

The
WAY

**HAZELBANK
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

www.hazelbank-church.co.uk

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*“The grass withers and the flowers fall,
But the word of our God stands forever.”*

Isaiah 40:8

FROM the MANSE

MINISTER'S LETTER

The Manse

4 Knocklayde Park

Castlerock Road

Coleraine

028 7035 2891

“Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. This seed began to grow, but soon it withered and died for lack of moisture.” Luke 8:6 (NLT)

If you don't make time for God, you are not going to hear from God.

We have a picture up in our family room in the Manse, some of you have seen it, that says “Let us be still that we may hear the whisper of God.”

You have to slow down and be quiet so you can hear him. When you are in a hurry you can't hear God.

This week I have been attending the General Assembly in the Millennium Forum in Londonderry. Normally when I go to Londonderry I drive, but this seemed like an opportunity to take the train and avoid the parking and traffic etc. I confess that I was amazed with what I saw! So much detail and colour and beauty that I would have missed had I been driving. But more than that I got a chance to think about it and wonder over the beauty of God's creation. I got time to pray and thank God for His goodness and love in allowing me the senses I have that can appreciate the beauty of this part of the world.

When we live hurried lives, God gets squeezed off into the spare minutes and he is so often short changed with our time. We say, “Lord, speak to me but do it quickly because I need to do this or I have to go there...” Skimping on our time with God leads to a life that becomes more and more shallow. We don't go deep because we don't make time for it. We aren't spending enough time alone with God, if at all. He needs quality time to change us. This shallow



spiritual lifestyle, where we're always in a hurry, or we are too busy doing things WE want to do, represents the shallow or rocky soil in Jesus' parable.

I have read that most of Israel has a thin layer of topsoil over a bedrock of limestone. The soil isn't very deep. Jesus says that when the seed falls on this soil it begins to grow but is soon withered and dies for lack of moisture because its roots can't go down deep.

Jesus says this shallow soil represents a superficial mind. A person with this mind kind of listens to God's Word, and maybe gets emotionally moved, but she/he never really does anything about it. It is lovely to hear from people how moved they were by my message on Sunday morning, but has that message created any life change, have you allowed the message sink in?

How do you get past this? How do you change from being a shallow person to a deep person who keeps the faith even when a recession or an illness or a job loss or marriage trouble hits?

You need two things:

A daily quiet time. You need time alone with God to read the Bible, pray and keep a journal of the things you are learning.

A weekly small group. You need time with other believers who are close to you and can give you a fresh perspective. They can give you the encouragement and accountability you need to go deeper in your relationship with God.

Let this be something that you decide to do something about.

Over the summer make the time to get closer to God so that you can get to know Him on a deeper level but also plan and decide now that when the summer comes to an end you are going to be part of a small group.

Please plan to develop the opportunities in your life to hear more from God and for God to see more service from you.,

I hope and pray that you and your families have a lovely, blessed and peaceful summer.

Your friend

Alan Johnston

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Young Peoples' Day Sunday 23rd June 2013

Evening Epilogue services at 8:00 pm will start on 7th July and run through to 25th August.

Holiday Bible Club and Youth Event (ages 4 – 16 years) will run from 12th – 16th August from 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

CHURCH REGISTER

“O Death where is your sting, O Grave, where is your victory ?”

Mrs Margaret McNeill	106 Hazelbank Road	9th March 2013
Mrs Elizabeth Watson	31 Carthall Road	21 March 2013
Mrs Alberta Anderson	99 The Brook	3 April 2013
Mr Hugh Guy	7 Beechfield park	5th April 2013
Mrs Gertrude Montgomery	Killowen House	8th April 2013
Mrs Margaret Hutton	18 Westbourne Crescent	14th May 2013

CAP



CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

How it all Started

John Kirkby, founder of CAP, writes “In 1992, my whole world fell apart. A mix of circumstances brought my business crashing down around me and I found myself a broken man, trapped in £78,000 of crippling debt.” In the midst of his

despair, he felt God calling him to respond, not just to the poverty in his own life, but to the poverty across the whole nation. So, in 1996, Christians Against Poverty was born.

In his hometown of Bradford, John set off on the incredible journey of CAP. His faith adventure led him to people crippled by debt; parents who couldn't feed their children, families facing eviction and desperate people living in fear and without hope. He used his expertise to negotiate with creditors, set up budgeting systems and offer a lifeline to those trapped in debt.

John knew that people all over the country were struggling in the same way and he began looking to replicate the work across the UK. With the vital ingredients of a church to partner with, a passionate person to be trained as a debt counsellor and the faith that God would provide, four new CAP centres were opened at the end of 1998.

Since then, CAP has rapidly grown its centre network and provides the best debt help service to those with the very least. CAP started running CAP Money Courses in partnership with local churches to help people budget, save and prevent debt. Their vision is to help answer the national problem of debt by opening a CAP Debt Centre and running a CAP Money Course in every town and city in the UK so anyone can receive CAP's life changing help.

For more information on CAP and the work they carry out visit their website at www.capuk.org

COMMISSIONING of Mrs Rosaleen Ramsey

On 10th March this year, Rosaleen was commissioned in Kilfennan Presbyterian Church in Londonderry as an Accredited Preacher of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Here she reflects on what moved her to apply for a course which has taken her on a journey. Tell us, why did you apply for this course ?

I have been involved in the Nursing Home Ministry team here in Hazelbank for sometime. When I saw this course advertised almost two years ago I at first thought I may be interested and perhaps it would help when I would be giving the address at the homes. It was only a thought - I did nothing about it but after sometime I was aware that God was calling me to apply saying to me "Be my servant" After much prayer I applied and after a long application process and interviews I was accepted on the course.

What did the course entail?

The training was for a year. For the first half of the year the training was held on a Saturday (10.00am to 5.00pm)in Kilfennan Presbyterian Church. Our main trainers were Rev Rob Craig our Moderator- elect and Rev Nigel Craig from Newtowncunningham Presbyterian Church. We were known as the North West Group (that included people from Coleraine and Limavady , Route , Derry and Donegal Presbyteries). There were 16 in the group - 12 men and 4 woman.

For the second part of the course we were attached to a church and had a mentor .I was with 1st Coleraine Presbyterian Church and had Rev Peter Fleming as my mentor. I had to conduct services in 1st Coleraine- each service was assessed by my mentor. At the end of the year Rev Fleming was satisfied I go to the final stage that being a final assessment with an assessor who knew nothing about me. That final assessment was in Hazelbank on Sunday 27th January, 2013 and after a week I received the news that I was accredited.

You were accredited, what does this mean?

I can take a service in any Presbyterian Church when invited to do so.

Were you blessed by doing this course?

I enjoyed doing the course.- it was hard work and many hours were spent doing assignments and preparing for services and yes I was

truly blessed through the course. I have met many lovely people and have been encouraged by so many.



I take this opportunity to thank everyone in Hazelbank who encouraged me and prayed for me during my time of study. I ask you to continue to pray for me as the Lord uses me in His Service.

PORTSTEWART CONVENTION

Keswick at
Portstewart  SCRIPTURE BY THE STRAND,
PRAISE BY THE PROM!
Bringing the Bible Alive... for the whole family!

Saturday 13 July to Friday 20 July 2013

Main Programme

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

11.00AM MON-FRI

EVENING MEETING

7.30PM SAT-FRI / 8.15PM SUNDAY

Bible Readings

Rev.Alistair Morrice Church of Scotland

Evening Meetings

Dr Liam Golligher 10th Presbyterian Church Philadelphia

Opening weekend

Dr Jonathan Lamb Langham Partnership

*Sunday morning 14 July Live BBC Keswick at Portstewart Broadcast
service from Portstewart Presbyterian Church*

CONVENTION FRINGE

Convention Extra for Young Adults

Monday 15 July 9:30pm

Speaker

Chris Pollock Clifton Park Baptist Church Belfast

FURTHER DETAILS AVAILABLE from

www.keswickatportstewart.org/

MONEY MATTERS

The financial position of the Church can be summarised as at 30th April 2013 :-

* The amount donated by way of Free Will Offering totals £26,993, a decrease of £4,629 compared to the same period last year. Loose offerings have decreased by £881. This means there has been £5,510 less lodged to the Number 1 Account in the first four months this year compared to the same period last year.

* Contributions to our Property Fund during 2013 currently stand at £5,508 which is an increase of £994 on 2012.

* Donations to United Appeal for the 4 months to the end of April 2013 total £1,972, an increase of £279 compared to the same period last year.

* Giving to the Ministry Extension Fund this year amounts to £2,502 which is a decrease of £272 over the same period last year.

* Expenses in the Number 1 Account to 30th April 2013 have increased by £4,915 on 2012, this equates to a 17% increase. Whilst this appears a large increase there are several main reasons. Firstly payments to our Praise Co-Ordinator have been made this year and secondly the allowances to our Youth Worker have been paid by the Number 1 Account since January 2013 where this was previously paid by the Ministry Extension Fund. Both Naomi and Robert are valuable assets for our Church and are carrying out very important roles for which we thank them. We also made a payment in March to Rev Dr D Clarke to acknowledge his work in carrying out pastoral visiting during the absence of our Minister. Pulpit supply fees during the period of illness were paid via the Church House Sick Supply Scheme into which all Congregations make a contribution.

* Expenditure through Property Account is £2,728, a reduction of £84 on 2012.

* Expenditure through Ministry Extension Fund is £1,767, a decrease of £4,742 on the same period last year. This is a very significant decrease, largely attributable to the fact that we are no longer paying a salary for an Assistant Minister and the Youth Worker allowance as noted above is now paid by the Number 1 Account. Regular outgoings from this account are currently at a very low level with the bank balance remaining relatively constant at approximately £35,000.

* There has been a significant reduction in funds being donated to the Number 1 Account this year. This is the first time in several years that we have experienced such a decrease in donations. There may be several reasons for this including economic conditions and the number of people attending Church services. This along with the increased level of expenditure could cause some pressure in this account over time. However the Number 1 Account has had a relatively large surplus of income over expenditure for the last two years which has built up a strong bank balance which at the time of writing stands at approximately

£28,000. This account will continue to be closely monitored but for now the account that urgently needs additional funds is the Property Account. This has been highlighted over recent weeks in the Church announcements and is also reproduced as a separate item in this publication.

* The facility to make your donations to Hazelbank electronically was introduced some time ago and in the region of 25% of our income now comes from electronic methods. Thank you to those members who are using this and I would remind all members that we can accommodate either all or some of your donations electronically. If you wish to discuss this further or require any help in setting up electronic donations please contact either Sandra in the Church Office or myself.

David Kerr
Treasurer

CHURCH PROPERTY ACCOUNT

An urgent requirement for additional funds in the Church Property Account was discussed at the recent Committee meeting and it was decided the Congregation should be made aware of the situation.

Over the last two years expenditure on repairs/renewals to the Church building and the Manse have exceeded the amount of money being donated to this account. Expenditure from the Property Account during 2012 exceeded income by £5,377. Total expenditure on Property items in 2012 was almost £22,400 with the single largest item being the loan repayment to Presbyterian Mutual Society of £14,225. This meant the Property Account started 2013 with a bank balance of £8,332.

Several significant items have required attention in 2013. The trees in the Church car park required removal at a cost of £1,530. A Lawnmower and Strimmer were purchased for use at the Manse for £525. Repairs to the Church heating system have been carried out with further work to replace pumps being found necessary, a total cost of approximately £3,700 is anticipated. The first loan repayment for 2013 to the Presbyterian Mutual Society has also just been paid at just under £7,000. This will leave a balance remaining in this account of just over £1,000.

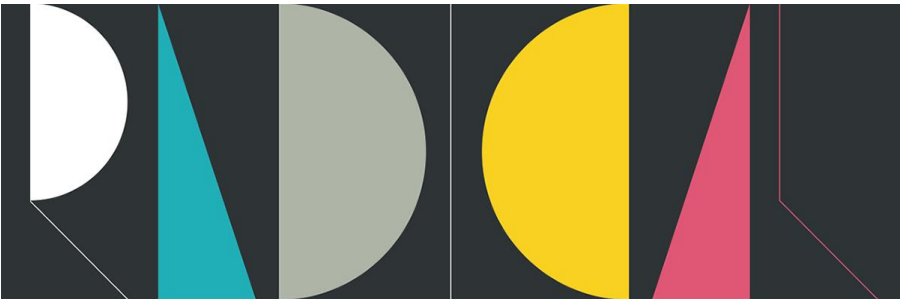
We would ask that all members pray about this situation and consider how you can help. This may be in the form of a one off donation or perhaps increasing your current regular donation to the Property

Account. During 2012 40% of our Contributors made a donation to this account, I would encourage all members of the Congregation to consider making a regular donation to help maintain our Church Properties.

Donations may be made either by using the envelopes in your pack or by using electronic methods. This may be an opportunity for members not currently using electronic methods to start making regular donations to the Property Account by Electronic Banking or Standing Order while continuing to use your envelopes for donations to other accounts if you prefer. If you require any further information on making electronic donations to the Church please speak to Sandra in the Church Office or myself.

David Kerr
Treasurer

newHORIZON



A radical obedience to His word

The word of the Lord came and said... live, speak, surrender, repent, forgive. Spoken into every age the word of the Lord assures us... have courage, do not be afraid, I am with you. Through the Word made flesh. He gave us His life so that we might have life.

His radical Word spoken over all time, now seeks our time, our lives, our radical obedience. Will we listen? Will we live? Will we lose ourselves in and for the living Word of God?

Schedule at a glance

Saturday 6.45pm Prayer Meeting 7.30pm Opening Celebration
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Sunday Morning Local Church Services 6.45pm Prayer Meeting 7.30pm Evening Celebration

Monday - Friday 9.30am Prayer Meeting 9.45am Creche (Pre School) Scripture Union (P1 - Year 10) Livewire (Year 11+) 10.00am Bible Reading 11.30am Special Celebration for those with learning disabilities (Wednesday only) 11.45am Seminars 18.45am Prayer Meeting 7.15pm On The Edge (Years 8-11) 7.30pm Evening Celebration 10.00pm NH Extra

SUMMER TEAM TO UGANDA

This year myself, Hannah McMullan, will be heading to Kampala in Uganda with Exodus from the 11th - 21st of July 2013. I am part of a group of 9, consisting of 7 girls and 2 boys, who are all striving to continue and grow in their relationship with God this summer. Our team leader is Judith Kerr and co-worker Graeme Livingston both of whom have devoted their time and effort to challenge themselves and help us in our journey with Christ.

In preparation for going away we have held many fundraisers both personally and as a team to try and reach our target of £4000 to take and bless the children in the schools we will be ministering to. We have also been working through a discipleship course every Wednesday for the past four months to grow closer personally and spiritually.

While away we will be working with Rock ministries in their primary and secondary schools. We will be teaching the children English while also teaching and learning bible stories and verses. As well as this will be working on the farms and sharing about our faith and testimonies in church.

In the leading weeks to going away we all are apprehensive but also excited about the challenges and journeys that we will treasure and learn from for the rest of our lives.

We all ask for prayer in the journey both to and from Uganda. We all hope that we are able to make a real difference in both children and adult lives and leave then with a message and hope for the future. We are also nervous and hopeful about sharing our testimonies with the church so we ask for prayer in guidance and knowledge that Christ is with us in everything we do. Finally in teaching the children, we ask that they learn and see hope in their own personal futures and dreams; we also ask to be personally blessed by the Holy Spirit and develop in our own faith.

Hannah McMullan

SANCTIFY UPDATE

Sanctify was an event that took place on Sunday 21st April. The heart of this event is to encourage and equip young people to be bold, in their pursuit of Jesus; to stand for truth, and to expose the enemy's lies which have become destructive throughout our generation. The core passage of scripture which would describe the vision comes from Ephesians 5:25, 26 which reads “...Christ loved the church, and gave himself up for her, to make her holy (the church) by the washing with water through the word.” Our main focus was to help in the process of renewing minds, from lies which lead to death to the truth that can set us free.

The event took place with the churches networking and uniting together. We had volunteers from local churches in the area, with Hazelbank's Robert McMullan speaking, and Gary Shirlow & Band from Portstewart Baptist. Over thirty young people came forward as a response, many for the first time. God is faithful all the time. The Be United team are overwhelmed by his grace and goodness. It's my hope that we will see a generation not thirsting after things of this world, but seeking pleasure in the kingdom to come...

Robert Mc Mullan

Photo source: "Source: www.christianphotos.net" [ChristianPhotos.Net](http://www.ChristianPhotos.Net) - Free High Resolution Photos for Christian Publications