

GROOMSPORT PARISH CHURCH

# CONTACT

[www.groomsportparishchurch.org](http://www.groomsportparishchurch.org)



Thanksgiving for God's mercy  
works in all places of his domin-  
ion: bless the LORD, O my soul

## PSALM 104

BLESS the LORD, O my soul. O  
LORD my God, thou art very  
great; thou art clothed with hon-  
or and majesty.  
Who coverest thyself  
as with a garment  
thou stretchest out the he-

Go  
16  
full o  
non, w  
17 W  
ts:

# *The Wind Turbines of the Church*

On a clear morning, the dawning horizon is decorated with the glow of tiny dots of white, to the East all the way across the water to Scotland. Each of these is a wind turbine, facing its blades high into the flow of air that continuously moves across our land and sea, turning this into electricity that powers the lights we use to read, the ovens to bake, and the laptop on which I write this. Each of these wind turbines is able to convert wind into power for around 1500 homes. The UK as a whole is one of the best places in the world for wind energy, and now we receive as a nation over 25% of our electricity from wind power, a percentage continually increasing.

All this makes me think: what powers us as a church family? What is our 'spiritual electricity source'? What stops everything that we do being simply a show, 'going through the motions'? This is a question that deeply concerns me, because there is too much at stake in the eternal destiny of multitudes of precious souls around us, for us to be potentially full of busyness and activity but barren and fruitless in terms of people actually coming closer to Jesus.

So what connects us to our 'spiritual electricity'? Charles Spurgeon, whose ministry in London began just after Groomspoint Church was built, when asked about what led so many people to come to Jesus in their meetings, used to point to a group of people earnestly praying for services, and say, "Here is the powerhouse of this church." And so our prayer is like the wind turbine that connects us to the awesome sweep of the wind, the power of God, His Holy Spirit blowing and flowing over our land. God has so ordered things that He wants us to be participants, and so a huge amount of what He does amongst us, He loves to do in answer to prayer.

Over North Down, a constant, fresh gale of Wind flows, powerful yet refreshing and life-giving. I'm not speaking of physical weather (even though we have plenty of this!) but of the Wind of God's Spirit. The Greek used in the Bible for Spirit is *pneuma*, which is also used for 'breath' and 'wind' - the idea of all these being the analogy of the flow of invisible air, to come in and give life to our body ('breath') or to surround and flow around us ('wind'). In the same way, God's Spirit is invisibly moving and powerful like the wind, and life-giving and sustaining like our breath. His Spirit flows over our land, 'blowing' like the wind, ready to connect with those who are willing, ready to give life. Our prayer is like us getting onto a hill and raising a three-blade wind turbine into the force of the wind, and seeing this flow of wind turned into spiritual electricity that fills our community with life. Without the wind turbine, the wind would still be flowing, but its power would pass us by.

God is calling us to be wind turbines in prayer, asking Him to not pass us by, but

connect us to His Spirit. He is more willing to connect with us than we are with Him. His Spirit giving us power and spiritual life is what we need more than anything else. So we need to put up these prayer turbines! A very small part of this is our Sunday or midweek gatherings, but they are only a few hours at most out of the 168 hours in a week.

What we most need as a church family right now, I believe, is for every one of us to realise how much difference our personal, individual times of prayer at home, or in the beauty of nature, make in connecting us with the Wind of God's Spirit, without whom we can do nothing. God loves us to speak to Him, and the dearest friends love to spend time together, speaking not only with set, formal words but in our own words. (Imagine reading off a script when you met a friend!) Could you spend even a short time in prayer every day, asking quietly in your own words, simply that God would connect us with His Spirit to bring us all closer to Jesus? This is more important than anything else we could do for His Church that we here in Groomsport are honoured to be a little part of.

*What beautiful things might God be inviting us into if we are willing to lift our praying hands into the glorious flow of the gale of His Spirit in our land? The answer is - as we all say together on Sunday mornings - 'infinitely more than we can ask or conceive'!*

*Elliot*



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# October and November 2024

## The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

### 6th October

8:30 am	Holy Communion
10:30 am	Harvest Morning Celebration
6:00 pm	Joint Harvest and Sea Hymns

*Coffee in the church hall after the 10:30 am service. Hosted by Freddie and Susan McNair, Mary Cargil and Ken Boyd. Everyone welcome.*

## The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

### 13th October

8:30 am	Holy Communion
10:30 am	Parish Communion
7:00 pm	Joint Harvest Celebration Service in Presbyterian Church

*Instead of our normal 6 pm Evening Service here, we're joining together in the Presbyterian Church for our shared 7 pm joint Harvest Celebration, Where Paul has kindly invited Elliot to preach. Please do join us for this great occasion.*

## The Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity

### 20th October

8:30 am	Holy Communion
10:30 am	Service of the Word
6:00 pm	Evening Prayer

## The Fifth Sunday before Advent

### 27th October

8:30 am	Holy Communion
10:30 am	Morning Prayer
6:00 pm	Holy Communion

**10.30 - Holy Communion at the Chapel in Mount Stewart on the first Wednesday of every month.**

## The Fourth Sunday before Advent

### 3rd November

8:30 am	Holy Communion
10:30 am	Family Service
6:00 pm	Evening Prayer

*Coffee in the church hall after the 10:30 am service. Hosted by David and Freda Scott, Mae and Walter Burke. Everyone welcome.*

## The Third Sunday before Advent

### 10th November

8:30 am	Holy Communion
10:30 am	Parish Communion
6:00 pm	Compline

## The Second Sunday before Advent

### 17th November

8:30 am	Holy Communion
10:30 am	Service of the Word
6:00 pm	Evening Prayer

## The Kingship of Christ

### 24th November

8:30 am	Holy Communion
10:30 am	Morning Prayer
6:00 pm	Holy Communion



# Notes from the Vestry

## August/ September

Ian Sloan has agreed to take on the role of Archivist for one year initially, while Mae will be the Vestry link person.

The policy sub- committee, led by Maureen, is working hard and meeting regularly to update and create all relevant Church policies.

Maggie is still to meet with Social Services to finalise the set up of Cove Kids After School Club. Maureen has the 12 month licence ready to be signed on behalf of the Church. Vestry has also agreed for Maggie to have an outdoor storage container and to run a holiday club for a week in the Hallowe'en and Easter holidays.

Elliot explained in detail his ideas for Vision, Values, Strategy, Tactics and Mapping of Groomsport Parish following the very useful and successful Vestry SOAR planning evening in June. John will follow up with a report (with comments by Elliot) for Vestry. Elliot is very impressed by and grateful to our Diocese for all their support. He describes it as being good at every level.

It was agreed that a Property sub -committee should be formed- consisting of the two Glebe Wardens, the Hall Manager and led by David Scott. David will report on behalf of the committee at monthly Vestry meetings. It was also agreed that no more than £250 could be spent without seeking prior Vestry

approval.

William is yet to meet with the electrician about the sensor lights outside the Canon Tyney Hall. Tony has sprayed the weeds. A dry spell is needed to examine the damp problems in the Church. Tony is having a look at our BT contract. Gordon and Shelley have cleared the wooden shed and put up hooks to help organise storage. Gordon has organised a bin for the Vestry. Permanent lighting has now been attached to the step at the back of the Church and Gordon has sent a revised risk assessment to Ards and North Down Council.

Pauline has raised another £2400 from fortnightly scone and soup mornings. Vestry agreed to buy another 50 China mugs and 100 white China plates. She will also give to three of her favourite charities - £50 to Women's Aid, £200 to Manuela Bertonecini St Columbanus and £50 to the Cumming's family mission work in Africa.

Vestry discussed raising donations for those using our halls, due to rising costs of operating.

Forthcoming events include: the Eagle Wing weekend, the Harvest Tea, the Church Sale and Luxury Draw, the Quiz and the Pet Blessing in the Church grounds on 21 September. A lot of work on allergens is being done behind the scenes to adhere to regulations but to keep the process as simple as possible.

Elliot was delighted to report on the coming together of Bangor Community Churches, something which will draw on the spiritual history of Bangor.

A lengthy discussion was had by Vestry at the September meeting about financial concerns. It was agreed that we were doing everything possible to control our expenditure, which is largely fixed, but it was also acknowledged that we can no longer cover our expenses with our current income. Since nobody could remember the last time parishioners had been approached to consider increasing their Free Will Offering, it was agreed that it was wise to write to parishioners to explain the situation to them and ask them to consider raising their giving. We have still not yet received our Gift Aid money. Susan was thanked for the tremendous amount of work she has put into the finances.

All youth activities will begin in September. Elliot has been asked to be part of the Diocesan Youth Team.

In answer to Zandra's query about a handrail for those standing on the step at the lectern to read, it was agreed that those who wished, could read from the smaller lectern.

Vestry agreed that Jubilate can have their own website. Carol will gradually get rid of some of the many books to charity shops.

There are currently 2 adults wishing to be confirmed.

Heather was asked to send a card to Greenisland Parish Church which has recently been attacked by arsonists.

## *From the Registers*

### *Holy Rest*

27th August 2024 - **Roger Dorrity**

We Pray for his wife Lesley, his Son Peter and his daughter Suzanne.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



# “Am I going to heaven?” What is the Gospel?

The Book of Common Prayer has been referred to by J. I. Packer as “the Bible arranged for worship” because it is so full of Scripture! So when it calls on us to “unfeignedly believe his holy gospel” (in the opening words of Morning & Evening Prayer), what does it mean? To “unfeignedly believe” means to believe from the heart, not just in words or ceremonies. So what is this ‘holy gospel’ that we are called to believe in, where believing brings us into eternal life?

The word ‘Gospel’ is from the Old English godspel, meaning ‘good news’. So it is a message to us that is inherently good, hopeful and beautiful. We commonly use this word in two ways:

The first definition is as the title for our 4 accounts of Jesus’ life (the ‘Gospels’ of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), which we stand for in services out of reverence for the words of Jesus our Lord. These are full of ‘good news’, as they give us the story of Jesus as God coming to earth as a human being, His teaching, and His suffering and death for us, and His resurrection back to life forever.

The second definition for ‘Gospel’ is a reference to this message of salvation itself, of how Jesus came to save us. This is the way this word is used in the New Testament and in calls in our prayer books to “unfeignedly believe his holy gospel”. It is the answer to the question posed to Paul & Silas by the one keeping them in jail in Philippi. He had a huge

change of heart in Acts 16:30 and cried out to them this desperate question:

**“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”**

In verse 31, the response comes, **“Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...”**

I was recently watching the film Dunkirk, which is absolutely harrowing in its portrayal of the plight of soldiers and nurses in ships being sunk by the Luftwaffe on the channel on their way back. If you had to abandon an exploding, burning ship in the middle of the ocean, and heard the sound of a little boat on its way to rescue you, this sound would be very good news! This is like what the Gospel is for us - it is the sound of rescue coming, and us calling out to be picked up into the lifeboat.

To put it in a very powerful way, Jesus invites us into everlasting life with Him (which we commonly call ‘heaven’). But this troubling question comes to us: how do we know whether we will go to heaven when we die? There is a common idea in our society that, in some vague way, ‘good people’ go to heaven and only ‘really bad people’ to hell. But that’s not what Jesus says - He makes it clear that none of us could ever be ‘good enough’ to go to heaven. That is devastating to hear. Does that not mean we are hopeless? This is what I first thought when I heard about this message as a teenager, and it terrified me. But - praise



God! - that's not the end of the matter. There is good news - the Gospel! This good news is that even though we couldn't make it ourselves, God decided to come to us. That's who Jesus is - God come to earth. He came to earth to die for us, take away all our sin and failure, and be raised from death to life, so He can share this eternal life with us. We were helpless and lost, like sheep on the precipice of a cliff, or people floating in the stormy waves of the sea, but He came to find us and rescue us. What is key here is that He did not rescue us because we are 'good enough', or because of any 'good works' for that matter - in fact often the most evil, depraved and fallen people in our society's eyes are the first who Jesus rescues, out of great compassion.

So to 'believe His holy gospel' means first to abandon ship - abandon the idea that we can be brought to heaven by our own character, achievements, moral standing or anything else we have done. Unless we abandon this ship - which as secure as it looks, is destined to sink - we cannot get into Christ's lifeboat. To believe His gospel is to believe His rescue mission, and to rely on Him, to trust in Him to save us, not ourselves - to throw ourselves onto His mercy by calling out for Him to save us and bring us into life. At the first Pentecost these words were proclaimed:

**"Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."** (Acts 2:21)

Back to that visceral question: how do we know we go to heaven when we die? The answer is that we abandon any trust in

ourselves, acknowledging we have failed and could never make it there ourselves, and instead call on Jesus to bring us to life. Everyone who asks Jesus to save them, according to this verse, can finally be secure in knowing that no matter what your past or how much you have done wrong, He will fulfill this promise and bring you to share life forever with Him.

I would encourage everyone to talk to God about this huge question until you feel secure that He has heard your prayer calling on Him alone for salvation and life. As always, it's best to use your own words to talk to Him - but as just an idea you could start with something like the following words:

My Lord Jesus, I know I have failed you so many times, and like a helpless lost sheep, cannot come to You on my own. But as Your Gospel says, You came to us, coming to earth to die to take away all my sin and be raised to life forever. I trust You are able to rescue me, as You promised. So please come and save me and bring me to life forever!

Amen.

Please also feel free to get in touch with me anytime if you would like to talk about this more - phone or message 07957 724965 or e-mail [elliottgroomsport@gmail.com](mailto:elliottgroomsport@gmail.com) - as this is my absolute favourite thing to talk about!

# Groomsport Parish

## EVENTS SCHEDULE 2024

**26TH  
OCT  
2PM**

**PRAISE PARTY**

**QUIZ NIGHT**

**8TH  
NOV  
7:30 PM**

**23RD  
NOV  
ALL DAY**

**KILDARE  
SHOPPING TRIP**

**AUTUMN SALE  
AND  
LUXURY DRAW**

**16TH  
NOV  
10 AM - NOON**

MORE INFO IN PEW LEAFLETS AND ON  
GROOMSPORT PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE

# *Autumn Sale and Luxury Draw*

It's that time of year again when we ask you to search out unused gifts , make jams , marmalades and chutneys and of course bake for our cake stall. This year we hope to add a craft stall so any crafters out there, your produce would be very welcome to add to our stall.

We do hope that you will join us on Saturday 16 November from 10 to 12 for the Autumn Sale and Luxury Draw. As well as having the opportunity to get some early Christmas presents you can try your luck at the tombola and enjoy a cuppa, a scone and a chat with friends and family.

Our Luxury Draw is always a huge success and again this year the prizes will be worth a minimum of £30. Tickets can be bought from Heather , £5 for 10 tickets.

We do hope you will come along and support this event which will raise much needed funds for the church.



Yes, we are back! After twelve months of absence, by universal demand our next Quiz Night will be on Friday 8 November at 7.30 in the Halls. It will follow the usual format along with light refreshments and a fun raffle. More details nearer the time, but for now note your diaries, calenders, iphones, notice boards or whatever. You have been told, so no excuses!

# 'The Fiddler of Dooney'

'The Fiddler of Dooney' is a poem by the Irish Poet 'William Butler Yeats'. It is a joyful poem written in the style of an Irish Ballad, about the fictional fiddler of Dooney Rock in County Sligo and it presents an interesting perspective on Christian life and morality.

When I play on my fiddle in Dooney,  
Folk dance like a wave of the sea;  
My cousin is priest in Kilvarnet,  
My brother in Mocharabuiee.

I passed my brother and cousin:  
They read in their books of prayer;  
I read in my book of songs  
I bought at the Sligo fair.

When we come at the end of time  
To Peter sitting in state,  
He will smile on three old spirits,  
But call me first through the gate;

For the good are always the merry,  
Save by an evil chance,  
And the merry love the fiddle,  
And the merry love to dance:

And when the folk there spy me,  
They will all come up to me,  
With 'Here is the fiddler of Dooney!'  
And dance like a wave of the sea.

I really love this poem. I believe it is about how important it is to have joy in christian life and how there is more than one way to worship God.

Yeats through the fiddler and his family presents two contrasting ways to live.

That of a devotion to scripture and ministry as demonstrated by the brother and cousin, and that of a life of music and merriment lived by the fiddler. As priests the brother and cousin live their lives in dedication to prayer and liturgy, however the fiddler believes that on judgment day St Peter will look more favorably on him. Yeats is saying that this is because the fiddler is merry and brings joy to others. The brother and cousin are priests, devoted to their prayer books and serving God through their ministry as priests. For the fiddler, his bible is his song book and his ministry is the joy he brings to people through his music. The poem says "the good are always the merry," by which I think Yeats is saying he believes that joyousness is a key aspect of Christian life and faith, that those who are truly living with God in their heart will live a life of joy.

Sentiments such as these should be fairly familiar to Christians. The Bible has many verses about the joy God brings to his followers, and how he delights in our joyfulness.

"Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!" [Psalm 32:11]

When we delight in our lives and those around us we celebrate all that God has given us, for God loves us so much that he not only gave us life but joy, music and brethren to share these gifts with. The implication in the poem is that the brother and cousin, much like the



Pharisees of the New Testament, find themselves so lost in the scripture that they ignore much of what the scriptures actually say. Joy is worship, and when the lord works through us this joy will be bestowed on everyone around us.

What I drew from this poem is that living a true christian life is not as simple as following a set of rules or studying a set of scriptures. There are so many aspects of christian life and everyone's spiritual life and journey is different. However, through living our lives in joy we show God our love and thankfulness and through bringing joy to others we show them God's love and greatness. We are so lucky in our parish that we have a loving and joyous congregation full of wonderful people and I truly hope that when we go forth from our Sunday service we bring that joy into the world and all aspects of our lives.

*Daniel Jones*

A colorful collage for Harbour Tots featuring a boat, a play mat, a rainbow, and a sign that says "YOU ARE SO LOVED".

**HARBOUR TOTS**  
Our new parent & toddler group

**FRIDAY MORNINGS - OPEN 10-11:30AM**  
...in our church halls, 30 Main St, Groomspoint, BT19 6JR  
Includes open play with toys, tunnels and ball pits, and story & song time...  
Free of charge and all parents & grandparents welcome!

# Eagle Wing Festival Weekend

On Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th September Groomsport celebrated the 1636 adventurous voyage of the Eagle Wing - full of people seeking to find a new life to follow their faith in Jesus in freedom. Even if they didn't make their intended destination, God had different plans for them when they came back here. As this was like their own 'exodus' from the land, it was fittingly named after Exodus 19:4 -

"You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself."

Our little village was full of activities including our Seafarer's Breakfast, the Celebration Concert and our Archive Exhibition.







Our Parish was delighted to organise an exhibition of historic Groomsport, drawing upon photographs and documents in our Archive, as part of the village's Eagle Wing celebratory Festival that weekend. It was well attended over the two days, with almost 100 visitors viewing the various artefacts on display, the earliest of which was the Parish's original Licence from the Bishop dated 1867, which authorised the Incumbent to conduct Marriages.

The exhibition was well received and appreciated, and more than one visitor expressed the earnest hope that it would not be the last.



# Podcast

Have a listen to our new Sunday message podcast, Oystercatchers of the Word!

We love searching the Scriptures, the Word of God, here in our church family and want to be like oystercatchers (a much-loved sight here in Groomsport) searching the Bible's pages with our bright red beaks of prayer, feasting on what we find there and finding the most infinitely precious treasures of wisdom, like pearls in oyster shells, within its pages.

You can find the podcast on various players (e.g. Apple, Spotify, Amazon and others) or on the Podbean link below:

<https://oystercatchers.podbean.com/>

This is another way to connect with our Sunday sermons as each week we add Sunday's message (10-20 minutes) from Scripture from the 10:30am gathering... By making it a podcast, we hope it can be easier to listen to on your phone without having to watch the whole livestream video!





Groomsport Parish presents  
their annual

# KILDARE SHOPPING TRIP

Saturday 23rd November departing  
8 am from Groomsport

Pickups if required-  
Newtownards  
Tesco Knocknagoney  
Sprucefield

To secure your place please leave a sealed envelope  
containing £30 with your name & number with either  
the wardens, Heather (07834 771075) or  
Ashley in the church office 028 9127 1311



# Dog and Pet Blessing

On Saturday 21st September we had such a woofy & wonderful time at our special Dog & Pet Blessing with 50+ dogs, and a friendly python, joining us!! We really enjoyed celebrating God's wonderful animals through singing and prayer in our Church



# Gift Aid - A Quick Guide

Ever considered gift aiding your Parish contributions? Perhaps you've avoided the subject entirely. Maybe thought it best not to bother with the Tax Man? Didn't want to change anything or tinker with my tax etc. etc.

It's understandable. But the reality is much simpler and won't disrupt anything. Signing up to Gift Aid doesn't commit you financially - you can continue to give whatever you want. And the requirements to join couldn't be easier. So long as you pay sufficient Income Tax, you just sign a short Declaration confirming this (which the Parish Office can provide), and we will do the rest. From that point, the Parish will be able to claim from the Tax authorities, 25p for every £1 you contribute to the Parish. No fuss, no bother.

So please, if you haven't already, give Gift Aid some thought. Susan our Treasurer will be happy to answer any questions. *Ian*



## Scrabble Club

We celebrated our 15th Anniversary since the formation of the club in June 2009. We had a lovely lunch in the Stables and then nipped over the road for a couple of games!! Anyone is welcome to join us on Wednesday afternoons at 2pm in our church hall.

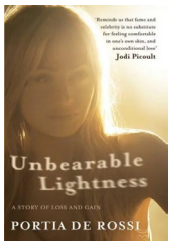




# Book Reviews for Autumn by Carol

The shelves have been tidied and restocked with many new titles from those left behind from our last fair. I hope to have another fair in the Spring but in the meantime there are many more books to restock the shelves so do keep looking for new titles. They will be, as usual, in alphabetical order on the shelves.

## Unbearable Lightness by Portia de Rossi.



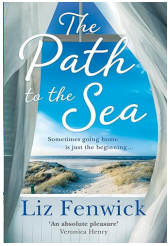
I picked up this book, recently left at the bookstall, because the subject interested me, believing it to be a novel. As I read it I became shocked at the inner voice of the subject of

the novel, who was anxious to succeed in the modelling and film world. I was horrified when I discovered that it was, in fact, an autobiography. Portia de Rossi, or Amanda Rogers as she was originally known, trains to be a lawyer but is tempted away from that career by the thought of becoming famous. Brought up by a mother who was a life-long dieter and who only spoke to friends and neighbours about her daughter's achievements and successes, never her second best results; who told her daughter that "healthy" was a euphemism for fat, it is little wonder that Portia was obsessed with success at all cost and developed unhealthy eating habits. At the age of twelve she lands a modelling job and her concern about her appearance grows; even at that age

her mother is encouraging her to diet, then, after a photo session, rewarding her with sweets and junk food. The story of Portia's descent into serious ill health and damage through anorexia and bulimia is tragic but gripping. The writing is excellent and despite her destructive choices and life-style one cannot help feel empathy and sadness for this obviously intelligent and lovely young woman. The fact that she has written this book is a testimony to her courage and success at climbing out of her personal abyss. Many of us suffer from self doubt and the 'imposter syndrome' at times but the extent to which this young woman berates herself for being ugly, fat, stupid and what particularly causes her shame - gay- puts our little doubts into true perspective. Anorexia is a serious problem, as I have seen at first hand when I visited a Belfast hospital school for my work. At that time the school had several fifth and sixth form girls who were suffering from anorexia and had to be hospitalised as a consequence, but were well enough to continue their education. The tricks that they played to promote their personal aims while deceiving the medical supervision were extraordinary and are reflected in the behaviour of Portia. I really found this book hard to put down and compelling.



## The Path to the Sea by Liz Fenwick.

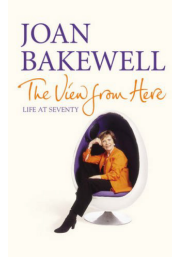


When I started this it was in the assumption that it was a light, fairly romantic story. So it seemed for many chapters but don't be deceived, behind the beautiful house

and complex family relations there is a dark story about to be told. Like "Homecoming" which I reviewed in the last magazine, it is a three generational story with the grandmother close to death. Treskenna, the Cornish house where they gather has been the location of all their family holidays throughout their lives. This is no ordinary family, the elderly grandmother, in her youth, seemingly the perfect hostess to support her military attaché husband in his postings, was in fact working for the intelligence services under cover, the daughter is a senior war reporter and the granddaughter is struggling with her errors of judgement which have caused her to lose her career, home and reputation; she is a jewellery designer. To begin with I found this hard to follow as the chapters each deal with a different one of the three women, set in three different times and the chapters are very short. One is constantly shifting from one time zone and one perspective to another. However once the characters and context are established this becomes much clearer. Joan is the grandmother and in the stories set in the present time is close to death, but the earlier scenes show her at the height of her influence and activity. The three women and

and the supporting characters are all to some degree likeable making the story interesting and worthwhile to follow. A good read.

## The View from Here



Subtitled "Life at Seventy" this is a witty, thought provoking look at the vagaries and challenges of growing older in a rapidly changing world. Based on her popular column in the

Guardian newspaper, these chapters are subdivided into linked sections beginning with how to approach a 'big' birthday; celebrate that one has made it or try to ignore it? Sportsmen and women have long since retired, teachers, bankers and civil servants likewise, but judges, politicians and orchestral conductors may well have many years yet of useful employment. Our definition of old age, like so many other things has changed. This is an excellent book which I know many will enjoy.

*Carol.*





The Mothers' Union will meet on Monday October 21st at 7:30 pm when we will be updating ourselves on defibrillator and CPR use.

In other news...

We are overjoyed that from 1st January 2025 Kathleen Snow will be our new Worldwide President. Kathleen has served on the board for six years as the Zonal Trustee for the Americas, and been a member of the Mothers' Union for thirty six years.

"This is a humbling, and a great honour. I look forward to working with members and staff to continue to build God's Kingdom through Mothers' Union. With God all things are possible" - Kathleen Snow

# SOUP & SCONES

ON THE FIRST AT THIRD THURSDAY  
IN THE MONTH

*From 11 am to 1 pm*



# *The Tuesday Club Groomsport*

SPONSORED BY THE SPAR GROOMSPORT

Winter beckons again! Therefore, it is up to us to make it as bearable as possible. We in the Tuesday Club have planned a programme of activities until well into next year. Some are for members only, others are open meetings when we greet non-members to our events.

Our next meeting is members only, on 1st October, when one of our members will be telling us of his experiences of working with deaf and blind children in Belfast, before the move to its present site at Jordanstown.

November 5th will be an open meeting – “All our Yesterdays” – Rev Dr David Irwin and his wife Maureen who are friends of the Tuesday Club will be showing us photographs taken fifty years ago in and around Groomsport. In David’s own words “You might recognise a few faces, but they will look a lot younger!”

Our Christmas meeting on 3rd December will be a ticketed event. 100 tickets are available from now- £10 each – and we have invited Trevor Price, a professional magician, to perform his amazing magic show. We are still raising money for the guide dogs, so that we can name a puppy!

This will be our last open meeting for this year. I hope that you will be able to come and enjoy the afternoon.

## *Prayer for Revival*

At 11am every Wednesday a little group of us get together around a map of Northern Ireland to pray for revival - which means for people everywhere to be ‘revived’ spiritually and to be joined to the new life of Christ. We light candles reading promises from Scripture, we reflect through listening to a piece of music, then we have a time of open prayer to pray silently or outloud. Please do join if you love to pray for new life in Northern Ireland.

## *Wednesday in the Word*

Wednesday in the Word is a Bible study group who meet every Wednesday from 3-4pm in the Canon Tyney Hall. Don’t worry if you can’t make it every week - just come when you can. Everyone welcome.

# *Sing for Fun*

Pauline Harrison and Mary Cargill started this group last October. It was originally aimed at people with Dementia and their carers – somewhere to go and spend some time listening to music and joining in with the songs. We have typed out the words of lots of well – known popular songs, sometimes to a certain theme – wartime; romance and of course Irish and Scottish music. We decided to ask everyone to come along to swell the numbers, and after Pauline’s delicious scones and a cup of tea, everyone is obviously very pleased and ready to join in. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, October to June in the Maxwell Hall at 2 pm. It usually lasts for 45 minutes and we have obtained the services of instrumentalists who are happy to be a part of the venture. It is a community event, free of charge, although we do leave out a basket for voluntary donations. Our volunteers are Pat Stewart; Bert Smith; Elliot Swattridge and of course Pauline and Mary. We hope to add to our volunteer musicians as we have been approached by some instrumentalists who have offered their services.

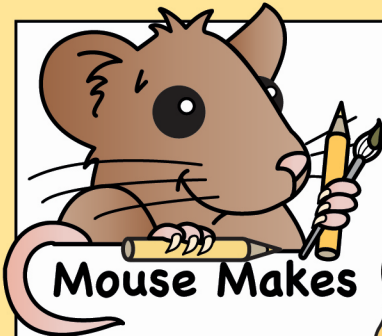
## **All Souls**

**SAT 2 NOV 7:30PM**

**Remembering with love the faithful departed**



**Including lighting candles for  
loved ones no longer with us**



# Mouse Makes

## WALK WITH THE LORD

"Teach me your way,  
O Lord, that I would  
**walk** in your \_\_\_\_\_."  
*Psalm 86:11*




"For we **walk** by  
\_\_\_\_\_  
not by sight."  
*2 Corinthians 5:7*

"**Walk** in  
\_\_\_\_\_  
as Christ loved us  
and gave himself up for us."  
*Ephesians 5:2*

"**Walk** by the  
\_\_\_\_\_  
"  
*Galatians 5:16*



"**Walk** in  
a manner  
worthy of the  
Lord, fully pleasing  
to him, bearing  
\_\_\_\_\_  
in every good work  
and increasing in  
the knowledge  
of God"  
*John 8:12*

  
Jesus said:  
"I am the light  
of the world.  
If you

\_\_\_\_\_  
me you won't  
have to **walk**  
in darkness  
because  
you have  
the light  
that leads  
to life."  
*John 8:12*



"\_\_\_\_\_  
is everyone who  
fears the Lord,  
who **walks** in  
his ways."  
*Psalm 128:1*



- GOD • JESUS • LORD • WALK  
WAYS • STEP • FEET • PATH • GO • TEACH • KNOWLEDGE • LIGHT

*Find the words from the questions too!*



# CHRISTMAS PRESENT APPEAL

You can help us spread the joy of Christmas to families whose children would otherwise not receive a gift by donating new, unwrapped toys and gifts.

Please leave your new unwrapped gift, in **The Salvation Army** box in the Vestry corridor from Sunday 3rd November to Sunday 1st December.

Please see flyer in Church porch or Facebook for age ranges and gift ideas





# Walking for Softies

The Softies are all ready for a new season of walks. We meet on the last Saturday of each month at the venue car park at 10am. We walk for around three quarters of an hour then visit a café for coffee and a scone, with lots of chat, putting the world to rights. Our programme for the coming season is shown below.

Those people who don't feel able to complete the walk are welcome to join us just for coffee and chat. If you would be interested in joining us please contact Ian **07968401387** or Zandra **07968401386** for more information.



## WALKS

- 28 September:** Greyabbey , old abbey
- 26 October:** Lagan Towpath, Belfast, towards the Lock Keeper's Inn
- 30 November:** The Commons, Donaghadee
- 25 January:** Balloo Wetlands, Bangor
- 22 February:** Hillsborough Forest and Lake
- 29 March:** Cairn Wood, Craigantlet – the flat walk!
- 26 April:** Coastal path. exact part to be decided
- 31 May:** Hazelbank, The Dancing Trees and Jordanstown, Thee Loughshore walk





# A Wonderful Day

I have led a very fortunate life, for which I am profoundly thankful. I served the king of Aram, commanding his army and trusted by him. I have brought victory to his army and for this he is grateful and appreciative. This affords me many privileges which I can enjoy.

However no-one can experience a totally trouble free life, or so I believe, even one as blessed as mine has been. Despite all my good fortune I have one serious affliction, I have leprosy. No-one has been able to help me and of course it limits me tremendously. I try to be content with the joys that I have but this terrible disease takes its toll on me, inevitably.

On one of our military forays against Israel we captured a young girl who has become a trusted servant to my wife. One day this young woman suggested to my wife that if only I were to go to Samaria there was a prophet there who could cure me! When I heard of this I went to my master and told him what the girl had said. My gracious master immediately said that he would write a letter to the king of Israel to accompany me and send gifts with it in order that I might find healing.

I set out, accompanied by ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of garments, along, of course with the all important letter. The king was certainly doing his best to help me. The letter apparently suggested that the king of Israel could cure me, which did not

please him. He tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me".

Fortunately for me a man called Elisha, a man of God, heard about the king's reaction and sent a message to the king. All this of course I heard later.

Elisha asked the king why he had torn his clothes and asked if he would let me go to him. He wanted me to know that there was a prophet in Israel. I was sent to Elisha at his home. But Elisha just sent a messenger to tell me to go and wash in the Jordan river - seven times! He said that this would cure me. That was not what I expected at all. I think, looking back on it I had become too used to the privileges that I enjoyed at home. I thought that at least Elisha would come out to me and call on the name of the Lord and wave his hands over me and cure me. Surely our rivers in Damascus, the Alana and the Pharpar are better than any river in Israel? I said this aloud but my servants in this instance seemed wiser than me, they pleaded with me. I hadn't been asked to do anything difficult, merely wash myself, they reasoned. I had to admit that their arguments made sense and I realised that I had let pride get the better of me.

So, not without some misgivings, I went to the Jordan and did as I had been

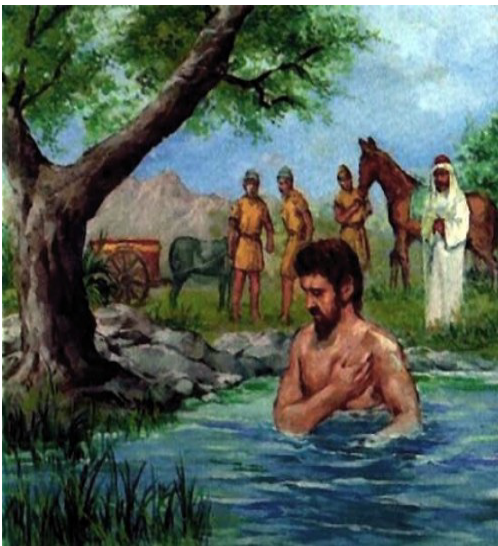
# Bereavement Support Group

ordered and to my utter delight, astonishment and gratitude I was completely healed. My pride was at an end, I was utterly humbled by this man of God and his simple advice. I returned to him with a new attitude and I made clear my feelings. I told him that I now knew and believed that there was no God in all the earth except the God of Israel. Then I begged him to accept the gifts that I had brought but he would take nothing. Instead I asked if he would kindly let me take two mule-loads of earth to help me worship the God of that land, when I returned home.

My life was transformed, if I felt blessed before I certainly was now, and worshipping the one true god rather than Rimmon, whom my master the king of Aram worships, feels right and true. I am truly a happy and blessed man.

This story appears in 2 Kings, Chapter 5.

*Carol*



Hi, everyone , due to lack of response to our team, I have decided not to start again this year. However I feel very strongly that there are many of us that struggle with grief. To this end, I'm leaving my number with you all. From my work with the Bereavement work with the Belfast Trust, people find it alot easier to talk about their feelings anonymously to someone who is not judging or emotionally involved . So if anyone feels a chat on the phone with no personal information would help, please feel free to ring 07976 239896.

Regards

*Muriel Cairns*

*If anyone would ever like to chat to Elliot about anything at all, please feel free to ring anytime - 07957 724965 - and if he can't pick up immediately, just leave a message (or text) and he will get back to you. Elliot is always happy to chat or to meet up or visit so please don't hesitate to ask!*



# Clubs, Activities and Midweek Services

## Monday

Every week	<b>Groomsport Art Club</b>	1:30 pm	Contact Elaine 07791 569432
First Monday in the month	<b>Select Vestry meeting</b>	7:30 pm	Contact Heather 07834 771075
Third Monday in the month	<b>Mothers' Union</b>	7:30 pm	Contact Sally 07939 448402

## Tuesday

First Tuesday in the month	<b>The Tuesday Club</b>	2 pm	Contact Mary 07359 373770
Second Tuesday in the month	<b>Sing for Fun</b>	2 pm	Contact Mary 07359 373770 or Pauline 07745 191808
Every Tuesday	<b>Compline</b>	7 pm (in church)	Contact Elliot 07957 724965

## Wednesday

Every Wednesday	<b>Mojo Club</b>	9:30 am	Contact Elaine 07791 569432
Every Wednesday	<b>Prayer for Revival</b>	11 am (in church)	Contact Elliot 07957 724965
Every Wednesday	<b>Scrabble Club</b>	2 pm	Contact Elaine 07791 569432
Every Wednesday	<b>Wednesday in the Word - Bible Study</b>	3 pm	Contact Elliot 07957 724965
Every Wednesday	<b>Silver Spurs Line Dancing Club</b>	8 pm	Contact Gillian 07968 225619

# Clubs, Activities and Midweek Services

## Thursday

Every Thursday	<b>Holy Communion</b>	11 am (in Church)	Contact Elliot 07957 724965
First and Third Thursday in the month	<b>Soup and Scones</b>	11 am	Contact Pauline 07745 191808
Every Thursday	<b>Jubilate Singers</b>	2 pm (in Church)	Contact Maurice 07752 569999
Every Thursday	<b>Chess Club</b>	7:30 pm	Contact Brendan 07871 037506

## Friday

Every Friday	<b>Harbour Tots</b>	10 am	Contact Elliot 07957 724965
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## Saturday

Last Saturday in the month	<b>Walking for Softies</b>	10 am	Contact Ian 07968 401387 for details of location
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## Sunday

Every Sunday	<b>Sunday Fun Club</b>	9:30 am	Contact Elliot 07957 724965
Fortnightly	<b>Autumn Youth Nights</b>	Contact Elliot	Contact Elliot 07957 724965








GROOMSPORT PARISH CHURCH

Youth Fellowship



INVITES YOU TO  
**AUTUMN  
YOUTH  
SUNDAYS  
2024**

DATE	TIME	WHAT?	WHERE?
8 SEPT	7:30-8:30pm	<b>Photo Safari</b> Themed photo competition!	Maxwell Halls 30 Main St, BT19 6JR
22 SEPT	3-4pm	<b>Laserquest Team Battle</b>	Trigger Happy Activity Centre, BT4 1JB
6 OCT	7:30-8:30pm	<b>Rocket Making</b> Using fizzy tablets & film canisters! 	Maxwell Halls
20 OCT	7:30-8:30pm	<b>Pumpkin Carving</b> Pumpkins provided! 	Maxwell Halls
3 NOV	7:30-8:30pm	<b>Mario Kart Wii Grand Prix</b> Team Tournament 	Maxwell Halls
17 NOV	7:30-8:30pm	<b>Bake off</b> Pizza design & Cake decorate 	Maxwell Halls
1 DEC	3:30-5pm	<b>Ice Skating</b> Get your skates on! 	Dundonald Icebowl, BT16 1XT
15 DEC	7:30-8:30pm	<b>Christmas Special</b> Music Quiz + Extreme Secret Santa 	Maxwell Halls

ALL FREE OF CHARGE, & OPEN TO AGE 11-18 OF **ALL** BACKGROUNDS

*We love seeing new people so spread the word, and they can bring friends!  
Just ask Elliot if you know any young people who might be interested.*