monday night we spend time looking at Scripture. This year we are working through the book of Psalms. We pray the girls are learning about God's love for them through these studies. The Psalms have been very thought provoking and raised lots of good opportunities for discussion.

The remainder of our time is spent working on badge work through craft, PE and cooking. Being in the kitchen on a Monday night is a firm favourite with the girls. We have made Pizza, French toast, shortbread and pancakes with everyone thoroughly enjoying the end result!

This year, as part of our Christmas programme, the girls decorated bags that were going to be filled with Christmas presents for the children in Hungary. We sent out a request for donations to fill the bags and the girls responded generously and for this we are very thankful. We also decided to try something new. We held a very informal parents evening and it was a great night! The girls from all sections sang, read poems and played various instruments. Our new GB Captain, Helen Lamb, gave a very through provoking short epilogue to a packed hall. It was a great way for the girls to show just how talented they are and for us as leaders to spend time getting to know the whole GB family.

Our thanks must go to all the parents who send their children along week by week and support the GB in all of its ventures. It really is an honour getting to know these girls and their families and to spend time with them, teaching them the importance of our motto, to 'Seek, Serve and Follow Christ'

Ruth Dobson

Brigaders

Each Monday, we welcome 11 girls into a relaxed atmosphere where we start the evening in conversation about their week and open in prayer. The girls are lively and definitely provide the leaders with great entertainment.

We spend time each week in Scripture looking at the Book of Psalms. Each week we look at a different Psalm, seeing the emotions of the Psalmist, how they handled themselves in each situation they faced and how we can personally apply that to the life of each girl in the various circumstances they find themselves in.

Each week we do various activities such as crafts, baking and of course our evening has to end with a rather competitive game of something – the favourites being uni-hoc or dodgeball.

It has been such a privilege getting to know the girls and, ultimately, we pray that each girl would either come to know Jesus as their personal Saviour or seek to grow in their relationship with Him.

Laura Stewart, Helen Lamb

INDOOR BOWLS

On Friday nights a group of enthusiastic Bowlers meet for some light hearted competition and banter. The tea and biscuits at the end of the evening is always very welcome.

The Libby Gregg Charity Tournament raised £200 for Prostate cancer.

Josephine Copes

CHOIR

The Choir continues to lead Sunday Morning Services and are always very grateful to the “extras” who help out at Harvest and Christmas Carol Services. Our thanks to Jayne Orr, Claire Laidlaw and Ken Robb who preside at the organ and piano during the year.

The Annual Choir Dinner was held in Frenchs, Clough and enjoyed by all present.

Josephine Copes