

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

We welcome Rev Terry Lavery to lead us in worship this Sunday morning. We have met Rev Lavery a few times recently and we warmly welcome him back while Cecil preaches in Raloo & Magheramorene.

Please join us either in person at church or at home online.  
Church doors open from 10.30am.



**Kids Crew meets on Sunday Mornings  
at 11am in the War Memorial Hall**



## **Interested in Audio Visual?**

We'd love it if you could help out with screens and/or the cameras on Sunday mornings.

If you'd like to find out more, please contact Emily 07593 557201. Thank you.

## Online Meetings this week

**YF**

**Sunday 25th**

**Session**

**Tuesday 27th**

Organisation Accounts for 2020 have been approved and returned by the accountant. They are ready for collection from the church office. Could Leaders/Treasurers of each organisation please contact Rosalind to arrange a time to collect. Thank you.

'I lift up my eyes to the mountains - where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.



I have been going to GB since I was three and I've made some very special friends. Every week I had so much fun with them. I enjoyed the hot drinks during Bible study and having people I could go to chat with about my week or if something was worrying me. Looking back on it now I really appreciate the time the leaders gave up every Friday night for us and I'm thankful for the efforts they have went to to make GB enjoyable through zoom in my last year. Anna



After 14 years as GB girls, on Friday we said goodbye to Anna O'Gara and Bethany Keaveney.

Both girls joined GB aged 3 and have been faithful members of our company.

It was a pleasure to be able to present Anna and Bethany with their Brigader Brooches and certificates, along with a Bible donated by Connie Millar in memory of her mother, our company's founding captain, Mrs Evelyn Millar.

Congratulations to you both!

I have been in North Street GB since I was 4 years old. I have had a lot of leaders that have given up their time to teach me about Christianity, to take us for sports (all the way to the NI Finals!) and show us what it means to Seek, Serve and Follow Christ I have really valued the time leaders spent chatting with us over tea/hot chocolate and always being there to listen to our struggles and issues.

GB has given me so many friends and a lot of fantastic memories. From being overly competitive with the squad cup to trying to learn display items I've spent so many Friday nights laughing and learning with friends I will have for the rest of my life.

In GB you can spend a lot of time with people your own age but you also get opportunities to know girls younger and older than you, which made GB a comfortable and relaxing place for me to go every Friday night.

It will be so strange not being a Company girl anymore but I am so grateful for the time I've spent in North Street GB



Bethany Keaveney

## Sunday 25 April

**Moderator** | *Pray for the Moderator as opportunities to visit congregations may start to open up as Covid-19 regulations gradually relax. Pray for his ongoing ministry of encouragement and pastoral care to all ministers and their congregations.*

**Worshipping God for answered prayer** | *'I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.' Psalm 116:1. Today as we worship in person, online or on our own, give thanks to God for answered prayer and for how he has provided for us throughout our experience of the pandemic.*

## Monday 26 April

**Gary & Mary Reid (global mission workers in Kenya)** | *Pray for Gary and Mary Reid as they continue to work remotely from their home in N Ireland. Pray especially for their youngest son who has been studying online through his school in Kenya for over a year and is having to sit his school exams remotely.*

**India** | *Pray for the work and witness of the Church of North India as it seeks to be an effective witness. Pray too for the Covid-19 situation in India for those in need of medical assistance and for the vaccine roll-out.*

## Tuesday 27 April

**Sonya Anderson (deaconess in Shore Street, Donaghadee)** | *Pray for the congregation, leaders and staff whilst the congregation is vacant. Pray too for the various children, youth and adult groups which have met online over the past year. They are thankful for the online platform, but long to have in-person groups again.*

**Howth & Malahide** | *Pray for this congregation and others in the Republic of Ireland who long to be allowed to hold public, corporate, weekly worship on the Lord's Day. Pray for a deepening grasp of why it is so important.*

## Wednesday 28 April

**Steve & Rosie Kennedy (global mission workers in Romania)** | *Give thanks for new people coming along to the Cluj Christian Fellowship services and pray for the wise nurturing of these new relationships. Pray also for the wider networks that Steve and Rosie have begun to establish and that these will prove fruitful.*

**Spain** | *Pray for Grupos Bíblicos Unidos as they continue to train and encourage Christian students and recent graduates to share their faith with their peers on a daily basis.*

## Thursday 29 April

**David Boyd (Irish mission worker in Dublin)** | *Pray for the International Cafe team planning new online events to get to know, entertain & build relationships with students from overseas. Continue to pray for a woman who is doing Bible studies with David online. Give thanks she is getting a good understanding of the gospel.*

**Inch (Co Donegal)** | *Pray for this small island church as they continue to witness for God to neighbours and friends. Pray for them as they discuss future plans with the Linkage Commission and other local congregations.*

## Friday 30 April

**Social Witness** | *Pray for Department of Health, Health & Social Care Trust & Public Health Agency staff as they work to support and advise care providers during these challenging times. Give thanks for the individuals, agencies and organisations who have worked tirelessly over the past 14 months to provide appropriate information.*

**Schools** | *Give thanks for those who voluntarily serve on school boards of governors and management across the island of Ireland. Pray for great wisdom and discernment as they seek to support principals and staff in making the best decisions for pupils in the midst of Covid-19 restrictions and other stresses.*

## Saturday 1 May

**General Council** | *Pray for the Clerk of the General Assembly as he responds to, and seeks to interpret, the changing regulations as they apply to church life going forward. Pray for wisdom, insight and a sense of unity of purpose as PCI's leadership works with the leaders of the other main denominations.*

**Council for Training in Ministry** | *Third year ministry students are due to have what's known as an "Exit Interview". The student, a member of college staff and a member of presbytery meet to review the student's training. When satisfactorily completed, the student is licensed by presbytery, usually in June. Give thanks for these students and pray for them as they reach the end of their college training.*



He will not let your foot slip - he who watches over you will not slumber;  
indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD watches over you - the LORD is your shade at your right hand;  
the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

# 400TH ANNIVERSARY FOR CARRICKFERGUS CHURCH

The 400th anniversary of First Carrickfergus Presbyterian Church, one of the oldest congregations in the Irish Presbyterian Church, takes place this year.

The First Carrickfergus congregation had planned a number of events for its quadricentennial anniversary but these had to be put on hold due to the pandemic.

However, Presbyterian Moderator, the Rev Dr David Bruce, last month joined the First Carrickfergus congregation for an online Sunday service to mark the milestone.

The Rev Dr Cecil Grant, the congregation's 22nd minister since 1641, said: "400 years ago, life in the province of Ulster and in the town of Carrickfergus was both turbulent and unsettled. The policy of the Ulster-Scots Plantation was still having significant effects with people coming and going from the mainland. And so it was that in 1621 a minister called the Rev John Hubbard, together with some members of his congregation, arrived in Carrickfergus from London.

"They had been forced to leave London because of religious persecution and came to Carrickfergus hoping for a more tolerant environment in which to worship. The arrival of

this group of Protestant dissenters provides the notional date for the beginning of a Presbyterian congregation in Carrickfergus, but it is likely that Presbyterian worship was practised for much longer among army chaplains from Scotland based at the town's castle."

Carrickfergus has a rich history. It was there that King William III arrived with his army in June 1690 before making his way to the Battle of the Boyne. The seventh President of the United States, Andrew Jackson, had direct family connections to Carrickfergus - his parents Andrew and Elizabeth Jackson emigrated from the town to America in 1765. Carrick's history as an inhabited town began during the Norman invasion of Ulster in around 1177, when Anglo-Norman knight John de Courcy arrived in the area after invading Ulster with his army, in an attempt to gain his own earldom. De Courcy built the castle.

First Carrickfergus Presbyterian congregation has been based at North Street since 1829 and over the next 150 years the

Presbyterian family in the town had grown to an extent that an additional three churches opened. The second was established by First Carrick at Joymount in 1851, with a further two congregations following, Woodlands, formed in 1977, and most recently Downshire, which was established through the initiative of Joymount church in 1985.

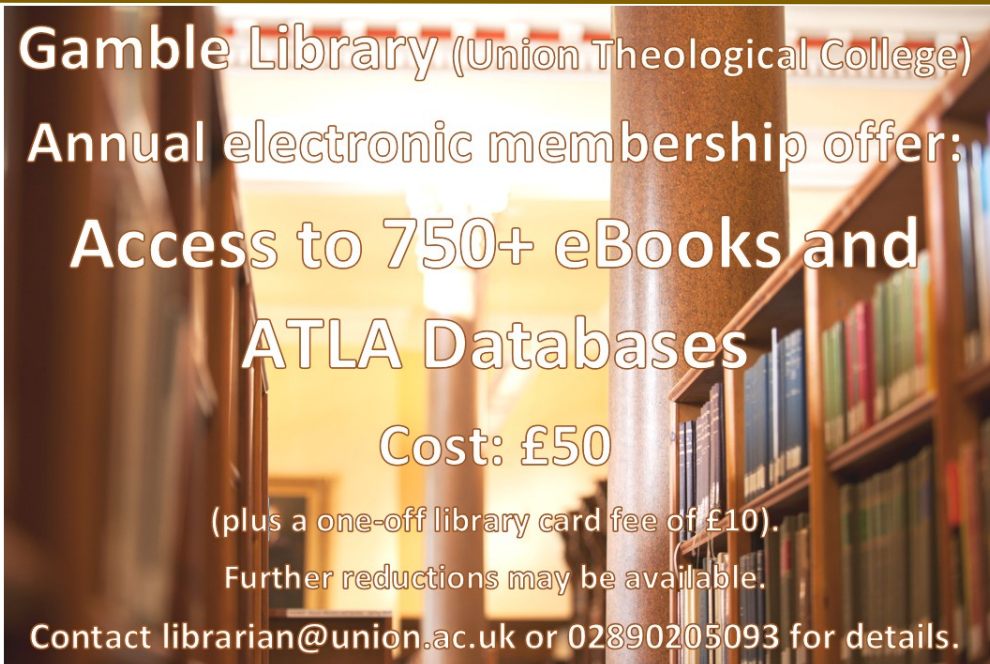
Dr Grant said: "At different times, First Carrickfergus congregation has considered moving from the centre of the town, but on each occasion the feeling has been that we have been placed where we are to be a witness at the heart of the community, and, Lord willing, that's what we will continue to be.

"When the time is right, and things are more normal and safe to do so, we will be able to celebrate our 400th birthday properly; giving thanks for God's faithfulness over the centuries.

"It may be that we will be celebrating our 400-plus-one anniversary in 2022, but we can wait."

Dr Grant said First Carrickfergus congregation co-operates in a body called 'Mission Carrick' which brings many Christians together at different times for worship and witness."

Article in the Newsletter printed on 10th April 2021



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The LORD will keep you from all harm - he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.'

Psalm 121

# Covid Guidance

There are procedures to follow when you come into the halls please.

- Wear a mask
- Sanitise your hands
- Sign the Track & Trace book
- Observe the social distancing rule



## Have you been advised to self-isolate?

Then you must! If you are an active volunteer within our church, let your leader know that you can't carry out your duties for the next fortnight due to self-isolation.

## Are you showing symptoms of Covid?

Stay at home and arrange a test. Please do not come into the church building until you're clear to do so.



At our Morning Services, the usual Covid precautions will apply:

- Your attendance will be logged by our Welcome Team
- Wear a mask at all times
- Sanitise your hands
- Keep your distance
- Announcements delivered to you as they are now, until further notice

### Welcome Team for May:

*Graham Hart (Leader)*

*Matthew Hart*

*Arthur Connor*

*Carol Carson*

*Margaret Bowers*

*Leslie Oliver*



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