

CONTACT

Summer 2010

Hi, hello, how are you? Let's be friends!

I know that most of you reading this have been living in Whitehead for quite a while but maybe some of you have only just come here for a visit or maybe you have just moved to live here. By the way, if that sounds like you, then let me welcome you to Whitehead, I hope you do make some real friends here.

I remember when I moved away from home to live in college, and again when June and I got married and moved to Carrickfergus, my biggest worry was making friends. There is a necessary vulnerability in making friends. Perhaps only the very arrogant or self-confident are entirely able to avoid the lingering fear that perhaps other people will not like us and won't want to be friends. 21st century culture is very much the culture of the private individual – we are frequently in retreat from intimacy.

New communication technology like email, internet, texting and online social-networking means that we can fairly easily present a picture of ourselves which is meant to impress others so that they will want to be our friends. Of course, part of that means successfully concealing less attractive aspects of our character. In the real world people often do pretty much the same kind of thing. We hide our real selves behind a fantasy, a carefully constructed image that protects us from the pain of rejection and condemnation. Even here in the church we are prone to such behaviour. We fear how we might be treated if other people in church knew what we were really like, so we go to great lengths to make sure that no one finds out, hiding our problems, our weaknesses and even our pain.

This is a serious problem. Not just for we who are already part of the church, but also for anyone with an interest in joining the church. You see, if we are all pretending to be more perfect than we really are, even just out of habit, it will certainly be more difficult for our church fellowship to be as profound and as prophetic as Christ intended. At the same time, a church which is full of apparently perfect, even intimidatingly perfect people, will be hugely unattractive and off-putting for new friends who want to meet Jesus for the first time. The role of the church in evangelism is to be winsome in the humble way we carry the evidence of Christ's forgiveness and our need for it.

As you know, the vision for our church is that Whitehead Presbyterian Church should be a place for everyone. On the signs outside our church we declare to every man or woman or child or teenager walking past that Whitehead Presbyterian Church is "**A PLACE FOR YOU**". That means acceptance. That means allowing differences and permitting imperfections. That means refusing to add any other rules to the simplicity of the gospel that might make someone feel excluded or unwelcome. That means that even if someone is only beginning to explore what it might mean to have faith in Jesus Christ, that this is a place where they can **BELONG**. That means that we will teach them so that they might come to **BELIEVE** in Christ for themselves and it means that we will help anyone who wants to grow to **BECOME** a disciple, more and more like Christ himself.

As we look forward to the summer break, and many of you will be away from home for holidays and weekends away, please know that we will miss you when you are away, but we will keep a place for you until you return and we will be praying for you while you are away. Can I ask you also to pray for us while you are away, and even while you are at home? I know that so many you have prayed and do pray so faithfully for me and for all of us in the manse as well as our Kirk Session and our committee, especially in these recent weeks and I want to thank you for that but please don't stop over these next months. These are important days for us as a congregation and there are important issues for us to consider next year. But there is no more important issue for your prayers than your neighbours and your friends and how much more we can do to show the love of Christ for our friends in Whitehead.

As we approach the summertime again and we look forward to meeting together around the Lord's Table on the 6th of June, let me invite you to pray for the Holiday Bible Club and The Street in August and the Children's Day service on the 13th of June and the meal together after the morning service that Sunday. Let us make these weeks a time of devotion and trust as we open our eyes to see what wonderful new thing our God will do here.

God Bless.

Ian

News from Godzone and Hizkidz

Earlier this year we raised funds for the annual Sunday Schools Project which this is called Missing Peace. It focuses on reconciliation work in Nepal, and on a new Centre for Youth Ministry being developed in Belfast by Belfast Bible College and Youth Link. We focused our attention on the Nepal project, and a final amount of £331 was raised. Our thanks go to everyone who contributed to that total.

Coming up on Sunday 13th June it will be our Children's Day service and prize giving, so we are looking forward to ending our year on a high at that. The service will be followed by a congregational meal in the main hall, to which everyone is warmly invited... there will be more details nearer the time.

Prizes will be book tokens from the Faith Mission Bookshop, and once again they will be providing a bookstall in the halls where prize-winners can come and select their prizes. This will be on the evening of Monday 21st June.

Over the summer, Children's Church will be available for the younger children each Sunday until we resume again in September. So, as we come to the end of another year, I'd like to close by thanking the leaders and helpers who have worked so hard through the year, and also the children who have encouraged us with their smiles, their questions, and with their growing faith.

Thank you and God bless.

ALLAN GRIER

2ND WHITEHEAD BROWNIES



Another Brownie year is over and how time flies when you're having fun!

The 2009 / 2010 Brownie Session has been a time of learning, laughter and new friendships. This year saw our numbers increase to 35 Brownies, drawing girls from the wider community and from five different schools. Integration at its best!

We have also been blessed with the invaluable time and energies of three youth helpers this year. Rebecca, Kathy and Scott have cheerfully volunteered their time and energy each week, and are firm favourites with the girls. A big thank you to them all!

Our activities have been many and varied this year, with the Brownies working towards various badges and personal aims. We have created some beautiful craft and art work, written stories and poems, produced an entertainment show and have looked at aspects of other cultures and languages. One of our favourite activities was creating a Dream Catcher and exploring Native American culture and beliefs, a project the Brownies worked on for three weeks.

We celebrated Halloween by dipping apples into chocolate; a real success judging by how much

was eaten! In December we had an outing to Carrickfergus to watch "Jack and the Beanstalk", a local community pantomime. We also made snow globes and cards as presents, and celebrated with a party - lots of noise and treats! For Mother's Day we made heart key rings and illustrated cards to give as gifts to all those special mums. And, finally, for Easter, we made rainbow lambs, chicks and eggs, and also traditional Easter cards.

During the winter we held a pyjama party (hot chocolate, hot water bottles and teddies) and we enjoyed a sausage sizzle BBQ once spring arrived. As you will have noticed, season watching is an important Brownie pastime!

On Sunday 9th May 2010 we attended our annual Closing Service at Whitehead Presbyterian Church. This is always a special Rainbow, Brownie and Guide occasion; an opportunity to reflect on the year past and the new Brownie year to come. Thank you Rev Carton for another lovely service.

Thursday 13th May 2010 will mark our last Brownie meeting of this year. We are having a "Pool Party" at Larne Leisure Centre, followed by a "Farewell Picnic" where we will say goodbye to our older Brownies who will now leave us to go onto Guides. Kirsty, Emma, Eve, Caitlin, Abby and Courtney, it has been a pleasure to have you in our unit, we will miss you!

Brownies is part of a wonderful organisation (Girl Guiding) where girls can meet, play, and make new friends, learn new skills and develop a real sense of their own worth, both as an individual and as part of our wider world. Thank you so much to all those who help facilitate this. To our helpers and volunteers, to our friends and advisors in Whitehead Presbyterian Church and to the families of each and every Brownie who support and encourage us throughout the year; thank you. Most of all, though, thank you to our Brownies, you are special and unique and you always "Do Your Best".

SHARON SHIEL
BROWNIE GUIDER
2nd WHITEHEAD BROWNIES

1ST WHITEHEAD RAINBOWS



Rainbows continue to be well supported with almost full attendance by the girls each week. The girls have enjoyed a varied programme from a healthy eating quiz / taster evening to celebrating Chinese New Year with tiger masks and making cards and decorating clay hearts for Mother's Day. As usual we have had our share of parties with an Easter party and a beach party (within the safe confines of the church halls) scheduled as our last meeting on 13th May.

One of the highlights of the year was a visit from a friendly community policeman complete with motorbike. After a short talk from Davy, the Rainbows had great fun clambering on to the bike and posing for photos on it.

Remember, if you or anybody you know would like to help out with Rainbows either on a regular basis, or simply to come one evening and share an interest or talent with the girls please get in touch.

PATRICIA WAIT
RAINBOW GUIDER

THE LEAGUE OF CHURCH LOYALTY

Our annual prize-giving for regular church attendance was held on Sunday 21st March 2010 during the morning Family Service. It was great to see so many of our young people receiving awards in recognition of their attendance at church, especially in an age where many young people are not interested in church. The League of Church Loyalty is another great way of encouraging church attendance among young people and I am pleased to report that new children came forward for a card just after our prize-giving. What a privilege it is to serve as secretary to this wonderful church organisation in this church!

With the help of our Minister, Rev Ian Carton, prizes for church attendance were handed over to the following -

CONSOLATION (40 Sundays or less) – Amy Armstrong, Susan Higginson, Courtney McIlree, Jordon McIlree, Jake McBride, Cole McBride, Regan Hyndman, Sophie Clarke, Jennifer Hood, Sam McBride, Scott McBride, Logan Gourley, Lana Gourley, Emma Topping, Caitlan Carlisle and Jessica Carlisle.

4TH PRIZE (41-46 Sundays attended) – Louis Bennett, Judy Bennett, Reuben Bennett, Ellen McCarlie, Jenna McCarlie and Niamh Wait.

2ND PRIZE (49-50 Sundays attended) – Emma Grier, Sophie Grier, David Stewart, Philip Stewart, Kirsty Love, Scott Love, Thomas Hermin and Rebekah Hermin.

As you can see from above, this was an excellent achievement and they are all to be congratulated. A BIG WELL DONE!! I would also encourage anyone who does not have a card and would like one to speak to me and I will arrange a card for you. If you intend to attend another church during the year, including the summer, I would ask you to remember to take your card with you, if possible.

My warmest thanks to all the parents and friends who continue to support me throughout the year and I look forward to 2010 being another great year for The League of Church Loyalty!

WARREN HEGGAN

1ST WHITEHEAD BOYS' BRIGADE

COMPANY SECTION



As another Boys' Brigade year draws to a close the Company Section has taken advantage of the dry weather and held its last few Monday meetings outside at the Whitehead Recreation Grounds. The boys have enjoyed playing intra company football – even playing in very poor light as the evening draws in!

During the Easter break, Mr Teggert took a group of the 4th year boys on their Stage 3 Adventure Walk. This involved an 8-mile walk around Woodburn Forest during which the boys had to cook a hot meal. Working in 3 groups they prepared and ate: chicken curry; sausages and beans; and egg and bacon. I am pleased to report that none of those taking part suffered from any ill effects and all continue to enjoy good health! This means that the 4th year boys have almost completed the work they need to be awarded their President's Badges. Due to a clash of dates, some of them were unable to attend the East Antrim Battalion's Leadership Course, an essential part of the President's Badge completion, and so they will have to wait until the new session to complete and be presented their badges. We hope that they will be finished in time to do this at our Enrolment Service in the autumn.

In May our Chaplain, Rev. Carton, conducted our Annual Closing Bible Class during which he challenged us all not to judge things solely by their outward appearance but rather to look on the inside and consider our spiritual rather than physical attributes. This was a fitting end to our BB year and it also provided us with a platform to present the various prizes and awards. The prize-winners for 2009/10 were as follows:

95-99% Attendance, missing just one of our weekly meetings between October and March: **L/Cpl. Jason Molloy; L/Cpl. Matthew Stewart; L/Cpl. Connor Watson; Pte. Alex Campbell; Pte. Kealan Gilpin; Pte. Stuart McFall; Pte. Connor White; Pte. Edward Whyte.**

100% Attendance: **Pte. Jonathan Crooks; Pte. Richard Hood; Pte. Benjamin Hunter; Pte. David Stewart; Pte. Adam White.**

During the year we mark members on turnout, assessing everything from badges to ties as well as socks and shoes. We have 2 categories of Efficiency Prizes based on age and this year's competition was very keenly contested with the overall winner, Richard Hood, just dropping 1 mark throughout the year.

Junior Efficiency Award: 1st **Pte. David Stewart;** 2nd **Pte. Jonathan Crooks ;** 3rd **Pte. Benjamin Hunter.**

Senior Efficiency Award: 1st **Pte. Richard Hood;** 2nd **Pte. Adam White;** 3rd **L/Cpl. Matthew Stewart.**

Pte. Richard Hood was presented with The McFarlane Cup, for the fourth consecutive year, as the overall winner of the efficiency competition.

The boys are organised into 3 squads and the efficiency marks are averaged over the squad members to produce an overall winner. This was also keenly contested with the winners being Number 3 Squad under the guidance of **L/Cpl. Matthew Stewart.** Other members of the winning squad were: **Pte. Alex Campbell; Pte. Elliot English; Pte. Richard Hood** and **Pte. David Stewart.**

Our late President, Mr Jack Hamilton, gave us a trophy to be presented each year at the Officers' discretion. We decided to use this to recognise one young man who has made a significant contribution to the successful running of the work of the Company. This was presented to **Pte. Jonathan Crooks** who has given up his own time every Monday to help with the Junior Section. He has taken badge classes, taken the games and also provided leadership and good example to the

boys in the Junior Section.

Although small in number we have a strong and very loyal core of young men in the Company Section and this is reflected in how many of our 17 members won a prize! Congratulations go to all of our members and, as we look forward to a well-deserved break, planning for our next session has already begun...

JOHN HOOD

NEWS FROM OPEN DOORS UK AND IRELAND

OpenDoors

Serving persecuted Christians worldwide

We've just come through a hectic few weeks at the Open Doors office. On 23-25 April we held our Ireland Conference at Glenada House in Newcastle. We were honoured to have Johan and Anneke Companjen as our guest speakers. Johan was the first person to work alongside Brother Andrew, smuggling bibles into Communist Eastern Europe with him in the 1960s. It was an honour to meet this "elder statesman" of the organization.

Then the following weekend we had "Call to Action", an event in St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast. This was a unique occasion, the first time that the three main UK organizations working on behalf of the persecuted church – Open Doors, Release International and Christian Solidarity Worldwide - had worked together on a project. As Trade Union members gathered outside for their May Day parade, waving colourful banners and flags, inside people were visiting a variety of stands focusing on different parts of the world, and taking time to pray for their persecuted brothers and sisters.

Finally, on 3rd May over 50 friends and supporters gathered at the start line of the Belfast City Marathon to raise money through sponsored runs or walks for Open Doors. I limited myself to the 9 mile walk, and a big thank you to those people who sponsored me.

Don't forget, you can always find copies of the latest issue of Open Doors Magazine in the display racks at the entrance to the church and on the table at the entrance to the Halls. Please feel free to take one.
God bless.

ALLAN GRIER

The Tuesday Afternoon Club started on 2nd February, delayed due to the bad weather, and ran every week until 7th of April. We chose to run it on a weekly basis because our aim is to provide a meeting point where a variety of social activities take place; to meet the need of loneliness within our community. Transport was provided for those who requested it.

From its start we saw about thirty different faces who came to give things a try. We had a core group of around fourteen who attended as often as they were able. The group is open to anyone who wishes to come and we even had two people from outside Whitehead. I carried out a questionnaire towards the end to inquire if what we were doing was "hitting the spot" and the replies were most enthusiastic.

The most popular day was the "Daffodil Tea Dance", with card making and "call my bluff" coming as second and third. From quizzes, to reminiscence, Beetle Drive, music and movement and Sing-a-longs, we had something for everyone. That's what was so enjoyable for me; the determination of this group of people to take part and enjoy their afternoon lifted my spirits.

Many of the group re-found friends that they hadn't seen for years. Some said that it got them away from the television and one person, who is at home caring for her husband, said "it is a real life-line for me".

It was actually quite difficult to get the meeting to a close by 3.30 p.m. as people felt "the time went so quickly"!

We have great plans for the restart on the 5th October (God willing). My sincere thanks to Lyn (otherwise known as "queen of the lemon cake"), Pat, Lorna, Marie, June, Dorothy, John and Alec for their willing, talented help. Thanks to those who have offered assistance in the future. I will be contacting you!

If you are interested in joining us, please consider yourself invited!

SANDRA THOMPSON

1ST WHITEHEAD GUIDES



On Tuesday 25th we went to Carrickfergus cinema to see the latest Walt Disney film, Prince of Persia, and then on to McDonalds for something to eat. This was to be Katie McKendrick's and Bronagh Stewart's last night at Guides. Bronagh has been in

the unit for 5 years and Katie for 4. Both girls have completed several badges in their time at the unit and will be missed by the rest of the guides and the leaders.

Before we finished the Guides sent out invitations to the Brownies who will be moving on to Guides in September. Most of the evening was spent making peppermint creams, although we were able to fit in a game of Sammy Sweetie at the end. The girls enjoyed the evening and are looking forward to coming to the unit in September.

Corienne Nelson—Guide Guider.



At our March meeting the speaker was Julie Rea of the Simon Community. She told us that there are currently over 18,000 homeless people in Northern Ireland and explained the reasons for their homelessness. She also spoke of the problems faced in attempting to accommodate these people.

The annual PW service was held on Sunday, 6 March. We were pleased to welcome Rev Karen Campbell of 1st Islandmagee Presbyterian Church as the speaker at this service.

We wish to thank everyone who supported the Presbyterian Women's Group in various ways during our 100th anniversary year—especially by contributing to the Harvest Appeal, buying quiz sheets and attending our afternoon tea and sale on the day of the Whitehead Victorian Fair.

Our activities will recommence in October.

JENITHA ORR

NEW COMMUNICANT MEMBERS

It was a great pleasure to welcome four young people into full membership of our church at the Palm Sunday celebration of The Lord's Supper on 28 March.

We wish Shea Carrasco-Booth, Jack Carton, Helena Howie and Michael Sloan God's richest blessings as they travel on their Christian journey.

In the game of life, there are two kinds of people - those who do the work and those who take the credit - be in the first group - there's less competition.