

SHORE STREET
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

CCNI 105199



APRIL 2025
ISSUE NO 6

DATES FOR THE DIARY

April

13th Palm Sunday

18th Good Friday Communion - 19:00

20th Sunrise Service - 6:00

Resurrection Services - 9:30 & 11:00

May

11th Ordination and Installation of New elders - 19:00

May/June - The Mission Month

18th What is Local Mission now?
Also, registered Communion

25th Natalie Trainor - Newry Centre of Mission

1st Is there any hope for our world? (11:00)
Prayer Healing Service - William Herron (19:00)

8th Rev. Dr. Hani Hanna - Langham Fellowship

June (cont.)

15th Children's Prize Giving at 11:00

29th Informal Communion

Graeme on Holiday in July, Brian Gibson is covering

CONNECT

NO.6



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NEW BUILD UPDATE

Moses had to wait 40 years before God called him through the burning bush, we won't have to wait that long, but we will need patience.

Having agreed to go forward with a "new build" the team have been busy working behind the scenes looking at land deeds, legal language and a whole lot of the unseen work which neither you nor I fully understand. We are so thankful to have those amongst our ranks who know this realm of work.



We have also had a primary meeting with Mr Stephen Boyle, convenor of the Presbytery Architecture Committee. This was a very beneficial meeting and answered some questions for us regarding the process for moving forward. It is a 7-step process! However, we are already at step 4. So, some movement there. We will need to answer some more questions on finance and make plans here before we can be given permission to move forward with our build.

Our next few moves will be to Presbytery, and then to Linkage Commission and once they have signed off on this we can submit planning permission. While this is working in the church-world we hope to progress the material-world with plans and discussions.

So, although there is not much to update with, it is good that we know where we are.



MEMBERSHIP

Within the Presbyterian Church we like to keep records and labels for things and people, after all “Administration” is a Gift of the Spirit!

We can list people according to two different labels - not that we are promoting the labelling of people - we refer to Members (or Communicant Members) and Adherents. An Adherent is someone who may come every week, may even contribute to the FWO scheme, or who may just call in once in a while, BUT they have not committed into full faith membership of the congregation and the PCI.



We know, that within the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, there is no hierarchy, there is not favouritism, there is only those in Jesus and those outside of Jesus.

So why become a member at all?

This is actually one of the questions we ask during our membership course. For some the idea of becoming a full member is about commitment, for others it's about belonging, for some more it could be about publicly declaring your faith. In truth it is probably a mix of these thoughts and more.

Membership entitles you to vote in congregational matters, it allows you to vote for elders and committee as well as being voted for. It is also a confirmed way of being welcomed to the Lord's Table at Communion, not only in Shore Street but in any Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Thankfully, it's not all about what you can get (what fun would that be?) it is also about what you can give into the Church.

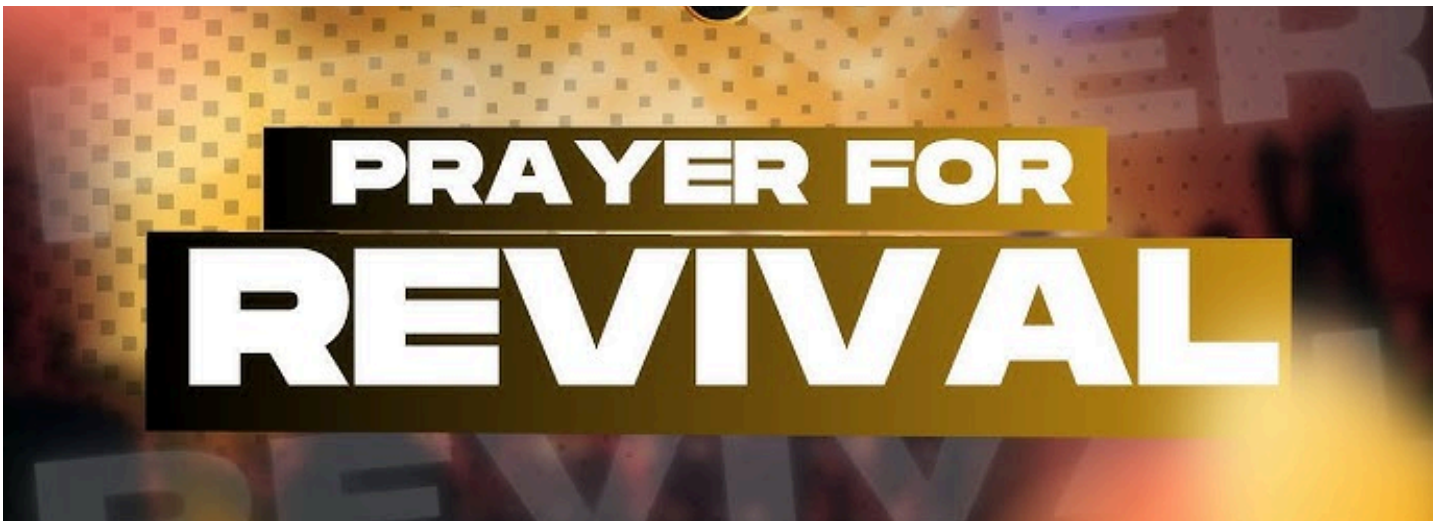
You will be part of something to give to - finance and time, part of something that cares for one another, part of something that God has given to the world to fulfil His mission.

Come along to the next series of the Membership Course! It's only 4 sessions long. We cover basic faith, church structures, Christian living and enjoy fellowship with one another.

SPOTLIGHT PRAYER

As this is written the community prayer initiative has launched and taken off with encouraging engagement. With around 50 Christians from across the town coming together to pray for the place where they live, we know that the Lord will work and is working in the lives of those around us. We are thinking of revival, that is what our town and land needs, we know this.

We will also be hosting our usual 24 Hours of Prayer from the evening of Good Friday through to the evening of Saturday. The Saturday daytime is open for Prayer Appointments - a set time where you can ask for specific prayers with members of our Prayer Team - please make sure, if you want a slot, to sign up. Maybe you want to see renewal in your life, then this is a place for you.



However, is that it? Do we stop praying as Lent is over? Do we go about our daily lives and routines without thinking of the community we live in and the brothers and sisters in Christ around us? Of course not, and this is something we all know very well. It is such comfort to know that the family of faith in Shore Street is a family of Prayer. So what would you like to see happen? What can you be involved with? A monthly prayer meeting? A weekly time to meet with others?

Unless we talk about these things they will just fade. Let's get proactive and move from hoping for revival into expecting revival and then seeing revival!

EASTER CELEBRATIONS?

Every Christmas we hear more and more of how we are sliding away from the 'reason for the season', yet we still put up trees, exchange presents and eat turkey and stuffing (at least this is the usual way, and I know not everyone likes turkey!) We spend weeks in preparation and then pack it all away for the next year...



But Easter...

There is not a light outside a house, not a decoration up in the living room, so we don't celebrate..?



The world around us has now become one which celebrates 'Spring'. Worship the great Bunny god with sacrifices of chocolate and regale ourselves in daffodils. Okay, okay, I know that is not an accurate picture, I'm just being extreme to raise the point.

Have we stopped to think about what Easter is about?

Jesus' death on the cross - sin is paid for
Jesus' resurrection from the grave - death is overcome!

However, why was this necessary and what is the alternative?

We know from Scripture that God is a Just God, and for Justice to prevail there will be Judgement, and therefore sentencing. The wages of Sin is Death. We are talking about the WRATH of God poured out. Poured out upon His Son Jesus.

Stop. Think. Realise.

The wages of sin is death, BUT the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

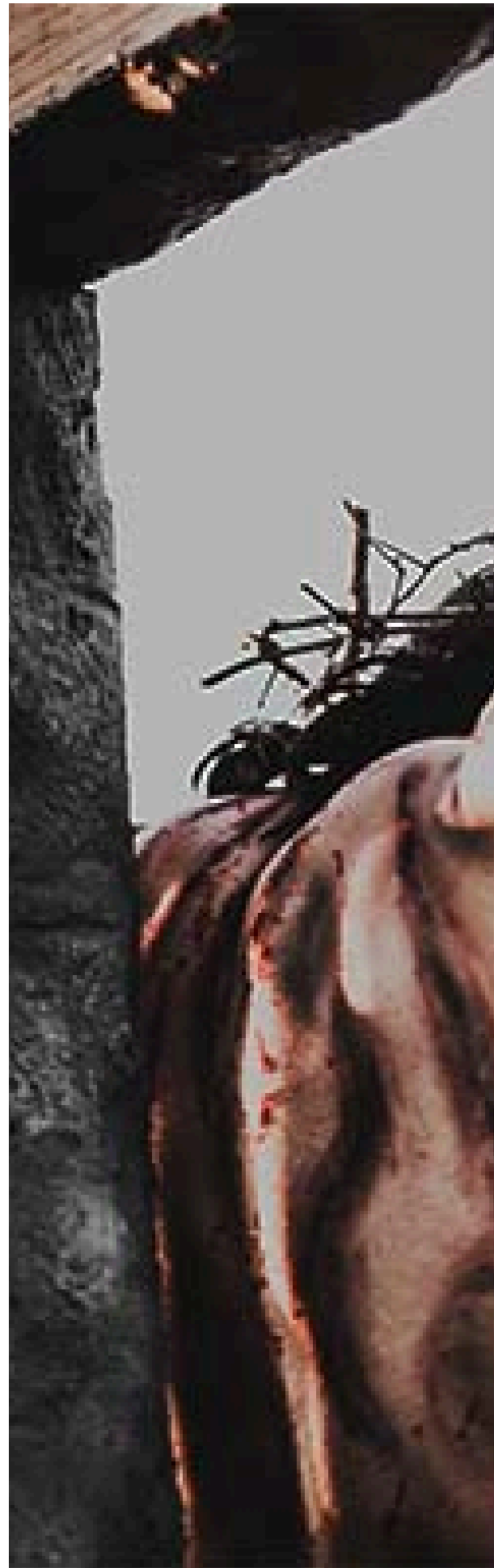
This is worth celebrating. This is worth proclaiming from the rooftops. This is why we want every man woman and child to know Jesus personally, because he is the only way of life. It really is **In Christ Alone!!**

In Christ alone, my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live, I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as **He stands in victory**
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand



NOMAD PERIPATETIC DISICIPLESHIP

This last term we ran a short course on How to Read the Bible. This was the first in a series under the title of Nomad. Peripatetic Learning is learning on the move, hence Nomad - always on the move.

The course was 4 weeks looking at study methods, history and background of Old and New testaments with some good discussion and Fellowship in the mix. If you didn't do this course, but would like to in the future, look out for the announcements or on the information board in front of the office.



YOUTH SERVICE



This really is a last minute addition to the Connect for Spring '25. In reality this should have gone to print before the service, but got delayed. So it gives us an opportunity to thank, once again, all those who took part. Some took part in the weeks before as they prepared and practiced, others live on the day. We don't usually want to highlight individuals in this time as it truly was a team effort, but you know who you are in speaking from the front, in leading the worship.

When we stop to look at our church, not just our congregation, but the church on this island we must be so thankful for the young people we have. For their desires and passions, for their faith and confidence. For their lived-out example to those coming behind them AND example to those who have gone ahead of them!