



C O N T A C T

The Magazine of All Saints' Church, Tullylish
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A LETTER FROM ARTHUR

As you all know, it has been a turbulent summer for my family and me, at the loss of my dear dad. It's amazing how a day and a phone call can change your life forever. That time arrived for my sister and me on Tuesday, 3rd July, when my sister telephoned to say that my dad was feeling unwell. One's mind goes into overdrive as in the next breath Diane announced that the doctor had sent for an ambulance. "Arthur," she said, "Dad is very sick. You need to come right away." It's also amazing how all the things that seemed important become less important in moments like these.

Driving from Tullylish, the Ulster Hospital at Dundonald seemed to take forever. But when I arrived and eventually was able to see dad, I was greeted with some relief when he seemed to look not just as bad as I had anticipated. Little did I know at that moment that things by the end of the week would take another downward spiral, as dad's health would decline even further, when sadly on Sunday, 8th July he passed from this scene of time into the presence of his Heavenly Father. My dad died with such hope because of his new sure belief and faith in Jesus.

When tragedy shatters the comfortable rhythms of life, most of us, after we lift our bleeding bodies from the floor ask the question, "Why? Why did this happen? Why did this happen to me?"

As you know I minister to people every day in our Parish where lives have been touched and torn about by tragedy. People don't want "academic" answers to their pain: they search for real hope on which they might steady their trembling souls. They need to see a future hidden somewhere beneath the rubble of life.

That hope was within reach in those moments and days as I threw myself upon Jesus. He, and He alone, has the tools to bring strength, to bring healing and new life to anyone who asks and that was the key for me.

I want to thank you, my extended and loving family, at All Saints for your love and care for my sister and me as we faced those enormously painful days. I thank you too for all your sincere prayers, sympathy cards, phone calls, letters, hugs and your care and loving presence at the funeral service. Words will never be enough to express what it meant to me to see you all walk through the doors of Donaghadee Parish Church that day. Thank you all for being there and still being there as I continue to walk through this process of loss and grief.

When God sent Jesus into this lost and hurting world, He wanted His message to be unavoidably distinctive. Your lives here at All Saints have communicated God's love loud and clear. Your lives have been a message of God's love to each member of my family. Thank you so much for that!

Can anything ever separate us from God's love? Does it mean He no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ who loved us.

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels or demons, neither our fears for today nor our fears about tomorrow - not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in earth below - indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:35-39

God Bless,
ARTHUR

PARISH NEWS

MARRIAGES

6th July 2007 - Andrea Hodgen and Daniel Forbes
 18th August 2007- Catherine Deans and Adam Cooper
 1st Sept. 2007- Victoria McCauley and Terry Porter
 7th Sept. 2007 - Amanda Jennett & Nigel Thompson

We wish all these young couples every happiness in their future lives together. We ask that God will be with them, so that they may abide in his love and peace all their days.

BURIAL

12th September 2007 - Sylvia Newell (née Moffatt)

We were all greatly saddened when we learned of the death of Sylvia after a comparatively short illness. Sylvia came from a family which has been associated with Tullylish for many generations and the thoughts and prayers of her Church Family are now with Joe, Gillian, Stephen, Jade and Josh. We also send our Sympathy to Hilary, Malcolm and Terence and their Family Circles.

We give thanks for Sylvia's life and for the great courage shown by her during the past months.

SYMPATHY

During the summer our love, sympathy and prayers went out to Arthur, our Rector and his sister Diane on the sudden and untimely death of their father. We assure Arthur that his Tullylish family are still there to support him practically and prayerfully and to help him in every way possible through these very difficult days. We would also like Diane and her family to know that they too are in our thoughts and prayers.

We send our deepest sympathy also to those other members of our Church Family who have suffered the loss of loved ones. We especially think of:

The Fulton Family on the death of Patsy's sister in law

Paul & Lorraine Taylor on the death of Paul's father

Mrs Smyth on the death in her Family Circle

Sam & Edith Vint on the death of Sam's cousin

Linda Humphries & Brenda Orr on the death of their Aunt

Loving God, grant to those who grieve, your special blessing. May they know that your hand is upon them, your arms encircling them, and your heart reaching out to them. For Jesus Christ's Sake. Amen

WORDS OF THANKS

We would like to thank the members of the Church Family for their beautiful gifts and for sharing in our Wedding Service on 6th July. It was lovely to see so many of our friends on our Special Day.

Andrea and Daniel Forbes

We wish to acknowledge receipt of cheques donated by friends of our dear brother in Christ, the late Tommy Doonan. As we do not have addresses of any of the donors, we would be grateful if you would kindly mention it. We much appreciate their generosity in contributing so generously to the work to which the Lord has called us.

Yours sincerely in Christ,
 Dick and Mary Keogh

ALL SAINTS' DAY

All Saints' Day is celebrated on 1st November each year. It affords Christians the opportunity to remember those who have faithfully served Christ in special, often sacrificial, ways. Many of these special people suffered martyrdom for their dedication to Christ our Lord.

Therefore we, whose church is dedicated to All Saints, would do well on All Saints' Day to express our gratitude to God for those devoted and devout souls who have set worthy examples for us.

WE ARE OUR CHURCH

Our church is composed of people like you and me. We make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if we are.

Its pews will be filled, if we help fill them.

It will do great work, if we work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes, if we are generous givers.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if we bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith and a church with a noble spirit, if we, who make it what it is, are filled with these traits.

Therefore with the help of God, we shall dedicate ourselves to the task of being all the things we want our church to be.

MISSIONUPDATE



The Leprosy Mission - Northern Ireland

Sita's Story

For Sita, a young Nepalese girl, leprosy has been a life-long companion. She was just nine when she was first diagnosed with leprosy, but by that time the disease had already taken hold of her young body. Her hand was ulcerated and showed the tell-tale signs of clawed fingers. Sita lives with her parents and two brothers in Khun, up in the mountain region of Nepal.

It was her teacher at school who first noticed the signs of leprosy. Her family was notified and it was recommended that they bring her to The Leprosy Mission's Anandaban Hospital for treatment.

Thank you for all your donations which make it possible for leprosy victims like Sita to be treated.

In 2005, about 500,000 new cases of leprosy were diagnosed.

Please continue to remember them all in your prayers.

Betty Jones


SAMS The South American Mission Society

Please remember in your prayers Chaco and rural areas of Paraguay who are suffering drought and fires after a long dry winter. There is a severe water shortage.

Also please remember Marcus and Tamara Throup in João Pessoa, in North East Brazil. Marcus has just helped lead a youth evangelism event to which over 120 people came, some making a commitment to Jesus. He has also organised a monthly service in English, aimed at drawing in foreigners and young people interested in improving their English. Over forty people came to the opener.

A recent highlight in João Pessoa was the baptism of José, a former Satanist, by full immersion in a local river. He will share his testimony with us in the Autumn Edition of SAMS Share magazine.

Louise McCrory



Crosslinks is pleased to announce the Rev Tim Silk as their new Team Leader in Ireland. Tim, based in Dublin, is married to Claire and they have four children. Tim is looking forward to leading the staff team in the whole island of Ireland. His passion is Jesus and those who yet do not know Jesus. His prayers are that we might see even more churches engaging in Mission.

The second appointment is that of Sam McGeown who has joined the Belfast Office as Northern Senior Team Member. Sam is married to Yoriko (from Japan) and they have three children. He is bursting with enthusiasm for mission and has a wealth of knowledge having worked in Japan (where he met his wife) and also with CMS Victoria in Australia. Sam hopes these experiences will help him serve the church across Ireland. I would value your prayers for Tim and Sam and their families. The Mid Ulster weekend was held in Knocknamuckley Parish recently when Tim was the speaker at both services. It has been a pleasure to meet both Tim and Sam and learn of their vision for Crosslinks.

Once again I would like to thank all the Parishioners for their support.

Laura Moffatt

**C.M.S. IRELAND****C.M.S.I. "M'BRACE"**

On Friday evening, 28th September, Jean Glass, Deirdre Cunningham and I attended a celebration of Mission in Armagh City Hotel.

The evening celebration followed a Day Conference when delegates from many of the countries in which C.M.S.I. has partner links, representatives from parishes in Ireland, C.M.S.I. Staff and visitors had met together in fellowship. Delegates had been given the opportunity of joining in seminars to discuss some of the issues at the heart of mission such as evangelism, education, health-care and training.

The evening celebration was an opportunity to celebrate all that has been accomplished - prayerfully bringing mission before God and commending mission to the future. All that has been accomplished was highlighted in a tribute to Canon Cecil Kerr, who has retired as Director of Mission after giving 20 years of dedicated leadership. The Archbishop of Armagh then commissioned Mr Ian Smith as the new Director of Mission.

The great music and singing throughout was led by the Reverend Mark Harvey and a Praise Group.

The worship songs expressed so much of what the conference was celebrating.

In an interview, Paul Clarke asked Bishop Jeremiah Taama what message he would take back to his diocese in Kenya. The Bishop's reply was, "C.M.S.I. are committed to obeying the command of Jesus. Go out, Preach, Teach and Heal. The message is the same - Love Jesus."

Isabel Whiteside

ORGANISATION NEWS

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

2007/2008 PROGRAMME

- 13th September: Healthy Living
 11th October: Lady Sylvia Hermon
 (Jointly with Men's Fellowship)
 8th November: An African Experience
 6th December: Christmas Dinner
 (at Gilberry Fayre)
 13th December: Bannwater Crafts
 10th January: The Schoolmaster's Daughter
 14th February: A Touch of Romance
 20th March: Holy Week
 10th April: American/Indian Culture
 8th May: Annual General Meeting &
 Bring & Buy with a Difference
 Spring Outing: To be arranged

We would like to thank Heather Hanna, Muriel McCracken and Sheila Walker, outgoing Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Member respectively, for all their hard work over the past two years. We pray that God will richly bless our new season together. All ladies will be made welcome and we would especially encourage new members to come along and join in the fellowship. Our meetings begin at 8 o'clock in the Minor Hall.

Rachel Sinton (Secretary)

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

2007/2008 PROGRAMME

- 18th September: Men's Health
 22nd September: Outing - Aviation Centre
 & Spade Mill
 11th October: Lady Sylvia Hermon
 20th November: Farming in Australia
 Mr Derek Shaw
 18th December: Christmas Dinner
 17th January: Visit to St Nicholas' Church
 21st February: To be arranged
 18th March: The Revd D. Somerville
 Fields of Life
 April: Outing - To be Arranged

Meetings start at 8 o'clock in the Minor Hall.

New Members will be made welcome.

AUTUMN LEAVES

2007/2008 PROGRAMME

- 10th September: The Rev Samuel Newell
 24th September: Jewellery Making
 8th October: Enid Smith
 22nd October: Armchair Aerobics
 5th November: Isabel Whiteside
 3rd December: Canon Elizabeth Johnston
 17th December: Christmas Lunch

Autumn Leaves meets in the Minor Hall from 2.00pm to 4.00 pm usually twice a month.

New members are always welcome.

Why not come along and join in the fun?

CRUSADERS

Crusaders is a Bible based Christian Youth Organisation with the motto "Looking to Jesus." Its aim is simply to teach the whole Bible in a creative and relevant way. The programme is varied and interesting.

The new season of Crusaders commenced in our Parish Church Hall at 7.00pm on Sunday 23rd September.

All those in secondary education are welcome to attend. New members will also be made very welcome, so why not come along?

Once again this year we are collecting Tesco Sports Vouchers. We would greatly appreciate any that you may have. We will then be able to exchange these vouchers for a wide range of sports equipment. There will be a box located on the table at the back of the church to receive the vouchers.

I hope to bring you up to date with what we have been doing, in the next edition of Contact.

Heather Walker

CRAFT GROUP

The members of the Craft Group are once again busy knitting, crocheting and making articles for the Mission Fields. If you possess any such skills, you too can help from the comfort of your own home.

Knitted baby clothes and blankets and warm woolly hats for women and men are just a few of the items which are very welcome. Also, it's a good opportunity to use up all those spare balls of wool which we seem to accumulate from time to time.

Heather Hanna

TRAVELFEATURES

CROATIA TRIP

On Tuesday, 28th August, a group of 10 - Heather Hanna, Muriel McCracken, Enid Smith, Allen Hanna, Nigel Smith, William Robinson, Adrian Walker, Jim Bell, Richard Collen and Robert Acheson - flew from Aldergrove to Luton and then on to Zagreb, Croatia where we were met at the airport by Nathanael and Ivan, a young pastor just out of college.

We were invited to Nathanael and Elizabeth's house for a meal and then taken to the house which would be our home for the next 10 days - no luxuries here, but we hadn't expected any so we weren't disappointed.

Next day we all started on the task which had been assigned to us - improving the house of Grosdana. Grosdana has three children - 19 year old Ivan, who has just finished his national service and being paid £20 a month, and now looking for a job, 14 year old Mario and ten year old Tina. Also living with them is Grosdana's mother who has a mental problem.

There were walls and floors to be washed, painting to be done, new kitchen fitted, floor tiles to be put down and furniture moved. It was a real team effort by all concerned. When all the work was completed and materials paid for, we were able to buy a new bed for Mario and a new fridge for their kitchen.

As the work was finished by Monday we then had a few days left for sightseeing. On Tuesday we went by train to Zagreb - rained all day! The next day we visited the beautiful city of Varázdin. Thursday was another wet day but enjoyable nevertheless.

Nathanael took us on a two hour drive to Sirac where his mother and father still live. His father, also a pastor, showed us his lovely church. Motoring on past a forest we saw warning signs for land mines. The mines are a legacy from the 1990s War of Independence. Our next stop was Pakrac where Nathanael's brother Timothy is Pastor.

Pakrac town was heavily damaged during the war with the Serbs. We could see the bullet holes in the walls of houses and ruined buildings which may never be rebuilt. There is no work, so therefore no money. Young people have to move away to be educated and get employment and the elderly survive on their pensions. Many lives were lost in the war which lasted nearly 5 years. That night, the ladies of the church made cakes for us - their way of saying "Thank You."

On Wednesday evenings we attended Bible Study

meetings and church on the Sunday morning. Before leaving for the airport on Friday morning we paid a visit to the orphanage where we had worked last year. Martina who works there was pleased to see us again. We then went to see Stefica whose house we had renovated last year. She is so grateful and so proud of her home.

Nathanael sends blessings to everyone in Tullylish and is so grateful for all your prayers and financial support.

On behalf of the team I would like to thank all of you for your prayers and financial help so making it possible for us to go out to Croatia and improve the life of Grosdana and to help Nathanael.

Without your help and God's love and protection we could not have achieved all that we had set out to do.

HEATHER HANNA

CHICAGO - August 2007

As many of you may already know, I had the joy and privilege of being asked by Bishop Harold to attend the Leadership Summit at Willow Creek Community Church, Chicago on 9-11 August 2007. As I prepared my own heart and mind for these days, I found myself thanking God for the thrill and privilege to share in this incredible conference.

Having the experience of listening to people such as Colin Powell, former U.S. Secretary of State, Jimmy Carter, former President of the United States and Richard Curtis, prolific screenwriter, producer and director of film and television, was an experience in itself.

Seven thousand Church Leaders filled this huge church for the two and a half days event. What God had in store for me in those days was so refreshing and uplifting as I listened to the experiences of other men and women, stories and experiences of their leadership roles in Church and business.

The event allowed me to explore concrete ways with which to strengthen and enhance areas of my own ministry and ways to respond more effectively to the challenges that leadership and ministry offer. What I discovered in those days surprised me, challenged me and confirmed what it really takes to make a difference.

I pray that through my exposure to these few days that it will help me to be more effective in serving you, the Church Family of All Saints, Tullylish.

ARTHUR