

Cregagh Presbyterian Online

Cregagh goes high tech!

The new website for Cregagh Presbyterian Church is under construction. We've a dedicated Communications team who are busy beavering away. Visit us at www.cregaghpresbyterian.org to get the latest news on forthcoming worship as well as contact details for the Ministers and office bearers. We hope you'll find it useful but please keep logging on as it develops over the next few weeks and months.

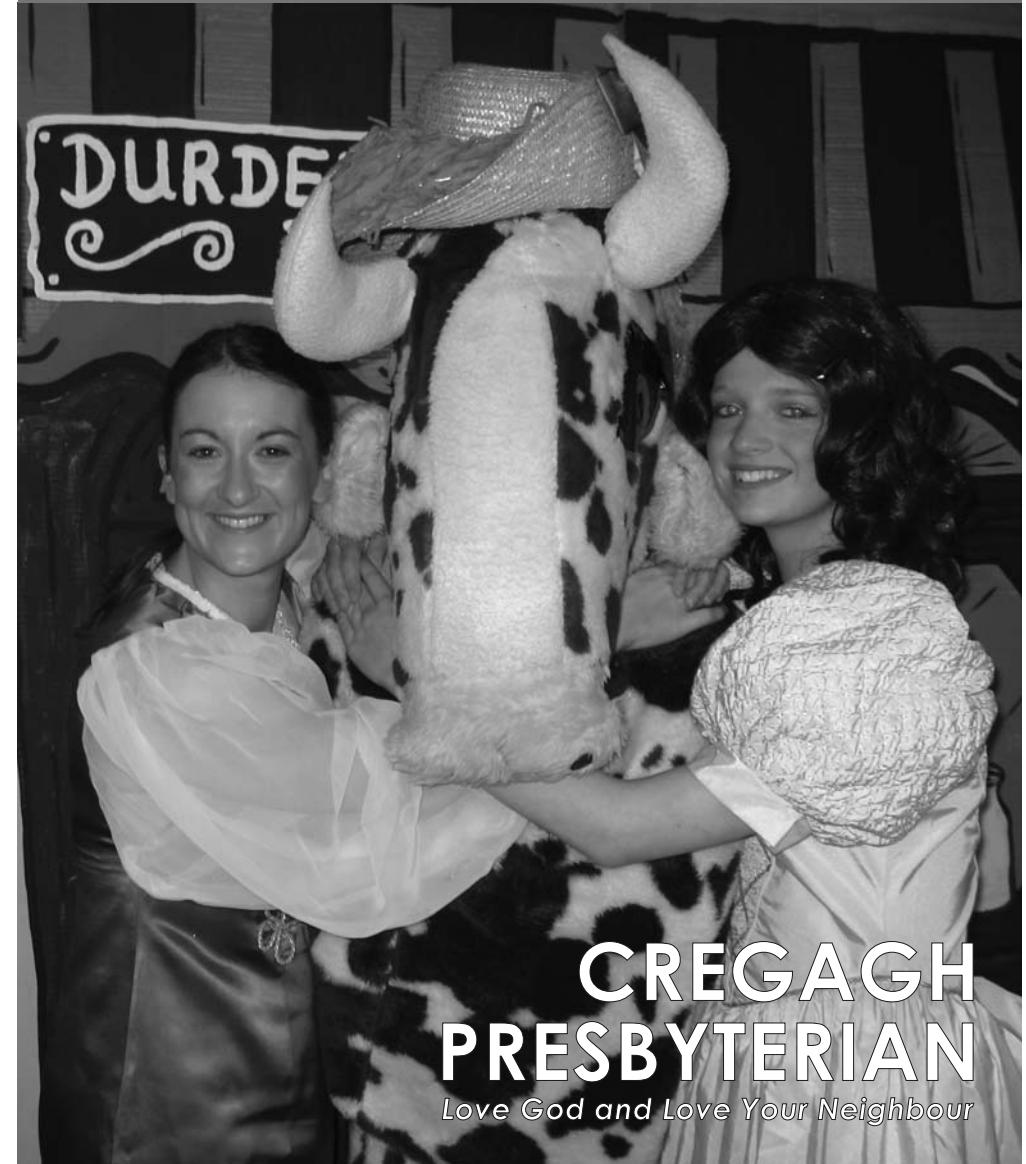


www.cregaghpresbyterian.org

CHURCHNEWS

Issue 1 - May 2007

Cregagh Presbyterian Church Magazine



**CREGAGH
PRESBYTERIAN**
Love God and Love Your Neighbour

Congregational Landmarks

- 1900 7th December – inaugural service of nucleus congregation in Brown Memorial School, Redcar Street
- 1902 Application to Belfast Presbytery for recognition as a congregation of the Irish Presbyterian Church
- 1902 March – opening of the 'Iron Church' on approximate site of the present Allen Memorial Hall
- 1902 2nd September – oversight accepted by Belfast Presbytery
- 1902 27th October – Church Extension Committee petitioned to invite the Rev. David Stewart B.A., Minister of Tralee, "to come and organise the people into a congregation"
- 1903 January – the Rev. David Stewart B.A. takes up his duties at Cregagh
- 1903 June – the General Assembly sanctions 'the erection' of the congregation to be known as 'Cregagh'
- 1903 22nd October – installation of the Rev. David Stewart B.A.
- 1906 January – the first issue of the church magazine 'The Blue Banner'
- 1910 8th July – the Rev. David Stewart B.A. appointed Presbytery Licensor
- 1910 Hymns and instrumental music introduced in congregation praise
- 1914 2nd November – branch of Senior Girls Auxiliary formed (discontinued in 1965)
- 1919 November – purchase of extra ground from Cregagh Athletic Club
- 1920 April – Weekly Freewill Offering system introduced
- 1925 Branch of the Junior Girls' Auxillary formed (discontinued in 1963)
- 1925 22nd October – registration of 66th Boy Scout Troop
- 1926 9th March – registration of 66th Wolf Cub Pack
- 1928 20th September – opening and dedication of present church
- 1929 23rd February – opening and dedication of Allen Memorial Hall
- 1931 Registration of 93rd Girl Guide Company
- 1933 27th March - formation of Women's Christian Union (The Women's Missionary Association since 1958 and Presbyterian Women's Association since 1971)
- 1933 Registration of 93rd Brownie Pack
- 1943 Retirement of the Rev. David Stewart B.A.
- 1944 17th January – installation of the Rev. William Arthur James Barbour B.A.
- 1944 22nd January – formation of the Young People's Fellowship (The 4Cs from 1972 and Youth Fellowship since 1987)
- 1944 Doctorate in Divinity conferred on the Rev. David Stewart B.A. by the Faculty of Assembly's College
- 1944 Formation of the 70th Boys' Brigade Company (discontinued in 1981)
- 1944 Formation of the 70th Life Boy Team (discontinued in 1977)
- 1948 30th May – unveiling of the 1939-1945 War Memorial Windows and tablet
- 1948 Formation of Cradle Roll Mothers' Circle (Young Women's Group P.W.A. from 1971 and Friendship Circle P.W.A. since 1977. Friendship Circle closed in 2002.)
- 1948 Electrical heating installed in church and halls
- 1949 Formation of Men's Social Circle
- 1951 Manse purchased at 108, Cregagh Road
- 1952 5th January – opening and dedication of church hall for our daughter congregation, St. Andrews, Rosetta Road
- 1952 7th September – commencement of Primary Sunday School in Montgomery Road (discontinued in 1968)

Congregational Landmarks

- 1953 9th November – unveiling of Dunlop Memorial Window
- 1956 Badminton Club restarted
- 1956 14th January - opening and dedication of Stewart Hall (temporary Minor Hall from 1969 until demolished in 1989 for site of Sleith Youth Centre)
- 1959 25th March – decision to undertake extensive building programme and installation of new pipe organ
- 1959 27th September – launch of Building Fund and dedication of Visitors and Collectors
- 1961 25th March – death of the Rev. David Stewart B.A., D.D.
- 1961 2nd May – the Rev. W.A.J. Barbour B.A. appointed Presbytery Licensor
- 1963 28th September – re-opening of the church after renovation, enlargement and installation of new organ and the Rev. Dr. David Stewart Memorial Bell
- 1965 25th September – first Annual Flower Show
- 1966 25th – 28th April – first Annual Music Festival
- 1967 29th January – first issue of 'Weekly News Sheet'
- 1969 15th November – opening and dedication of the Stewart and Barbour Halls
- 1970 27th September – dedication of church floodlighting and unveiling of wall plaque in memory of Mr William Sparks
- 1975 16th November – retirement of the Rev. W.A.J. Barbour B.A.
- 1976 March – new manse purchased at 19 Glen Ebor Park
- 1976 14th May – installation of the Rev. Albert Allen Sleith M.A., B.Ed.
- 1976 10th August – the Rev. A.A. Sleith appointed Presbytery Licensor
- 1977 28th August – death of the Rev. W.A.J. Barbour B.A.
- 1978 3rd September – dedication of new kitchen and toilet block
- 1979 January – first Annual Pantomime
- 1980 New manse purchased at 11 Kensington Gardens
- 1980 15th June – dedication of the Rev. W.A.J. Barbour Memorial Windows
- 1989 16th April – opening and dedication of Sleith Youth Centre by the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Rev. A.W. Godfrey Brown
- 1994 Publication of 'The Rock in the Plain', a history of Cregagh Presbyterian Church by Mrs J.C. Barbour
- 1996 4th June – the Rev. A.A. Sleith graduates as Doctor of Ministry at the McCormick Theological Seminary, University of Chicago
- 1996 27th October – new lighting and oil-fired heating installations dedicated by the Very Rev. Dr. John Ross B.A.
- 2000 Centenary Year of Congregation
- 2000 24th September – Millennial/Centenary Window dedicated by the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Rev. Dr. Trevor Morrow
- 2001 31st January – retirement of the Rev. Dr. A.A. Sleith D. Min., B.A., B.Ed., Dip. Ed.
- 2001 25th March – dedication of the Eva Stewart Memorial Windows
- 2001 19th September – installation of the Rev. James Hastings McIntyre B.Sc., B.A., B.D., Dip. Ed.
- 2002 June – new manse purchased at 15 Garland Crescent
- 2003 September – KidZone formed (amalgamation of Sunday School and Children's Church)
- 2005 9th January – commenced use of New Irish Presbyterian Hymn Book

Dates for your Diary

Annual Summer Garden Fête

Saturday 2nd June at 2.00 pm in Church Grounds/Halls.

Annual Children's Day Services

Sunday 3rd June at 11.00 am and 7.00 pm

Annual Meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Monday 4th - Friday 8th June in Church House, Fisherwick Place, Belfast
(see Presbyterian Herald for booking of tickets for Opening Night and Installation of New Moderator)

Focusfest - Belfast Waterfront Hall

Friday 22nd - Saturday 23rd June

Summer Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Sunday 24th June at 7.00 pm

Summer Madness - Kings Hall, Belfast

Friday 29th June - Saturday 7th July

Jubilate Chorale (University Choir) from Waukesha, Wisconsin, USA

Sunday 1st July at 7.00 pm (our Assistant Minister, Rev Troy Morgan's, home town)

'Seaside Rock', Holiday Bible Club

Monday 13th – Friday 17th August, 9.45 am to 12.30 pm

Congregational Dinner Dance, Stormont Hotel

Friday 19th October (time to be confirmed)

Mandate - The Odyssey Arena, Belfast

Saturday 17th November

Joint Sunday evening services with McQuiston Memorial in July (at Cregagh Presbyterian) and August (at McQuiston). All services are at 7.00 pm.

Tea/Coffee is served in the Stewart Hall after the Morning Service on the first Sunday of each month from January - May and September - December; and each week during June, July and August.

Welcome

Welcome to the new look magazine!

Over the last couple of years as we looked at the life of the Cregagh family we realised that communication is vital. In any family, communication enables the members to learn about and understand each other, and also helps in the process of making decisions. It is no different around the Church.

This is the first edition of a regular attempt to keep everyone informed about what is going on (and there's a lot, believe me!) None of the activity, from the Garden Fete on Saturday 2nd June to the Holiday Bible Club in August, would happen without a host of volunteers offering their time and skills. The magazine, too, is the result of a team of people planning and doing. Our thanks are due to them all.

Enjoy the first edition and perhaps you could have an article in a future issue – think about it.

Hastings McIntyre

We would welcome your comments, photographs and stories for future editions.

Information for the September issue should be sent to any member of the Communications Group by Friday 10 August, or by e-mail to churchnews@cregaghpresbyterian.org.

This edition has been compiled and edited by the Communications Group – Stephen Michael, Trevor Hanna, Derrick Carlidge, Leslie Ferguson, Sandra McCormick, Robert McNair and David Gillespie.

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Church Records

Baptisms

AIMEE LOUISE MACKENZIE
Infant daughter of Stewart and Nyree-Dawn, 23 Richill Park.
Born 25th November 2006. Baptised 4th February 2007.

LOCHLANN FINLAY WATSON
Infant son of Clark and Davina, 90a Cregagh Road.
Born 16th December 2006. Baptised 4th February 2007.

JESSICA GRACE FOY
Infant daughter of Michael and Lynsey, 18 Hillfoot Street.
Born 15th August 2006. Baptised 25th March 2007.

CHLOE MARGARET MOONEY
Infant daughter of Trevor and Jennifer, 21 Thiepval Avenue.
Born 1st February 2007. Baptised 6th May 2007.

Deaths

11th January 2007	Mr Charles Andrew Verner	1 Lancedean Road
12th January 2007	Mrs Ruby Luney	51 Merok Park
14th January 2007	Mr John Thomas George	19 Merok Park
11th February 2007	Miss Eileen Clair Clements	18 Ladas Drive
13th February 2007	Mr Robert Greer	171 Killynure Road, Saintfield
27th February 2007	Mrs Nan Scott	13 Loopland Crescent
2nd March 2007	Mrs Barbara Johnston	61 Rochester Avenue
9th March 2007	Mrs Edith Hamilton	33 Stirling Avenue
11th March 2007	Mrs Eileen Ryan	11 Parkgate Gardens
20th March 2007	Mr Eric Woollams	68 Pommern Parade
3rd April 2007	Mrs Sadie Sloan	2 Belle Bashford Court
5th May 2007	Mrs Violet Catney	'Tudordale', Holywood Road



The sun is out, the sky is blue

'Seaside Rock'

is just for you!

This year's Holiday Bible Club is called '**Seaside Rock**' and will take place between

Monday 13th – Friday 17th August 9.45am – 12.30pm

with a special Family Service and Picnic on Sunday 19th August at 11.00am.

Why not send your children along to our very own seaside in Cregagh for a fun-packed week of games, songs, crafts, drama and lots lots more.

All children aged between **4 and 11 years** will be most welcome. Forms will be given out in June to our own KidZone as well as to children in Harding Memorial and Lisnasharragh Primary Schools, and will also be available in the front vestibule of the Church for anyone else not included in the above.

Enrolment forms for those wishing to attend should be returned to the Church by the **30th June** if possible as places are limited and on a first-come first-served basis.

Should you require any further details in the meantime, please contact

Karen McCurry (Tel: 9070 5644)

CREGAGH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GARDEN FÊTE

Saturday 2nd June 2007 at 2.00pm

Plans are well advanced for this year's Garden Fête to be held in the Church Halls and grounds. Let's make it the Fun Family Day Out it has been for many years for members of the congregation, their friends and people from the district. For this to happen we need your support.

As well as side-shows there will be the usual stalls - that's where you come in!

Do a spring clean and anything saleable you come across whether in the garage, the attic or the cupboard can be brought along or even collected. As well as bric-a-brac we need cakes, groceries, eggs, books, old records, toys (old and new), etc. but no clothes or electrical goods please.

If you would like items collected please contact
Peter Davey on 9079 5595 or Bobby Irvine on 9070 1037

The Allen Memorial Hall will be open to receive items for the Fête on Tuesday 29th, Wednesday 30th, and Thursday 31st May from 7.00pm – 9.00pm.

If you could give a couple of hours on the day to 'man' the stalls we would love to hear from you – speak to Peter Davey or John Millen. Your help will make a difference. Let's all make the Garden Fête a success again this year.



Cregagh Presbyterian... a Congregation for the Future!

We take a look at what the future holds in store for the Church Buildings. Do we rebuild or repair what we have?



We all remember the shock we got when we heard the results of the survey that had been done on the buildings a couple of years ago!

And there were the questions that were raised:-
Was it going to fall down around us?
What could be done to sort the problems out?
How could we continue to meet if the building crumbles?
What was it going to cost to fix it?

Initial discussion with the engineers and architects revealed figures up to £2 million to repair the present structure or to replace it with a new building.

However, it really got us thinking:

- Is it wise and/or right to spend that amount of money on a building?

Street Reach

Some members of the Youth Fellowship recently helped with Street Reach in the Cregagh Estate. Laura, Cherith, Karen and Lauren tell us what they got up to.



This Easter we went out into the Cregagh Estate to participate in helping the community. Street Reach lasted from Wednesday to Friday and during this time we helped the community by painting fences, gardening, car washing and even picking up litter.

We were split into twelve groups. Five groups went to St Andrew's Church and seven groups, including ours, stayed at Cregagh Congregational. Our group was made up of six people and had two leaders in it. The groups had

different jobs to do every day, but before this we enjoyed an hour of praise which helped us come closer to God and taught us how to communicate with people in the Cregagh Estate and show God's love. We also had our lunch before we left which was yummy!!

On our first day we washed cars (which was fun) and picked up litter. We also got to talk with other people in the community about God and about how to live our Christian lives. Laura and Cherith got to speak with an elderly man who didn't know how to move forward in his life with God. We prayed with him, with a little help from one of the leaders in our group.

On our second day we were gardening. It was hard work but we all had fun and enjoyed the experience.

On the Friday we went to a house and cleaned their windows and painted their fence. We all thought this day was the hardest as we were short of time because at 3 o'clock we had a BBQ to go to in Cregagh Community Centre. The BBQ was organised by all the local children and their parents for those involved in Street Reach to thank them for their help. Everyone enjoyed the band, face painting, dancing and also nice food.

We all enjoyed the Street Reach experience and are looking forward to doing it again in the summer.

Walking Group

A walk along the Newry Canal in Aid of Action Cancer.



David Gillespie and Robert McNair, pictured at the half-way point in Scarva, were just two of the 130 people who took part in the Outward Bound Association's walk along the Newry canal in aid of Action Cancer on 14th April.

Congregation members Bobby Irvine and Harold and Sheena Stewart successfully completed the 10 mile walk whilst Robert and David slogged it out for 20 miles! Hot bath for sore legs anyone?

- Will there be a congregation here in 30 year's time to use the building?
- What kind of building do we need as we look to the future?
- What are we here on the Cregagh Road for?
- What is our purpose, our mission?

Twenty-one months ago at a Special Meeting of the Congregation we discussed these issues and agreed that, before we would tackle the buildings, we should examine our purpose and our mission – asking the question, 'Will Cregagh be a viable congregation in 20/30/40 year's time?' In other words, 'Do we have a future?' and, if not, should we just let the buildings crumble around us as safely as possible.

A Steering Group of ten people (now called the Strategy Group) was appointed and set to work. They recognised all the good work done by so many in the congregation over the years. They re-iterated what had been accepted as the mission statement of the congregation – and came up with a more easily remembered summary –

'Love God and love your neighbour.'

Loving God and loving your neighbour is a very nice idea, but what does it mean in practice? We worked on that and a number of areas were identified as being of crucial importance.

These have been distilled into the following six:

- 1 Growing in faith
- 2 Putting faith into action
- 3 Meeting social and spiritual needs
- 4 Providing good worship
- 5 Being open and welcoming as a family
- 6 Keeping everyone informed.

The Strategy Group reported on this last June and you, the congregation, agreed to proceed to the next stage of developing each of these areas. So a team was set up for each one. Each team was challenged to come up with an action plan to further their particular aspect of the life of the congregation. Their ideas were to:

- build upon what is being done already within the congregation
- involve more people in addition to the faithful core
- start a process of thinking, planning and reflection as we look to the future

Some of these actions have already happened and some are in the process of happening:

- The Alpha Course to encourage discussion and openness
- The monthly coffee bar after the morning service
- The new format of Faith Issues
- Home groups
- Social events such as the 'Test the congregation' quiz night

Also planned are:

- A book club to discuss books from a Christian point of view
- Training in and practical praying on all kinds of issues
- A walking group for the summer months
- A dinner dance in the autumn
- A worship committee to provide input to and feedback on our worship
- A co-ordinated approach to our overseas mission support
- A regular magazine to keep us all informed
- A website to inform others

After all of this, the Strategy Group has come to the very clear conclusion that Cregagh Presbyterian Church is viable and has a future.

No-one knows what will happen tomorrow, let alone next year, but the Strategy Group's conclusion is based on the willingness and commitment of all who have been involved in the Strategy Group, the six Teams and the individuals and groups they have approached for help.

The commitment that was obvious in the past in Cregagh is still here so long as we keep renewing our efforts to include new people in the family core. Having come to that conclusion, there is a sense in which the Strategy Group's job has been done and now the building can be tackled. That is our position today!

However the Strategy Group and the various teams are aware that in terms of things planned we have to walk before we run so their work must go on while and after the building decisions have been taken. This is just the beginning of the next chapter in our history.

Part of our remit was to think about what kind of a building we will need if we are to be effective as a church into the future. From the various activities and ideas, old and new, that are planned, the following are seen as essential in any building:

- Comfortable seating for 250-300 people
- Easy access to the building for all
- Everyone able to see the speaker, etc.
- Everyone able to hear the speaker, etc.
- An adaptable space at the front of the worship space
- Space for organ, choir and praise group
- Screens suitably placed to be easily visible by everyone when needed and not 'in your face' when not in use
- A mingling area much bigger than the present vestibule
- A means of displaying information for all
- An inviting entrance (not the back door and up steep steps for mothers with buggies or infirm or disabled people)

You provided other ideas from your own experience and from visiting other places.



Mehria had made the national dish of 'Fli' for us. This consisted of cooked layers of flour and water with creamy milk in between each layer. It was a humbling experience that she had gone to so much trouble for us, especially when she had so little.

While the boys played football with Mehria's sons we showed her daughter, Arbotorie how to make some cards and left craft materials with her to make some more.

Gail read Romans chapter 8 verses 35 to the end from the New Living translation of the Bible and the words were very poignant and we prayed together as one of God's families.

About two years ago Mehria had been given a cow with the proviso that the first calf be given to another needy family and thereafter any calves can be sold to help buy food. As we left we passed a wooden shed and inside was the cow and her new calf. A lot of us have over the years have bought goats and hens and it was great to see this scheme actually working.

The memories of this visit will always stay with me.

If anyone has ever thought about helping others in this way I would encourage them to consider being part of a team as it was such a rewarding experience.



The manager of the Independent Living Unit, Jullietta, was also responsible for a shelter and no one except a teacher was allowed in. We were extremely privileged to be allowed into the shelter and to work with the young people aged from ten to fifteen. There were two boys who had been badly physically abused and six girls who had been sexually abused, some had been trafficked for sex.

The house was behind locked gates, there were guards on duty and a few of the girls were not allowed out of the house at all. We found out later that they were potential witnesses at court cases against sex traffickers. The girls faces were like a blank canvas with no expression and sad, even dead eyes. During the four days we made crafts, played games and had fun, some of the young people even laughed but their eyes stayed dead.

We were so privileged to have worked with those young people and it was amazing how much our relationship developed over the days and it was heartbreaking when we had to say goodbye.

We worked with a Woodcutters family and were able to put a new roof on their home. We also provided money for a new water tank at the SOS Kinderdorf children's home for abandoned, orphaned or unwanted children.

In Peja we visited a number of families and whilst they were all memorable I want to share one visit with you.

We visited Mehria and her family of one girl and four boys and took them some groceries. They were very welcoming and hospitable. We went into a room which I thought was very nice, but then I found out it was their only room and the family lived, ate and slept in that one room.

So, where do we go from here? We have been in touch with the engineers/architects throughout. As you know the bell tower is the most immediate part of the problem and we have been in discussion about what exactly is needed there.

Meanwhile, the buildings group has used your ideas and has drawn up a specification of exactly what is needed and what we would like to have in addition to the basic needs, so that the architects can come up with definite plans and therefore costs for our consideration and decision.

At this point all options are still open

- from doing nothing
- to knocking the whole lot down and building from scratch
- the options in the middle are for a complete refurbishment of what we have, or doing it in some kind of phased way and incorporating various improvements as we go

When will we be in a position to make that decision?

We have provided the architects with the details we want and they will then have a considerable amount of work to do before they come back to us and we can begin to whittle down the options.

What we must do is make an informed decision at each stage. To do so, we need three things:

- 1 Knowledge of the congregation, its people, activities and mission
- 2 Knowledge of what is physically possible with the buildings – can they be repaired or not? Can this be done in phases?
- 3 Knowledge of the financial costs and our ability to pay.

Someone might say why have we not been doing more fundraising up to the present? The reason is that fundraising events provide merely the icing, the cake has to be supplied through our regular giving. It has increased significantly but it would have to do so even more to tackle the job we are contemplating.

Who will decide?

The buildings group will work with the architects and make a recommendation to the church committee. They in turn will consider the recommendation and will make their own recommendation to the congregation. We will make the final decision. So that it will be an informed decision we will keep you posted along the way.

O yes it was...!

This year's pantomime production was 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We look back at the show and see how the money raised is being used for God's work.



Our recent production of 'Jack & the Beanstalk' in January 2007 proved to be one of our most successful to date with well over a thousand seats sold.

Proceeds came to over £1800, from which £1600 are being given to our own Church funds; £200 to 'The Esther Benjamin's Trust' working with the rescue of children in Nepal; and not forgetting £75 to the Christian Charity 'Send A Cow', for a share in a cow being donated to a village in Africa.

We felt so guilty that Jack had sold Clarissa for a handful of beans that it was the least we could do to make up for it!

Maureen Mulligan - Kosova Support Group, Easter 2007

Maureen gives us an insight into her recent visit to Kosova and talks about the work being undertaken by the Kosova Support Group.



At Easter I went with eight other team members from various Presbyterian Churches to Kosova. We worked in the capital Pristina, and Peja, a town surrounded by beautiful mountains. In 1999 many families walked for three days and nights over these mountains to escape with their lives as villages were being burned and people killed.

In Pristina we worked in Hope and Homes residential homes for children in need of protection. We worked at the Independent Living Centre with girls aged seventeen to twenty one making cards and jewellery with them. It was amazing how quickly a bond between us was established.



In the afternoon we headed into Newcastle to wander round the shops, eat some ice cream and play some 2p machines!! It's true that NI is very small and we just couldn't escape Cregagh. Some of us ran in Tommy and Beth McCluskey and then Jackie Davey!! We ended up having a very 'friendly' turn on the bumper cars to finish the afternoon.

Obviously a very important element of the weekend was making sure the avid Northern Ireland supporters didn't miss the match.

On Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning we had times of worship – the theme of these was sharing God's love in a way that people can relate to without ramming it down their throats and how we are going to respond to that. Many of the young people are now hoping to get involved in Summer Madness and the Street Reach programme which reaches out to people in Belfast during the summer. We also had times of praise at each of these sessions where we sang some songs we knew and some new ones including a round which included 'Oh when the saints', 'Swing low sweet chariot' and 'This train is bound for glory' – very confusing at first but ultimately pretty cool – just ask David and Matthew to show you the actions!

The rest of the free time was filled with munching on sweets from the tuck shop, playing singstar, buzz and need for speed on the play station, listening to music, playing football, playing hunt and generally spending time chatting and getting to know each other better.

We would like to thank everyone who supported our recent music night which helped us to raise funds towards the cost of this weekend and which we hope may help with the cost of those wanting to do Street Reach.

Feature

Oh la la!!

We take a look at the recent Murder Mystery Evening held on 21st April and find out 'whodunnit'!



The murder scene was set. It was Easter weekend in the luxurious Hotel Paradiso in Paris (really the Allen Hall), where the famous chocolate manufacturer, Billy Bonka, had come to a sticky end when a large chocolate Easter egg fatally exploded in his arms!

But who had placed this deadly chocolate weapon? It was up to the dinner guests to work it out, but thankfully Inspector Hercule McClue was on hand to guide them through the various clues and exhibits that helped to nail the murderer.

It could have been any of the specially invited VIPs as each had a fitting motive. Could it have been one of his main rivals in the chocolate industry, Monsieur Chocolat Bertrand or the seductive Maria von Schnapps? Was it the eccentric Aztec archaeologist Dr Doris Johnson or the controversial psychologist Dr Sigmund Fraud? Perhaps it was the notorious international artiste Marchioness Duchamps or his ex-lover the famous romantic novelist Dame Barbara Carthorse. Or what about the madcap music hall ventriloquist Little Fitz and his potentially homicidal dummy Ziggy?

Mais non it was none of these!

The devious killer turned out to be none other than the American boxer Mike Bison, played so convincingly by our very own Assistant Minister, Troy Morgan.

An excellent four-course French-themed meal was provided by outside caterers, all served up by our own Cregagh teenagers, looking 'magnifique' in their French maid and waiter uniforms.

Many thanks to the Panto cast and the Spiritual and Social Needs Group for organising such a wonderful evening.



Feature

YF Music Night and Weekend at Greenhill YMCA, Newcastle

The funds raised at the YF Music Night assisted with the cost of their weekend away in Greenhill. We look at both events.



On Friday 23rd March, 25 of us headed to Greenhill YMCA in Newcastle for our annual YF weekend.

On Saturday morning the Greenhill staff organised a session which they call 'initiatives'. It was great fun as you can hopefully see by some of the pictures - we had to lift jugs of water with our feet, make our way across invisible rivers and get untangled from a knot of people!! Although I must admit my favourite was a game where a ping-pong ball was put into the bottom of a plastic pipe which had lots of holes in it. We had to get the ball to the top by filling the pipe with water - on more than one occasion those blocking the holes got very wet!!