

Sunday 9th December
11.30 a.m. Morning Worship
Keith Preston, International Meeting Point

Sunday 16th December
11.30 a.m. Service of Nine Carols & Lessons
7.00 p.m. Annual Carol Service
Children are asked to bring a gift of toys or books,
unwrapped, for the work of Belfast City Mission and
International Meeting Point (outreach of Presbyterian Church)
Retiring offering in aid of World Development, PCI, Appeal

Tuesday 18th December
Carol Singing in the village.
Meet at Beattie's Shop 7.00 p.m.

Sunday 23rd December
11.30 a.m. Family Nativity Service
7.00 p.m. Christmas Nativity at the Amphitheatre

Monday 24th December
11.30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service led by the young
people preceded by Mince Pies & Coffee from 10.45 pm

Tuesday 25th December
10.30 a.m. Christmas Day Service

Sunday 6th January 2019
11.30 am Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

A Song Was Heard at Christmas A poem by *Timothy Dudley-Smith*

A song was heard at Christmas
To wake the midnight sky,
A Saviour's birth, and peace on earth,
And praise to God on high. The angels sing at Christmas
With all the hosts above,
And still we sing the new-born King,
His glory and His love.

**A very BLESSED Christmas to all
And a peaceful new year**

BALLYCARRY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS 2018 NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS INVITATION

Dear Friends,

I am sure you, like me, enjoy receiving good news. It lifts your spirits and sets you up for the day or the month or even the year ahead. Recently I heard about two new babies born within a week of each other in our Church family. The news for the new grandparents was so exciting, joyous and emotional, especially for the lady who was now, once more, a great-grandmother. To see a new born is so precious and brings out a tenderness that can melt, even the heart of the hardest. Although it was over 2000 years ago, Mary and Joseph experienced that same true emotion of melting joy when Jesus was born.

We know what happened to that **baby** when He became a man - that is what makes **Christmas** so special. It melts our hearts because we know He came and died for each one of us who **read** this **Invitation**, and for all throughout the world today.

The shepherds and Wise Men followed that bright star to find Him. I imagine many others, once the word got out about this little baby, made that same long and tiring journey to see Him and worship Him.

I invite you, your family and friends, to come and worship the new born King, who is called **Jesus**, '*Emmanuel, God with us*'. **Details of services at the back of this Bulletin.** The good thing is that you won't have to ride a camel or a donkey or follow a star to get there. **You know where to go!**
COME AND WORSHIP THE NEW BORN KING- HE WELCOMES YOU
May God's Peace be with you now and throughout 2019.

Yours friend and Minister,

Gabrielle



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RESOURCES ONLINE

LET'S PRAY RESOURCE

Type "Presbyterian Church in Ireland" into Google or other search bar.

When the website comes up click on "Prayer". The next page has the heading "Let's Pray" on the left and you click on this picture. You then enter your email address and your name and you will receive an email early each morning asking you to pray for a special topic each day. Alternatively you can click on Let's Pray Resources and you can download a seven day prayer booklet to print out.

BIBLE STUDY RESOURCE

Another resource available is "Tides", a daily Bible study. Type in "Presbyterian Church of Ireland" and click on "Resources". On the next page you will find a picture depicting "Bible Study". Click on this and you are taken to a page with the title "TIDES" on the third paragraph down. Click on Tides and you go to a page where you enter your name, congregation and email address. When you submit this form, you will receive a Bible Study early each morning from Monday to Friday.



Love

Love came down at Christmas,
love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas;
star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus,
but wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and others,
love for plea and gift and sign.

USED POSTAGE STAMPS

It is hard to believe that a bunch of used stamps can help transform the life of someone affected by leprosy. But the fact is that it can! Over the past 30 years, TLM Stamps & Collectables has raised more than £1 million to benefit people affected by leprosy. It takes seconds to rescue a used stamp from an envelope destined for the recycling bin but, by doing so, healthcare and opportunities can be provided to people in desperate need.

We usually receive more mail around Christmas so we are appealing to all members to keep their stamps, whether plain or special stamps. Foreign stamps are also acceptable. Please cut round the stamp leaving a bit over a quarter of an inch of paper around the stamp. Put them in an envelope at the end of the year and bring them to church. Mr Irvine Bashford will be very happy to receive them and he, in turn, will forward them to The Leprosy Mission to help with their very important work. Thank you.



Real Talk is a monthly discussion requested by our

young adults on almost any topic possible to do with how a growing Secular society is colliding with our understanding of a Christian Faith. With Biblical input and stirring questions, both older folk and younger folk come together to explore some honest answers to challenging topics. Recent questions included the 'Abortion debate' with the latest Real Talk 'Secular Christmas' and our witness to the true meaning of December 25th! Two conclusions emerged — do good to others with a generous spirit, in Christ's Name, sharing as opportunity arises, why Christmas is important to us. Secondly, the Church should be active in the local community to show God's love in any creative way we can—through visits and small gifts to those who live alone, Carol singing or other means.

**Watch out for the January 'Real Talk'
Have a topic idea—share it
with Gabrielle or Drew Mulholland**



“Living Trees Project”



Dr Lyn Dowds and her husband Jonny have been working in Malawi for the past number of years supported by Presbyterian Church in Ireland Overseas Mission department. (When home they have visited our **Threads group** who send out blankets, baby clothes etc for the hospital where Lyn works). They both have seen a real need that urgently needs addressed. They write **“With the assistance of the schools, through the teachers, parents and orchard committee, we are starting a school feeding program. One of the aims of the project is to improve the nutrition of school children – with fruit trees being grown in school grounds to provide additional nutritious food for the children and in cases where there is excess fruit – it can then be sold locally to buy much needed resources for the school’. We are building tree nurseries at 21 local schools (20 primary and 1 secondary) with some already finished”** Our congregation’s Malawi Fund has accumulated funds to be spent on a project like this. A sum of £5,500 has been sent through PCI, to build some of these nurseries. Dr Dowds will keep us informed of the Project’s progress.

USED SPECTACLES



If you have any old glasses lying about which you don’t use any longer, we are appealing for contributions from our church members. These glasses are reused by Vision Aid Overseas in countries like Africa and India. They are donated through a local optician. Please help this very worthy cause by putting your glasses in the basket on the table in the church porch.

“You can never truly enjoy Christmas until you can look up into the Father’s face and tell him you have received his Christmas gift.” -

John R. Rice

GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS.....



For many years now gifts for children have been brought by individuals and Youth Organisations to our Annual Carol Service. This year, as last year, the gifts will be collected by the Belfast City Mission for their much valued work amongst children.

For the past two years we have also provided gifts of Hampers to those who attend the **International Meeting Point** (outreach by Presbyterian Church) on Christmas Day. We need the following for family hampers: Tea, Biscuits, Pasta, Tins/vegetables, fruit, Squash, Jams, Mince Pies and Cosmetics. A box for these gifts will be in the vestibule or can also be given at the Annual Carol Service.

Our **'Bridge-Builders'** music group took part in a Service in 1st Islandmagee Presbyterian Church, where a selection of 'Special Friends' joined us. This unique and happy group sing Gospel Songs with a jazzed up beat, using the Drum Machine to add more sounds. Picture includes Lynn McQuitty, Christine Hay,+ Maurice Farquhar. Elaine Christian and Gabrielle Farquhar were also present. An accordion, flute and electric double bass all helped on this occasion. Well done 'Bridge-Builders" – your 2nd outing this year – and a big thank you to Rev Peter Bovill for having us and for his thoughtful contribution.



FELLOWSHIP LUNCH GROUP OUTING

Twenty five members and helpers of the Fellowship Lunch Group headed up the North Antrim coast to Carnlough. After a short stop there, during which quite a few treated themselves to some ice-cream, the coach returned to Glenarm Caste tearooms. We all had a very tasty afternoon tea or coffee together with scones, jam and fresh cream. As if that wasn't enough, we also had a mixture of carrot cake, mince pies, choc chip fairy cakes and shortbread. Judging from the noise at the tables, everyone seemed to enjoy the food and the fellowship.

This trip to Glenarm was the second of our two outings this year. In May, the group went to Hillmount Garden Centre in the Castlereagh hills for some shopping in their lovely nursery and shop and then afternoon tea in their large restaurant. We are very grateful to Mid and East Antrim Council for their generous help in funding the outings. This is very much appreciated by members of our group who would not otherwise travel to such a distant location. The council grant is very welcome, especially for those who have worked all their lives until retirement age. It is nice to know that the council remembers the senior citizens and is happy to leave a sum aside each year for these groups to enable them to have outings on special occasions. We record our thanks to Mid and East Antrim Council for their generosity.

HAZEL ROBERTSON



Extract from letter to our Treasurer from Executive Secretary of the Presbyterian Children's Society:

'I want to thank Ballycarr

Congregation for their caring generosity in raising a total collection including Gift Aid of £717.00 for our work. This is evidence of the compassion for the welfare of children and young people throughout our denomination.

Your caring interest is deeply appreciated.'
27th Nov. '18

Dr Paul Gray

Our Father up in heaven, long, long years ago,
looked down in His great mercy upon the earth below
And saw that folks were lonely and lost in deep despair
and so He said, "I'll send My Son to walk among them there.
So they can hear Him speaking and feel His nearness

too,

and see the many miracles that faith alone can do...
For if man really sees Him and can touch His healing
hand,

I know it will be easier to believe and understand."
And so the Holy Christ Child came down to live on
earth

and that is why we celebrate His holy, wondrous birth.

And that is why, at Christmas, the world becomes aware
that heaven may seem far away, but God is everywhere.



Helen Steiner Rice