

E. H. Clibbey

**SYDENHAM METHODIST
CHURCH MAGAZINE**

2016





From the Editor

It has been a challenge, but also a real joy, to complete this edition of our magazine, and I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who so kindly and willingly provided me with information. Without your help there would be no magazine!

The good news is that you have a few months to relax before I will be bothering you again for information for the 2016/17 edition.

Once again, many thanks to all who provided contributions. It has been a great team effort.

Sylvia.

P.S. If, over the next few months, you come across something that will be of interest to our readers, please send it to me –

sylviamaxwell45@gmail.com Thank you.

LETTER FROM THE MANSE

Dear friends,

Time flies when you're having fun! I can't believe that our first year in Sydenham is drawing to a close. I always say that a first year in a new appointment can often be the hardest, because it takes time getting to know people and seeing how things work. Then hopefully, as time goes by that gets easier as we adjust to a new rhythm of church life.

We are grateful that we are stationed among you and I simply want to encourage you in your worship of and service for the Lord. It has been such a blessing to see the wonderful gifts that God has given to his people.

One recent highlight was our RTE broadcast service. Whilst it was a long day and whilst it took a lot of time and effort in preparation, I can say with confidence that it was worth it. Speaking to a number of people outside the congregation, it has been encouraging to hear how they valued the service – you never know who is watching!

The apparent interest in our broadcast has been shown in that about 100 DVDs of the service have been distributed. So my thanks again to every person who gave of their time and gifts to help lead this service.



Our Holy Week and Easter services were a joy as we shared with our friends from Strand and St. Brendan's. Something that we tried for the first time this year was having the church open for private prayer on Good Friday. About 30 people came into the church

during the three hours and it seemed that everyone appreciated it. Next year it will be our turn to host the Holy Week united services. Speaking of which, a note of all the summer evening united services are listed, so please take note of the venue of each service. We are going to take the theme 'The Names of God.' As local clergy we felt that having a theme for the summer would be a helpful focus in our worship. It would also mean that whilst each sermon stands alone, it is part of a wider context.

As summer approaches, you will perhaps be aware that some necessary work (and some cosmetic updating work) is going to be done on the manse whilst we are away. This requires the manse to be completely empty for a few weeks, and I want to publicly express my gratitude to the Stewards who are overseeing this work on your behalf.

We trust that the summer will allow you time for refreshment, rejuvenation, and some fun! We are going to visit Deryn's family in South Africa and of course we are looking forward to that.



Before then though we have our annual Conference. This year it is being held in Portadown, and there will be some important issues to discuss, so please pray for Conference as it meets between 15-19 June.

Deryn, Rachel and Nathan join me in wishing you a restful summer.

Yours in Christ,
Robin

Pastoral Emergencies

Our Pastoral Team of Liz Bennett, Laura Brown, Eleanor Gray, Brian Maxwell and Irene Waring will be about at various times during the summer, and they will continue visiting those who are housebound and vulnerable. However, if you require the services of a minister between 4th July – 10th August, please contact Paul Sunerton on 9028 8352 and he will make arrangements.

Church Directory

Church Staff:

Superintendent Minister:	Rev Robin Waugh	9047 1782
Youth Pastor:	Mr Sammy Stanfield	075 4087 8297
Family & Children's Worker:	Mrs Steph Neilands	075 4538 3554

Church Officers:

Circuit Steward:	Mrs Carolyn Hall	9076 8445
Society Steward:	Mr Paul Sunerton	9028 8352
Council Secretary:	Mrs Orla Wylie	9080 8638
Property Steward:	Mr Ken McGuffin	078 0163 9391
Treasurer:	Mrs Gina Neill	9022 9519
Manse Steward:	Mr Neville Thomson	9079 4504

Committee Convenors:

Local Preachers:	Mr Paul Sunerton	9028 8352
Property & Finance:	Mrs Susanne Bryans	9076 1197
Youth & Children:	Mr Stephen Yendall	9028 4661
Witness & Outreach:	Mr Brian Maxwell	9042 4239

Church Council Membership 2016

Superintendent Minister	Robin Waugh
Circuit Steward	Carolyn Hall
Society Steward	Paul Sunerton
Church Council Secretary	Orla Wylie
Treasurer	Gina Neill
Property Steward	Ken McGuffin
Manse Steward	Neville Thomson
Elected Representative	Hetty Flanigan
Elected Representative	Timmy Spence
Elected Representative	Ann Anderson
Elected Representative	Peter Morris
Elected Representative	Brian Maxwell
Elected Representative	Stephen Gordon
Elected Representative	Alan Gray
Elected Representative	John Gray

UNITED EVENING SERVICES – SUMMER 2016

All of our united evening services during the summer are at

7.00pm

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| <i>26 June – Sydenham Methodist Church</i> | <i>Honour God's Name</i> |
| <i>3 July – St. Brendan's Parish Church</i> | <i>El Elyon: God most high</i> |
| <i>10 July – St. Brendan's Parish Church</i> | <i>Adonai: The Lord of all</i> |
| <i>17 July – St. Brendan's Parish Church</i> | <i>El Shaddai: The God who satisfies</i> |
| <i>24 July – Strand Presbyterian Church</i> | <i>Jehovah Jireh: The God who provides</i> |
| <i>31 July – Strand Presbyterian Church</i> | <i>Jehovah Rophe: The God who heals</i> |
| <i>7 Aug. - Strand Presbyterian Church</i> | <i>Jehovah Nissi: The Lord is my banner</i> |
| <i>14 Aug. Sydenham Methodist Church</i> | <i>Jehovah Rofii: The Lord is my shepherd</i> |
| <i>21 Aug.- Sydenham Methodist Church</i> | <i>Jehovah Tsidkenu: God is my
Righteousness</i> |
| <i>28 Aug.- Sydenham Methodist Church</i> | <i>Jehovah Shammah: The Lord is there</i> |

“PROBLEMS AT THE MANSE”



In September 2015 we had to have inspections carried out at the manse to comply with insurance requirements. You can imagine the shock and horror when the finance and property committee were advised that the manse was “dangerous”. Panic ensued after the September finance and property meeting but thankfully the

panic was curtailed and the manse family did not have to evacuate 10 Edgcumbe View.

To put the above into context, the wiring in the garage was in a dangerous condition and the work to rectify this was completed in December. However, the manse needs to be rewired, a pretty horrendous job as it is an extremely disruptive procedure with walls having to be tracked – dust everywhere! In an effort to keep disruption for Robin, Deryn and family to a minimum, the work is to be carried out in the 5 weeks they are on holiday in South Africa visiting Deryn’s family.

The manse will have to be completely cleared of furniture, all carpets lifted etc – then the “dust storm” can begin. While the manse is stripped, the heating system is going to be updated, double glazing replaced (many of the existing units have broken seals) and new double glazed front and rear doors fitted. When this work is completed, every room will have to be redecorated and the carpets re-laid.

Hopefully everything will run smoothly and when the Waugh’s return all furniture will be back in situ and normal service will resume.

Neville Thomson
Manse Steward

Thanks Carolyn!

Over the last 14 years Carolyn Hall has been editing the Church Magazine. This the first time that we've formally had a public opportunity to say a huge thank you to Carolyn for all her work. As you will know Carolyn has recently taken on the role and responsibility of Circuit



Newsletter

Steward and felt that it was time to hand the baton of editor to someone else. So our thanks to Carolyn for her years of service and welcome to Sylvia Maxwell as our new editor. Many of you will have seen that we released a News Sheet at Easter which we will produce 3 times a year - at Easter, Autumn and Christmas. Then our Church magazine will be available once a year, giving communication from the church on a quarterly basis.

CIRCUIT STEWARD

I was appointed Circuit Steward at the Congregational Meeting in November. I assumed my new role on 1st January 2016. Church life has been busy, with many organisations enjoying a full and varied programme. We do have a lot on offer in the life of the church, hopefully something for everyone! But if you have any ideas let me know. We are grateful for all who contribute to our church, using their gifts to glorify God.



At Easter, we joined with St Brendan's and Strand Presbyterian for our holy week services. These were taken by Reverend Robin who attended.

Our Life Together Groups (home groups) are studying N T Wright's DVD Surprised by Hope. As I write this, we are almost finished our 6 session study. After we watch the DVD together, we discuss questions relating to the session. It is a great way to get to know each other better, and an opportunity to pray together too. Robin also studies this series with the Wednesday Bible Study. If you are interested in being part of a home group, please speak to either Robin or myself. We look forward to what God has in store for us as we study His word together.

RTE

On Sunday 10 April, Robin travelled with some young people, the worship team and members of our congregation, to the RTE studios, where a service was recorded live! All who took part did very well. We, who stayed behind, were able to watch the service live, on the screen, in the church. Suzanne and Ken did a great job ensuring everything went according to plan. The service was beautiful and we were left with the challenge to love like Jesus does.

On Sunday 24 April, we had a visit from Jools Hamilton and Doug Edmondson. It was on “God’s Mission, Our Mission”. After the service, we had lunch together, and discussed various questions. It certainly made us think.

We continue to reach out to our local community with Messy Church — run by Stephanie Neilands, our Family Worker, and Coffee Kindness.

Our uniformed organisations have been well attended. The GB display on 29 April, was an enjoyable night all round.

We were blessed with a number of young people who were received into full membership on Sunday 5 June. We remember all our young people in our prayers, some of whom will be involved in mission trips and outreach work over the summer. We continue to remember Sammy, our Youth Worker, in our prayers, as he nurtures our young people.

As summer draws ever closer, it is hard to believe that Robin will be at Sydenham a year. We are thankful for his ministry — leading, teaching and pastoral work. We continue to remember Robin, Deryn, Rachel and Nathan in our prayers. We hope they have a great summer holiday which will refresh and renew them.

My hope is that the summer will be a time of rest and relaxation for us all. May we return invigorated and willing to serve our Lord and Saviour.



Happy holidays and take care.

Carolyn Hall

Circuit Steward

A Perfect Christian

You could count on a perfect Christian
To always be gentle and humble,
To be immune to sin,
And never, ever stumble.

He'd study and remember
All of God's commands;
He'd be trustworthy, moral and honest;
You'd know just where he stands.

With others, she'd be in harmony;
She'd never lose her cool;
Forgiving and forgetting,
Following the Golden Rule.

He'd surrender his life to God,
Full of joy and peace,
Free of stress and worry...
Perfect, pure release.

She'd lift up everyone,
Full of sweet compassion,
Free of worldly wants,
Ignoring worldly fashion.

But we can't ever be perfect,
So we always need to pray
For the strength to do our best
To love God and obey.

By Joanna Fuchs



Our church here in Sydenham has an expenditure of approximately £85,000 per annum.

This expenditure is just about covered by our FWO income plus the invaluable contribution of Gift Aid donations without which we would be in a deficit position.

We received a total of around £11,500 from the Gift Aid Scheme last year.

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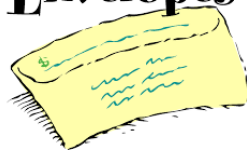
When a lot of work had to be carried out on the manse to bring it up to the required standards this amount was exceeded.

Copies of the Financial Report 2015 are available on the vestibule table for those who would like to have one.

Free Will Offering Contributions

If you don't already do so and wish to start giving through the Freewill Offering Envelopes, please speak to Alan Gray.

**Offering
Envelopes**



Standing Orders

You can set up a standing order to donate regularly by completing a Standing Order Form and taking it along to your own bank.

Alternatively, if you use online banking you can set up a standing order online using the Sort Code 950332 and Account Number 50083232.

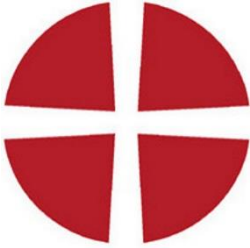


Gift Aid

If you pay income tax you can complete a Gift Aid Declaration Form and HM Revenue and Customs will refund the income tax paid on your gift.

Gift Aid, as shown above, is a valuable source of income for our church. If you have not already signed up for Gift Aid, please consider doing so. See Derek Cottney for more details.

For any further information on any of the above please speak to Gina Neill or email info@sydenhammethodist.org.



SYDENHAM WORK OF GOD REPORT

BELFAST SYNOD - MARCH 2016

Sydenham continues to be a vibrant congregation with a diverse age range.

There is still a good number attending Sunday morning and evening worship. At Morning Worship, the music is led by our praise group of which there are many people with different musical gifts. Evening Worship follows a more traditional style. We are blessed to have several Local Preachers who all exercise a good pulpit ministry.

Young people and children are well catered for, and are disciplined by our fantastic team of volunteers and paid staff. The Scout troop numbers 50+ boys; and the Girls' Brigade 70+ girls. There are various fellowship/discipleship groups for the young people during the week. Our Sunday School (called KidZone) and Bible Class (called Focus) are well attended with good leadership. Although we have excellent leadership we are always in need of more leaders.

Sydenham is an outward-looking congregation, seeking to explore new and fresh ways of engaging with our community. One such ministry called 'Coffee Kindness' has been going for a few years, where church members give out free cups of hot tea and coffee

at the local railway station. As the name suggests we simply seek to show kindness (and if you want to use a theological term, 'grace') to those who commute using rail travel. We have also held a 'Meet the Neighbours' BBQ in an endeavour to build open relationships with our neighbours - free burgers go down well in Sydenham! Some of the women enjoy their 'Community Prayer Walks' where they simply walk around the neighbourhood, praying for those who live locally. Whenever the opportunity arises, they engage in gentle conversation about what they are doing and invite topics for prayer. Our Prayer Network was set up over 25 years ago, and now alongside this we are launching a Prayer Texting Network as this is the preferred mode of communication for many people these days.

Our discipleship follows a dual approach where we hold a traditional Bible study which is a lecture style teaching evening; and also some small groups called 'Life Together Groups'. In total we have about 50 people engaged in some form of discipleship programme. It is interesting to note that the older generation prefers the more traditional teaching Bible Study, whilst the young generations prefer the small groups with discussion and prayer.

In conclusion, Sydenham is in good spiritual health because it's focus is on missional discipleship.

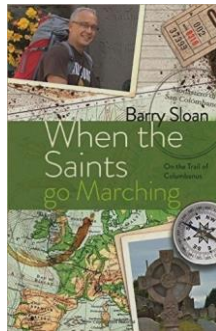
World Church Secretary

Hi, my name is Alan Hall. I think my official job title is World Church Secretary. My job is to encourage interest in and prayerful and financial support for the overseas aspects of the work of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

There are 2 elements to this work.

1) MMS (1) - Methodist Missionary Society (Ireland)

MMS supports Mission Partners from Ireland working overseas, for example the Sloan family in Germany. It also organizes the Container Ministry that recently celebrated 25 years of ministry.



In Sydenham, we usually have a morning service in February that seeks to promote and celebrate the work of MMS (I). At the service, the MMS (I) annual reports are circulated with envelopes. There are also MMS envelopes included in the FWO pack and collecting boxes are used to support the work.

Follow the link below to visit the MMS (I) website:

<http://www.irishmethodist.org/mms>

2) World Development & Relief (WDR)

WDR is concerned with issues of development and justice.

Usually there is a Sunday morning service in September that focuses on the work of WDR. At this service the WDR annual reports and 1% envelopes are distributed. These give us all an opportunity to learn about the partners being supported and contribute to the work of WDR. It is also possible to support WDR through standing orders or direct debits.



Follow the link below to visit the WDR website:

<http://www.methodistworlddevelopment.org/>

Please have a look at the websites to find out more or come and chat to myself.

Changes in Kiwoko Hospital, Uganda



Ugandan parliamentary and presidential elections have been and gone. Thankfully they passed off relatively peacefully as many in the country were concerned that major

unrest was a possibility. The president has been returned for another term. Most of the local people voted for him - they do not want change!

Few of us really enjoy change, yet Kiwoko is changing all the time. Regular visitors are amazed to find new buildings; a new pick-up; new nurses; a new midwifery course..... and yet at the root of the work of Kiwoko hasn't changed in over 25 years, still providing holistic health care to the poor and vulnerable by being Christ-centred in all they do. This year they will celebrate 25 years since the official opening of Kiwoko Hospital in 1991. The book 'The Man with the Key has gone' by Dr Ian Clarke is a great read on how the hospital started.



Last year the hospital vehicles cost a lot of money as they were old and in constant need of repair. The roads around Kiwoko are dirt roads full of pot holes and ruts and are very hard on vehicles. The closest tarmac road being over 16 km away. After a Christmas card fundraising effort and some generous donations they have been able to replace one of the worn out vehicles. The drivers are delighted with the greater efficiency and reliability of the new pick-up. They hope to have another

vehicle replaced before too long to reduce the significant maintenance costs needed to keep the old vehicles on the road in recent years.

The new Maternity unit was built 6 years ago. There is a noticeable increase in the number of mothers coming through with around 3300 babies delivered in 2015 this is double the number when the unit opened and is a result of the antenatal care in the community when mothers are encouraged to give birth in the safer environment of the hospital. January was unusually wet resulting in a big rise in the number of cases of malaria and this affected the whole hospital. It is a serious problem in pregnancy and affects mothers and babies alike. Treatment needs to be prompt and effective. Thankfully no mothers died from malaria last year.

In mid February, the Kiwoko community held a Prayer March. 250 people turned out, with temperatures well into the 30's, to walk a route around Kiwoko village that would take just under 2 hrs. Armed with water, umbrella's (to keep the sun off), sun cream for some, young and old, gathered behind a truck containing prayer & praise leaders under Sister Sara's guidance. Heartfelt prayers were offered for schools, churches, police force, courts, local government, businesses and families. They declared the authority and sovereignty of God in Kiwoko, coming against the many witchcraft practices and claiming the town for the Lord. The walk finished at the taxi-park in the town centre with a gospel message and several people gave their lives to Christ! People from Pentecostal and Anglican backgrounds marched and interceded as a united body for their community! We have since heard that more new believers are turning up at Churches as a result of the march.

Points for Prayer requested by hospital staff

*Praise God for starting and sustaining the work in Kiwoko for what it is today. While many hospitals in rural Uganda struggle to survive, over a hundred thousand patients are touched by our care every year.

* The pound sterling has recently weakened significantly against the Ugandan Shilling meaning that our income has reduced. Pray for the finance team trying to balance the books and for fresh donors to help us plug the gaps. (The hospital receives 3% of its income from the government and relies on 58% from overseas donors to keep functioning.)

*Several junior doctors and nurses are planning to go for further studies in the coming months. Pray as they undergo interviews that they will find a suitable place to study and that good replacement staff are recruited when they leave.

Together, ***'We treat, Jesus heals'***.



Elective Opportunities

Medical, Nursing and Physiotherapy elective placements are available at Kiwoko Hospital.

If you know anyone who may be interested, they can contact visitors@kiwokohospital.org

Ruth Boyce

STOREHOUSE

September 2015 saw Sydenham Methodist begin its 3rd year partnership with Storehouse.

That time has flown, but what is most impressive is the continuous commitment and dedication of our congregation and friends in the donations they have made. Each fortnight we have consistently delivered a full trolley of donated food – that is over 70 trolleys full of food during our partnership to date!

This year saw Storehouse develop a quarterly newsletter to keep supporters updated of their work, which many of our congregation have enjoyed reading.

In December 2015, our congregation was set a specific challenge – to gather and donate 179 boxes of stuffing, which would then be used to make up Christmas hampers for the families known to Storehouse – to ensure



that on the day in which we celebrate Jesus' birth, these families could experience a very real sense of His love. Well, to quote one member of our congregation "we stuffed it", we met our target and beyond and on 14th December, with the assistance of a little helper, we delivered 183 boxes of stuffing to the warehouse. On top of this, our

generous congregation also donated enough funds to purchase 36 turkeys for these families.

Alongside our donations, Sydenham Methodist has made specific referrals to Storehouse, which has seen individuals and families benefit directly from our partnership, providing them with a sense of God's love and goodness at a time in their lives when it was much needed.

Storehouse itself has faced a 'season of change', which has seen them having to relocate their city centre base from Castle Arcade to Queen Street (temporarily) whilst they continue to search for a more permanent location, however what has not changed is their purpose.

Storehouse continues to demonstrate God's unconditional love and mercy in a practical way, to people in need across the whole of Belfast, through providing food, furniture, clothing and face to face contact. They provide individuals and families with choice and dignity on a daily basis.

We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with Storehouse to support the growth and development of the organisation as they serve individuals and families throughout our city. Support can be given through continuing to donate to our food collection, through continuing to pray for the organisation and its service users, and through making the work of storehouse known throughout our community. Storehouse also provides many other volunteering opportunities in a variety of areas – from clothes sorting, delivery drivers and hospitality.

Thank-you for the support that has been given so far, and please join us as we continue to serve through the work of Storehouse.



Prayer Network

At the time of writing there are 48 people receiving Prayer Texts and another 12 on the Prayer Phone Network.

If you wish to join our Prayer Texting Network then please text your name to 073 9850 1495

or if you wish to be on the Prayer Phone Network then please speak with Jack Boyce.

For any prayer requests please contact Robin or text the Prayer Line number.





A Lesson from the Geese

1. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an 'uplift' for the other bird following. By flying in a V formation, the whole flock adds 71 % flying range than if a bird flew alone.

Lesson: People, who share a common direction and sense of community, can get where they are going quicker and easier when they are travelling on the thrust of one another.

2. Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone, and quickly gets back in formation to take advantage of the 'lifting power' of the bird immediately in front.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed where we want to go.

3. When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies at the point position.

Lesson: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership – interdependent on each other.

4. The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Lesson: We need to ensure our honking from behind is encouraging, not something less helpful.

5. When a goose gets sick or wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow him down to see if they can help and protect him. They will either stay with him until he is either able to fly again or dies. Then they launch out on their own with another formation or to catch up with the flock.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as the geese, we'll stand by each other like that.

Witness and Outreach.

We have a great group of enthusiastic people on our Witness and Outreach Committee who, over the past year, have organised events such as



Prayer Breakfasts, Church

Away Day, Meet the

Neighbours, and Opening the Church for

Prayer. Special mention should be given to



Coffee Kindness which is a very successful form of outreach from our church to the commuters at Sydenham Railway Station.



As a committee we are keen to develop these types of events further and also to try new ideas as to how we can become even more integrated within the Sydenham community. But We don't have all the answers, so..... we would like to hear any ideas you may have, and, if you would like to work closely with this committee please speak to our Minister, Robin Waugh, or to me.

Church - led events are all very good, but we do realise that the most effective witness can be each of us, just as individuals, taking the opportunities that may come our way each day to tell others of the love that Jesus has for them, and what He means to us. In addition, there are many people within our

congregation who do sterling work in the community by being members of Resident Groups, School Board of Governors, Area Development Forums, Road safety Groups, Business Groups, Professional Bodies and Institutions. These are important 'front lines' where it is essential for the Christian viewpoint to be heard. So please let us know if you are involved in such groupings and if there are ways in which we can support you in addition to the prayer support that we would like to offer.

*Finally, in closing, a date for your diary - our next **Church Away Day** is being planned for **Saturday 24 September 2016.** -*



Please plan to keep the day free and join in the fellowship at the Tobar Mhuire Conference Centre in Crossgar.

Brian Maxwell

Convenor, Witness and Outreach Committee

Congratulations



2 May 2016 - Glenn Lyttle and Lisa Gourley

21 May 2016 - Paul Scullion and Vicky Moore

* * *

"God created marriage.

No government subcommittee envisioned it.

*No social organization developed it. Marriage was
conceived and born in the mind of God." ~ Max Lucado*

Local Preachers in Sydenham.

Local Preachers have an important role in supporting the ordained clergy, at both Circuit and District level and, on occasions, even further afield.

In Sydenham Methodist, we are blessed by having 6 Local Preachers and 3 in training. We are thankful to our Minister, the Church Council and the congregation for their prayerful support and for the opportunities to preach and lead worship.

We have formal 'get togethers' every 3 to 4 months, which we use to plan forthcoming services and agree preaching dates. We also have a time of discussion on a theological aspect, which usually turns into a most interesting debate.

As always, we are very willing to accept new folk, who feel they have the call to preach. If you would like more information on how to become a local preacher, please speak to me.

The name SAM MCGUFFIN has been synonymous, over the years, with Sydenham Methodist, the Methodist Conference and the many other committees he served on. Sam was an extremely knowledgeable local preacher on our circuit, and it gave us particular pleasure that our Church Council agreed that the former choir room, where we currently have our meetings, will now be known as the Sam McGuffin Room.

Paul Sunerton (Convenor)

Mrs Jean McGuffin shares one of her favourite hymns.

Like most of us, I have many favourite hymns, but I have chosen one that both Sam and I enjoyed.

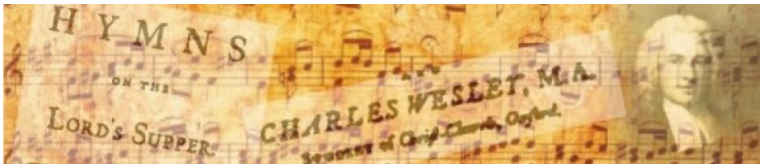
It was written by Charles Wesley - No 753 in Hymns and Psalms.

*All praise to our redeeming Lord,
Who joins us by His grace,
And bids us, each to each restored,
Together seek His face.*

This hymn reminds us that all we have comes from God and it is our delight to praise and thank Him. It goes on to encourage us to build each other up in our faith and fellowship, to share in our joys and sorrows and to love one another.

In the last verse we celebrate our Christian Hope when we sing

*And if our fellowship below
In Jesus be so sweet,
What heights of rapture shall we know
When round His throne we meet!*



CARD MAKING GROUP



The Card Making Group continues to meet on the first and third Tuesday at 7.30 pm each month in the Sam McGuffin room.

We are still committed to raising funds for local charities, so, if you see a supply of cards displayed in the vestibule, please take a look and consider purchasing some.

An honesty box will be available for your donation.

Linda Nicholson.



MWI

The MWI meet on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Tuesday of each month.

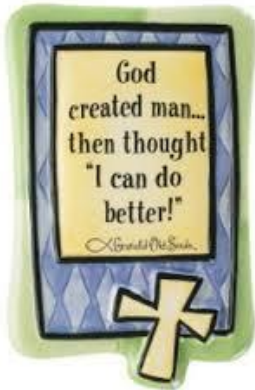
We have various speakers and occasionally a fun night. Our speakers to date have been many and varied, ranging from British Red Cross, Alzheimer's Society and Send a Cow to a man who was Shipwrecked in Antarctica. All very interesting. Our fun nights were a beetle drive, a quiz and a night tenpin bowling which we enjoyed immensely. We had a night out for Christmas dinner and an outing in May when we finish for the summer. Our outings have included Ballymena, Portstewart and Londonderry along with a variety of other places. This year we're staying a bit closer to home, going to a flower festival and tea in Movilla Abbey Methodist in Newtownards.

We are a friendly fun loving Group of women who would welcome any newcomers. Feel free to join us one evening next term, starting in September. Give it a try. We would love to see you.



*I believe that everything happens for a reason.
People change so we can learn to let go.
Things go wrong so that we can learn to appreciate them
when they go for us.
We believe lies and then find it hard to trust anyone except
ourselves and sometimes things fall apart so that bigger and
better things will come together in our lives.
Created by D Hedges*

Have a laugh ³³



Irene and Brian Waring's impressions of the RTE Service held on 10 April 2016.

Before the broadcast, we had two intensive rehearsals. During the second of these, the RTE producer Michael and Mary his assistant, explained how the production would proceed and a run through of the whole service took place. This allowed the production team to make amendments to timings where necessary. For example, Robin was required to adjust his sermon to 5 minutes, and some of the worship songs were shortened so the total running time was 42 ½ minutes. Like us, I'm sure those watching were impressed with Robin's ability to convey God's message in such a short time.

The journey down to Dublin on the day of the broadcast, involved an early start, leaving the Church at 6.30am and arriving at the RTE



studios at 8.40am, where we were provided with tea or coffee. The RTE make-up team did a great job, even though they had some challenging issues, such as the reflection from Robin's shiny head. Following this, it was straight into



rehearsals to allow camera and lights to be positioned. At 11.10am. we went live.

The service itself was very moving. The praise, drama, prayers, readings and sermon all fitted

together so well and together with the chat about coffee kindness, showed that Sydenham Methodist is a vibrant church, reaching out to the community.

The real stars are our young people. We, as a church,

should be proud and delighted how God continues to use them.



We journeyed home after having of a buffet lunch and

sandwiches provided by RTE. We are so glad that we went and took part!



Praise the Lord

The Senior's Fellowship.



Our Fellowship meets on the third Thursday of the month, meeting from September to May.

We meet at 2.30pm in the Taylor Room (unless otherwise stated), for fellowship, chat and afternoon tea.

In [September](#) 2015, **Rev. Robin Waugh** was the speaker. He told us a little about his family and his journey to date.



In [October](#), **Rev. Adrian McCartney** spoke about the work of 'The Larder' in Mersey Street, similar to Storehouse.

Our own **Linda Nicholson** had the group doing craft work in [November](#), while a Christmas celebration tea was enjoyed by all in [December](#).

In **January** 2016, **Lawrence from 'Engage with Age'** exercised the brain cells with an interesting quiz and in **February** **Iris Morrow** led a **'Tone up to Music'** to loosen up after winter!



In **March** an outing to a cinema outside Comber took place, while, in **April** we look forward to hearing from a member of the **Ulster Scots**.

May will see the close of the year with tea and a chat.

As you can see, there is a varied programme and an attendance of very regular and loyal members. However, non-members are always welcome –age is not a barrier- **all ages are welcome**.

If transport is required, speak to Jean McGuffin.

Life

always offers you
a second chance.
It's called tomorrow.

SYDENHAM BOWLING CLUB

Bowling is a skilful game. **A DRAWING GAME!!**
To be a good bowler takes a lot of practice.

The aim of the game is to get the bowl close to the jack.
Our aim is to keep the bowl on the mat!!

The bowling club has been going since the early 60's, when the completion of the Ferguson Hall in 1966, gave us a good quality floor, and a mixed bowling club was formed in the evenings.

At the end of the night, we have an epilogue taken by some members of the club, which prove to be a real blessing.

We can't forget the cup of tea and a sticky bun.

Why not join us on a Monday night for a game of bowls.
We meet at 7pm every Monday night, and finish at 9am.

There are about 20 of us, and we all have a bit of fun.

(Can't play very good bowls, but we have fun.)

We are always looking for new members
So why not join us.

We should be starting around September 5th 2016



HOPE TO SEE YOU THEN

The Dock

Conference 2014 encouraged ministers to spend more of their time outside of their own church setting and engage with their local community. Following on Karen's role as Methodist Chaplain at the Dock Cafe, I volunteer for 3 hours a week (on a Wednesday between 11am-2pm). The Cafe hosts different people, from students to business people to tourists. One of the wonderful things about serving as a volunteer is in building relationships with those people who make a regular appearance - and reconnecting with those I've known from the past! There are currently four



Chaplains and we meet once a month for an hour for Bible Study and prayer. Sunday evening worship takes place on the first Sunday of every month from 6.00pm - 7.30pm. Please pray for all those who work in the Dock and those who

volunteer. If you would like to know more about the Dock Cafe please visit their website

<http://thedockchurch.org>

Coffee and Chat

When I was asked to write this article about Sunday morning coffee, I was asked to mention any highlights or upcoming events, unfortunately there aren't many, except maybe for the mince pies at Christmas and buns at Easter! But the thing about Sunday morning coffee time is that it is simple – simple in idea and simple to carry out. That is the beauty of it. This is a time when people can meet to catch up in the week.



On a typical Sunday morning there will be the gentleman who just takes juice, the daughter who gets her own cup and a half for her mum, the little ones charging around while others dodge them so as to not spill hot coffee on them,



The hands that come from nowhere when the new packet of chocolate biscuits is opened and the tray of coffee and biscuits which disappear to sustain 'The count crew'!

It's not very flash and we don't have amazing biscuits or coffee. It is a place where the people of our church can share fellowship, conversation and chat.

If you were to test the temperature of our church, I think the scene



of Sunday morning coffee would show it to be quite healthy with people of all ages and stages sharing life together.



example of service, to all who serve in such a faithful and way.



It is also a good opportunity and thank you the rota in committed

We're not a closed group. So if you have never made the trek across to the hall after the service on a Sunday, please know that you will be made very welcome and who knows there may even be chocolate biscuits that week!

Orla Wylie



The Worship Team

Who are we?

Our worship team currently consists of: Danielle, Emma, Hannah, Jenni, Kierinda, Luke, Moya, Peter G, Peter M, Timmy and Valerie. Diana plays a unique role in that she plays the organ and also helps us out at times on the keyboard- thank you! We are very grateful for those who have served faithfully for so many years - our longest serving members include Valerie and it's exciting that our newest addition is her daughter Hannah.

The Jamming group also meet on a Thursday evening. The group consists mainly of teenagers from our congregation, who enjoy using their musical gifts by worshipping together as well as occasionally leading worship on a Sunday morning. This is a fantastic opportunity for young people to develop their gifts and build their confidence. If anyone is interested in trying this, please see Peter Morris.

We could not do what we do without Susanne who creates and manages the PowerPoint presentations and Ken and the team on the sound desk.

What do we do?

We lead worship during Sunday morning services in our church. A rota is drawn up every two months so we know who is doing what and when. The leaders take it in turns to choose and introduce the songs and we practise them before the service. A number of members of the team are also involved in leading worship at other events in the wider Methodist family. Our latest additional activities as a team were our meal out to Horatio Todd's and some of us were recently involved in leading worship in the RTE studios in Dublin for the TV programme, "Service" (photo attached).



We are very grateful to be part of a church of all ages and hope that what we do can be used as a tool by which the whole congregation can praise and experience God.

The Erin Thomson Memorial Trust

For those who don't know - the Erin Thomson Memorial Trust was established in 2012, following the death of Erin aged 2 & 1/2.

It was founded by some of her family and

friends to support good causes for children. Erin had displayed an affinity for these despite her short life.



The main target of the fundraising has built a toddler play park in Gilnahirk, close to where Erin lived.

The congregation of Sydenham has been a great support to Erin's Family both at the time of her death and subsequently have donated a new Christmas tree for the church, which the family have decorated in memory of Erin.







7th NI Sydenham Methodist Girls' Brigade – 2015/2016

When we opened our doors in Sept 2015, it was great to see the majority of the girls back and very encouraging to see a lot of new faces.

We started the new session working for our Badges – Spiritual, Service, Educational and Physical. For the Junior Physical badge, the girls entered the District Duster Hockey Competitions. They got through to the finals in Omagh, gaining 2nd place. Fantastic work girls! 😊. For their Physical Badge the Seniors and Brigaders enjoyed several sessions with a qualified Tai Kwando coach. They were taught various movements in self-protection. This badge went hand in hand with their Service badge, Mental Health, learning about self-worth and mental attitude. For the Education badge the Juniors hand sewed Christmas tree decorations and the Seniors and Brigaders hand sewed a Christmas Stocking each. The Spiritual badge, “Promises”, was set by GBNI. The aim of this lesson was to help us understand why we should trust in God. To know that His plans for us are good, that He uses people from many backgrounds. On reading the girls’ journals, it would appear that they enjoyed this lesson. The Explorers worked on their GB E Star, covering lots of activities from learning about people in the bible, singing, dancing, playing musical instruments, making beautiful crafts and baking.

Apart from Badgework, the girls enjoyed other events. The Explorers had a visit from Anna and Elsa from 'Frozen' and the older girls enjoyed a visit from the owners of a fashion jewellery shop in Lisburn. The ladies showed the girls how to bead, not an easy feat. Each girl produced a beautiful piece of jewellery that they were able to take home and enjoy.

In November we held our Enrolment Service, enrolling over 80 members. During the service, I had the privilege of presenting Danielle Chambers with her Officers Lanyard and Laura Gray and Beth Trimble were enrolled as Sub-Officers.

In May we held an Easter Craft Fair. It was a very successful day and we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped support us in any way. We raised over £480 😊 Part of the money, £150 will go to this year's chosen Charity – Dogs for hearing impaired children. The remaining money will go towards Stationery and resources for next year's Badgework and new Hockey Kits and bibs for the girls so they will look the part when they enter the Duster Hockey competitions in the future 😊

The Juniors, Seniors and Brigaders have a non-uniform night, every last Thursday in the month. Girls who chose not to come in uniform put 50p into the charity box. This money goes to the girls' chosen charity. This year it is going to Multiple Sclerosis.

At the end of last year, we received a very generous Donation of £150 from the Erin Thompson Foundation. With this money we are able to buy three large hand puppets. It is intended the puppets will

be used as part of our Service Badge and will be enjoyed by all sections of the Company.

I would like to congratulate Sub-Officers, Beth Trimble and Laura Gray on gaining the Queen's Award Brooch after completing two gruelling years working for it. Over those two years the girls were involved in working in the

Community, helping in the Company, helping in another organisation within a church, producing a written project on a choice of topics,

carrying out several Initiative tests within a Deadline. Sometimes this meant learning a new skill.



For example, one of the tests required the girls to knit an adult



Beanie hat and matching scarf. This proved to be a real challenge for both Laura and Beth as they **were not knitters!!** Being the capable GB girls they are, they managed to carry out the task and produce two lovely sets

between them, within the deadline and while sitting major school exams. At the end of the two years they sat a two- hour written test. Finally, they were called to GBNI Headquarters for an Interview when they had to do a presentation in front of a panel. I had the privilege of working with Beth and Laura over those two years and in May I will have the honour of witnessing them receive their Queens Award certificates from the Lord Mayor in the City Hall.

Well done girls.

Congratulations also goes to Catriona Beggs for completing her Brigader Book and obtaining the Brigader Brooch and Ribbon. A very prestigious Brooch to achieve.

On Friday, 29th April we had our annual Display A very busy time!!
On the 12th May we had our end of session party.

Happy events coming up for two Officers -



Vicky is marrying Paul here in church on Saturday, 21st May

and **Jenni and Timmy** are expecting the patter of little feet in August.



We wish both couples a future full of Love and Happiness xx

On a sadder note - at the end of this session we are to lose two long serving officers 😞 Gina is retiring and Faith is leaving due to work commitments.

As most of you are aware I am retiring as Captain at the end of this session. I am pleased to announce that **Jenni Spence** will be taking over from me. Jenni joined the Explorers at the age of 4yrs. She has come up through the Company and has been an Officer for several years. I go in the knowledge that I am leaving the Company in very capable hands. I have loved my 27 plus years as an Officer and Captain of the 7th NI Company. It has been a wonderful



experience. Thank you everyone for your continued support, especially my dedicated and loyal team of Officers and friends. Not forgetting my girls. They are a fabulous bunch. I am so proud of each and every one of them. I feel blessed to have been their Captain.

Carol Winstanley
Captain



NEW CHURCH INSTRUCTIONS (It's coming)

This is funny, but I can actually see this happening some day!

PASTOR: "Praise the Lord!"

CONGREGATION: "Hallelujah!"

PASTOR: "Will every one please turn on their tablet, PC, iPad, smart phone, and Kindle Bibles to Cor. 13: 13.



And please switch on your Bluetooth to download the sermon."

P-a-u-s-e.....

"Now, Let us pray, committing this week into God's hands.

Open your Apps, BBM, Twitter and Facebook, and chat with God."

S-i-l-e-n-c-e

"As we take our Sunday tithes and offerings, please have your credit and debit cards ready."



"You can log on to the church Wi-if using the password 'Lord909887.'



The ushers will circulate mobile card swipe



machines among the worshippers:



a.. Those who prefer to make electronic fund transfers are directed to computers and laptops at rear of church.

b.. Those who prefer to use iPads can open them.

c.. Those who prefer telephone banking, take out your cell phones to transfer your contributions to the church account,”



The holy atmosphere of the Church becomes truly electrified as ALL the smart phones, iPads, PCs and laptops beep and flicker!

“Final Blessing and Closing Announcements....

a.. This week’s ministry cell meetings will be held on various Facebook group pages, where the usual group chatting takes place.



Please log in and don’t miss out.

b.. Thursday’s Bible study will be held live on Skype at 1900 hrs GMT.

Please don’t miss out.

c.. You can follow your Pastor on Twitter this weekend for counselling and prayers.



d.. God bless you and have a nice day.”

What an awful thought!

(Item donated by Pauline Gammon)

9th Belfast Scouts

Squirrels

The 9th Squirrel Drey is a scouting group for boys aged 4 – 6 years old. We meet each Wednesday from 6.30pm to 7.30pm in the Ferguson Hall.



Our programme consists of creative crafts, baking, games and trips. Our outings have included Knock Fire Station, Recycling Depot, a Christmas visit to another drey in Stormont Presbyterian Church and Indiana Land. On Founder's Day, 5 of our boys showed off their hand painted banner and made their promises.

This year the Squirrel Association introduced badges: **I'm Friendly (green)**, **I'm Learning (blue)**, **I'm Active (yellow)**, **I'm Caring (orange)** which teach boys about health, exercise, other cultures, learn new skills and develop social skills.

Come along and join the fun, from Laura, Valerie and Wilma.

BEAVERS

Beavers have been very busy since September. We joined the Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts at their camp in Crawfordsburn for a BBQ lunch and afternoon activities. We did a nature trail, blind ropes, beaver trail and outdoor games. After the BBQ the Beavers toasted marshmallows on the fire.



Our Explorer Scout Leader Stephen showed the Beavers how to pitch a tent, all were very attentive. We had a great day and all this was part of their Outdoor Challenge Badge.

Stephanie, our children and family worker, worked with the Beavers on their Quest Emblem.

We were invited to Bloomfield Methodist Church to see Follow the Star in December where they enjoyed crafts, food, dressing up and the Follow the Star drama. It was a great night for all.

In March Sunblest Bakery came to talk to us about bread and pancakes. The Beavers decorated their pancakes with fresh fruit then devoured them. The Sunblest team also brought along lunch boxes and mini pancakes for the boys. Our Easter outing was to Indiana land, a popular outing with the beavers.



We have been working very hard on a number of Challenge badges and individual badges. Some of the Beavers will be doing a sleepover in preparation to moving to the Cub Pack in September. This will allow the boys to finish their Outdoor Challenge Badge.

We will be back in September after our summer break for more Fun and Friendship and plenty of activities.



9TH BELFAST CUB SCOUTS

We re-commenced our Pack Programme in September, taking in our new Programme Syllabus as presented by our National HQ. This has meant some work in converting from the old Badge System to the New but we are 'getting there'. As we started back, we presented our Shield for Best Cub for the previous year to Ross Elliott who then in November moved to Scouts with 3 other boys and they are well settled there. We continued then with Badgework including Knotting and Compass work prior to our Camp in Crawfordsburn where we slept in the Cedar Lodge and as there was enough room, the Scouts joined us there while Explorer Scouts slept in tents outside.



The Cubs took part in Instructor-led activities such as Archery, Grass Sledges and Go-Karting as well as learning Backwoods cooking and Care of the Countryside.

Many marshmallows were toasted (or was that burnt) over the campfire at night, and we concluded our weekend with a joint Scouts Own Service.



A team from our Cubs entered the District Unihoc Competition and came second which was great.

In December we had a Lady from Jumpin Clay along to do Christmas Craft, when the boys made really cute Christmas Penguins.

2016 is the Centenary of the Cub Section, so the boys have been learning old games and laws re-capping on Jungle Book which was the basis for the original programme. Four of our Cubs entered a District Art Competition and Jackson Brown came third.

Our Founders Day Service took in the Centenary of the Cubs. We had a special cake which was cut by David McDowell and Laura Gray as they had both gained **Chief Scouts Awards** at our Service. We congratulate them both.



Following his Award, and to complete another Challenge Badge, David later wrote to the Queen to wish her a Happy Birthday. He told her about his Award and he had a lovely reply from her Secretary. As part of another of our challenges, we had a lady from the 'Angel Eyes' charity along who explained how they help children with sight impairment. She showed them how difficult it is for them to cope with impaired sight. We then gave a donation to the Charity.

Belfast County Cubs are having a big Centenary Camp at the end of May at Ardnally Scout Centre and we are delighted that 6 of our boys and some Dads will be attending that. We will return in September to continue with special events for our Centenary Year.

Scouts and Explorer Scouts

In June our Scout leaders; Chippy aka Alan Gray, Buggy aka Paul Sunerton and Vasco aka Alan Gammon 'retired.' (or so they think). New young blood arrived in the form of Sparky aka Timothy Spence and BB aka Kenneth McGuffin joining the group.



To break them in easily, a group camp was arranged for October in Crawfordsburn. The Explorer Scouts camping while the Scouts had the luxury of a bed indoors and rumour has it a shower!!!! A variety of activities were arranged for the weekend including climbing, mountain boarding, archery and backwoods cooking. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and it was a good start for the newbies.

Scout indoor activities continue with badge work and games. Currently they are working on their cycling and fund raising badges. Some of the Explorers help in the other sections. This has allowed Trip aka Laura Gray to achieve her Chief scouts diamond award. Very well done!

The Explorers have ventured into new territory by trying their hand at baking. The results so far are mixed. We have had a few joint outings including one to room to race in Bangor. We hope to do much more in the new sessions in September.



Youth Review 2015-16

We started the year on a high after a successful summer visit by the youth from Bethel Green Mission, London, and a great Castlewellan Holiday week.

Last summer I was troubled by a survey from **Youthwork Magazine** which revealed that 50% of young people who identify themselves as Christians don't read their Bibles more than once a month. As a result, there was a big push this year in helping our young people engage with the Bible. Thanks to funds from the Erin Memorial Trust, we were able to subsidise youth who purchased Bible devotional books, which have enabled them to understand God's Word on their own.

Focus

Every Sunday, during morning worship, our young people leave for Focus, where they are taught the Bible through small group discussion. Focus is split into two age groups, F1 and F2. Once a month, both groups come together for Zest, consisting of praise,

followed by a speaker. Last year continued our current trend of running Focus during the summer (imaginatively entitled 'Summer Focus'!), which provided an incentive for our young people to attend church during the summer months. We as a church are extremely grateful for all the leaders who enable this to happen: so thank you Ian, Alan, Liz, Eddie, Derek, Stephen, Callum and Rebekah.

TBAG

In TBAG we spent the year reviewing different methods of studying the Bible; we learned about the big story of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation; and finished the year looking at the Bible's wisdom on matters currently in the news, such as refugees and terrorism. Thanks to Peter and Luke for their input as leaders into TBAG this year.

WNTMG

We've had an enjoyable year in WNTMG, and have been helped enormously by our Junior leaders in Beth and Aaron. We were sad at Jenni Spence's departure due to other commitments.

Jenni's been a big part of WNTMG over the last decade, first as a 'punter', then as a Junior Leader, and finally as a full leader for several years. We wish her well in her new role as GB Captain.

In WNTMG this year, in addition to teaching about the relevancy of the Bible, we ran a *Unique* course on relationships. On a side note, my highlight of the year was seeing no teenagers sick after a night of eating locust- and cricket-filled candy! Sadly numbers have dipped in those attending WNTMG, though rest assured it had nothing to do with the previous sentence! Thanks to Stephen, Rebekah and Jenni for their commitment throughout the year.

SMORG

We finished our 3 year curriculum in SMORG this year. The curriculum was designed to ensure that our young people covered all the essentials within a three year time span. It includes topics of relevance to the teenagers, such as alcohol, part-time employment, and peer pressure; core teachings of the faith, such as The Trinity and the Second Coming of Christ; and

spiritual rhythms which help us in our faith journey, such as meditation and celebration. We are been delighted to have been of help to James Gallagher, a PhD student researching teen suicide in Northern Ireland, supplying him with a focus group for feedback. James is hoping next year to create a digital help app for young people and young adults struggling with such feelings. We are grateful to Callum, Danielle and Laura, for all their hard work as leaders, and for Emma leading us in worship (thanks too to Santa, for supplying Emma with a keyboard!).

As we disciple our young people, we acknowledge the vital role serving plays in faith development. God has called us into His Church, not just for our benefit alone but so that we can be a blessing to others. SMORG has been able to play its part in this through the service partnership it has struck up over the past 14 months with Palmerston and Fleming and Stutt sheltered houses. Whether it has been through tidying their gardens or sitting with the residents, we have enjoyed the opportunities to be kind to those who live there. We are also looking forward to our

youth taking up their offer of receiving dementia awareness training in the near future.

Chai Chit Chat

Our Friday afternoon coffee bar, Chai Chit Chat, has continued to run throughout the year, giving our young people a chance to unwind at the end of a busy week. During April and May it was replaced with a Membership Course, and we are delighted that six young people have completed it. It is our hope that another Membership Course will run again in the autumn.

Autumn Soul

17 young people attended Autumn Soul, the annual Methodist Youth Weekend held in Bangor. Their leaders were most grateful for the clocks' change, meaning an extra hour in bed- even if the bed was a sleeping bag on a church floor!

Coffee Kindness

Coffee Kindness celebrated its 4th birthday in December 2015. It continues to be a quiet, visible sign of God's grace in our community. Thanks to everyone who helps out in any way. During the summer months, the adults take a well-earned break from it, and it is run by our youth. This summer is the third summer our young people will have run Coffee Kindness- so a big thank you to them!

Football

It's been good to see Monday night football start up again- well done to Michael for getting the ball rolling (sorry for the pun)! One of the best aspects of the Christian life is that our God is interested in every part of it, whether we are studying the Bible or kicking a football. Sadly, since the early retirement of Sammy, the skill level has dipped somewhat!

Young Youngs

After a year's rest from running, Young Youngs- our young adults group for over 18s- started up again. Young Youngs meet once a month, for dinner followed

by a discussion centred around a DVD series led by Francis Chan. Many of our young adults are leaders in our youth ministry and so Young Youngs is important for giving them a space away from leading. On a side note, it has been nice to see other young adults grow out of Young Youngs and move into our church's Life Together groups, where they gain fellowship with other adults in our church family.

Thanks to Kathryn and Russell for leading alongside me this year.

Regarding the year ahead, we appreciate your prayers for our annual Youth Weekend ('Youth Yabawaba') in the last weekend of June, held in Greenhill YMCA in Newcastle. It's hard to believe it will be our ninth youth weekend, which makes Sammy feel old! Pray too for Castlewellan Holiday Week, for our youth group and families who attend.

Mentoring Project

It is our hope to begin a mentoring project for our youth in the year ahead. This will consist of 1 to 1 mentoring for our young people. Studies of

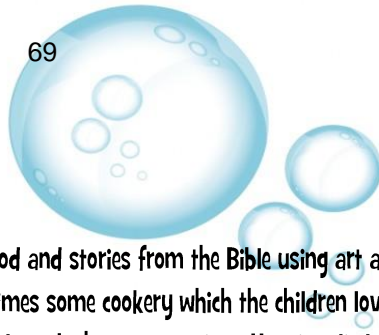
mentoring have shown it to be of tremendous value for both the young person and adult involved. We value your prayers for the implementation of this important venture. Also in the pipeline is the plan to reintroduce Prayer Parents for the youth, which many of you will remember from several years ago. Knowing that a specific adult will be praying regularly for them will be a marvellous source of strength for each teenager.

Thank you

Finally, thank you to every person who contributes to the life of our young people in our church family in Sydenham. Your very presence at church is a sign of encouragement to them. If you have never spoken to any of our young people can I encourage you to give it a go? Most of them don't bite! It might even be the most important conversation you have that week.

Sammy





Bubbles

Each week in Bubbles we learn about God and stories from the Bible using art and craft, music and dance, games and at times some cookery which the children love. We try to follow a theme as much as possible and where appropriate. Here is a little snap shot of the themes we have been learning about.

In Bubbles this year with Joanna we have been learning about showing God's love in different ways - being kind and friendly, doing kind deeds and praying for others.

We learnt that we are as 'unique as a snowflake' and God made us special

We learnt about Advent and the Christmas story

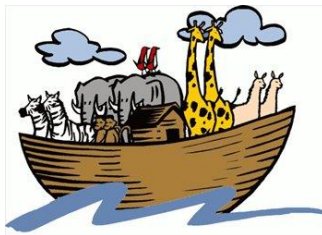
We learnt about Easter using the resurrection eggs, which the children really enjoyed.

With Amanda we learnt stories from the Old Testament.

We learnt how God created the world in 7 days and used a story board to illustrate this.

We learnt about Adam and Eve and how we should follow Gods rules as well as our parents, carers and teachers.

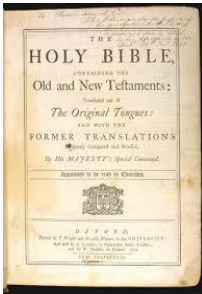
We learnt about Noah and the Ark and had fun making animal noises, and finally we learnt about Joseph and his amazing multi-coloured coat. The children had lots of fun decorating gingerbread men to illustrate this.



Kidzone

Do you know what's in the Bible?

Over the last number of months, the older children in Kidzone have been discovering a few interesting things about the Bible.



To help us we have upcycled some old Bibles and are using them to help us discover God's word. The children have been using highlighters, pictures and stickers to illustrate passages in their Bibles.

So far we have been looking at the stories of Abraham.

Joseph and Moses and how their stories fit in to God's great big Rescue Plan.

Messy Church

This year messy church has really established itself, there have been 4 since September, and with one more for this church year to take place in May. We celebrated 1 year of running



our messy church in March and it has been a real pleasure and humbling experience running messy church. We have so many

families who are extremely faithful and have come to every messy



church since they started, it is just great getting to know each of them and

seeing them engage as families in simple bible stories through different crafts and activities. We have had everything from a donkey to owls and chicks, many different themes such as creation, miracles that Jesus preformed and they Christmas story.



School work

As family and children's worker I get the great pleasure of working within the local schools, Victoria Park, Mitchell House and Strandtown, taking weekly scripture unions, assemblies and R.E. lessons. It is a real blessing be allowed to join in with each of these schools and it is a great opportunity to get to know more of the children who live within the Sydenham community, and also to build up links and relationships with children and families who may attend other organisations within our church such as the Girls brigade, the Scouts or messy church.

Christmas family gifts



Another wonderful part of being Family and



children's worker is getting to travel around visiting our young families.





This Christmas, to bless our young families, each received a gingerbread house kit, which they could build as a family at their leisure. Christmas is an

extremely busy time, therefore providing families with this kind of gift, allowed them to create time to be together, to make something fun and tasty and simply know that they are loved and valued.



Soul Mates



Sydenham had a group of 8 children (4 boys and 4 girls) and 4 leaders attending Soul Mates the annual Methodist children's weekend in Lurgan.

This was a great weekend full of fun, worship, sleeping on church floors, workshops, seminars and lots of food! It was great watching our children and young people really engaging in worship,



learning about God's character and how much He loves each of them. They also engaged in prayer time as a group. Organising prayer for the



group itself and realising that God would use each of them in their schools and in church. It was

a great weekend and I am extremely grateful for each of the leaders that gave up an entire weekend (Faith, Stephen and Callum).

Girls' night in

This is something very new, as we just had our first evening, Friday 22nd April. This is a night for girls from 9-18 years old, which will happen every 6 weeks. They are simple evenings for



the girls to gather together and do something fun like baking and pizza,



followed with a reflection. For our first girls' night in, our reflection was based on how to bake something tasty. We need to

follow a recipe and have all the right ingredients, which is like living life to the full in Christ. We need to display the fruits of the spirit - love, joy, peace, patients, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and gentleness. All these things make a good recipe for a true follower of Christ.

For our first girls' night in we had 10 girls who are all wonderful and we are looking forward to our next one!



Kids club

Due to the success of our kids club last summer, we plan to do another this coming summer from **Monday 18th**

July to Friday 22nd July at 6.30pm to 8pm.



All help or volunteers would be greatly appreciated, if you



are interested in helping for one night or more, call **Stephanie on**

07545383554. Kids club is a great way of getting to know the children in our community and to share God's love through bible stories, crafts and drama.





Just for KIDS

Bugs in the Bible

Whether at a picnic, on the beach or playing outdoors, it seems like we're always joined by uninvited guests – bugs!

Bugs and other little creatures are mentioned in the Bible.

Fill in the blanks with the little creatures mentioned in each verse.
Circle them in the puzzle below.

Proverbs 6:6 _____ Exodus 16:20 _____
Psalms 78:45 _____ 1 Sam. 24:14 _____
Matt. 23:24 _____ Isaiah 50:9 _____
Judges 14:8 _____ Isaiah 59:5 _____
Acts 12:23 _____ Leviticus 11:22 _____
Leviticus 11:22 _____ Leviticus 11:22 _____
Deuteronomy 7:20 _____

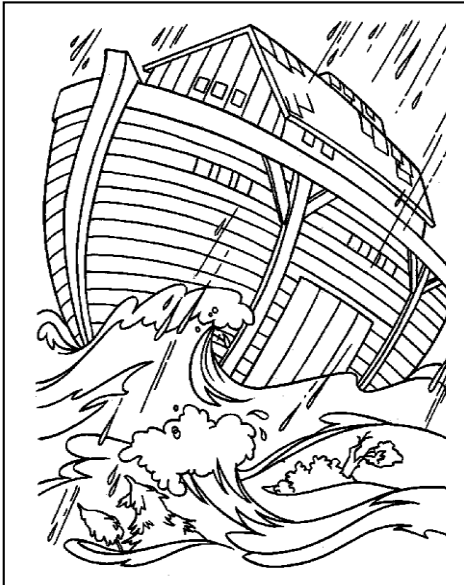
M O T H S G N A T B H
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G R A S S H O P P E R
G F C R I C K E T S N
O L S P I D E R S B E
T E C L O C U S T D T
S A E F K A T Y D I D
G F L I E S W O R M S



Answers: ant, flies, gnat, bees, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggots, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket

JUST FOR FUN

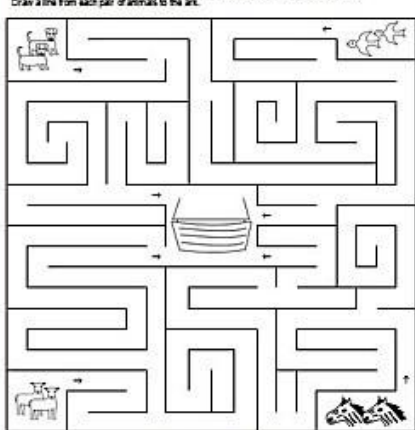
CHOOSE YOUR PUZZLE



Bible Puzzle

Noah's Ark Maze

After Noah built the ark, God caused at least two of each kind of animal to go into the ark.
Draw a line from each pair of animals to the ark.

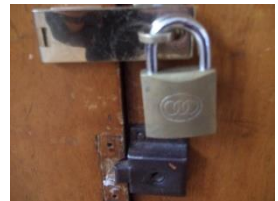
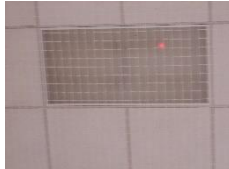
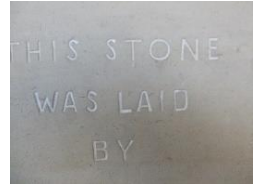
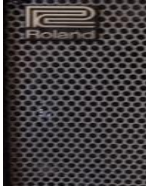


God used the ark to take care of Noah's family and the animals. How does God take care of you?

Site: www.fun-jigsaw.com

Where have you seen these objects?

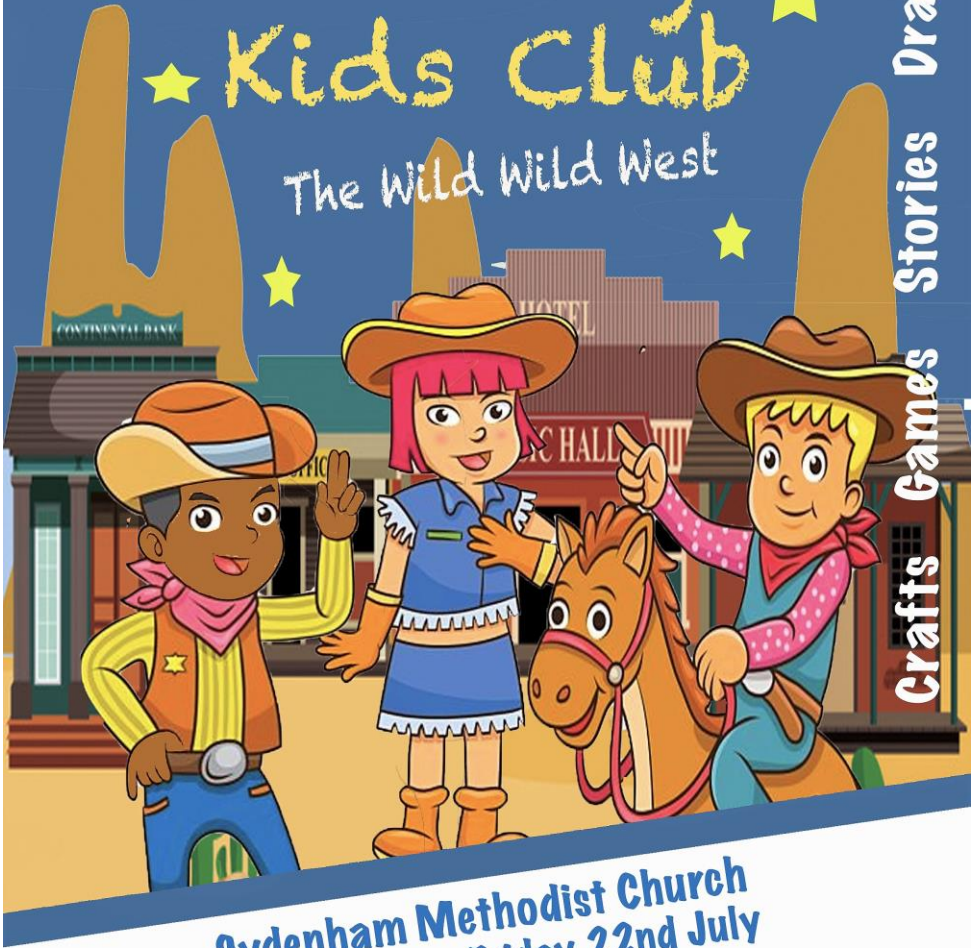
(Look inside and outside the church and in the halls)



Holiday Kids Club

The Wild Wild West

Crafts Games Stories Drama



Sydenham Methodist Church
Monday 18th - Friday 22nd July
Ages 4 - 11 years : 6.30pm-8pm
Games : Crafts : Stories : Drama

Hurry! Places are limited!
Tel: 07545383554 or Email: stephanieglenn@outlook.com
to book your child's place!

Summer Mission Trips

We pray for Dave Gordon and Moya Mawhinney who are going to be serving in different parts of South Africa during the summer.

Dave is going in August with a team from our Methodist Missionary Society, (Ireland) to Kwa-Zulu Natal.



Moya is going in July with a team from Exodus to a project in the Western Cape.

We hold them and their teams in our prayers in the midst of their preparations and then with their work.



