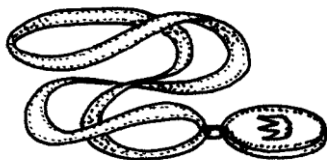
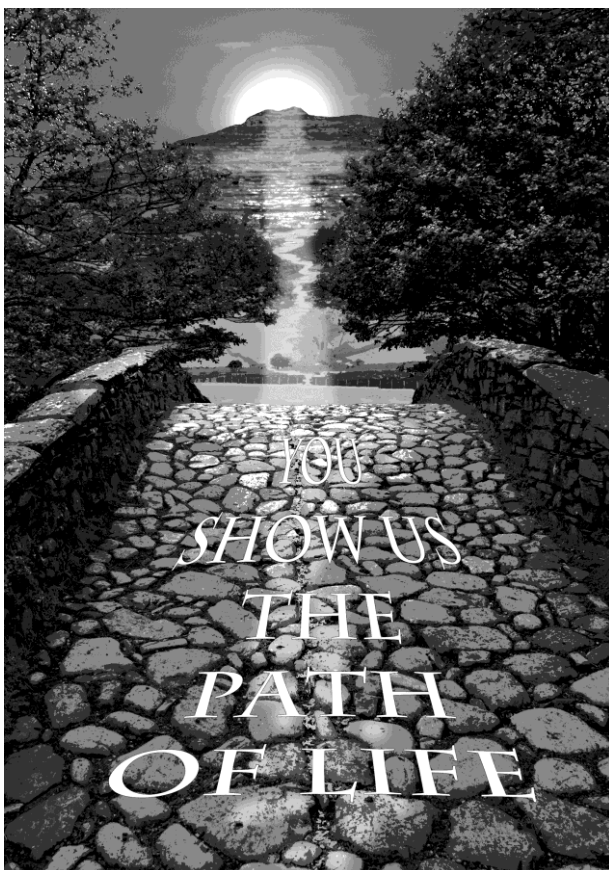


CHURCH NEWS



July & August
2013



Magheracross Parish Church

Message from the Rector:

Summer is a time when church attendances are traditionally low. Sunday School takes a break in line with the ordinary school holidays and all the organisations shut down. Personally, I feel that this is a practice that needs to be reviewed. The church inadvertently gives the impression that it shuts up shop for two months. Parents and children stop attending worship and children are given the impression that worship is something you do when there's nothing better available. There is also a myth that says that children cannot enjoy church unless they can get out for the sermon and the other dull bits, so when there is no Sunday School, the children are not brought to church. All of these attitudes get passed on from generation to generation.

It is my determined philosophy that all church services should be children friendly. They may not have a children's talk or a children's song, but children should never feel unwelcome. Children enjoy the routine of Church of Ireland worship and even the repetition – it is no surprise that children's TV programmes are built around repetition and familiarity. Children can listen to sermons, even if they don't seem to be paying attention – parents are often surprised by what wee Jimmy can repeat from an adult conversation that he didn't seem to be listening to! Most importantly, parents should not feel uneasy or guilty if their child isn't quiet in church. Over time, children will learn what is appropriate.

The most important thing is that they feel welcomed and comfortable. If wee Jimmy wants to wander round the front of the church, then let him do so – he's quite safe. If he starts to climb or do anything dangerous, there are plenty of adults who will sort him out! A restrained child, one who is ordered to sit and not move, is the same child who will then shout the house down and who, in later years, will believe that church is restrictive and condemning. If Jimmy is noisy, take him outside to the porch or round to the parish room. And don't panic! If you feel uneasy, then wee Jimmy will also feel uneasy! Likewise, if you are excited about church, then wee Jimmy will get excited too!

But back to the summer services. I have found that people get very easily confused if times and locations of services are changed over the summer. Therefore I have kept the summer times identical to the rest of the year. There will be a service at 9:30 am and another at 11.00 am. The evening services are now in a regular pattern at 7.00 pm with the Methodists hosting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month and we will host on the 1st and 3rd. (I'm afraid you'll just have to read the magazine if you want to know where to go when there's a 5th Sunday!) The only exception to this will be the 1st Sunday in August which is the Black Service hosted by the Methodists. Harvest Services in October also tend to upset this routine!

So – God doesn't go on holiday over the summer, therefore don't use the inactivity of the summer months as an excuse not

to share in worship, either in Magheracross or wherever you happen to be. Enjoy the season and be blessed in all that you do.

Pastoral Care for July.

1 – 12 July If you require clergy for funerals or pastoral emergency, please contact the Cathedral.

13 – 20 July Revd Charlie Eames will be responsible for pastoral care etc. Pastoral support during hospitalisation and illness can be arranged through Olive Nixon.

The Space Academy airlock will be open from 18 - 25 August 2013 in the Archdale Hall. If your young astronauts want to jump on board, please return your registration and consent forms to David McIlroy as soon as possible, either by post or in person; if you require additional forms, just email youth@magheracross.co.uk and they'll be beamed straight to your inbox. Please remember that any donations of unwanted "junk" that could be morphed into something artistic can be left on the stage in the Archdale Hall (foil, carpet and paint are particularly useful). The countdown has begun...

National Trust Ulster Garden Scheme

Gladys Fisher's garden (next door to the Manor House Hotel) will be open on Sunday 18 August 2013 from 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm. Tea will be available.

Coffee Morning

Howard, Valerie & Helen would like to thank everyone who supported them for Helen's Skydive and the coffee morning at

their home in aid of the Breast Screening Unit at Altnagelvin Hospital and Breast Cancer Care also to those who sent donations and who donated online. The amazing amount of £4,006 was raised. The Breast Care Unit are delighted with the amount being donated to them which will be earmarked for a particular use in their life saving work.

Flower Rota – July

7 July – Mrs V Beatty

14 July – Mrs M Sweeney

21 July – Mrs H Stuart

28 July – Mrs G Corrigan

Flower Rota – August - Mrs V Evans

4 August – Miss C Gilmore

11 August – Miss C Gilmore

18 August – Mrs J Fisher

Who to Contact:

Revd Brian Harper ☎ 028 6638 8238

☎ 079 8974 3545

Revd Charlie Eames ☎ 077 9219 1565

Youth Minister:

David McIlroy ☎ 077 0374 3583

Pastoral:

Olive Nixon ☎ 028 6638 8483

Sexton:

Raymond McBrien ☎ 028 6638 9761

Secretary:

Liane Armstrong ☎ 028 6638 8618

Churchwardens:

Gordon Lee ☎ 028 6638 8810

Richard McBride ☎ 028 6638 8404

Services for July 2013

Welcomers - Harold Graham, Jamie-Lee Guy

7 July	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
	11.00 am	Morning Prayer with District No 6 in attendance
	7.00 pm	Epilogue Service in Magheracross
14 July	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Family Service
	7.00 pm	Epilogue Service in Methodist Church
21 July	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
	11.00 am	Family Service
	7.00 pm	Epilogue Service in Magheracross
28 July	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Family Service
	7.00 pm	Epilogue Service in Methodist Church

Services for August 2013

Welcomers - Gillian Johnston, Erica Fyffe

4 August	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
	11.00 am	Family Communion
	7.00 pm	RPB Service in Methodist Church
11 August	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Family Service
	7.00 pm	Epilogue Service in Methodist Church
18 August	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
	11.00 am	Family Service
	7.00 pm	Epilogue Service in Magheracross
25 August	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Family Service
	7.00 pm	Epilogue Service in Methodist Church