



NEWSLETTER | 2025

Autumn

GILNAHIRK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Minister: Rev. Stephen Moore [until 15th September]

(Tel 07914253283)

moorestephen@hotmail.com

Vacancy Convener: Rev. Stuart McCrea [from 16th September]

(Tel 07528366668)

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Pastoral & Preaching Support: Rev. Roy Mackay

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Youth & Family Worker: Laura Hutcheson-Magee

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Registered Charity in Northern Ireland: NIC 104474

Thanks to all those who contributed articles and items for this edition. Articles for the Christmas Newsletter should be with the Newsletter Committee or the Church Office Secretary not later than Sunday 2nd November. Items received after 2nd November will not be included until the next issue. **Please observe this deadline.**

The Newsletter Committee:

Judith Morrow (Convener)	Mark Blundell	Thelma Jackson
Margaret Campbell	Brian Campbell	Rachel Toland
Roberta Patterson	Martin Childs	Janet Cooper
Geraldine Whyte	Kay Price	

Dear friends,

It is with very mixed emotions that I share this final letter with you as the minister of Gilnahirk Presbyterian Church. Having been installed in my mid 40s on 20th June 2006, I will now enter into retirement on 15th September 2025 as a much older and wiser (although I know some who would question the latter!) 65 year old.

I am deeply grateful for all those who have worshipped, fellowshiped and served alongside me over the past 19+ years, both volunteers and paid colleagues. It is good to remember those faithful servants who have journeyed in faith with us but are no longer present in this life, having gone to their reward. While there is no room for complacency, I am encouraged by the current mindset and commitment demonstrated by many of the congregation who are attending worship regularly and participating in Discipleship and Prayer activities in increasing numbers. These are the bedrock of our life together in Christ, without which it is difficult to grow in grace.

As we look ahead into the future with the congregation to be declared vacant by the Convener (Rev Stuart McCrea) on Sunday 21st September, I strongly encourage you to approach this next chapter of the GPC history trusting God to guide you (after all “history” is “His story”!) and ready to support those in positions of responsibility prayerfully and practically. Stuart, along with the ministers and elders who comprise the East Belfast Presbytery Vacancy Commission, will oversee the process and will seek to ensure that the congregation is provided with the appropriate information that it needs at each stage.

While we are all delighted that, for the time being, Rev Roy Mackay is willing to continue in the extremely valuable Pastoral & Preaching Support role that he has exercised over the last few years, please remember that Stuart is effectively the minister of the congregation from 16th September onwards and so all communication of pastoral needs should be directed to and through him. Of course, as you will understand, for the benefit of any potential successor, my involvement in GPC must end upon my retirement.

We are blessed to have a committed core team who I know are willing to step up in my absence. Heather Taylor (Clerk of Session) and Laura Hutcheson-Magee (Youth & Family Worker) will carry an increased load both in terms of being more visible up front and in oiling the machine behind the scenes. Please pray for them and assist them in any way you can, along with Alf Casement (Musical Director) and Anne Milligan (Church Office Secretary).

However, of equal importance, is the wider group within our church family who offer their time and talents regularly and sacrificially. I am so grateful for elders, Committee members, as well as leaders and helpers within ministry programmes and organisations who make GPC what it is. Please continue to serve and to enjoy the Lord's presence and blessing as you do so.

As for me, I will continue with my part time job as Clerk of East Belfast Presbytery for one more year, providing administrative support and guidance to the 23 Presbyterian Churches in the area. Liz and I are looking forward to a slightly slower pace of life which may allow us to go on a few short breaks and to catch up on all the people and things we have missed in the busyness of the past number of years.

However, we should all remember that there is no retirement in the Christian life! The form and content of what we do as followers of Jesus inevitably changes through the different phases of life, but we are called to be wholehearted in our love for and life in Christ whatever our age and stage. One of my favourite Old Testament characters is Caleb. In Numbers 13, at the Lord's direction, Moses sends a party of 12 spies into the land of Canaan. They come back with tales of plentiful crops but also intimidating giants. They conclude: "We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked like the same to them." (Numbers 13:33)

As GPC enters into the uncertain waters of the vacancy, you may be tempted to be anxious about the future and to question whether you are able for the challenges ahead. Follow the example of Caleb and Joshua who, as 2 of the 12 spies, present a "Minority Report" which recognises the reality of difficulties to be faced but also proclaims confidence in the ultimate success of the venture—not because of anything good in the people themselves but because "the Lord is with us" (Numbers 14:9). I trust that this attitude will permeate your thinking and your praying through the coming months.

In the words of the wonderful Citylight praise song:

***To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to His
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing, "All is mine"
Yet not I, but through Christ in me***

Songwriters: Michael Farren / Rich Thompson / Jonny Robinson
CCL Licence 546477

Caleb and Joshua demonstrated a wholehearted trust in and a clear commitment to the God who had delivered His people from slavery in Egypt and who was calling them to move forward in faith into the future that He had planned for them. Follow in their footsteps!

And note that, while Joshua steals the headlines with a whole book of the Old Testament named after him and is rightly acknowledged as a godly leader to the extent that his character demonstrates the closest foreshadowing of the nature of his namesake Jesus, Caleb pops up again with a profound lesson for us all to learn. At the age of 85, Caleb comes to Joshua to remind him of their shared experience as spies 45 years before, not with a view to being granted a holiday in the sun or a massive retirement home. Rather, Caleb comes with the request that he be allowed to engage in battle to fulfil God's purposes and plans for His people. "I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then." (Joshua 14:11)

Obviously the battle we are engaged in as Christians is a spiritual one rather than a physical one. Nevertheless, the persevering commitment and desire to see God's Kingdom grow demonstrated by Caleb is to be commended and to be adopted by us all.

Liz and I will be praying for you going forward and Paul's words in Philippians 1:3-11 are perhaps the best way for me to finish:

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.

⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.

May the Lord bless, guide and keep you.

Stephen

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September

Saturday 6th	2.00pm	Pray For Your Street
Sunday 7th	11.00am	All Age "Restart School Sunday" Scripture Union Service
	6.15pm	Prayer Time in the Meeting Room
	7.00pm	Evening Communion Service in the Church
Sunday 14th	11.00am	Dedication Service & Rev Stephen Moore's Final Service as Minister of GPC Toddler Church, Kids Church & ROOTS re-start Refreshments will be served after the service
Sunday 21st	11.00am	Morning Worship with Rev Stuart McCrea (Vacancy Convener)
	7.00pm	Guided Prayer in the Church

October

Sunday 5th	11.00am	Morning Harvest Service Refreshments will be served after the service
	7.00pm	Harvest Thanksgiving Service in the Church
Sunday 19th	7.00pm	Café Church with Stuart McCrea in the Upper Styé Brae

November

Sunday 2nd	11.00am	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
	7.00pm	Evening Service in the Lower Styé Brae
Sunday 9th	11.00am	Remembrance Sunday Service
Sunday 16th	11.00am	Messy Church
	7.00pm	Evening Service in the Lower Styé Brae
Saturday 22nd	2.00pm	'Get Ready for Christmas'
Sunday 23rd	11.00am	World Development Service Refreshments will be served after the service
Sunday 30th	11.00am	1st Sunday in Advent
	7.00pm	Advent Carol Service in the Church

SUNDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

Restart

SCHOOL SUNDAY

ALL AGE SERVICE 11AM



Please join us as we say farewell and thank you to Stephen and Liz Moore at the end of their 19 years of sharing in the worship and witness of GPC.

Stephen's final service as Minister of Gilnahirk will be at 11.00am on Sunday 14th September.

Following a presentation, refreshments will be served in the JB Halls.

Everyone will be very welcome!

"Present ... in prayer"

led by Mariann Gilicze in Clogherney Presbyterian Church, Omagh 10.00am -1.00pm on Saturday 13th September.

For more info and to book your place, go to

www.presbyterianireland.org/Events/Present-in-Prayer.aspx

*Present...
in prayer*

Presbyterian
Women
Living for Jesus



Introducing Rev Stuart McCrea (Vacancy Convener)

Hi folks.

Stephen asked me to share a little about myself before I join you on the next stage of the GPC journey, as vacancy convener. So here we go.

I was born and raised in Portadown, within a Christian household, whose life revolved around First Portadown Presbyterian Church. Having made a commitment of faith in childhood, I left my home church at 17, seeking something 'more' in terms of Church. God took me on a long journey which unexpectedly wound back to PCI, some 12 years later...then eldership ... and then ordained ministry within it. Ask me about it sometime.



I met Hazel in 1993, married in 1997, and moved to Scotland, where I began a career in Medical Photography. We lived in Dalry (Ayrshire) for five years, then moved back to N.I. in 2002. We lived in Tandragee for four years, then Millisle for ten years, before moving to Donemana (in the hills near Strabane) in June 2016 for my first church as ordained minister.

In November 2020, I was installed as minister of First Holywood (also known as 'Bangor Road' to many locals), following in the footsteps of Rev Noble McNeely, who we had a long connection with. Ask me about it sometime.

Hazel and I have three adult kids – Luke (25), Evan (21), Caitlin (19) and a Black Lab, called Lola – all currently living at home in Holywood.

I love listening to a wide range of music, playing music on guitar and several other stringed instruments. I enjoy photography, console gaming, exploring country roads, drinking good coffee, sharing a meal with friends or family, and collecting pocketknives. Ask me about it sometime.

While in Donemana, I was convener for a vacant church – however, their situation was very different from GPC, so this will be my first full vacancy, moving towards calling a new minister. I'm looking forward to being part of this exciting time in the life of GPC, and I would encourage you to view it as such. I'll say more about that sometime soon. For now, I'll leave you with greetings and blessings, on behalf of the Kirk Session and Church family of First Holywood. Feel free to connect with me via email stuart.mccrea@gmail.com or text 07528366668.

Grace and peace to you.

Stuart

The East Belfast Presbytery has appointed the following ministers and elders to the Gilnahirk Vacancy Commission: Rev Dr Marty Gray (Moderator), Martin Hampton (Deputy Clerk), Rev Stuart McCrea (Convener), Rev Dr Drew Gibson, Rev Jimmy Warburton, Margaret Grayson, Tom McCullough and Hugo Wilson.

Please pray for them, especially Stuart, as they oversee the Vacancy throughout the coming months.

Discipleship Groups

Faith can't be all talk. As Christians, do we struggle to connect what we believe with how it is expressed in our everyday lives? How can we express our faith better? Might we benefit from taking time to explore what this looks like at home, in church and the community.

Expressions is an 8 session film series that seeks to connect themes from different passages of Scripture with the lived realities of the lives of church members to open up conversations on how their faith expresses itself in everyday life and witness.

The resource is a mix of downloadable on-screen Bible teaching and stories from members of PCI, along with questions for discussion provided in an accompanying booklet.



Our Discipleship Groups meet in the lower Stye Brae at 8.00pm on alternate Tuesdays and at 11.30am on alternate Fridays. Everyone will be welcome. The dates during the autumn are:

**Tuesday 30th September & Friday 3rd October
'Awareness' (Acts 4:8-14)**

**Tuesday 14th October & Friday 17th October
'Humility' (Mark 10:35-45)**

**Tuesday 28th October & Friday 31st October
'Conversation' (Acts 19:8-10)**

**Tuesday 11th November & Friday 14th November
'Beyond' (Revelation 7:9-10)**

**Tuesday 25th November & Friday 28th November
'Compassion' (Mark 9:35-38)**

Become a Dementia Friend

Join us for this free interactive Information Session to learn how dementia affects a person and what you can do to make a difference. Become a Dementia Friend and join more than 3 million others taking action. From being more patient in a shop queue to campaigning for change, every action counts.

Anyone of any age can become a Dementia Friend.

DATE **2nd and 3rd September 2025**

START TIME **1.30pm and 7.30pm respectively**

DURATION **1hr**

VENUE

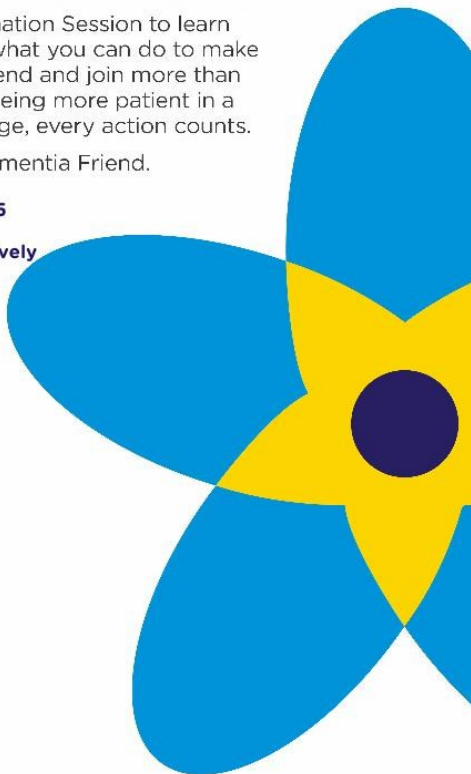
**Stye Brae Upper Hall
Gillnahirk Presbyterian Church**

This venue is wheelchair accessible.

NAME **Carol Noble**

CONTACT DETAILS

gillnahirkpres@btinternet.com



 dementiafriends.org.uk

 [@DementiaFriends](https://twitter.com/DementiaFriends)

 [/DementiaFriends](https://www.facebook.com/DementiaFriends)



**Alzheimer's
Society**

GOD'S WORLD: *Our responsibility?*

Saturday 27 September

10am-4pm
Assembly Buildings, Belfast

PLEASE complete the booking process (tickets cost £10 per person with a reduced rate of £6 for students) to select breakout workshops and indicate any dietary requirements by going to the PCI website.

Messy Church Summer Meet Up

Young families, leaders and helpers enjoyed a fantastic morning of Messy Church up at Silkwood for our summer meet up at the end of July. Our theme was “God Made Everything” and being outdoors surrounded by creation served as a wonderful reminder that God is an amazing Creator. Through games & activities, storytime, craft and food, together we explored how God is the creator of *everything*, big and small, as we read in Genesis 1. God deeply *cares* for everything He has made. Everything God has created has a *purpose* and is declared good. God has a purpose for each of us, at every age, and we can learn to look after His creation with love and care.

Thank you so much to everyone involved! Messy Church next meets on Sunday 16 November at 11am in the JB Hall.

ROOTS

ROOTS Young People have been raising money for Open Doors by “Choosing to Lose” - giving up their beds for 5 nights. They recently presented a cheque for **£850** to Open Doors. So a big “Thank you!” to everyone who contributed and a massive “Well done!” to our young people for making the sacrifice in order to make a difference in the lives of persecuted Christians in North Africa.

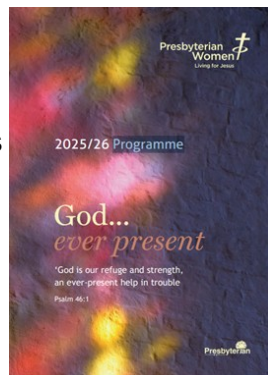
Presbyterian Women

PW will recommence on Wednesday 17th September at 2.30pm in the Styre Brae.

We have a wonderful, varied programme this year and would love it if you would join us!

We meet monthly on every third Wednesday from September until May 2026.

Look forward to seeing you there!



Men's Association

The Men's Association (Bowling Club) will be resuming our Autumn / Winter sessions on Tuesday 9th September at 7.30pm in the Jack Britton Hall and we invite any member, relative, friend or neighbour who would like to join with us to come along and enjoy a few games of bowls as well as a cup of tea and good chat.

You can be assured of a friendly welcome and we have a selection of bowls to choose from.



Ladies Bowls

We're back on Tuesday 16th September @ 2.00pm.
So get your bowls polished and practise your swing!

New members are very welcome
and if you're not sure if it's for you –
try a “taster” session

at our opening meeting in the JB Hall.

We guarantee fun, laughter, chat and a cuppa.

Please wear flat shoes.

Bowls are available.

Look forward to seeing everyone.

The clash of ash against hickory!

On Saturday 2 August at Corrigan Park, west Belfast, the clash of ash against hickory, signified that what was happening on the pitch was different and exciting. Like the planning of the compromise rules matches between an Antrim select GAA hurling team and a shinty men's team from Stirling and Lanarkshire, and an Antrim select camogie team and a shinty ladies' team from the Isle of Skye, everything about this game was different.



Between the Sticks was an initiative that was the brain child of Rev David Moore, a Presbyterian minister working in west Belfast. He pitched the idea to Collie Donnelly of Antrim GAA/St John's GAC, the momentum was unstoppable.

Saturday saw the culmination of all the plans coming to fruition, with a great spectacle of sport and camaraderie on the pitch. Even the crowd reflected the essence of togetherness, with many Presbyterians venturing to Corrigan Park for the first time to witness the fantastic sporting event.

Rev David Moore was joined by the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rt Rev Dr Trevor Gribben, a keen sportsman himself. The Moderator met the teams and the various GAA dignitaries and officials.

Commenting on the day, Dr Gribben said, "In thanking all those involved in today's event, I would especially like to thank those from Antrim GAA and St John's GAC for their warm welcome. Sport has so much to offer in terms of bringing communities together, we recognize this may not always have been the case, but today, this event has been an excellent example that we have more in common than divides us."

Referring to his theme for the year, 'A hope and a future in Jesus', Dr Gribben said, "Sport has always been able to bring hope in dark times, but as a minister of Jesus Christ, I recognize that real lasting hope comes from the life and work of Jesus Christ".





In welcoming the teams and the dignitaries to Corrigan Park, Séamus McMullan, Chair of Antrim GAA said, "The event today, has come from a place of friendship, a friendship between the two originators and organisers, Rev David Moore and Collie Donnelly. These men have reminded us that our Gaelic sport has a history and a heritage that can bring us together and we in Antrim GAA are delighted to co-host this event with the Presbyterian Church in Ireland."

On the pitch, while the atmosphere was one of friendship and camaraderie, this did not in any way lessen the competitiveness and vigour of the games. The first match between the men's team ended with the Ireland team winning by 4-13 to Scotland's 3-2. In the ladies' match, again Ireland ran out the winners, the score being Ireland 1-9 to Scotland's 2-0.



Photo captions:

1. Action shot from the ladies game **2.** Action shot from the men's match. **3.** Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Trevor Gribben, speaking with members of the men's shinty team after the match. **4.** A piper leads out the two ladies teams before the camogie/shinty game.

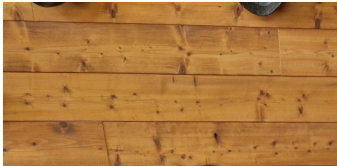
(All images Credit Kelvin Boyes Press Eye)

GLG (Glnahirk Ladies Group)



Gilnahirk Ladies Group enjoyed a great day out back in May.





Gilnahirk Men's Group 2024-2025

'No man is an island, entire of itself'

Gilnahirk Men's Group (GMG) re-convened for another season at the Jack Britton Hall on Wednesday 2nd October 2024 following our summer holidays.

We re-commenced our gathering and regular routine of meetings, excellent cuppa, biccys, chat and interesting speaker on a bimonthly (ie, twice monthly) basis.

Our first presenter was Billy McCullough whose talk was entitled 'Davy Crockett, The Poor Man's Friend'. A very interesting history about an Ulster-Scot with Huguenot ancestry who perished at the Alamo.

Adrian Ross talked about 'Discontinued Confectionery', or brands of chocolate and sweets that are no longer with us. Remember Spangles or even Black Jacks – the last was a name acceptable years ago, but not in these enlightened times.

At our Remembrance Week meeting in November, Captain Rachel Harger from the Northern Ireland Veterans Commissioner's Office told us about her training at Sandhurst and subsequent military experience in hotspots such as Iraq and Afghanistan. This reminded me of George Orwell's famous quotation:

'People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men (and women) stand ready to do violence on their behalf.'



**Members of
Gilnahirk Men's
Group, David
Manton, Aidan
Campbell and
Raymond
Anderson with
Captain
Rachel Harger**

We then had talks from a couple of GMG members. Firstly, David Manton told us about 'My Working Life, The Early Years at Harland & Wolff and Ford'. David worked on the famous S.S. Canberra and then moved to Ford in South Belfast and then a spell at Ford in Bangkok. We look forward to Part 2 next season.

My talk was entitled 'Cregagh Updated' (accompanied by my latest book), an historical journey from Cromac Square to Cregagh taking in Woodstock Road and Willowfield and how the area has changed over the years.

At our Christmas party we were entertained by Gilnahirk Primary School choir and virtuoso pianist Carol Anderson, our 'Christmas Carol'. She was then accompanied by renowned chorister Billy Starritt and (mainly, but not entirely tunelessly) members of Gilnahirk Men's Group.

Gilnahirk Men's Group Christmas dinner is traditionally held in January and we were very well fed at Knock Golf Club, Summerfield.

Our first speaker of the New Year was the effervescent Stewart Barbour whose talk '70 Not Out' was about his role as a fundraiser for Cancer Focus Northern Ireland.

Eric Woods presented the story of the '3 Catherwoods' and the familiar family name connected to Coal, Bus Companies and TV's Romper Room.

Rev Mark Reid is the Chaplain of local charity 'Mission to Seafarers' and told us of their charitable good works. Interesting fact: Did you know that Seafarers are responsible for transporting over 90% of the world's goods and fuels?

Sam Young enthusiastically talked about his novel called 'Dancehall Days'. His family upbringing was in Omagh with profits donated to Multiple Sclerosis.

'The Loss of the Princess Victoria' was the subject of Stephen Cameron's talk. A subject familiar to most of us and Stephen's rigorous and methodical research on this maritime disaster revealed a series of mishaps that led to catastrophe and loss of life.

Our final talk was from tour guide and historian Peter McCabe who has published several books on local cemeteries and on this occasion his subject was 'Gilnahirk Presbyterian Church Graveyard'. It was great to see some of the ladies from Gilnahirk Presbyterian Church at the meeting and there were several valuable contributions including the 'amazing' Grace Murphy whose encyclopaedic knowledge of Gilnahirk is beyond measure.

Our AGM was held on 16th April 2025 and the smooth path of democracy resulted in the re-election of hard-working Chairman David Callighan and Conor Cassidy as Treasurer. Harry Lennox retired from his role as Secretary after many years faithful service. A proposal that the rest of the committee should be re-elected for another year was also accepted. Thanks, were also made to Aidan Campbell for arranging the speakers programme and to Raymond Anderson and David Manton for catering duties and to members for all other volunteering duties during the year.

Our year was concluded on 30th April 2025 with our annual outing which was a trip to the historic Carrickfergus Castle.



**John Bell, Jacky Andrews, Aidan Campbell, David Manton
at Carrickfergus Castle - 'In the footsteps of King Billy'
(who is keeping a wary eye on us!)**

Our tour was followed by an excellent lunch at Shandon Park Golf Club where our long-serving Secretary, Harry Lennox, was presented with an inscribed tankard by Gilnahirk Men's Group. No doubt the tankard will have pride-of-place on the Lennox family fireplace as a reminder of (non-stipendiary) and appreciated service over many years.



**Gilnahirk Men's Group gather outside
Shandon Park Golf Club in eager anticipation
of a good feed and entertaining speeches**

Time to start working on a new speakers' programme for 2025-2026. Our first meeting of next season will be on Wednesday 1st October 2025 @ 10.30am in the Jack Britton Hall.

Gilnahirk Men's Group is suitable for 'Men who are not too busy'.

Women of Gilnahirk and beyond – please take note!

*Aidan Campbell
Vice-Chairman
Gilnahirk Men's Group*

This November sees our third **GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS** event and we would love everyone to get involved. This is a great opportunity to encourage all our neighbours in the Gilnahirk community to come into our church and hopefully get a picture of a warm and welcoming congregation. It's for all of us too! Afternoon Tea, Christmassy craft tables; our really popular "regifting stall" and the JB Hall packed with kids activities. And maybe most importantly, our church sanctuary open with seasonal music and decorations. Please make a note of the date, have a think about how you could help, save up any of your previously unwanted items, pass on any new ideas and most importantly come along!



The programme for the Gilnahirk Friendship Group

The Gilnahirk Friendship Group meets on the first Wednesday of the month for members of the congregation who would enjoy an interesting afternoon activity with others from the church.

We are always keen to see new friends join us and if any of the activities below appeal to you please contact Patricia

Gowdy (07900665693), Carol Noble (07884198527), Judith Morrow (07711832441) or your own elder. If you would be willing to give lifts for any of our outings we would love to hear from you too.



3rd September - Time for a catch up in the Styre Brae at 2.30pm

1st October - Visit to Castle Espie

5th November - Get into the Christmas spirit at Hillmount

3rd December - Party Time in the Styre Brae at 2.30pm

The Monday Morning Drop In group meets in the Styre Brae every Monday morning from 11.00am to 12.00 noon. It is a very casual time for tea and chat and is open to anyone in the local community.

We have a small donation towards costs and the surplus is given to various charities of interest to our members.

Last year we donated to:-

Presbyterian Children's Society £400

Glaucoma Shankill £400

Church light and heat £484.30

Please feel free to join us.

Grace Murphy got a special cake on her Birthday from Judith Reid, one of the many helpers!



Calling all old and new members of the GHCS!

The Gilnahirk Horticultural and Civic Society is an independent local group which has been meeting in our church hall for YEARS! We alternate meetings between a gardening focus and a broader civic society interest. Every meeting has a fun competition based on our gardening and/or floral skills and there is always a cup of tea! Each year we have a very enjoyable outing and this June we had a great visit to Fernhill Cottage Gardens in Ballynahinch despite the rain! Check out Vivien Dalton's smile!



We start this year with Maurice Parkinson from Ballyrobert Nurseries on Wednesday 3 September at 8pm in the Styre Brae.

If you are interested at all in your garden or matters of local interest please come along and try us out, or check us out at www.GHCS.org

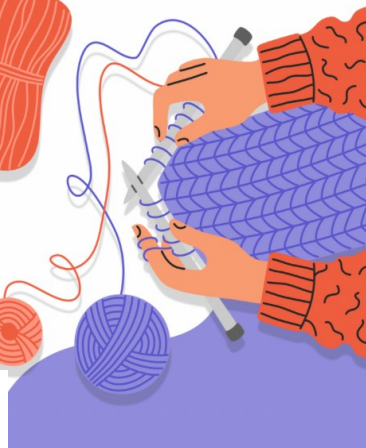
A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped to clear out and update the Resource Room upstairs in the Styre Brae. Special thanks to Patricia Gowdy who diligently co-ordinated the efforts over the summer months, and we are so pleased that this room is fit for purpose for the term ahead.

Some members of the 2023 Gilnahirk / St Colmcille's Habitat Poland team dusted off their painting skills to come and assist!



Knit & Natter

Do you like to knit?
Do you like to natter?
Beginner...or an Expert?
It really doesn't matter!
Just come along and join us
We'll spin a yarn or two
There'll also be a cuppa
Now all we need is YOU!



STARTING WEDNESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

10AM TO 12 NOON LOWER STYE BRAE

The incredible Irish weather forecasting stone



SACRAMENTS

Baptisms

29th June Jonah Alexander,
son of Chris & Jennie Cahoon

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Thanksgivings

6th July Myla, daughter of Mike & Alice Neill

Marriages

21st June Rachael Honan & Jack Leckey
13th August Chris McRoberts & Danielle Sofley

Deaths

2nd July Alistair Burton

New members

Conor & Jude O'Reilly
Beatrice Shirley
Margaret Baker

F.W.O. ROTA

Sept	Martin Childs	Jenny Childs	Alison Renfrew
Oct	Willie Noteman	Paul Blundell	Johnny Cunningham
Nov	Roberta Coates	Richard Patterson	Roberta Patterson
Dec	John Cummings	Robert Gregg	Harold Reford

2024 Annual Report

Copies of the 2024 Annual Report are now available on the Notice Board in the Styne Brae entrance area. A digital copy may be requested by sending an email to the Church Office.

Flower Calendar

Could you deliver flowers for one month in the year? In recent times a number of those who have delivered have had to stop. A few years ago Ruth McRoberts, Frances Morrow, Grace Murphy and Carol and Billy Smyth had to stop.



In the last couple of years they have been followed by Pat and Derek Corbett, June and Malcolm Strain and Daphne Rutledge, sadly some of these people are no longer with us.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to all these people, most of whom have done the job for 30 years or more. Lorna, Margaret and Thelma are still delivering and have been doing it for as long. Lynne, Janet and Clara have probably more than 15 years service. I am very grateful to our more recent people: Jill, Carol, Judith, Carol and Stephen who have not only delivered for a month but have helped out by filling in for additional Sundays when there has been a problem.

I would appeal to members of the congregation to think about volunteering to help out.

Again thank you to all those who have done the job over the years. Please consider helping out. Speak to me any Sunday or contact me on 028 9079 8602.

Valerie Gamble

Keep Fit

Starts back on **Friday 12th September** from 10.00am to 11.00am
in the Jack Britton Hall.

For all women and men 50+ to 100+
and all 'Young at Heart' are very welcome!

Reception Rota

<u>Sept</u>	11.00am	Trevor Gilliland* Barbara Anderson Gillian Hamill
	7.00pm	Patricia Gowdy
<u>Oct</u>	11.00am	Richard Montgomery* Stephen Brown Hilary Gowdy
	7.00pm	Carol Anderson
<u>Nov</u>	11.00am	Edna Caldwell* Ivan Noble Andrew Kerr
	7.00pm	Carol Noble
<u>Dec</u>	11.00am	Paul Blundell* Janet Cooper Carol Chambers
	7.00pm	Julie-May Noteman David Mark

- * Indicates reception duties at Styre Brae Centre, the security of premises and plate collection.
- Evening services will normally be on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.
- Those lifting the collection in the centre rows are to always start with the choir.



General reminder to all members on vestibule duty of the regulations regarding Fire/Health & Safety. Each member should ensure they know where all emergency fire exits and fire extinguishers are located and they will act as Fire Marshalls in the event should it become necessary.

Members on duty should have the church doors open no later than 30 minutes before the commencement of each service.

**It is the responsibility of those rostered to arrange
for Session/Committee deputies if unable to attend.
This would be greatly appreciated!**

RECOMMENCEMENT DATES OF ORGANISATIONS

Toddler Church	Sun 14th Sept - 11.00am	Birth-3yrs
Kids Church	Sun 14th Sept - 11.00am	3yrs +
ROOTS	Sun 14th Sept - 11.00am	P6 +
Youth Club	Sat 6th Sept - 7.00pm	Year 8 +
Toddler Group	Thu 11th Sept - 10.00am	Birth-4yrs
Gilnahirk Urban Saints	Sat 13th Sept - 7.00pm	10-18yrs
Squirrels	Tue 16th Sept - 6.30-7.30pm	Boys 4-6yrs
Beavers	Mon 15th Sept - 6.15-7.30pm	Boys 6-8yrs
Cubs	Thu 4th Sept - 6.45-8.30pm	Boys 8-11yrs
Scouts	Thu 11th Sept - 7.00-9.00pm	Boys 11-14yrs
Explorers	Tue 2nd Sept - 8.00pm	Boys 14 yrs +
Rainbows	Wed 10th Sept - 6.15-7.15pm	Girls 4-7yrs
Brownies	Wed 10th Sept - 6.15-7.30pm	Girls 7-10yrs
Guides	Wed 10th Sept - 7.45-9.15pm	Girls 10-14yrs
Choir	Thu 28th Aug - 7.30pm	
Praise Group	As arranged	
Contact Singers	Mon 15th Sept - 6.30pm	
PW (Presbyterian Women)	Wed 17th Sept - 2.30pm	
Ladies Bowling	Tue 16th Sept - 2.00-4.30pm	
Men's Association (Bowls)	Tue 9th Sept - 7.30pm	
Gilnahirk Ladies Group	Mon 29th Sept - 2.15-3.45pm	
Gilnahirk Men's Group	Wed 1st Oct - 10.30am-12.00 noon	
Gilnahirk Friendship Group	Wed 3rd Sept - 2.30pm	
Monday Morning Drop In	Mon 1st Sept - 11.00am-12.00 noon	
Knit & Natter	Wed 10th Sept - 10.30am-12.00 noon	
Gilnahirk Horticultural & Civic Society	Wed 3rd Sept - 8.00pm	
Keep Fit	Fri 12th Sept - 10.00-11.00am	



Gilnahirk Presbyterian Church exists to show the love of God in Christ Jesus, proclaim the Gospel and enable people to find its healing power, encourage members to worship and learn together and grow in faith, and apply the faith in practical concern and help to others.

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