

20
25

NEWSLETTER

Easter



gpc

GILNAHIRK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GILNAHIRK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Thanks to all those who contributed articles and items for this edition. Articles for the Summer Newsletter should be with the Newsletter Committee or the Church Office Secretary not later than Sunday 11th May. Items received after 11th May will not be included until the following issue. **Please observe this deadline.**

The Newsletter Committee:

Judith Morrow (Convenor)

Thelma Jackson

Brian Campbell

Geraldine Whyte

Roberta Patterson

Mark Blundell

Margaret Campbell

Rachel Toland

Kay Price

Martin Childs

Dear friends,

The following is a slightly amended version of an announcement that I made to the congregation on Sunday 9th March.

After almost 19 years as your minister, it's time for me to mention the "R" word.

For many years my normal retirement age was 65 and, believe it or not, I reach that milestone on 25th August this summer.

However, a few years ago, my normal retirement age moved up to 66 – that would happen on 25th August 2026.

I fully intended to continue as minister of GPC up to my 66th birthday – until a few months ago when, after much prayerful reflection, I came to the clear view that, as far as I could discern, this was not the Lord's will for me or for GPC.

So I have recently shared my intentions with our paid employees (Laura, Alf, Anne and Roy) and with the Kirk Session. Following East Belfast Presbytery's approval at its meeting on 4th March, I now wish to bring you as members of the GPC church family up to speed. All of this remains subject to the General Assembly granting its approval in June, but that is a very likely outcome.

So the plan is that I would retire on 15th September this year, a few weeks after my 65th birthday.

Why? Because things are going relatively well within our congregation with encouraging signs of growth in our spiritual life and so actually it's good for me to aim to finish well and avoid the temptation to stay on for another year.

That would run the risk of me running out of a bit of steam - never mind the risk of unforeseen ill health disrupting my ability to work. While I have enjoyed very good health up until now, I'm mindful that my mum died at the age of 66.

I think it is also a good time for GPC. Instead of a year maybe treading water awaiting my retirement, there is now a clarity and relative certainty about the near future. It's the right time for GPC to crack on into a new chapter of its history (His Story). By retiring 6 months from now on 15th September, I will be able to assist with the preparations for the start of the 2025/26 church year, while not unduly delaying progress towards the calling of a new minister.

So briefly what will happen? Over the next 6 months, we must not become distracted by my retirement – the focus needs to remain fully on Jesus and our worship, service and witness to him.

In due course, Presbytery will appoint a Vacancy Commission consisting of ministers and elders from other congregations in East Belfast - including one minister who will be the Vacancy Convener. They will effectively serve in a part-time capacity as the minister of GPC.

It may be helpful to mention at this stage that Roy Mackay has kindly agreed to continue in his current role as pastoral & preaching support - if the Vacancy Convener so wishes.

I should make it clear that, whereas I am normally significantly involved in the work of Vacancy Commissions as Clerk of Presbytery, I will not be in regard to Gilnahirk; and, once I have retired, I will draw a very clear line in terms of engagement in or comment upon GPC in the future for the sake of my successor.

I would be quietly confident that GPC is in a good place to be granted leave to call a new minister; and I will be praying that the person of God's choosing will take GPC forward with much blessing and fruitfulness – hopefully if all runs smoothly by the summer of 2026 or thereabouts – but of course nothing is guaranteed! Nevertheless, we can rest in the assurance that God's will and His timing are perfect.

It is really important that the leaders and members of the congregation foster harmony and unity through the coming months. This is not a time for pursuing personal agendas. The recently revised Mission Plan drawn up by Mariann Gilicze and Heather Taylor and adopted by the Kirk Session is an extremely creative and constructive foundation for the Vacancy and a really useful resource for attracting applications from eligible ministers.

More information about the Vacancy process will be shared as and when appropriate, but I think this is sufficient for now.

So the headline news is that, subject to the approval of the General Assembly in June, I will be retiring as minister of GPC on 15th September 2025.

All of this needs to be covered with prayer. So please pray for me to be enabled by God to finish well that which He has called me here to do for 19 years; for the new minister – that Jesus would be preparing them for this role even now; and for GPC - that as a congregation you would be guided by the Holy Spirit throughout the whole process.

God bless.

Stephen

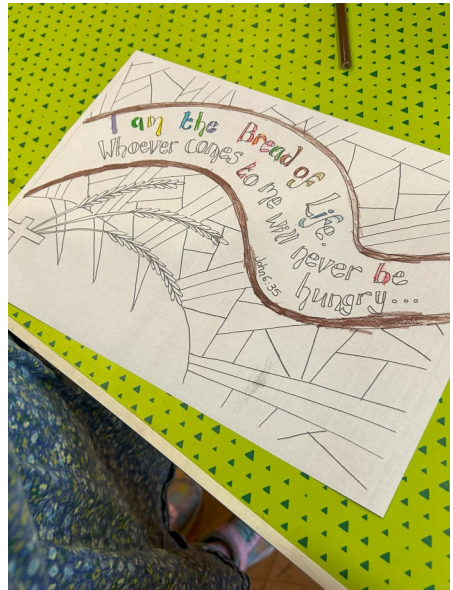
MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church is a form of church for children and adults together that involves **creativity**, **celebration** and **hospitality**. Lots of churches do 'Messy Church' in their own unique way, but it will always involve fun for all ages, getting to know Jesus, and a welcome for everyone. Here at GPC we meet approximately once every six weeks for a Messy Church session which includes games, song, story time, craft and snack time for young families.

In January our theme for Messy Church was '*The Boy Who Shared His Sandwich*' based on the feeding of the five thousand. We had a relay race to make a sandwich and Laura had the 'honour' of judging them - including via a taste test...!! Judith told us the story of how a little boy offered what little he had to Jesus (*a few loaves and a couple of fish*) when people were in need and Jesus was able to take it, bless it and do something amazing with it - in fact feeding five thousand people! We also discovered how Jesus gives us something that satisfies and lasts forever - not just for now - he himself is 'the bread of life'!

We made some beautiful craft to take home to remind us of that throughout the week. We then enjoyed our own 'feeding time' - thankfully up to 5000 people were not involved but there were certainly plenty of hot dogs being passed out!

Our next Messy Church is on **Sunday 6th April at 11am** and we would be delighted to welcome any families with pre-school and primary-aged children along. Please contact Laura for more info or if you have any questions.



YOUTH CLUB



Thank you so much to Kathryn Kerr for bringing along her beautiful 5 month old pup Zeb to visit Youth Club recently! Kathryn is a first-time volunteer puppy raiser for Guide Dogs and is responsible for giving Zeb a great start in life before he commences his more formal Guide Dog training next year. The young people LOVED meeting Zeb and they were able to learn more about what is involved with training Guide Dogs and the enormous difference they make for someone living with sight loss. GPC Youth Club hopes to do some fundraising for this amazing charity in the summer term- watch this space...

You can follow Kathryn and Zeb's journey over on Instagram @raisingzeb and if anyone is inspired to volunteer or to support the work of Guide Dogs UK more generally, you can find out info by visiting www.guidedogs.org.uk/volunteer

GPC Youth Club meets fortnightly on Saturday evenings from 7-9pm in JB Halls for young people in Year 8+. You can follow our Facebook Page 'GPC Youth Club' to stay up-to-date with our calendar or contact Laura for more info.

We are often looking for new helpers on a rota basis, so please get in touch if you would be interested.

SCHOOLS MINISTRY WORK

Gilnahirk Primary School (GPS)

Scripture Union continues to meet in GPS on Tuesday afternoons 3-4pm for pupils in P4-P7. Laura forms part of the leadership team alongside school staff and other local church leaders. This term the theme has been 'Friendship' and we have had great fun learning more about examples of friendships in the Bible (such as Ruth & Naomi; Moses & Aaron; Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego; and David & Jonathan), all the while pointing to Jesus who is the best friend we could ever have or need!

Laura also had the opportunity this term to deliver RE Lessons to the P5 classes as part of a team including Jax McCallum (SU East Belfast Schools Worker) and Drew Steele (Pastor at Gilnahirk Baptist Church). These lessons focused on three miracles of Jesus and what Christians believe these miracles tell us about God. Next term Laura will participate in P7 Lessons entitled 'It's Your Move' which help to prepare pupils for the major transition from primary school to secondary school. Once again these are really valuable opportunities to support our local school and be present as God's people in the community.

UNITE SU

Laura has recently been able to support local 'Unite SU' events which involve bringing secondary school SUs together after school to enjoy games, worship and word. This term CFC hosted a Junior Event and Kirkpatrick Memorial kindly hosted a Senior Event. A local 'Unite Committee', mainly made up of senior pupils from across various East Belfast schools, plans and leads each event, supported by SU staff. Having a pupil-led approach is really important and a great way to encourage and develop young leaders. Unite SU events are also a really important way to connect young people together, and can be a particularly meaningful opportunity for pupils who find that they are the only Christian in their class. The next Unite Event is on Friday 9th May and we would encourage any young person to look out for more info through their school.

Our Lady and St Patrick's College Knock (OLSPCK)

In January we enjoyed partnering with the local Gilnahirk and Braniel Churches to visit OLSPCK for a series of Assemblies and class visits, as part of the Week of Prayer For Christian Unity. Unfortunately Storm Eowyn meant we had to cancel the final day due to the school closures, but for most of the week we were able to share creatively about how 'the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it', based on John 1. Somehow Stephen's candle just kept relighting even after he had blown it out!

Below is the prayer we shared together in Assembly each morning:

*Jesus, Light of the world,
May your light shine in places of darkness,
bringing a new dawn of hope and possibility.
May mercy, justice and salvation flow
in every area of society.*

*Jesus, Prince of peace,
May your peace reach into places of violence,
war and unrest,
bringing reconciliation and forgiveness.*

*Jesus, wonderful Counsellor,
May your wisdom be given to all those
who make decisions that impact us all.*

*Raise up peacemakers,
courageous and compassionate leaders,
who hear your voice.*

*Jesus, Immanuel, God with us,
May your near presence with us mean that
the lonely, broken and rejected of our world
find new value, acceptance and love.*

*Lord Jesus, may we demonstrate your presence
by living joyous, hope-filled, loving lives
throughout this coming year.*

*Jesus, light of the world, shine Your light
into our darkness and help us to reflect
the light of your love to those around us.*

Amen.

During March we have enjoyed return visits from the school as Year 9 OLSPCK pupils have come to visit our GPC as part of the RE curriculum, as well as St Dorothea's and Gilnahirk Baptist. Pupils learn more about the significance of various features within the church sanctuary, as well as some of the distinctions between the different denominations. These visits are a valuable way of connecting with a local school and supporting them in practical ways, while demonstrating our Christian unity.

THE BIG SPLASH

Every few months our Kirk Session Children, Youth & Family Team organises an event for young families as an opportunity to connect, build relationships, and make fun memories! For the second year running we went to Lisburn Leisureplex for 'The Big Splash'. Children, teens, parents, aunties, uncles, grandparents and leaders enjoyed a fun-filled pool session (including some serious slides!), followed by yummy food and great chat in a party room. A huge thankyou to those who both organised and attended.

ROOTS

Our young people in Roots are exploring more about the persecuted church through the charity Open Doors. In countries across the world, Christians can be targeted with violence, driven from their homes, rejected by family, imprisoned, excluded from jobs and opportunities, and even killed. But, as we are learning, that isn't stopping many Christians from continuing to follow God and share His love. We have been able to consider what it must be like to have to meet secretly for church, rather than meeting so freely as we get to do in Gilnahirk. We hope to share more about what we have been learning with the wider congregation. We would love for you to come and experience our 'Way of the Cross' display which will be available to visit in the Styel Brae before the evening services on Sunday 6th April, Sunday 13th April (Palm Sunday) and Friday 18th April (Good Friday).



EASTER HOUSEPARTIES

Age 10-18 £120

Date: 18th-22nd April 2025

Venue:

Girls: Portadown Faith Mission Centre

Boys: Mullartown House, Annalong

Main Contacts:

Girls: Anna Nixon
eastergirls20@gmail.com

Boys: Josh Harbinson
easterboyshouseparty@gmail.com

CRANFIELD

Age 10-14 £135

Date: 27th July-2nd August 2025

Venue:

Chestnutt's Holiday Park, Cranfield

Main Contacts:

Ryan Wolseley and Jonny McCrossan
cranfieldcamp@gmail.com

KALOS

Age 14-18 £180

Date: 3rd August-9th August 2025

Venue:

Cleenish Centre, Fermanagh

Main Contacts:

Lucy Marshall and David Gregg
kaloscamp@gmail.com

Register at:

<https://linktr.ee/urbansaints>

Urban Saints Ireland run a range of brilliant Easter & Summer Camps for young people aged 10-18. For more info use the contact details on the flyer or speak directly to Laura. Applications can also be made to the Neal Killen Fund to help cover costs of attending Urban Saints camps. For further details please contact Laura.

Signs of Life



Inspire a faith that lasts

Scavenger hunt



Together as a family, look out of your window, or go for a nature hunt outside!

As you go through the activities we'll be reading **Psalm 100**, all about praising God for the life he has given us.

1. Listen out for birdsong

*"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs." v1-2*

It's so good to sing, shout or whisper to tell God what we're thankful for and to be excited about his beautiful world.

- What do you think the birds are saying?
- Can you learn to identify a bird by its song?



2. Look up at the sky

"Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his." v3

God is incredible. He made us in his image and we are all unique – just like the clouds!

- Notice the shapes of the clouds. What can you see?
- How does it make you feel to look up at the sky? What do you think God is saying?



3. Look out for animal tracks, a creature moving, or a bird in flight

"We are his people, the sheep of his pasture." v3

God loves all of his creation so much and keeps watch over us.

- Can you identify which animal made the tracks? What is the creature doing?
- Can you make your own footprints in the ground?

4. Can you find a bird's nest?

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise." v4

Follow a bird with your eyes and see if you can spot one.

Nests are amazing! They are intricate and strong. Inside this cleverly woven creation of twigs, grass and moss, birds lay their eggs, which are bursting full of new life. They are a safe place for birds to bring up their young.

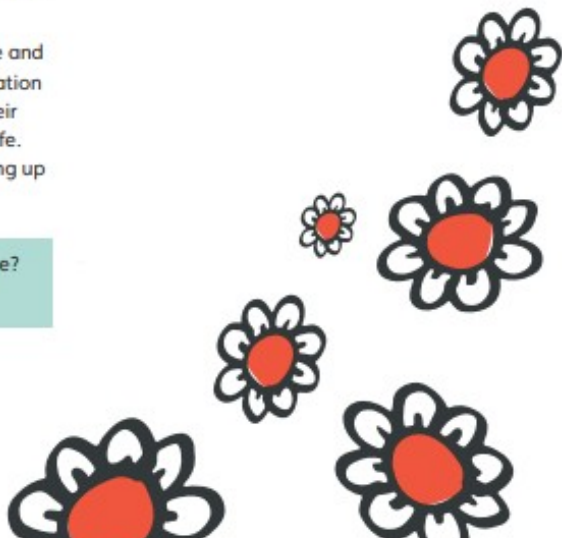
- What do you love about your home?
- What makes you feel safe?

5. Spot something beautiful

"Give thanks to him and praise his name." v4

Thank you Lord for all these wonderful signs of life, which remind us that you made us as part of your creation, and that Jesus came to bring new life to us all.

- Can you collect, photograph, draw or describe things that you are thankful for in creation?





6. Can you see something that looks dead?

"For the Lord is good and his love endures forever." v5

Now look and see if you can find some buds or new shoots.

Dead leaves and sticks are essential to life! They are breaking down into new soil.

- Can you think of other examples of when something old or dead becomes something new?
- God's love never ends. What are some of the things you are finding difficult right now? Could you pray together as a family?

7. Look for a tree stump

"His faithfulness continues through all generations." v5

The number of dark rings on a tree show how old it is. They can keep growing for hundreds of years! And your family tree includes lots of great, great, great grandparents, aunts and uncles who lived a long time ago. God was around to see all of them too.



- Can you find a tree stump and count the rings?
- How many different species of leaf can you spot?
- Share some stories of where you've seen God's faithfulness in your family.

8. Can you find any other signs of life?



- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Butterflies | <input type="checkbox"/> Moss |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blossom | <input type="checkbox"/> Insects | <input type="checkbox"/> Bees |

- How many different species of flowers can you find?

Have fun
together!

Care for the Family is a Christian initiative to strengthen family life.
A registered charity (England and Wales: 1066905; Scotland: SC038497).
Registered office: Tovey House, Cleppa Park, Newport, NP10 8BA.



Easter

Listen to the story



Jesus was praying in the garden when a mob came to arrest him.

Judas, one of Jesus' disciples chose to betray Jesus for some coins.

Peter wanted to fight them. But Jesus went with them peacefully.



They took Jesus to the Roman ruler and to the King.

They couldn't find anything wrong with Jesus. He obeyed all the rules and did nothing wrong.

But the people chose to kill Jesus.



They gave Jesus a cross to carry.

It was heavy.

He climbed to the top of a hill and they nailed Jesus to it.

Jesus was in a lot of pain, but He prayed that God would forgive the people.

Finally, Jesus said, 'It is finished' and he died.



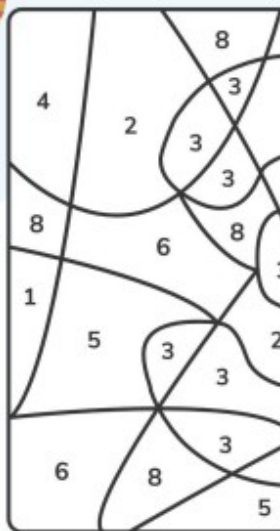
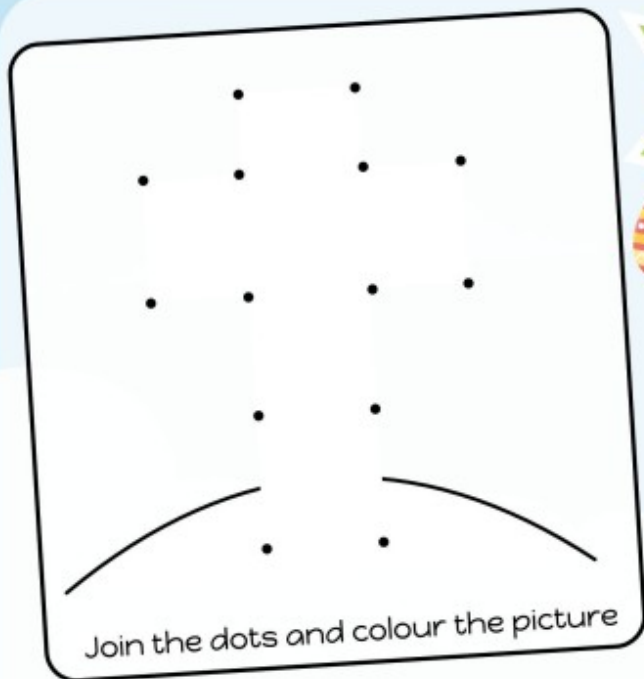
Three days later, Jesus friends went to visit his tomb.

When they arrived, it was empty. The huge stone has been moved.

Soon Jesus appeared to them.

Jesus had risen from the dead, just as He had promised.

He is



"He was buried, and on the third day

Find six differences



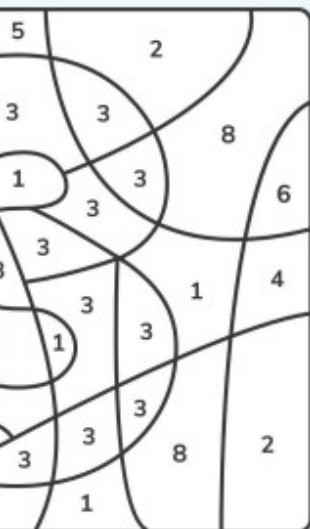
Risen

Luke 24:6

Match the Palm leaves



Colour all the number 3s



and raised from the dead
" - 1 Corinthians 15:4



How many
things
can you find
on this page
that roll?



Help the disciples find the donkey for Jesus



Let's make

Masking Tape Cross

Put some masking tape on white paper in the shape of the cross.

Colour or paint all over the paper.

When finished remove the masking tape to leave the shape of the cross.



He is Risen



Download more FREE Easter activities from truewaykids.com

CHURCH DIARY

March

Sunday 30th 7.00pm A Special Evening of Praise & Worship
in the Church

April

Sunday 6th 7.00pm Evening Worship in the lower Styne Brae

Sunday 13th 11.00am Palm Sunday Communion

4.30pm Gilnahirk & Braniel Churches Palm
Sunday Prayer Walk starting at Braniel
Community Church and finishing with
refreshments around 6.00pm at GPC

7.00pm United Gilnahirk & Braniel Churches
Palm Sunday Evening Service in GPC

Wednesday 16th 7.00pm United Gilnahirk & Braniel Churches
Holy Week Service in Braniel Church

Thursday 17th 7.00pm United Gilnahirk & Braniel Churches
Holy Week Service in St Dorothea's

OR 7.45pm United Gilnahirk & Braniel Churches
Holy Week Service in Braniel Community
Church

Friday 18th 7.00pm Good Friday Service in GPC

Sunday 20th 11.00am All Age Easter Celebration

7.00pm Easter Sunday Evening Worship
in the lower Styne Brae

May

Sunday 4th 7.00pm Evening Worship in the lower Styne Brae

Saturday 10th 10.00am Spring Plant Sale & Craft Fair

Sunday 11th 11.00am Christian Aid Week Service followed by
Annual Congregational Meeting

Monday 12th 7.45pm Kirk Session Meeting

Sunday 18th 7.00pm Café Church with Jack McQuillan
(Community Outreach Worker, Tullycarnet)
in the upper Styne Brae

Monday 19th 7.45pm Meeting of the Congregational Committee

June

Sunday 1st 11.00am Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

7.00pm East Belfast Presbytery Prayer Evening for
Reconfiguration of Ministry in Orangefield

SPRING PLANT SALE & CRAFT FAIR

**GILNAHIRK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SATURDAY 10th MAY
10AM - 12 NOON**

**Buy your plants for the garden
or bring your own pots to be filled.**

**Home made crafts and cakes
for sale**

Tea/coffee and scones



Thinking Day / Founders' Day Service

Sunday 23rd February

On Sunday 23rd February, Gilnahirk Presbyterian Church was bursting at the seams as the uniformed organisations joined forces to celebrate Thinking Day and Founders' Day. This annual event commemorates the joint birthday of Lord Baden Powell, the founder of the Scout movement, and his wife, Lady Baden Powell, who was the first World Chief Guide, and is a very special occasion for all the organisations.

The Guides looked to the past, recounting the story of the birth of Guiding and Scouting.

The Scouts shared a video of their visit to Srebrenica during their summer Camp in Bosnia. This year is the 30th anniversary of the massacre there which saw more than 8000 Muslim men and boys killed during the Bosnian War. This provided an opportunity for the Scouts to learn about what had happened and consider the implications of the events and the lessons that could be learnt for the future.

The Beavers reminded us of the importance of enjoying the present, with a joyful rendition of 'Your Love for Me', complete with energetic choreography.

The heart of the service is the renewal of the Promises, made at enrolment, by each of the organisations in turn. Laura reminded us that, while it is easy to say the words, it is harder to keep them every day but we must 'let our yes mean yes and our no mean no' - in other words say what we mean and mean what we say!

Congratulations to all the young people who looked so smart and behaved so well and thank you to all the parents and friends for coming to support us. Same time next year?

Heather Taylor (Clerk of Session)

So we say a big “Thank You!” to all of the leaders and helpers involved with the Uniformed Organisations



Rainbow leaders (from left to right): Rachel, Lara, Heather, Jude, Debra



Brownie leaders (Front row): Tamsin Jones, Edna Caldwell, Claire McRoberts, Eva Wilson;
(Back row): Kelly Carse, Jenny McCartney, Amanda Fee, Sorchia Corbett, Katherine Ingram;
2 leaders not pictured: Kitty Binney and Jennie Cahoon



Guide leaders (from left to right): Sarah, Rachel, Kate, Christine, Barbara



Beaver leaders (from left to right): Jude, Betty, Caspar, Patrick



Cub leaders (from left to right): Gareth, Paul, David, Carlos, David



Squirrel leaders and helpers (from left to right): Ben, Carol, Cody

Other Squirrel leaders
- Cody, Ben and Jude

Helper not in picture -
Maeve Campbell



Scout & Explorer Scout leaders (from left to right): Stephen, David, Simon

The High Cross

Roy Mackay

A feature seen on early Irish landscapes is the High Cross which dates back to the 9th century AD. Stone Celtic crosses, as they are frequently called, are dotted over many areas of the island. The oldest one is reckoned to be at Carndonagh, Co Donegal at the top of the Inishowen Peninsula. It is around three metres in height and made of sandstone. The High Cross usually displays early medieval carvings of biblical scenes used to teach a message from the scriptures.



As Christianity in Ireland grew from the time of Patrick and over the early centuries, so the High Cross stood as a symbol that Christianity had arrived but also as a boundary mark, particularly for monastic communities of the period.

When we turn, at this Easter season, to the crucifixion of Jesus recorded in the Gospel accounts, a cross was not so welcoming. Instead, it suggested an execution in all its painful horror. A former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, summarizes it in these words:

“We have become so familiar with this image - that we sanitize it. We go to places of worship and we expect to see a cross.

When crosses are removed from public places such as crematoria or hospital chapels, we quite reasonably get indignant about it. But in the world into which Christ came a place of worship was the last place you expect to see a cross.”

The Gospel writers emphasize Jesus’ death in all its horror and pain. For them, the cross was not something to embrace lightly. Luke in his account of the last moments of Jesus’ crucifixion (Luke 23:44-49) tells that at the approach of Jesus’ death, darkness covered the whole land for three hours. This was a significant and sombre moment.

Other New Testament accounts remind us of the great mental agony and burden that had been placed on Jesus in his crucifixion. It is recorded that he cried out,
“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mark 15:34)

We may well ask what is the meaning behind Jesus’ particular death on a cross with so much symbolism surrounding it? Sometimes we say that Jesus died on the cross to show us God’s love. Yet, while true, the Gospel writers want to say something more - for the crucifixion of Jesus had profound consequences for the world and for people of every generation.

Some years later, after Jesus’ death and resurrection, the Apostle Paul wrote about the ultimate implications of the cross for all who believe in Jesus:

“Christ who knew no sin became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

In those words, we come to the central meaning of the cross of Christ. For Jesus took our place in His death - going down to the very depths for us that we might not be forsaken by God.

So, this Easter time, when we are surrounded by many symbols of the holiday season, let us re-focus on the cross. While it presents pain and horror, yet it is in this death of Christ that we can find eternal life. Again, in the words of Paul:

“May we never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...” (Galatians 6:14)

Rev Mariann Gilicze

We are absolutely delighted with the wonderful news that Rev Mariann Gilicze, our former Assistant Minister, has recently accepted a Call from the congregation of First Lisburn to be their new Minister. We look forward to her installation which, at the time of writing, is being arranged for early May.



Rev Edward McKenzie (Minister of Cregagh and Acting Moderator of East Belfast Presbytery Business Commission) presents the Call from First Lisburn to Mariann in the Minister's Room at GPC.

To all Ladies,

The PW are planning to end our year with a party to celebrate the 2024/25 theme “Entrusted”. With the focus on Praise, we invite you to join us in the Styre Brae Upper Hall on Friday 16th May at 7.30pm for a Pudding Party with Alison Bovill, Worship Leader in Granshaw Presbyterian Church.



Everyone one is welcome (men won't be turned away!) but to help us with catering it would be great if you could let Hilary Gowdy (02891874064), Carol Anderson or Roberta Patterson know on or before 28th April if you are planning to attend.

Green pancakes for St Patrick's Day at the Monday Morning Drop In



Are you free on a Monday morning? Please pop in to the Styre Brae for a cuppa and a scone between 11.00am and 12.00 noon, bring a friend and plenty of chat! All welcome.

Thanksgiving for Elder

Malcolm Strain

Malcolm Strain was born in East Belfast and baptised in Gilnahirk Presbyterian Church. He was an engineer, a pipe band member, a mountaineer, a training instructor at RAF Sydenham, a member of the armed forces, a civil servant, a marathon runner, a motorcyclist, a cyclist, an artist and “a Blue Man”!

Above all, he was a child of God and a committed follower of Jesus Christ. A long serving elder in Gilnahirk Presbyterian Church, he diligently exercised a spiritual ministry to members of the congregation in his district.

His strong faith was evident in every aspect of his life including during his last months as he faced illness and his approaching death. He prayerfully trusted the Lord for the last stage of his journey in this life and for eternity.

Malcolm died on Christmas Day aged 87. He will be greatly missed by his many friends in Gilnahirk and especially by his devoted family including his wife June, daughters Helen and Anne, son David and grandchildren Jonathan, Aimee, Kerry and Hannah.

ONE VISION CONCERT

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in and supported the 'One Vision' Concert in March led by The Contact Singers. We enjoyed music by the choir, band and soloists, 'terrible-jokes-told-badly', and a lovely supper.

Andrew Davidson also shared more about his experience climbing Kilimanjaro in January along with a team of 14 family and friends.



Andrew's own personal experience with advanced glaucoma and vision loss has led to his fundraising efforts for the Glaucoma Clinic at the Shankill Wellbeing and Treatment Centre. Dr Angela Knox, Lead Consultant at the Shankill Clinic, attended the concert and described it as 'a wonderful evening'. She noted that we are very blessed to have such a supportive church community - 'a very precious thing that you should never take for granted and hold onto tightly'. The concert raised a brilliant £2100 to add to the fundraising total, 100% of which will go towards advanced diagnostic equipment to enable early detection and treatment.



Vestibule Reception Rota

<u>March</u>	11.00am	Willie Noteman Hilary Gowdy Donald Eakin*
	7.00pm	David Mark Paul Gray
<u>April</u>	11.00am	Paul Blundell David McDonald Richard Montgomery*
	7.00pm	Andrew Kerr
<u>May</u>	11.00am	Mark Blundell Hilary Morrow Rosemary Gregg*
	7.00pm	David Corbett
<u>June</u>	11.00am	Janitha Gray Judith Morrow Andrew Kerr*
	7.00pm	John Cummings

* Indicates reception duties at Stye Brae Centre, the security of premises and plate collection.

Evening services will normally be on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Those lifting the collection in the centre rows are to always start with the Choir.



General reminder to all members on vestibule duty of the new regulations regarding Fire/Health & Safety. Each member should ensure they know where all emergency fire exits & fire extinguishers are located and they will act as Fire Marshalls in the event should it become necessary.

Members on duty should have the church doors open no later than 30 minutes before the commencement of each service.

It is the responsibility of those rostered to arrange for Session/Committee deputies if unable to attend.

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms

12th January Rosa Florence,
daughter of Conor & Jenny McCartney

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Deaths

20th December	Vera Wilson
25th December	Malcolm Strain
21st January	Crawford McBride
29th January	Ruth McRoberts
3rd February	Rev Trevor Wilson
26th February	Finlay Dunwoody

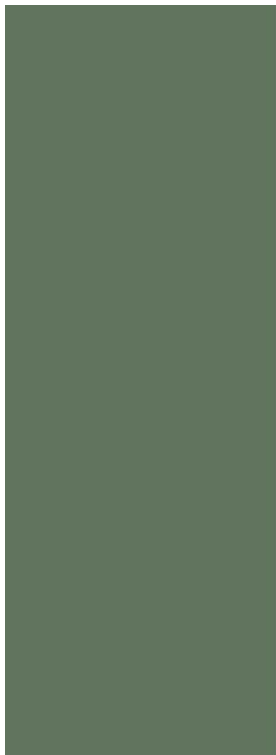


On behalf of the Society I would like to thank you for the generous contribution of £2901.25 received from Gilnahirk Presbyterian Church. The generosity of your congregation in providing this gift is both thoughtful and timely. We thoroughly appreciate and acknowledge your continued caring practical support.

Your consistent support allows us to respond to urgent and often unexpected life events and circumstances and to make a positive difference to the lives of so many Presbyterian children and young people.

Thank you again.

Jason Nicholson (Executive Secretary)



**Gilnahirk Presbyterian Church exists to show the love of God in Christ Jesus,
proclaim the Gospel and enable people to find its healing power,
encourage members to worship and learn together and grow in faith,
and apply the faith in practical concern and help to others.**

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