

Please contact me if you have anything you would like to have included in this announcement sheet.
Submission deadline is Wednesday evening.

All life would become a sign (From Michel Quoist's "Prayers")

If only we knew
how to look at life as God sees it,
we would realize that nothing
is simply in the secular world,
but that everything contributes
to the building
of the Kingdom of God.

To have faith is not only
to raise one's eyes to God
to contemplate him;
it is also to look at this world
--with Christ's eyes.

If we allow Christ to penetrate our whole being,
if we allow him to purify us,
the world would no longer be an obstacle.
It would rather be a perpetual incentive
to work for the Father in order that,
in Christ, his Kingdom may come to earth
as it is in heaven.

One must pray to be given sufficient faith
to know how to look at life.
For if we knew how to look at life
through God's eyes,
we would see it filled with innumerable tokens
of the love of the Creator
seeking the love of his creatures.

The Father has put us in this world,
not to walk through it with lowered eyes,
but to search for him through all things,
through all events, through all persons.
And realize that everything
must reveal Himself to us.

Society Stewards

Islandmagee Methodist Church Mr Brian Connor 93353041
Whitehead Methodist Church Mr Ken Stewart 93378812

Minister - Rev Gary D Millar

W: www.wimethodist.com E: gary.millar@irishmethodist.org T: 93373327

What's On This Week at
Whitehead and Islandmagee Methodist Churches

5th - 12th April 2015

RESURRECTION SUNDAY

Church Mice

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Easter Sunday 5th April

HOLY COMMUNION

6.30am	Easter Morning Dawn Service	Blackhead Car Park
10.30am	Morning Worship with Rev Gary Millar	WMC
12.00pm	Morning Worship with Rev Gary Millar	IMC

Tuesday 7th April

8.00pm	Whitehead Bible Study - No meeting	Dobson Room
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Easter Week arrangements by organisations involved

Local Preachers Sunday 12th April

10.30am	Morning Worship with Ken McFaul	WMC
12.00pm	Morning Worship with Candace Fenton	IMC

WMC Craft Class will meet on 9th April as usual - new members and/or interested visitors always welcome. 10.00am-12.00pm in the Dobson Room.

MWI News

In the pews this morning you will have found the annual MWI Easter Offering envelope. The MWI would like you to know that the money raised from the Easter Envelopes each year is not going directly to MWI funds. Rather, the funds raised are only administered by MWI for Mission work worldwide - please pray about the generosity of your contribution this year and return your gift next Sunday in the offering plate.

The next Whitehead MWI meeting will be 13th April when Kate Ferguson from the support charity *Brainwaves* will address the group at 7.30pm. There will be NO AFTERNOON MEETING in WMC in April - the next meeting will be on Wednesday 20th May with Lorna McKee from 2.30-4.30pm in the Dobson Room. All names for the MWI outing to Galgorm and Ballymena on 23rd May to Sheona as soon as possible on 93353806.

A grateful "Thank You" to everyone who sponsored Sophia and Shelagh for the Northern Ireland Hospice walk this year. The combined total they raised between them is £385.00



stubborn joy

No man had more reason to be miserable than this one – yet no man was more joyful. His first home was a palace. Servants were at his fingertips. The snap of his fingers changed the course of history. His name was known and loved. He had everything – wealth, power, respect. And then he had nothing. Students of the event still ponder it. Historians stumble as they attempt to explain it. How could a king lose everything in one instant? One moment he was royalty; the next he was in poverty. His bed became, at best, a borrowed pallet – and usually the hard earth. He never owned even the most basic mode of transportation and was dependent upon handouts for his income. He was sometimes so hungry he would eat raw grain or pick fruit off a tree. He knew what it was like to be rained on, to be cold. He knew what it meant to have no home.

His palace grounds had been spotless; now he was exposed to filth. He had never known disease, but was now surrounded by illness. In his kingdom he had been revered; now he was ridiculed. His neighbours tried to lynch him. Some called him a lunatic. His family tried to confine him to their house.

Those who didn't ridicule him tried to use him. They wanted favours. They wanted tricks. He was a novelty. They wanted to be seen with him – that is, until being with him was out of fashion. THEN they wanted to kill him. He was accused of a crime he never committed. Witnesses were hired to lie. The jury was rigged. No lawyer was assigned to his defence. A Judge swayed by politics handed down the death penalty. They killed him.

He left as he came – penniless. He was buried in a borrowed grave, his funeral financed by compassionate friends. Though he once had everything, he died with nothing. He should have been miserable. He should have been bitter. He had every right to be a pot of boiling anger. But he wasn't. He was joyful...He was joyful when he was poor. He was joyful when he was abandoned. He was joyful when he was betrayed. He was even joyful as he hung on a tool of torture, his hands pierced with 6 inch Roman spikes ... Jesus embodied a stubborn joy. A joy that refused to bend in the wind of hard times. A Joy that held its ground against pain...."