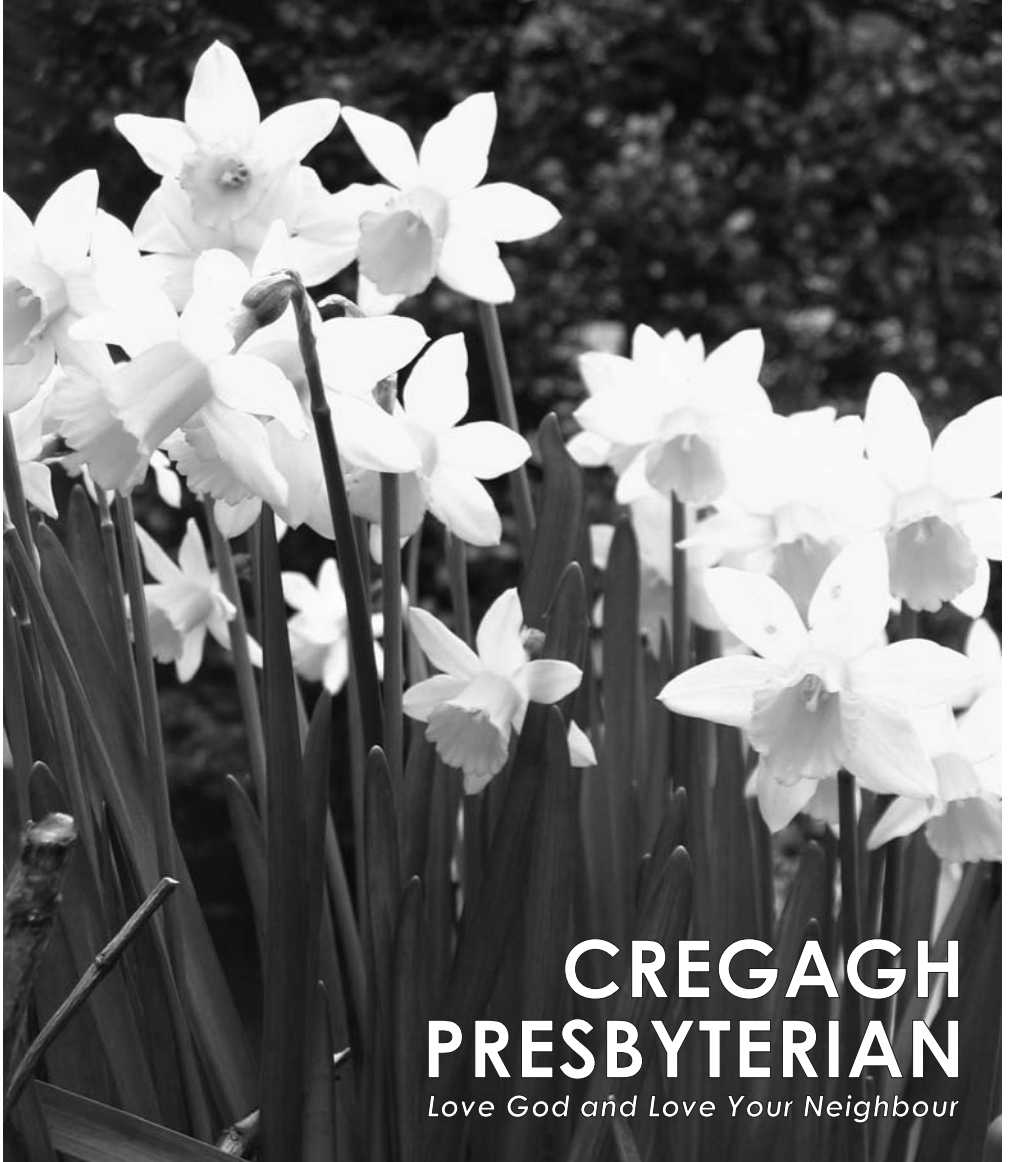


CHURCHNEWS

Issue 4 - April 2008

Cregagh Presbyterian Church Magazine



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

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

Information for the next issue should be sent to any member of the Communications Group or by e-mail to churchnews@cregaghpresbyterian.org.

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

Welcome



Dear Friends,

As I look out the window, the bright yellow of the daffodils bobbing around in the wind brighten the place up after the dismal days of winter. Delicate as they are, they are remarkably resilient in the harshness of storm and rain. Spring flowers are signs of a new beginning, new life in the gardens.

You will read elsewhere in this magazine of the major decision we, the congregation of Cregagh, have taken to breathe new life into our buildings over the next few years. The purpose is not just to have beautiful buildings but rather to have a place which is honouring to the God we worship and which is used both for worship and witness. We hope to have a suite of buildings which is appropriate for the 21st Century and suitable for the host of activities that go on week in and week out for young and old.

Easter is the great celebration of the new life and hope that is at the centre of our faith. It is a time which reminds us again of the lengths God was prepared to go to show his love, giving his only son even to die for us. In his dying at Calvary Jesus showed that neither death nor human cruelty and selfishness would have the last word because the miracle of Easter Sunday followed the tragedy of Good Friday.

Life is stronger than death! Hope is stronger than despair!

Even if you are going through a period in life which seems like the darkness and despair of a Good Friday at present, remember that Jesus promised that all who believed in him would know God's life within them and that for them, too, Easter would come.

Look at the spring flowers as illustrations of how new life appears out of the dark, cold, dull brown of winter. Note, too, that human life, like the daffodil or crocus,

Welcome

is delicate but remarkably resilient. But the greatest thing to hold on to is the fact that,

'Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being; the old has gone, the new has come.' (2 Corinthians 5:17)

This year, in the afterglow of Easter, let us marvel at the fact that:

**'Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.'**

Yours sincerely,

Hastings McIntyre

CREGAGH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GARDEN FÊTE

Saturday 31st May 2008 at 2.00 p.m.

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 27th, Wednesday 28th, and Thursday 29th May from 7.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.

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.



Contents

06



06 A Congregation for the Future!

Further Developments.

09 We've come a long way...let's give ourselves a Pat on the Back!

Sometimes, it's worthwhile stopping to reflect on how much you have achieved, and the church is no different.

10



10 Easter Greetings from Hungary!

Eta Georgey joined our congregation in 2005/06 when she was studying at Union College.

12 Robin Hood & The Singing Nun

Pantomime has been and gone for yet another year in Cregagh.

12



14 Youth Fellowship Weekend in Castlerock

This year the Youth Fellowship went to Guysmere in Castlerock for their annual weekend away.

Contents

16 Good Worship...have your say

The Good Worship Group has had quite an active role over the past year.

17 Wheels for the World...in Ghana

Anne Gamble shows us how the money raised by the Morning Watch Group has helped sponsor five wheelchairs for disabled people in Ghana.

19 It's a Boy!

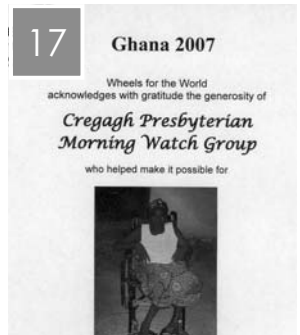
A new addition to the Michael household.

20 Church Records

An update of the recent Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths in the congregation.

21 Dates for your Diary

A few dates of forthcoming events and services for your diary.



Cregagh Presbyterian... a Congregation for the Future!

Further developments. . .



What a momentous few weeks in the life of this congregation!

In the most recent editions of Church News, we have kept you informed of the proposed work we need to do to the church buildings. This is because a number of structural surveys have shown that the buildings are in need of extensive repair.

Over the past year and a half, we have been working hard to meet the spiritual and social needs of the congregation, developing our worship for allcomers, and becoming more open and welcoming as a congregation. We hope you have seen the benefit of this.

But a thriving congregation needs good buildings with good facilities to worship in. To meet these needs, a specification was drawn up based on the congregation's views and ideas, and our architects (R Robinson and Sons) developed plans to meet that specification.

It was clear that there were a number of options open to us:

- Option 1** Do nothing.
- Option 2** Refurbish the church buildings to their existing layout.
- Option 3** Refurbish the church buildings to their existing layout with an extension and upgrade of our 'welcoming facilities'.
- Option 4** Rebuild.

Plans and costings, based on refurbishing or rebuilding, were considered by our Building Survey Group and a proposal was put to a joint meeting of Kirk Session and the Congregational Committee on 5 February 2008. The proposal was accepted unanimously. The same proposal was then put to the congregation at the Annual General Meeting on 21 February 2008 where it was carried by 117 votes for to 6 against in a card vote.



The proposal is...

- to undertake a staged refurbishment of the main church building based on the indicative construction costs presented by Robinsons (December 2007)
- along with construction of extended/upgraded 'welcoming facilities' to the plan submitted on 1st February 2008.
- to relocate the organ and choir permanently to the front of the church in a dedicated seating area, with space created and services provided at the front for other activities, such as the Praise Group.

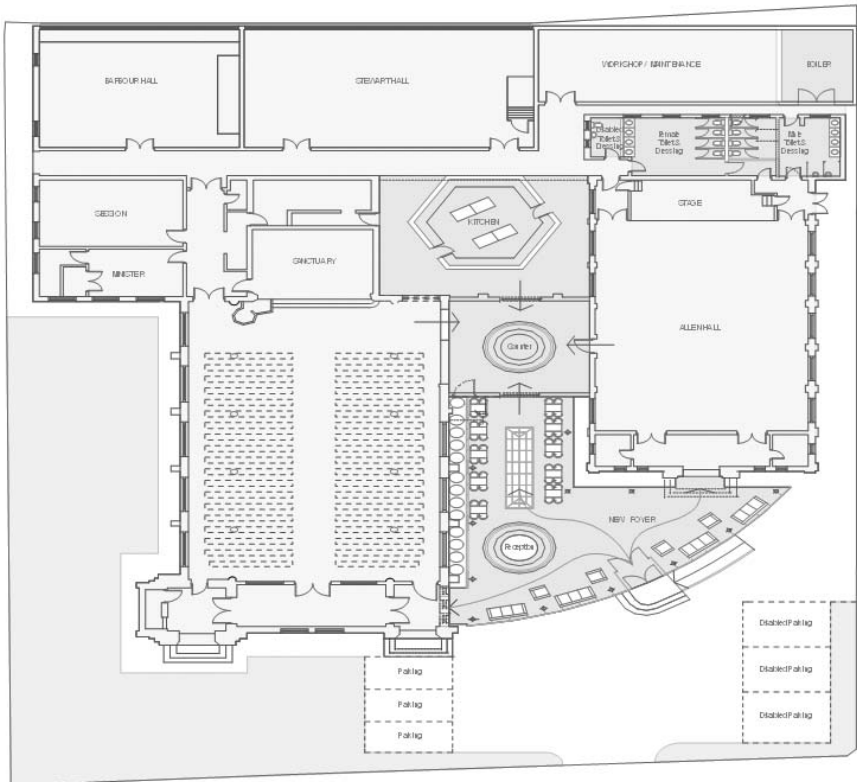
- to retain the James Woods Choral Gallery to provide overflow seating with improved access through new stairs.
- works on the Allen Hall would follow as finances permit.

Our vision is to have had essential refurbishment works carried out and extended/upgraded 'welcoming' facilities completed by 2013.

Of course, money will be needed to make this into reality. The outline cost for the proposal is £2.1 million including VAT (excluding the Allen Hall). It would be easy to be daunted by the size of the task ahead but we want to raise a 'fighting fund' of £1 million to add to the £500,000 we already have in reserves. All this will take careful planning and a special Fund Raising Team is being set up to co-ordinate fund-raising activities over the coming months and years as the project progresses.

This is a very exciting time in the history of our congregation and secures Cregagh's aspiration to be a centre for Christian witness on the Cregagh Road for many years to come.

There are many challenges ahead but we urge you to be part of it, for God's purpose.



We've come a long way... let's give ourselves a Pat on the Back!

Sometimes, it's worthwhile stopping to reflect on how much you have achieved, and the church is no different.

Over the past year and a half, we have been working hard to meet the spiritual and social needs of the congregation, developing our worship for allcomers and becoming more open and welcoming as a congregation.

Among other things,

you now have...

- ...a regular magazine, 'Church News'
- ...a website under construction
- ...a revised Directory and Statement of Accounts
- ...a separate Organisation Reports booklet

you have enjoyed...

- ...a Murder Mystery evening
- ...a barbeque after the Holiday Bible Club
- ...a Congregational Dinner Dance
- ...a 'Test the Congregation' quiz night
- ...a book club
- ...a walking group
- ...refreshments after the service on the first Sunday in the month

your spiritual needs are being met by...

- ...a very successful Praise Group
- ...a Worship Group who put your ideas for praise into practice
- ...the church being open on Friday mornings, 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
- ...the Alpha course
- ...house groups

and, of course, there is Cregagh Presbyterian – a Congregation for the future, and all that that entails.

If you are already involved – thank you! If you have not taken part yet, we need you to join in. Let us know what you think. Let us have your ideas for future events. We welcome your views.

Contact:

Clerk of Session, Dennison Mahood – 9079 9307, tdm13@btinternet.com
Congregational Secretary, David Gillespie – 9028 5740, d.gillespie@ntlworld.com

Easter Greetings from Hungary!

Eta Georgey joined our congregation in 2005/06 when she was studying at Union College.



She writes...

This past year was quite a successful one – both for our congregation and for us personally.

As for the congregation, we renovated the Church House using solely Cregagh's generous donation and our own funds and manpower, and since we are a small congregation (of about 120 members), we are very proud of it. Although the average age of the congregation is quite high, there still are many participants at the different church services and programmes, and there are some new young members who are

very enthusiastic and helpful. We also began a new project in which we plan to establish regular church services in the neighbouring small village, too.



This year, Etelka completed all her studies and achieved her second Masters Degree and a PhD in Theology. Geza began teaching religious folklore in Eotvos Lorand University and history of religion and ethics in Academy of Democracy. But our greatest personal news is that we had a baby in January – Arvin - our first child.



Robin Hood & The Singing Nun

Pantomime has been and gone for yet another year in Cregagh.



Robin Hood wed his childhood sweetheart, Maid Marion, and was restored to his rightful position as Sheriff of Nottingham.

For one week in January, Cregagh became besieged by nuns from the Order of 'The Little Sisters of the Inquisitive', and various excerpts from 'The Sound of Music' and 'Sister Act' were heard resounding through the Allen Hall.

This year's Pantomime has probably been our biggest production to date with a cast of over 40 people, young and not so young, on an incredibly small stage!

This has meant that a lot more costumes and props were needed, yet on a financial note it has also been the most profitable show to date as well.

Although final figures are not yet known, we will certainly have raised more than £2,000 profit, split between local charities and church funds.

Thanks go to all who helped make this possible, including the hundreds of people from Cregagh and the local community who came to support it.

As part of an ongoing fundraising drive, there may be a few other new 'dramatic' events planned over the next few years, so watch this space!



Youth Fellowship Weekend in Castlerock

This year the Youth Fellowship went to Guysmere in Castlerock for their annual weekend away.



From 23rd – 25th November 2007, the Youth fellowship went to the Guysmere centre in Castlerock. Our theme for the weekend was how important we are to God and thinking about gifts he has given us.

On Friday evening, we got settled and had a time of worship followed by some free time and supper. The centre backed out onto the beach and some very brave souls even went for a rather crisp late night walk!



On Saturday, we spent the morning in Coleraine when we did some shopping and also completed a kind of treasure hunt called a camera challenge where the different groups had to find various things and take pictures of them.

Examples of this include something with a biblical link, as many people as possible in a phone box, your group with their feet off the ground etc. These were then judged (by our guest cooks) on Saturday evening. Let's just say some peoples interpretations were more inventive than others!

On Saturday afternoon everyone completed their camera challenge and had some free time. On Saturday evening we had a further time of worship. We then had a giant game of cranium – a kind of mixture of charades and Pictionary.

On Sunday morning, everyone split into different groups to plan the Sunday morning service which consisted of various dramas, different types of music, and thoughts on what we had been learning over the weekend.

Everyone had a great time and look forward to the next weekend away – perhaps at a slightly warmer time of year!!!

Good Worship...have your say!

The Good Worship Group has had quite an active role over the past year.

We are trying to encourage members of the congregation, of all ages, to be actively involved in our Sunday worship.

Perhaps you would be willing to do a bible reading or prayer, sing with the Praise Group, or even solo, help with the offering, or meeting & greeting at the doors, or possibly helping with the audiovisual presentations.

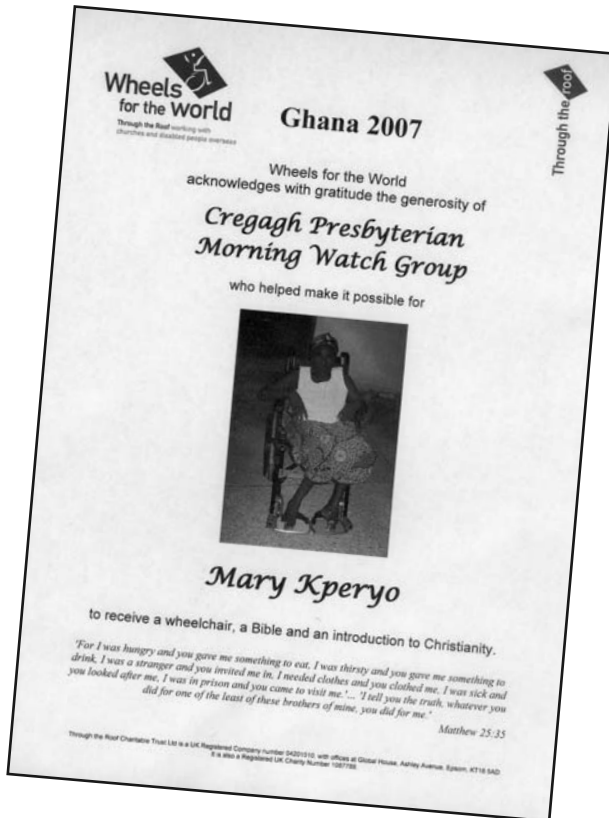
Whatever your talent, the Good Worship Group would like to hear from you.

You may contact any member of the Group on the telephone numbers below.

Avril Pollock	9079 8872	Margaret Thompson	9073 8258
Barbara Dunlop	9045 3829	Dorothy Pollock	9079 7502
Ruth McIntyre	9040 3148	Beth McNair	9079 7431
Louise Michael	9752 1525	Troy Morgan	07961 036783

Wheels for the World...in Ghana

Anne Gamble shows us how the money raised by the Morning Watch Group has helped sponsor five wheelchairs for disabled people in Ghana.



In 2007, Morning Watch members donated their tea money to the organisation 'Wheels for the World' (affiliated to 'Through the Roof'), which enabled sponsorship of five wheelchairs for severely disabled people in Ghana. Wheelchairs no longer fit for use here are repaired to give mobility and freedom to people in under-developed countries.

Your prayers are requested for the on-going Christian outreach for both spiritual and physical needs in these countries.



Feature

It's a Boy!

A new addition to the Michael household.



Many congratulations to Stephen and Louise Michael, our Youth Worker, on the birth of their first child. Joshua Isaac Michael came into the world on Sunday 2 March and weighed in at 8lbs 4oz .

The congregation wish them every blessing as they embark on this new chapter in their lives.

Church Records

Baptisms

Fergus William

Infant son of Mr. & Mrs. N.W. Hay, Casa Los Almendros, Los Espartales 11, Mijas, Spain.
Born: 20th June 2007. Baptised: 23rd December 2007.

Adam Stephen James

Infant son of Mr. & Mrs. S. Spence, 8 Lynhurst View.
Born: 10th October 2007. Baptised: 9th March 2008.

Marriages

14th February 2008

Thomas David Wright, 41 Reid Street to
Tracie Louise Ashwood, 41 Reid Street.

Deaths

13th December 2007

16th December 2007

13th January 2008

14th January 2008

20th January 2008

22nd January 2008

Mrs. May McKnight

Miss Phyllis Harbinson

Mr. John Magowan

Mrs. Margaret Leeson

Mr. William McKeown

Mrs. Mary Heathwood

23 Onslow Parade

Mullen Mews

3 Cregagh Park East

1 Mount Merrion Crescent

25 Gibson Park Gardens

6b Woodstock House

Dates for your Diary

Bowlers' Service

Sunday 20th April at 7.00p.m.

All Age Service

Sunday 27th April at 11.00 a.m.

Christian Aid Week

Sunday 4th - Saturday 10th May
Door-to-door collection - Monday - Saturday.

Christian Aid Lunch

Sunday 4th May after Morning Service

Summer Garden Fete in Church Grounds and Halls

Saturday 31st May at 2.00 p.m.

Children's Day Services

Sunday 1st June at 11.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m.

Meetings of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Mon 2nd - Fri 6th June

Summer Communion

Sunday 29th June at 7.00 p.m.

United Summer Evening Services

All Sundays in July and August at 7.00 p.m. - Dates/Venues in Cregagh and McQuiston to be confirmed.

Summer Holiday Bible Club

Mon 11th - Fri 15th August

Summer Holiday Bible Club Service

Sunday 17th August at 11.00 a.m.

