

Church Chat | Spring 2019



First Dunmurry NS Presbyterian Church

Minister in Charge | Rev. Dr. David Steers

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Amazingly, considering all that he achieved, Andrew died at the age of 38 due to a heart valve condition. Sadly his young son died just two years later. His wife lived for another fifty years and devoted the rest of her life to similar worthy projects. A “lady of means” she set up the Belfast Domestic Mission for the Poor... the Church group that was meeting regularly in our church until last year. She is buried alongside her husband and son, here in the Dunmurry churchyard. I understand that Dr Logan managed to make a copy of the inscription before it is completely weathered away. So, if you are ever on “a trolley wait” in the Royal, you can while away the hours by contemplating that without Andrew Malcolm’s pioneering work on that very same site, you might just not be there at all...and he went to your church!

Did you know?



In our graveyard, backing onto Lenwood Drive, behind one of the ancient stones surrounded by iron railings, there is a large headstone with an elegant inscription which commemorates Dr Andrew George Malcolm.

Born in 1818, he is the fourth son of the Rev. Andrew G. Malcolm who was Minister of this church and later, of the Newry Church. His Grandfather was also a Minister at Drumbo and indeed Andrew Malcolm, following his graduation from Belfast Inst and then

Edinburgh University, worked as Assistant to The Rev. Dr. Henry Montgomery before turning to the medical profession.

He became renowned as a medical reformer in Belfast, a physician and surgeon, a teacher and historian, publishing articles in innumerable medical journals, many of which are still revered and used today. He was appointed to the Frederick Street Hospital and in 1848 he founded the first Extern department and Dispensary on the Falls Road, which ultimately developed into the Royal Victoria Hospital. He pioneered studies on respiratory diseases, cholera etc. and correlated them to the pollution and toxic surroundings created by the growing industrialisation of the period.

He hounded the City Fathers to provide public baths and wash-houses for the poor folk and even ventured into the world of engineering to establish the supply of water and sewers. He worked with tireless dedication and enthusiasm which he extended to his medical students. The late Dr JS Logan has written an excellent article for the Ulster Medical Society and if anyone would like to find out more about this remarkable man, there will be a copy of this on our website in due course, or it can be “googled” under the name of Dr. A.G. Malcolm.

Captured memories...

Building of Rev. John McCleery Memorial Hall

by Robert Douglas



I joined First Dunmurry NSPCI in the 1950's. Over this time, I was a committee member and an active member of the congregation until my health deteriorated, preventing me to attend weekly services. I was honoured when asked to detail my memories of when The McCleery Hall was built, a project that I managed with support of my father-in-law Joe McLaughlin.

Following the sudden death of the much loved and respected Rev. John McCleery, a memorial fund was established to build a Church Hall in his honour. I was the only one mad enough to manage the project...especially as I had suggested the hall should be built by the labour of congregation! The men of the congregation, including Tommy McCullough, Rev Mac, myself and many more who are no longer with us, took shifts to build and carry out general works around their own jobs. Working long into the evenings, the women of the congregation helped to keep up energy levels up by providing endless sandwiches and cups of tea.

Contractors that were employed included Farrans (cement and waterproofing graveside wall) Michael McKeever (brick work) MD Willis (plumbing and heating) and a company based in Glenavy provided and installed the windows. Members of the congregation also contributed including the late John Harson (electrical work) and late George Robinson (painter and decorator). Although not a member of the congregation, but a keen Bowls player Brendan Fox did nearly all of the plumbing work free of charge. McLaughlin and Harvey provided the floor. This involved laying a

cement base, with wooden runners laid horizontally to carry the floor. Material was then inserted in between runners to prevent rot setting in. Rubber skirting was placed around the pillars of the hall, to prevent any damage from Bowls games. The full project took approx. 2 years to complete and cost just under £24,000.

I am proud to have played a part in the building of The McCleery Hall, and may it be used by the church and local organisations for many years to come.

Editors note: *Robert's recollections of the events of 1971 to 1973 are most interesting to read but as is Robert's nature, he really understated the enormous amount of work that was actually undertaken by him in particular, and almost every man, woman and child in the congregation and beyond. Building the hall ourselves using "direct labour" was almost unheard of then and yet we did it!*

It would be wonderful to hear some more tales from those who took part in those days. So, if you were a tea-maker, or drove the digger, a sweeper-upper or a joiner, if you wielded a paint brush or mopped the floors, mixed the cement or made the curtains, we would love to hear from you.

Committee update

The work of the committee in keeping our Church affairs running smoothly carries on. Margaret Graham has done stalwart work, including ensuring our pulpit has an interesting occupant every Sunday morning, while Sylvia McBride and Kathy Yuille have successfully survived, as ever, the annual examination of the church finances by our eagle-eyed auditor, John Neill. The grounds are looking splendid in the Spring sunshine...the fruits of the labour of all those who took part in what Jeff Douglas organised a 'bulb-planting fest' on those cold Autumn mornings. The committee also wants to express all our thanks to Mark and Heather Douglas for the skilled and talented decoration of the Church at Christmas and for the maintenance of the cheerful planters on the church steps.

The denominational Sunday School games will be held on the 9 March 2019 under the capable direction of our Sunday School Superintendent, Adele Johnston and we look forward to hearing more details of their successful and fun-packed event from the children themselves.

It is good to see the steady increase in the numbers of people regularly attending church services and taking part in the various activities. As ever, we remain indebted to Rev. David Steers for his continued support, guidance and ministering to us all.

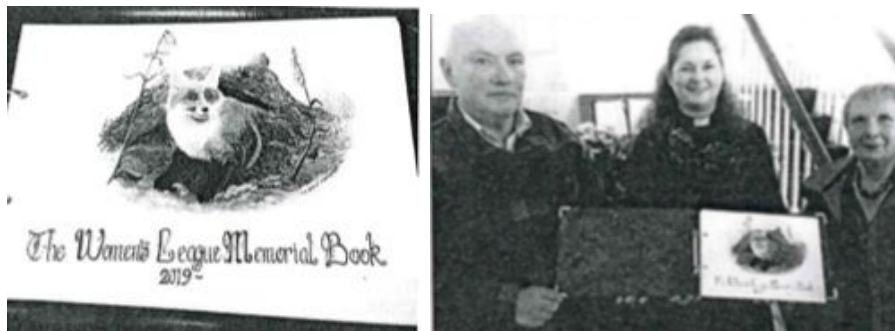
Very sadly, we also have to report that in February 2019, the Church received a legal notice stating that Rev. Linda Ballard is now "in dispute with the Dunmurry congregation." This matter is being dealt with by our legal representative and we hope and pray that there will be a speedy resolution.

Denominational Women's League

On Saturday 26 January 2019, the Quarterly meeting was held in our Rademon Church, hosted by the Rev. Dr. Heather Walker. The service was conducted by Dr. Walker and the visiting speaker was from the RSPB. During the proceedings, Mr and Mrs Drew Montgomery of Ballycarry presented a new Memorial book to the League which has been beautifully illuminated by Drew on every page.

This book contains the names of past League members from all our churches and has been made a work of historical art by the talents of Mrs McCleery, Mrs Baxter and Dr Walker. Drew's edition and the lovely covers made by Margaret, will ensure that this elegant book, and the names recorded therein, will always be safely treasured. Photographs below.

The next quarterly meeting and A.G.M. will be held in Ballycarry Church on 30 March 2019. at 2.00pm. The Women's League chosen charity this year is Asthma UK. Donations are most welcome and ballot tickets are available from Sylvia McBride and must be returned no later than mid May 2019. Ballots cost £1, with a star prize of a £100 gift voucher. For more information on their work, visit www.asthma.org.uk



Those were the days!

by Tommy McCullough



Our family came to Dunmurry congregation in 1954 having previously been members of Mountpottinger, Antrim, Killinchy and Rademon. In 1957, the Rev. John McCleery asked me to take charge of the Sunday School. I refused. He assured me it would be for six months only, so I relented. The six months lasted for seventeen years! We had a wonderful Sunday School and many loyal teachers.

As Sunday School superintendent I had a seat on the Church committee. The meetings were something else. During many debates and heated arguments, Rev. John, flanked by the Hon. Secretary Harry Hicks and Hon. Treasurer James Stevenson sat at the top of the table and chatted amongst themselves, smoking pipes and disappearing in the haze! When the debate ended and we had come to a decision, and we conveyed it to the Chair, the Rev. John would thank us and tell us whatever we had been debating had already been put in hand—how well he knew us!

The Courthouse in those days was a very popular venue. Not only were the local Petty Session Courts held there but it was also in great demand by many Drama groups who kept us well entertained during the winter months. Perhaps the masks of "Comedy and Tragedy" are still hanging over the stage...if the stage still exists. Downstairs, there was a thriving table-tennis club, frequented by the famous Walker brothers, as well as a target shooting club. Upstairs, who could forget the badminton club? What a

laugh that was. The Hall was too small and the pot-bellied stove being in the middle of one wall didn't help but it was great fun.

The Courthouse was also home to the Cub pack, a dancing class and the many Sales of Work and Jumble Sales, all of which made money for the Church. On New Year's Eves, the Courthouse was THE place to be. There we danced the Lancers, Gay Gordons, the Waves of Tory, the Dashing White Sergeant and many more. How the floor survived is a miracle. At 11.45pm, everyone went over to the Church for the Watch Night Service to welcome in the New Year. Those were the days!

Cleaning & Flower Rotas



April

Heather Douglas, Joyce Anderson & Zara Brown

May

Pamela & Stephen Kennedy

June

Jennifer & Leonard 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.

Dunmurry Churches Together

Service for Christian Unity

The service to mark the week of prayer for Christian Unity took place on Sunday 20th January 2019 in St Colman's Church and the theme was 'Justice and only justice you shall pursue,' which was chosen by the Churches of Indonesia. The offering was in aid of a new venture of the Cruse Bereavement Care charity aiming to provide support for refugee families who have come to N. Ireland. Elaine Raub spoke about the work already being undertaken and showed us a video that demonstrated this. The Rev. Dr Steers and Rosanne Frizzell took part in the service on behalf of the NSPCI.

World Day of Prayer

This worldwide annual event was held in Dunmurry Presbyterian Church on 1st March 2019. The service was prepared by the ladies of Slovenia and it gave us some interesting insight to the history, customs and nature of their land. Thank you, Heather Cameron, for undertaking the readings on behalf of our church and to the other representatives who came out on the wet and windy evening. Dr Aileen Irvine accompanied the hymn singing on the piano and a welcome cuppa was provided by the Dunmurry PWA after the service.

Easter Dawn Service

The last of the three united 'Dunmurry Churches Together' services will take place on Easter morning at 7.00am in the Park at the centre of Dunmurry village. This will be followed by Breakfast for everyone in St Coleman's church hall, directly opposite the Park.



KEEP FIT CLASS FOR SENIORS

Includes both chair-based and standing exercises, aimed to improve strength and flexibility. Each class costs £5 and will finish with a cup of tea, with a group lunch on a monthly basis.

“Gill who takes the class is a delight to work with, has lots of patience and is great fun!”

Class participant



First Dunmurry
NS Presbyterian Church

Get Active in 2019!

Improve
Strength &
Flexibility

Improve
Cardiovascular
Health

Boost Mood &
Feel Good

Gentle exercise
for all abilities

The McCleery Hall

Mondays

12-12.45pm

For more info speak to:

Roseanne Frizzell

In our prayers

The congregation send their love and their prayers to the following people who are in need of some of God's extra love, courage and blessings.

Mrs Marion McMillen Mrs Audrey Flemming, Mrs Betty McClelland, Mrs Marie McCormack, Mr Robert Douglas, Mr Charlie Wells and Rev. McMillan.

We also include in this list, all those whom we do not yet know of, who are struggling with pain, sadness, or worry, among many other issues. May God grant them strength, comfort and peace.

Visit to Air Ambulance NI

by Noelle Wilson



On Saturday 4th February 2019, John Williams, Deacon of St Coleman's church, accompanied by one member from each of the 'Dunmurry Churches Together,' went to visit the Air Ambulance NI base. Along with

many other groups, we had been invited to present our cheque which was the result of the Offering at the Advent Service in November 2018. After some coffee and biscuits, an interesting talk was given by the head of the fundraising team from whom we found out that:

- £5,500 is needed each day to sustain the service.
- £2,171 for each helmet
- £547 for each flight suit
- £102 for each pair of boots.

In total, the service needs 2 Million pounds a year and it is a registered charity. We were then taken to see the helicopter. The pilot and the paramedic gave a demonstration of coping with an emergency. It was surprising to see just how small the space was in which they had to work.

After its first year in operation it appears that Saturday is the busiest day with 3.00pm, the busiest hour. Road traffic accidents make up 50% of all calls. The fundraising team drew to our attention that they are an official charity of this years Belfast City Marathon on Sunday 5th May, at which you could help to raise funds by running in the Marathon, the Team Relay or the Fun Run.

The Air Ambulance can only continue to operate with public support and is a great blessing for those seriously injured in the most distant parts of Northern Ireland e.g. It takes only 20 minutes to reach the North Coast from its base.

For more information on the Air Ambulance NI, visit
www.airambulancenl.org

few and their sound filled the Abbey. The arrival timing of “royalty” was perfect, I could see headlights draw up outside delivering dignitaries. Prince Michael of Kent, the Duke of Kent and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were the first of “the Royals” to arrive. They walked slowly up the long aisle to take their seats. Next came the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, then the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge followed soon after by the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall and His Excellency Frank-Walter Steinmeier, President of the Federal Republic of Germany. All stood at the entrance chatting to the Dean and Prime Minister. Finally, just before the Queen arrived, the younger royals processed down the aisle to take their seats at the front of the Abbey. Megan and Kate walked upright, as straight as a poker, with shoulders back despite wearing extremely high heels! Last to arrive was the Queen and so, the service began.

First of all, flowers were placed on the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior by the two heads of state. The Queen, Prince Charles and Camilla, the President of the Federal Republic along with Abbey officials, then processed down the aisle to take their seats at the front, to the hymn “Thou whose almighty word.” The service continued with book readings by actors and Bible readings by the Prime Minister, Prince Charles and His Excellency, the German President. A diverse group of children and young adults read prayers and placed flowers on the grave. One reader had a very familiar accent and was from Co. Armagh.

Following the service, we were asked to remain in our seats until not only the Royal party had left but other dignitaries who included politicians and clergy wearing robes of all colours and an array of head attire that I have never seen before. Leaving the Abbey, the bells were ringing and a beacon had been lit in the grounds. A very very special occasion and one I will never forget.

Invitation to Westminster Abbey

by Margaret Graham



Late last summer I was amazed and delighted to get an invitation to a Service to mark the Centenary of the Armistice in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and His Excellency the President of the Federal Republic. The service was being held on Sunday 11th November at 6pm in Westminster Abbey. Across the length and breadth of the country 1000's of "ordinary folk" who had been involved in WW1 commemorations had been invited. I had led a nursing project to commemorate professionally trained nurses from across the Province who had served with the "Queen Alexandra's, Red Cross or the Territorial Forces.

Naturally, on the day, security was extremely tight, attendees had to arrive at least 2 hours beforehand and the queue to enter stretched along streets and around corners. All in the queue were in good form and very chatty. Thankfully the weather was crisp and dry and the check-in was very efficient, similar to going through airport security. We all entered by the Great West Gate to be warmly welcomed by Minster clergy and staff. It was cosy and warm inside and I was directed, past the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, to a row of seats which gave me a wonderful vantage point to see close up, all who were arriving. The band of the RAF Regiment played familiar pieces by Bach, Elgar and Vaughan Williams to name but a

Just a thought...

First things First. Have you noticed that many, if not all, of the multitude of calendars produced at the beginning of each year, have Monday as the first day of the week? Perhaps this fits in better with the modern world where, from the moment we wake up, life is full of "busyness"...emails, text messages, phone calls, meetings, social media, child-minding, commuting and on and on it goes.

Might it be better if we took to heart the words of the hymn?

**'The trivial round, the common task
Will furnish all we need to ask
Room to deny ourselves, a road
To bring us daily nearer God. '**

On waking, thank God for the new day ahead. Ask for his help for whatever will be asked of you, no matter how difficult or painful. Just as Sunday was seen as the first day of the week may we, every day, put first things first.

'But ask ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.' Matthew 6. v. 33

Christmas at Sea

by John and Sandra Neill



Last December we decided, for the third year in a row, to spend Christmas on the high seas, this time on the Indian Ocean. We flew to Mauritius and boarded the ship the next day. This was a smaller cruise liner than normal and accommodated 900 passengers and crew. We enjoyed this as we were able to get to know many interesting people.


As usual, the food was wonderful, the choice bewildering and very much enjoyed the special evenings. It was just as well that the many activities on board - crazy golf, shuffleboard, quoits, carpet-bowls, darts and table-tennis helped us to burn off some of the calories. Christmas Day provided a Communion Service, a carol service, seasonal music from the band and of course, a magnificent Christmas dinner.

The ship called at La Digue Island and Mahe Island. Mahe Island is the largest of the 115 islands in the Seychelles, while La Digue is the third biggest. The Seychelles do not suffer from hurricanes or cyclones and has much greenery, flowers and golden sands. It is a great place for diving and other water sports. The next port of call was Zanzibar, about 50 kilometres from the African coast. These islands are known as the spice islands and are especially known for their cloves. Reunion came next. This island

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May 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 Irish Dancing 3.30-5pm McCleery Hall Yoga 7.30-9pm McCleery Hall	2 Belfast Floral Art Society 8pm McCleery Hall	3	4	5 Sunday Service 11.30am Lynda Kane
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Bank Holiday		Irish Dancing 3.30-5pm McCleery Hall Yoga 7.30-9pm McCleery Hall				Holy Communion Service 11.30am Rev Dr David Steers
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Keep Fit Class 12-12.45pm McCleery Hall Glebe Gardening Club 7.30pm McCleery Hall		Irish Dancing 3.30-5pm McCleery Hall Yoga 7.30-9pm McCleery Hall				Sunday Service 11.30am Sue Steers

20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Keep Fit Class 12-12.45pm McCleery Hall		Irish Dancing 3.30-5pm McCleery Hall Yoga 7.30-9pm McCleery Hall				Sunday Service 11.30am Rev. William Haslett
27	28	29	30	31		
Bank Holiday		Irish Dancing 3.30-5pm McCleery Hall Yoga 7.30-9pm McCleery Hall	Diabetes Awareness Talk 7-8.30pm McCleery Hall 			

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April 2019

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Keep Fit Class 12-12.45pm McCleery Hall		Irish Dancing 3.30-5pm McCleery Hall Yoga 7.30-9pm McCleery Hall	Belfast Floral Art Society 8pm McCleery Hall			Sunday Service 11.30am Lynda Kane
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Keep Fit Class 12-12.45pm McCleery Hall Glebe Gardening Club 7.30pm McCleery Hall		Irish Dancing 3.30-5pm McCleery Hall Yoga 7.30-9pm McCleery Hall	Counterpoint Choir Dromore NSPCI 7.45pm			Sunday Service 11.30am Rev Dr David Steers

15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Keep Fit Class 12-12.45pm McCleery Hall		Yoga 7.30-9pm McCleery Hall		Good Friday		Easter Dawn Service 7am <i>Followed by breakfast in St Colman's Church Hall</i> Easter Sunday Service 11.30am Rev Robert McKee
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Easter Monday	Easter Tuesday	Yoga 7.30-9pm McCleery Hall	Mood Matters 7-9.30pm McCleery Hall 			Sunday Service 11.30am Lynda Kane
29	30					
Keep Fit Class 12-12.45pm McCleery Hall AGM 7.30pm McCleery Hal						

belongs to France and has one of the most active volcanoes - Piton de La Fournaise. It is climbable but not by us!

Finally, we came to Port Louis, the capital city of Mauritius, so named in honour of Louis XV. In its Natural History Museum there is a gallery devoted to the Dodo, the famous Mauritian bird which is now extinct. After all this we had three nights in Abu Dhabi and came home after a very enjoyable trip with plenty of sunshine and someone else doing all the work!

Mood Matters Adults

AWARE - The Depression Charity for Northern Ireland, is delighted to offer their Mood Matters Adults programme. This light and interactive mental health awareness training session is an opportunity for you to think about how to look after your own mental health. We will explore mental health stereotypes and look more closely at how to spot the early signs of mental health illness: stress, depression, anxiety disorders and bipolar.

This session will teach you coping skills for everyday life, how to avoid getting caught in a vicious circle, how to break unhelpful habits that we sometimes have when our mood is low, and where to get further help and support. This session will focus on you as an individual and will then allow you to apply these skills to supporting, family, friends and other colleagues.

For more information:

Mood Matters for Adults

Date: Thursday 25th April 2019

Time: 7 – 9pm

Venue: The McCleery Hall, 23 Glebe Road, Dunmurry, BT17 0PN

Booking: Mood Matters is free to attend but due to limited spaces please email firstdunmurrynsp@gmail.com or speak to Emma McCrudden

Everyone welcome!

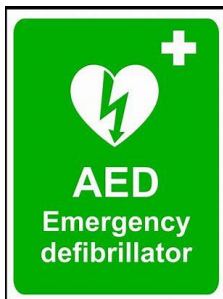
www.aware-ni.org

#iamaware

AWARE
OVERCOMING DEPRESSION.
CHANGING LIVES.

Defibrillator for The McCleery Hall

by Emma McCrudden



For every minute someone is in cardiac arrest without CPR and access to a defibrillator, their chances of survival drops by up to 10%. Having a public access defibrillator available in an emergency can be lifesaving, especially in a situation where ambulance response times may be longer.

The committee have agreed to initiate a fundraising drive to purchase a defibrillator to be situated in The McCleery Hall. We hope that we will never need to use it, but by having a defibrillator and volunteers trained in CPR we can play an important role for both children and adults, should it ever be required.

The defibrillator will also be placed on the emergency services database. If anyone in the local area should need the device before emergency services can reach them, it can also be accessed during set hours.

A range of fundraising events have been organised, including a series of information talks and a movie night. It would be great if you, friends and family can support these events, learn something new, have a cuppa and a bit of craic – all for a great cause!

If you would be interested in attending a Defibrillator and First Aid Training course, please contact Emma for more info.

Dates for your diary:

Date & Time	Fundraising Event	
Thursday 28th March 2019 7-8.30pm	Heart & Healthy Eating Well Talk, with Blood Pressure Checks Delivered by NI Chest Heart & Stroke	
Thursday 25th April 2019 7-9.30pm	Mood Matters for Adults Talk Delivered by Aware NI <i>Booking required as limited spaces available*</i>	
Thursday 30th May 2019 7-8.30pm	Diabetes Awareness Talk Delivered by Diabetes NI	
Friday 14th June 2019 7-10pm	Movie & Pizza night, with raffle Tickets available in due course	
Thursday 27th June 2019 7-8.30pm	Friends against Scams Event Delivered by Ulster Bank	

*Email firstdunmurrynsp@gmail.com to reserve a place