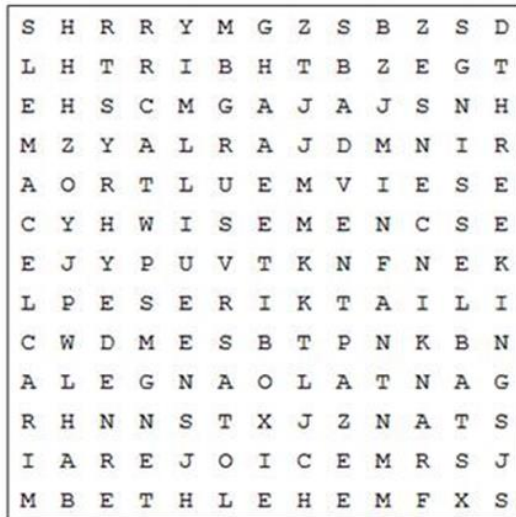


## Christmas word search



Joy to the World



ADVENT  
ANGEL  
BETHLEHEM  
BIRTH  
BLESSINGS  
CAMELS  
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT  
JESUS  
JOSEPH  
MAGI  
MANGER  
MARY  
MIRACLE

MYRRH  
NATIVITY  
REJOICE  
STABLE  
STAR  
THREE KINGS  
WISE MEN



## Church Chat | Autumn 2019



**First Dunmurry NS Presbyterian Church**

**Minister in Charge** | Rev. Dr. David Steers

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Charity No | 101607



## Did you know?

By Sheila McMillan

There are some interesting features here within the church grounds. Some of the larger trees are supposed to be around two hundred years old, like the monkey puzzle tree in the graveyard and the giant one over near the manse. Kew gardens used to send a man over every few years to ensure that we were looking after the Australian acacia trees as they were so rare to have growing in Ireland at that time. They are the tallest trees with the knobbly trunks that are still a delight to climb for small children.

Did you know about the 'Coronation' tree? A splendid silver birch that stands proud near the gateway between the graveyard and the hall. That was planted with quiet ceremony by my London-born Mother, who felt it was her duty to mark Queen Elizabeth's great day in 1953. Where the 'new' Manse is now, was a field where the Rev. Kelly's family grew the more elegant trees. I remember a copper beech, a hornbeam, various hollies, two beautiful laburnum trees, a huge chestnut and a row of sycamores under which the bluebells and cow's parsley seemed to sparkle in the springtime. All were dwarfed by the huge lime tree up at the top, beside the old coach house where the Montgomery folk would have housed their carriage and tended their horses alongside the two bottomless wells still there in the remains of the cobbled yard. There was even talk of a real fairy tree being found a way down at the bottom of the field.

My Father hated that field! He loved the trees, the birds, the fox, the badger sett, the hedgehogs, the rabbits and all the other wildlife, but once a year he had to scythe that whole field,

all by himself. He dreaded the day when he could no longer put off the deed. I remember him coming in from the job, so red-faced, sweating ferociously and even almost swearing in front of the children. For such a normally placid man this was an alarming sight for his family.

One year, I joined him in his hatred of that field. In an effort to find a solution to his painful problem Dad had borrowed a goat from a neighbour, with a view to letting the animal do what goats love to do... chew up all that grass. All was bliss for a few weeks until one sunny afternoon, I joined my Mother for a walk around the field to gather some kindling wood. It was my sixth birthday. She was slightly ahead of me as we made our way up the grassy slope and I stopped to tug out a log when suddenly I found myself flying up high through the air, not a breath left in me, issuing a scream of terror like the banshee. After landing with a massive and indignant thump, I looked round to see what on earth had happened and all I could see was that goat, calmly chewing his grass, with that total "It's nothing to do with me" look. Such was the effect of that event, almost 75 years ago, I can still see the exact spot where it happened...just a few feet from the patio at the back of the house. Every day, I am reminded that life is always full of ups and downs...



## Dunmurry Churches Together Advent Service

It has been the custom for the five churches in our area – St Anne's, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Dunmurry Presbyterian, St Coleman's and ourselves to join together three times a year for an Advent Service, the Service of Christian Unity and Easter Dawn Service. Each church takes it in turn to host all three services and this year 2019-20 Our Lady Queen of peace will be in charge. **The Advent Service will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019 at 7pm.** This is a great opportunity for us all to come together for worship and fellowship and we hope that First Dunmurry NSPCI will continue to maintain these important, warm and close friendships.

## Cleaning & Flower Rotas



November

P & S Kennedy

December

J & L Myles



All offers from people willing to provide church flowers on Sundays are needed and will be warmly received. Please contact Pamela Kennedy for further details or enter your name on your preferred date, on the list inside the church porch.

## Just a thought

In this autumn season we celebrate the beauty all around us. The red and gold of the leaves, the fruits and flowers and in the words of John Keats the bounty of the harvest crops.

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness  
Close bosom- friend of the maturing sun;  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch- eaves run.*

He describes the harvest of apples, nuts, grain and flowers which make up the decorations in our churches. This is surely the season when Gods answer to our daily petition. 'Give us our daily bread' is most apparent. It is God who has the gift of creation BUT it is we who must till the ground and care for the growing crops and His creatures. We are the stewards of all that He has given us. Even all that which science can produce needs the spark which can only come from the Creator. Let us give thanks for the toil of all who tend the land, care for birds and animals and supply us with our daily bread.

## Pied Beauty

**By Gerard Manley Hopkins**

Glory be to God for dappled things –  
For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow;  
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;  
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;  
Landscape plotted and pieced – fold, fallow, and plough;  
And áll trádes, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;  
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)  
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;  
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:  
Praise him.

## Committee Update

Two committee meetings have been held ensuring that the smooth functioning of that which is needed to keep the wheels turning goes on. Those with eagle eyes will have noticed an addition to the outside wall of the Glebe—the defibrillator for which Emma and others have worked so hard. Elsewhere you will read more about this. Emma is also organising a film evening on Friday 6th December at 7.30pm. We look forward to watching the Disney version of A Christmas Carol. This will be a great start to all the Christmas celebrations.

We draw to your attention the change of date of our Communion service which normally takes place in November. It now will be held on 1st December to allow for the Remembrance Day service on 10th November.

Again, we have to report that the legal dispute with Rev Ballard continues and has yet to be resolved. Dates and times have been delayed, which are due to matters beyond our control. The Chinese saying that when a piece of paper blows into court it takes a team of oxen to drag it out is certainly true. During this uncertain time we continue to be sustained and strengthened by the support of our minister in charge, the Rev Doctor David Steers and on behalf of the congregation offer him our sincere thanks.

## Can you support 2019 Christmas children's toy appeal?



If you would like to donate a Christmas gift for a child aged 0-16, please leave it unwrapped under the Christmas Tree after Sunday Services from 8<sup>th</sup> December.

All gifts will be donated to Salvation Army and St Vincent De Paul Toy Appeals.

## Our countryside

Most of the farms around our countryside are family owned and, in many cases, have been in those families care for generations - some well into hundreds of years. One such farm was Sentry Hill in Co Antrim which is well worth visiting. In these families there is a real connection to the land. It is truly more than a business.

Although not in N. Ireland this description by a hill farmer in the Lake District is a beautiful portrayal of that connection between man, the land, the animals, of continuity and roots.

*Here he and his dogs Floss and Tan have just taken the sheep up to the fells for the summer. When I leave my flock in the fells surrounded by grass and come down home, I leave something of myself up there with them. So I look away to the skyline where they graze several times a day. Sometimes I can't help myself and go back up to the fell just to see that all is well. The skylarks ascend, singing, disturbed by my boots and the sheepdogs.*

*The sheep's evident satisfaction at being back where they feel at home means that winter and spring are fast receding behind us. The fell sheep can largely look after themselves in the coming weeks. So I lie down by the*



*beck and cusp out a handful of water. I slurp it. There is no water tastes so sweet and pure.*

*Then I roll over on my back and watch the clouds racing by. Floss lies in the beck, cooling off, and Tan nuzzles into my side, because he has never seen me lazing about. He has never seen me stop like this. He has never seen summer before. I breathe in the cool mountain air. And watch a plane chalking a trail across the blue of the sky. The ewes call to the lambs following them as they climb up the crags. This is my life. I want no other.*

## Dunmurry Presbyterian Church Golf Outing

By John Neill



We once again had a team playing in the above golf outing at Dunmurry Golf Club on Wednesday 4th September and had a very successful day winning the team prize [Williamson trophy], the men's visitors prize [Victor Collins] and the ladies prize [Diana Taggart]. After the golf we all returned to the Clubhouse in the evening for a very enjoyable meal and prize distribution. I would like to thank Diana

Taggart, Victor Collins, Paul Douglas and Alan McBride for taking the time to come and play and represent the church at this outing. Hopefully we will all be back again next year to defend our prizes.

## The McCleery Hall Defibrillator

By Emma McCrudden



In the summer edition of Church Chat I had shared that an amazing total of £1283 was raised to purchase a defibrillator. The defibrillator has since been purchased and installed on the external entrance of the McCleery Hall for access, should it ever be required, by our congregation, visitors or wider Dunmurry Community.

A short dedication service for the defibrillator will be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm, by Rev. Dr. David Steers followed by a training session

on how to use the device lead by Cardiac Services. Refreshments will be provided and all are welcome to attend.

Please note that for security reasons the defibrillator is kept in a locked cabinet. The code to unlock the cabinet can be accessed by calling 999 and following the instructions on the cabinet.

Thank you again to everyone who donated and attended each of the defibrillator fundraising events, including members of the congregation, local community and neighbouring churches. It is very much appreciated!



## In our prayers

Please add to your prayers an extra few words for those among our church members who are feeling alone or battling with serious illness and suffering in so many ways from painful treatments, hospital admissions, depression or anxiety, so that together, the power of prayer will give them strength to help them through those wearisome paths towards happier times. We would particularly mention Margaret Masterson, Marie McCormick, Charles Wells, Alan Vance. Mrs Malcolmson, Robert Douglas, Tommy McCullough and the Rev. Mac. Let us assure them that they are being missed and that our thoughts are with them all.

## The Mountain

By Laura Ding-Edwards

If the mountain seems too big today  
Then climb a hill instead  
If the morning brings you sadness  
It's ok to stay in bed.

If the day ahead weighs heavy  
And your plans feel like a curse  
There's no shame in rearranging  
Don't make yourself feel worse.

If a shower stings like needles  
And a bath feels like you'll drown  
If you haven't washed your hair for days  
Don't throw away your crown.

A day is not a lifetime  
A rest is not defeat  
Don't think of it as failure  
Just a quiet, kind retreat.

It's ok to take a moment  
From an anxious, fractured mind  
The world will not stop turning  
While you get realigned.

The mountain will still be there  
When you want to try again  
You can climb it in your own time  
Just love yourself til then.

**Minister in Charge Contact Details:**  
Rev Dr. David Steers  
T: 028 9094 7850  
Email: nspsbhotmail.com

## November 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3 Sunday Service 11.30am Mrs Sue Steers
4 Keep fit class for seniors 11.30 – 12.15pm McCleery Hall	5	6 Irish Dancing 3.30-5pm McCleery Hall  Yoga 7.30 – 9pm McCleery Hall	7 Belfast Floral Art Society 8pm McCleery Hall	8	9	10 Remembrance Day Service 11.30am Rev Dr David Steers
11 Keep fit class for seniors 11.30 – 12.15pm McCleery Hall  Glebe Gardening Club 7.30pm McCleery Hall	12 Defib Dedication & Training 7pm McCleery Hall	13 Irish Dancing 3.30-5pm McCleery Hall  Yoga 7.30 – 9pm McCleery Hall	14	15	16	17 Sunday Service 11.30am Rev Robert McKee
18 Keep fit class for seniors 11.30 – 12.15pm McCleery Hall	19	20 Irish Dancing 3.30-5pm McCleery Hall  Yoga 7.30 – 9pm McCleery Hall	21	22	23	24 Sunday Service 11.30am Mrs Sue Steers
25 Keep fit class for seniors 11.30 – 12.15pm McCleery Hall  Committee meeting 7.30pm Session Room	26	27 Irish Dancing 3.30-5pm McCleery Hall  Yoga 7.30 – 9pm McCleery Hall	28	29	30	