



**A happy group from Christchurch enjoying a day out to Ballymena**

**Stewardship** If you would like church Envelopes and/or a Gift Aid Declaration you may request them today. Please see Ester or Jonathan. It is worthwhile noting that the Envelope Scheme, which is confidential, is a great blessing to the church as it helps us identify our membership, encourages believers to give regularly and responsibly. This is your opportunity to bless and further the work of God in this place, as we endeavour to be a blessing, not only in Carrickfergus but in other parts of the world.

**Marriage**

Steven Stanley Carson  
to Nicola Jane Neill.  
Samuel Kinnon  
to Gemma Margaret Haggan.  
Jonathan Hoad  
to Charlene McGookin.



Joyce Hyslop,  
missionary to Nigeria  
and her mother Mrs  
Ethel Mitchell with  
Pastor Sam Grant  
pictured during her  
annual visit to  
Christchurch. Ethel has  
paid many visits to  
Christchurch and each  
time she visits she  
delights the  
congregation as she  
recalls the goodness  
and faithfulness of God  
to her.

**Baptisms**

Joan Weir  
Ann Holmes  
Derek Weir  
Carl Rivers.  
Then they that gladly  
received the word were  
baptised... Acts 2 39

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Pastor Bill Dunn  
with Pastor Sam  
Grant at the 35th  
Anniversary  
services. Pastor  
Bill has blessed  
us through his  
ministry of song  
and preaching.  
His new CD is  
now in the shops.



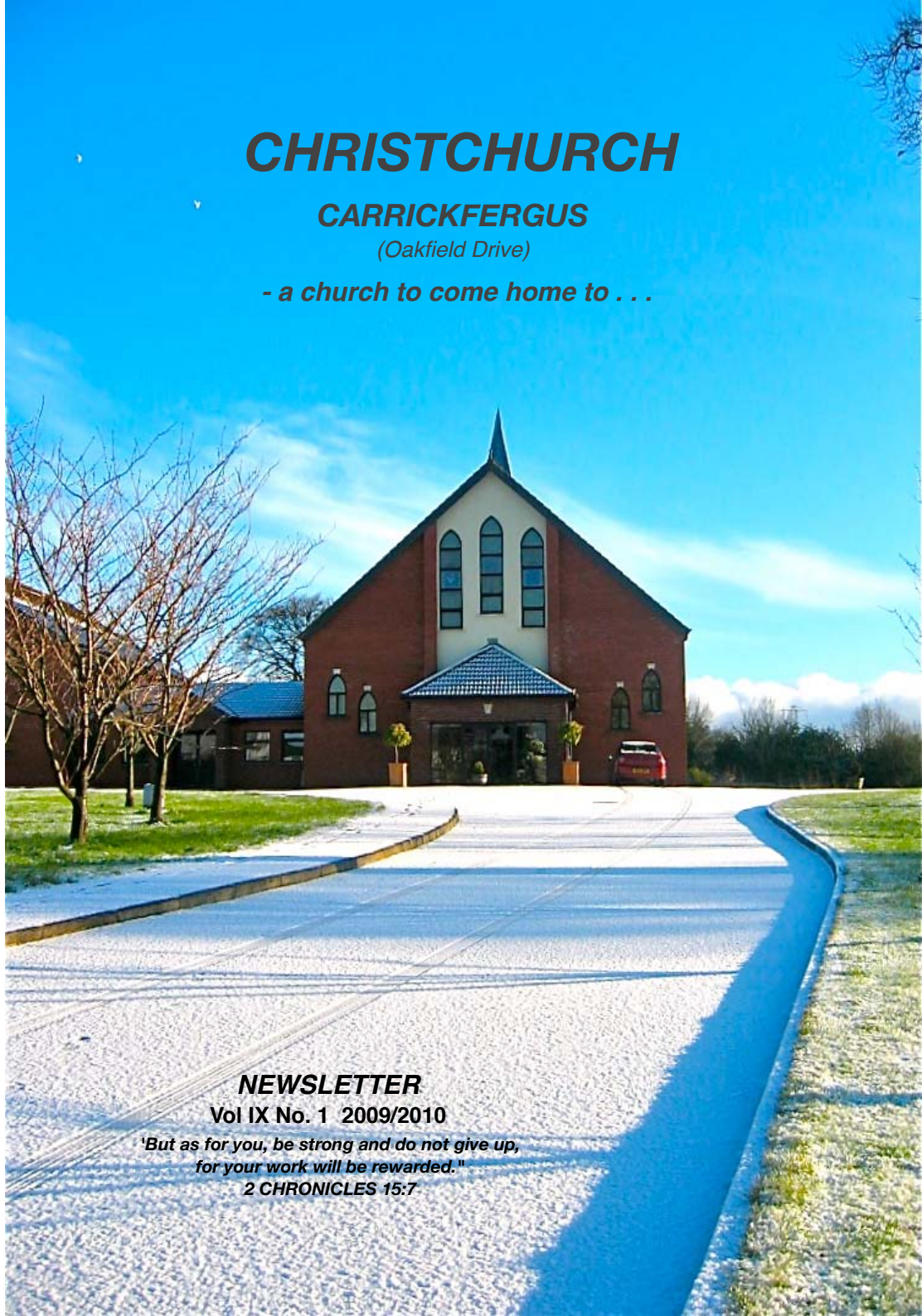
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# CHRISTCHURCH

## CARRICKFERGUS

(Oakfield Drive)

- a church to come home to . . .



**NEWSLETTER**

Vol IX No. 1 2009/2010

*'But as for you, be strong and do not give up,  
for your work will be rewarded.'*

2 CHRONICLES 15:7



*from the pastor's desk...*

This Special Edition of the Christchurch Newsletter covers the period Jan 2009 - March 2010.

**The past year** has indeed been an eventful one for our congregation. A year for marriages, anniversaries, the dedication of children, together with baptisms with many new visitors at the church and much being achieved on the mission field. However, all this has been mixed with much sadness due to a number of deaths in our families, many of which were long-standing church members. At the beginning of this newsletter I wish to convey my heartfelt sympathy to all who are in bereavement and pray that God will comfort you in your time of need.

**Mission Carrick:** Mission Carrick was with us during Holy Week for three nights and we had a wonderful time of fellowship. In February I reached the great age of sixty five and what better way to mark the occasion than to have the churches at Christchurch. Our building was packed out for the three nights. The highlight being the night of Communion when we all came to the Lord's Table and I considered it a very great honour to officiate on that occasion.

**We also celebrated** our church's 35th anniversary on the last Sunday in September. An historic occasion and Pastor Bill Dunn was our special guest. Bill sang and ministered and we enjoyed him very much and since then he has returned to preach. A number of other activities were arranged for the anniversary: Our Men's Fellowship went to Dublin during August and September. The first trip being so successful that a second was arranged. Further trips are being planned. A church excursion was arranged by Nicola Porter to Ballymena. The first trip was so successful that we returned for another with dinner at the Ross Park Hotel on both occasions. Thanks to Nicola for her hard work on our behalf. The photographs taken during these events can be viewed on the church website (see below) and on my Flickr gallery.

**Web Development:** We have been blessed by the expertise of Jonathan Grant in our website which provides information about our church, our missionary activities etc etc. In addition our Newsletter Archive, going back to 1998, has returned and you may search this valuable resource for people and events at Christchurch in that period. Podcasts are also available for you to download and enjoy.

**As part of our church Outreach** the whole area was circulated with invitations: to the Church, Sunday Club, Mother's and Toddlers Club etc. Thanks to all who came and assisted in this important work. We must continue to reach out to our neighbours and endeavour to win them for our Lord Jesus.

### *Carrick in Bloom*



*A happy gathering on a beautiful summer evening when we dedicated the floral cart to the Glory of God. Pastor Grant thanked the Borough council for the beautiful display of flowers which we enjoy year after year and said it was a privilege for us to give something back to our community for the benefit of all, residents and visitors alike.*

**Christ is the Answer to your every need! Christchurch - a church to come home to...**

**Powerhouse Prayer Sunday 10.30 am & 6.30 pm.**  
"If we pray in a time of victory we will not need to plead in a time of defeat" Ravenhill

#### **Nazarene Men's Prayer Breakfast**

Pastor was invited to tell his story of how he came into the ministry at the Church of the Nazarene Men's Breakfast. It was a great time of warm fellowship. After telling his story each of the men in turn prayed for Pastor and the Christchurch congregation. How wonderful in days of division and competition in churches that two neighbouring congregations can show so much love the one to the other. Pastor Philip and Pastor Sam have laboured together throughout the troubles and share a happy friendship together.



**Pastor Marie welcomes you to Sunday Night Live 6.30pm**

## A likely Story .....

This happened a while ago in Dublin, and even though it sounds like a Alfred Hitchcock tale. John Bradford, a Dublin University student, was on the side of the road hitch hiking on a very dark night and in the midst of a storm. The night was rolling on and no car went by. The storm was so strong he could hardly see a few feet ahead of him. Suddenly, he saw a car slowly coming towards him and stopped.

John, desperate for shelter and without thinking about it, got into the car and closed the door only to realise there was nobody behind the wheel and the engine wasn't on!! The car started moving slowly. John looked at the road ahead and saw a curve approaching. Scared, he started to pray, begging for his life. Then, just before the car hit the curve, a hand appeared through the window and turned the wheel. John, paralysed with terror, watched as the hand repeatedly came through the window, but never touched or harmed him.

Shortly thereafter John saw the lights of a pub appear down the road so, gathering strength, he jumped out of the car and ran to it. Wet and out of breath, he rushed inside and started telling everybody about the horrible experience he had just had. A silence enveloped the pub when everybody realised he was crying and....wasn't drunk.

Suddenly, the door opened, and two other people walked in from the stormy night. They, like John, were also soaked and out of breath. Looking around, and seeing John Bradford sobbing at the bar, one said to the other.. "Look Paddy...there's that idiot that got in the car while we were pushing it!!!!"  
author unknown

### Mother in a Storm

One summer evening during a violent thunderstorm a mother was tucking her small boy into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he asked with a tremor in his voice, "Mommy, will you sleep with me tonight?" The mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't, Dear," she said, "I have to sleep with your daddy." A long silence was broken at last by his shaky little voice: "The big sissy."  
—Source Unknown

### VETERANS

Pastor officiated at many Veterans services and parades this year: The Royal British Legion and the UDR Regimental Association at Christchurch; The Burma Star Association Remembrance Service at Belfast City Hall; also the Somme Service at the Knockagh and the Remembrance Service at The Carrickfergus War Memorial. It is our prayer that many of our ex-service men and women will find Christ as captain of their Salvation.



### Dedication

Our readers will have observed that we have not published a Newsletter for the past 15 months. We are however, wanting to make this up to you and have published this enlarged pictorial issue. We are dedicating it to all our families who have lost loved ones during this period and we pray that you will know the peace of God in your hearts. You are all in our prayers.

### Dedication of Children

Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not for of such is the kingdom of Heaven"

**Katie Jackson**  
**Chloe Jackson**  
**Eva Amanda Weir**  
**Sophie-Ann Elizabeth Kinnon**  
**Grace Diane Alexandra Mearns**  
**Eric Kenneth Grant**  
**Katie Rachael Shankley**

"Hear O Israel: The Lord our God is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on their children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."  
Deut 4:6-7



Tommy and Carol Beattie have supported us regularly for a number of years through their ministry in song.

Pastor Sam and Pastor Marie wish to convey their gratitude to you all for your many acts of love and kindness to them over the past year. May God abundantly bless you and your families.

We have had many visitors this year from home churches and abroad. Pastor Simon came from Kenya; Pastor Roy Prentice from Ghent and Pastor Johnny Prentice from India. Sister Marie Gnomes from London; Pastors Bill Dunn, Kelvyn Adams, David Calvert from Bangor also Pastors Laurence Edgar and Herbie Bowes from Belfast. Our heartfelt thanks to Pastor John Prentice for his constant encouragement and ministry amongst us.

**Carrick in Bloom:** The dedication of the floral Cart which sits proudly at the gate of Carrickfergus Castle took place in July. This year it was it again sponsored by the people of Christchurch. We held the dedication service outside the Castle at the floral display and what a wonderful evening we had as we sang praise and gave thanks for our Borough. Our prayer is that people passing by the cart will see our wonderful message that Christchurch is proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. Over one hundred photographs were taken of this activity and you may see these on our church website and also "Picasa" on the internet.

**Mothers and Toddlers Club**  
Every Tuesday at 10.00am to 12.00 noon  
Come with your children and enjoy a morning of fellowship with other mothers.

### To the Glory of God

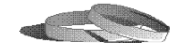
This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of  
**Robert (Bobby) Lynn**  
Always remembered by his loving sister Meta, brother-in-Law Tommy and their family circle.

### SERVICES

Sunday 11.00 am  
Family Service  
& Kidz Sunday Club  
Sunday 6.30 pm  
Sunday Night Live  
YOU will be welcome at Christchurch  
- a church to come home to

### 50th Wedding Anniversary

We congratulate the following who celebrated the 50th Wedding Anniversaries during 2009. May the Lord give you many many years together.



**Thomas & Kay Sinclair**  
**George & Olga Irvine**  
**Raymond and Irene McCartney**



The Christchurch Sunday Club dedicated their offerings to the Shelterbox Appeal for Haiti.

### Down Memory Lane...

This is a view of the inside of our North Road Church prior to our moving to the new and larger premises at Oakfield Drive. We worshipped there for 21 years and what precious place it was. These were good days when we were being prepared for our missionary ventures and the wonderful premises we now worship in. God has more in store something bigger is yet to come and the end is not yet ... Praise the Lord!



**Sunday Club Prizegiving:** Our thanks to our superintendent, Sonya Grant, and to all who made the Sunday Club Prize-giving a real success. It was a happy time of fellowship for the whole church and to see the children so appreciative of their gifts and prizes was simply heartwarming.



A happy group of children at the Sunday Club Prize-giving. The Sunday Club meet each Sunday Morning 11.30 am in the Christchurch Great Hall - some children join with the church at 11.00am.

### Deaths

Elizabeth Craig  
(1934-2008)  
Myrtle Cochrane  
(1939-2008)  
Andrew Lindsay  
(1930-2009)  
Thomas James Anderson  
(1991-2009)  
William George David Yea  
(1949 -2009)  
Lynn Moore  
(1964-2009)  
Stuart Graham Cragg  
(1964-2009)  
Hillary Curtis  
(1948-2009)  
Margaret (Peggy) Hamilton  
(1922-2009)  
Hanna Poole  
(1934-2010)  
May Lindsay  
(1929-2010)  
(Mary Gray  
(1937-2010)  
Carol Webb  
(1944-2010)

*"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."  
We assure our families that they are all in our prayers at this difficult*

### Christchurch Postbag from the Mission Field.

#### Village Elders say "Thank You".

Greeting to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you very much for your letter and photographs received through Mrs Joyce Hyslop.

We want to appreciate you for your gifts of money to help in building churches where there are no church buildings. Stephen Kaura and I (Josiah Dauda) are sincerely happy for another gift ... for another building this year again. Thank you very much.. Our desire is to have it finished before Mrs Hyslop return to U.K. but the road to the village, we are doing this work in, is not easy to move materials like the first two village churches which have been completed. Please join us with your prayers so that we may be able to achieve our goal.  
Your Brothers in the Battlefield.  
Stephen Kaura. Joseph Dauda. Odeni, Nigeria.



*As we go to press the church has been built and the roof put on. We are grateful for all the help which Josiah and Stephen give in the construction of these buildings.*



The Christchurch Choir sing every Sunday evening. Service at 6.30 pm.

Welcome to...

**CHRISTCHURCH Carrickfergus**

Sunday 11.00am & 6.30pm

...a church to come home to





A happy group at Christchurch holding the Cheque for the funds raised for the Shelterbox appeal to help in the aftermath of Haiti Earthquake.



The Christchurch Praise Band: The combined Timbrel band and musicians make up the Christchurch Praise Band which play every week at the services.

**Stop press!** As we go to press our Ladies Meetings have restarted under the leadership of Nicola Porter. The meeting will be held monthly on last Friday in the month at 7.45pm. Why not take this fresh opportunity to invite you family and friends.

## HAITI DISASTER

*Christchurch*

# Shelterbox Appeal

*Church springs into action.. Schools rally behind us...  
Odyssey Arena Staff give their support*



The recent earthquake in Haiti and the resultant loss of life and property has touched the hearts of men and woman around the world. Consequently, the people of Christchurch demonstrated their Christian love by raising a special offering for the Earthquake Appeal. Within a short time the Staff at the Odyssey Arena and the Glengormley and Belfast High Schools joined in and pushed our dream to a successful fulfillment.

Before the special offering day Pastor Sam Grant of Christchurch Carrickfergus and Michael McCune, President of Rotary Carrickfergus, were invited to Glengormley High School and Belfast High School to receive their contribution to the appeal. The pupils and staff at these schools had worked in collaboration to raise funds for the purchase and delivery of Shelterboxes for those people who have lost everything in the earthquake. A Shelterbox will accommodate a family of ten and comes with sleeping bags, a water container, sterilising tablets etc. It even contains drawing books and coloured pencils for children who have lost everything.

This initiative has been set up through Rotary International and these much needed Shelterboxes will be sent to the people of Haiti in the next few days. The contents of each box will help sustain life for ten people for at least one year, and cost £400 each. It was the hope of Pastors Sam and Marie Grant from Christchurch Carrickfergus to raise enough funding through their church to provide emergency accommodation for at least one hundred people. When the Schools and Odyssey Staff joined in, they reported to the church that sufficient funds had been raised to provide accommodation for 200 people, hence doubling the expected amount.



Michael McCune, Pastor Marie and Jake Grant with Senior member Mrs Berta Pedlow examining the Shelterbox for the Haitian earthquake appeal.

***"He that hath pity on the poor  
lendeth to the Lord" Prov 28:27***

The total amount raised from both schools was £3180.00 and this was added to £270.80 that has been raised by Staff at Odyssey Arena, Belfast. Also the special offering at Christchurch raised £5056.26. The total amounting to £8507.06 with further donations to come in.

Through the joint effort of schools, church and staff at the Odyssey the funds raised will provide Shelterbox accommodation and equipment for 210 people.

As part of the appeal Pastor Sam Grant from Christchurch and Mr Michael McCune from the Carrickfergus Rotary Club (also a member of Christchurch) visited both schools on Friday 12th February to receive the cheques from staff and pupils. The Principals of Belfast High School, and Glengormley High School, Mrs L Gormley and Mr A Hayes, were delighted with the efforts made by staff and pupils.

Mr Michael McCune expressed his gratitude to the Schools as did Pastor Sam Grant. Special thanks was given to Mrs Pamela Cosgrove of Belfast High and to Mr David Jackson of Glengormley High who has coordinated the efforts in their respective schools.



Belfast High present their cheque in their morning Assembly.



Mrs L Gormley, Principal of Belfast High School witnesses her happy group of pupils hand over their cheque for Haiti.



Mrs Alice Anderson hands over cheque on behalf of Odyssey Arena.

**Pastor's comment...** What a wonderful day. Michael McCune who is President of Rotary Carrickfergus, went to the schools with myself to receive the funds the young people raised for the Haiti Shelterbox Appeal and what a delightful morning we had. Firstly we were met by David Jackson, from Christchurch, who is a teacher at Glengormley High School and we were introduced to the young people. They have presented us with a cheque for £1430.00! David then took us on to Belfast High School where we received a very warm welcome. Then came the presentation. We were presented with a further cheque for £1500.00! The open handedness of these young people is simply amazing and we wish to record our heartfelt appreciation to them. Well done Glengormley High and Belfast High.



Glengormley High enjoy "Silly Hats Day for Haiti Day". and lunchtime GIG.  
Below: Mr A Hayes, Principal of Glengormley High School sees his pupils hand over their cheque for the Haiti Appeal.

