

## Church Chat | Summer 2019



**First Dunmurry NS Presbyterian Church**

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

**A** | 23 Glebe Road, Dunmurry, BT17 0PN

**W** | [www.firstchurchdunmurry.com](http://www.firstchurchdunmurry.com)

**E** | [firstdunmurrynsp@gmail.com](mailto:firstdunmurrynsp@gmail.com)

Charity No | 101607



## The Little Princess Trust

By Julia



Julia, one of our Sunday School members, recently took part in a charity event to support the Little Princess Trust, a charity which makes real hair wigs for children and young people who suffer from hair loss and Clic Sargent. Julia explains:

On 14th June I had my hair cut for the Little Princess trust. My English teacher, Miss McConkey organised the event and 140 girls from year 8 to 11 had their hair cut for the charity. I started growing my hair in October when we were first informed about it and I had 7 inches cut off. In addition, the participants also raised money for Clic Sargent; a charity that supports children with cancer and their families, so far I have raised £225 for charity with the help of my family and friends. I really like my hair and I'm glad that I was part of it.

## Just a thought: Loving others

June 2019 has seen the 75th commemoration of D-Day when the Allied Forces landed in Normandy to free Europe from Nazi tyranny. In the midst of the suffering of soldiers, civilians, and victims of the concentration camps, we should remember the name of CORRIE TEN BOOM who worked with her family in Holland to help many Jews escape the Holocaust by hiding them in their home.

Eventually they were denounced and Corrie and her sister were sent to Ravensbruck concentration camp. There, Betsie died, but in December 1944, due to a clerical error, Corrie was released. Later she found out that just a week after she gained her freedom, all the women in her age group were sent off to the gas chambers. After the war, she returned to the Netherlands and set up a Refuge, not only for survivors but for anyone in need of care including jobless Dutch people who had previously been collaborators.

Throughout all those years, Corrie Ten Boom held fast to her Christian faith, nurtured in the Dutch Reformed Church, a church similar in theology to our own. She continued to do so until her death in 1983. Corrie, in such extreme circumstances, followed God's example to love others. Can we do the same when we have people in our lives who seem to be difficult to live with and are not easy to love or like?

We often look for help from our fellow-beings but perhaps we should remember Corrie Ten Boom who prayed, "Dear Jesus, how foolish of me to have called for human help, when you are here."

## In our prayers

The congregation send their sincere love and prayers to all fellow members who are in need of God's help, comfort and blessings during times of illness, stress, sadness and anxiety. We particularly think of the families who are grieving the loss of our fellow church members, Irene Kennedy and Eileen Allen. We would ask everyone to pray for those who continue to struggle with disease, illness and pain, that they may feel free from fear and have God's strength and healing every day.

Here is a useful prayer for every morning that will perhaps help every one of us during the stressful times:

*"Lord, help me to remember that nothing is going to happen today, that you and I together, cannot handle."*

## European Heritage Open Day



This year, we join over 300 properties across Northern Ireland, who will open their doors to the public to explore the history and architecture of its buildings. We will open on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September and if you would like to volunteer to show visitors around our church and grounds please let a committee member know.

## The Women's League



Five of us attended the denominational Women's League Quarterly meeting in the Cairncastle Church on Saturday 8 June 2019. The service was conducted by the Rev. Lena Cockcroft and the most generous afternoon - tea was accompanied by a violin soloist from the church whose professional accomplishments were most impressive indeed.

The Charity Cheque was due to be presented to Asthma UK but when it was discovered that the organisation no longer had a Northern Ireland Area, the League committee and members agreed to change our recipient to another group that represented a wide range of chest illnesses which included Asthma, namely the Regional Respiratory Centre that is based at the Belfast City Hospital. It was agreed that under their advice we would purchase a much-needed piece of equipment and present that to the Centre, as soon as it becomes available. The total amount received from the Denomination came to four thousand pounds and we would thank everyone for their generosity.

The next quarterly gathering will be held in Dromore Church on 21st September at 2.00pm, when it is hoped to have a representative from the Respiratory centre. All ladies from the congregation are most welcome to come along to any of these events, to meet old friends and share some interesting ideas and experiences.

## Senior Keep Fit Class

By Roseann Frizzell



Just a few words to say that we have had a very faithful Senior Keep Fit Class this year. We were greatly encouraged by our leader, Gill Henderson, particularly when arms and legs occasionally began to wilt. The cups of tea and chat afterwards were very much appreciated, and we cannot leave out young Harry Cromie who cheered us on from the side-lines every week. We look forward to starting up the class again in September when we would love to see many others coming to join us. We can strongly recommend that it certainly gives you the “feel good” factor!

## Did you know...

Along the path that leads to the McCleery Hall, you may have noticed a completely flat grey grave on your left, two rows from the path. Sadly the wording is becoming faint, but there lies the Rev Alexander Gordon, M.A. a minister of First Church, Belfast (1877-1889) and Principal of the Home Missionary College in Manchester from 1890-1911.

Alexander Gordon was born in Coventry, the son of a clergyman in 1841. He was a leading scholar of the late nineteenth century as a religious historian. He had a widespread international reputation for languages, meticulous research and academic excellence while still remaining committed to his pastoral ministry, much of which was undertaken in Northern Ireland. Among his academic achievements, he became a major contributor to the Dictionary of National Biography, publishing over seven hundred articles, mostly on non-conformists. He consistently refused all awards and honorary doctorates throughout his lifetime. Gordon was fiercely devoted to the NSPCI form of theology and practice and was an avid admirer of our own Rev. Dr. Henry Montgomery. So much so, that when Principal of his College, he travelled over the sea to Dunmurry almost every week-end so that he could attend Henry’s church. His funeral took place here in 1931 and was attended by such a crowd, including the Rev. John McCleery, who noted that he and all the other young people had to be seated on the floor of the church.

Further details on this most distinguished gentleman can be found on Google where some interesting articles on Gordon have been published by the Rev Dr David Steers.



## Sunday School News

*By Adele Johnston*

June has been a busy month for Sunday School, getting our entries ready for the Denominational Exhibition of Work and preparing for our Children's Day Service.

The Prizegiving Service and Exhibition of Work was held in All Souls on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019, we had a very successful night when Erin and Jenna were presented with our 14 prizes by the Moderator Rt Rev Campbell and Erin read a poem called "The Creation" as part of the service. We were given 7 individual prizes, (4 of these were awarded to Erin Black and one each for Holly Brown, Grace Brown and Julia Englefield), we also received 6 group prizes and one of the special awards – the Betty Weaver Award for the Best Drama Entry for our drama "Jesus Calms the Storm".

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June we held our Children's Day Service when all the children took part in the Service. After welcoming the congregation our Minister in Charge, Rev Dr Steers, handed over to the children. Erin and Grace read the lessons, Adele read a prayer which had been written by the children, the children sang "Our God is a Great Big God" and did a piece called "Think of a World" which was narrated by Julia and encouraged everyone to appreciate the wonderful world God has created for us. After his Children's Address, Rev Steers presented all the children with their certificates and prizes for their work and attendance over the year.

We would like to wish Erin, Mackenzie and Theo good luck as they all move to new schools in September. Sunday School has now finished for the summer and will re-commence in early September.

## A Very Special Few Days

*By Margaret Masterson*



Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May to Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May was a very special time for the three Masterson ladies - my daughter Jill, my granddaughter Rachael and me when we experienced our first mini cruise aboard the Independence of the Sea, the biggest ship cruising around Europe at the moment.



We had booked an external cabin with balcony and once settled in we set off to explore what seemed to be a floating luxury hotel with everything one could wish for and more besides! We left Southampton in beautiful weather and

after dinner, a showing of Grease in a theatre which was as big as the Grand Opera House, we finished with a 70s Disco Night. It was hard to believe we were out in the middle of the North Sea. After all the gaiety and entertainment Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May was a more serious day. We were going to Flanders to see the World War One cemeteries. This was very important to me as my grandfather had been a soldier shot down (*going over the top*) near Ypres along with so many other young men. Private Samuel Patterson, 1st Bn, Royal Irish Fusiliers was one of the countless numbers who died but whose remains were never found. Rachael had done a great amount of work for us so we were well prepared. Firstly, we visited Tyne Cot cemetery and memorial. This is the largest of the Commonwealth War Cemeteries and we found it beautiful, sad and moving. Onward, we went to the Memorial for the Missing, the Menin Gate in Ypres.

There are approximately 90,000 soldiers whose remains have no known grave. Helped by our Tour Guide we found Section 42 of the Gate which listed the names of the Royal Irish Fusiliers. And there it was - my grandfathers name. It was a very special moment. In the picture above Samuels name is at the bottom of column four. I had my photo taken beside his name, a very proud moment. We left with sad hearts but also joy. That night was Captains night. We enjoyed the formal dinner in spite of high winds and were able to Rock and Roll to music at British Rock Night. Monday 27th we spent in Le Havre, shopping and exploring and later Jill Rachael made good use of the waterslides. I was happy to watch from the sidelines!

Tuesday 28th we were sad to be leaving this amazing ship and full of memories of what we had seen. Soon we were at the airport, going home to plan our next big adventure - we will let you know how we get on!

## Committee Update

Throughout Spring and early Summer the routine work of the church has continued to run smoothly. Margaret Graham has carried on making sure that there is always someone to interest and challenge us on Sunday mornings. Adele Johnston has brought the Sunday School year to a very successful conclusion and the children are now enjoying their summer break. We look forward to their return in September. Emma McCrudden has reached the end of her most successful fundraising drive. Thank you Emma and all who supported you. Our very knowledgeable gardening committee members are working hard, and we hope you will enjoy the beautiful roses which have just been planted.

All this and more has been carried out under the wise and quiet counsel of our minister in charge the Rev Dr Steers. Each and everyone of us owes him and Mrs Sue Steers a tremendous THANK YOU.

Unfortunately, we have to report that the legal dispute with the Rev Ballard is still in contention. We hope that there will soon be a resolution which will enable Dunmurry session and committee to realise our plans. The next committee meeting will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019.

## Thank you

*By Emma McCrudden*



Now that each of the six defibrillator fundraising events have come to an end - I look back and I am completely overwhelmed by the generosity and support that I received from the congregation, neighbouring churches and friends for this initiative. In total, an amazing £1283 was raised and I look forward to sharing the news with you shortly that the defibrillator has been purchased.

The defibrillator will be placed outside the main entrance to the McCleery Hall. It will also be registered with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, should anyone in the local area need the device before help can be reached it can be accessed 24-7. I will be organising a defibrillator training session for September, should anyone like to attend and learn how to use one of these fantastic pieces of equipment please let me know.

## What's in a name?

Northern Ireland's place names are fascinating. As we all know many begin with Bally... the townland of or Tully... the hillock of. So we can tell that Ballymoney means the townland of the moor and Tullycarnan means the hillock of the cairn. Many of our modern roads however seem to be named after people and they too, can tell a story. In the Dunmurry area many use the roads up over the hills to reach the airport. Pantridge Road will be a familiar name. The road reminds us of the wonderful work of the man whose research resulted in the saving of the lives of heart patients worldwide. If you are watching carefully you will see one of the side roads is called Bell Steel road and this is the story behind that name.

Belle Steele was born in Derriaghy and resided in Fairs Row on the Stewartstown Road. Fairs Row consisted of seven roadside houses in the townland of Poleglass (the green pool). Here she died in 1853 and her name is still held in reverence by the Catholic people of this area. In her house Belle secretly kept, in a locked wooden box, the vestments and sacred vessels used for the celebration of mass at the mass corner on the slopes of Colin Mountain at Hannahstown. This was a very brave action as at this time, Ireland suffered under the Penal Laws when Roman Catholics and Presbyterians were not allowed to worship or marry following their own faiths. Belle Steele herself had been baptised in Christ Church in Derriaghy. In the Catholic Church built in Poleglass in recent times a stained-glass window is dedicated to the memory of Belle Steele.

Isabella Steele was the great, great, great, great Aunt of Iris Wilkie nee McCartney who told this story

## Cleaning & Flower Rotas



### July

Clare Cromie & Susan Black

### August

Sheila McMillan & Noelle Wilson

### September

Heather Douglas, Joyce Anderson & Zara Brown



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 Presbyterian Church Golf Outing

By John Neill

We have again been invited to enter a team in the above golf competition to be held at Dunmurry Golf Club on Wednesday, 4 September 2019, teeing off at 1.00pm approximately. Any church member who is interested in taking part in the competition, please contact me. I will forward all the details on the day that I receive them from the organisers.

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3 Irish Dancing 3.30-5pm McCleery Hall	4	5	6	7 Sunday Service 11.30am Rev Dr David Steers
8	9	10 Irish Dancing 3.30-5pm McCleery Hall	11	12	13	14 Sunday Service 11.30am Lynda Kane
15	16	17 Irish Dancing 3.30-5pm McCleery Hall	18	19	20	21 Sunday Service 11.30am Sue Steers
22	23	24 Irish Dancing 3.30-5pm McCleery Hall	25	26	27	28 Sunday Service 11.30am Paul Jeffrey
29	30	31 Irish Dancing 3.30-5pm McCleery Hall				



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		Irish Dancing 3.30-5pm McCleery Hall	1	2	3	Sunday Service 11.30am Rev Boggs
5	6	Irish Dancing 3.30-5pm McCleery Hall	8	9	10	Sunday Service 11.30am Rev Robert McKee
12	13	Irish Dancing 3.30-5pm McCleery Hall	15	16	17	Sunday Service 11.30am Sue Steers
19	20	Irish Dancing 3.30-5pm McCleery Hall	22	23	24	Sunday Service 11.30am Rev Lena Cockcroft
26	27	Irish Dancing 3.30-5pm McCleery Hall	29	30	31	



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