

ANNOUNCEMENTS DEADLINE

If you have any item for inclusion in this Announcements Sheet, or on the Website, the deadline is Wednesday before 7.00pm. Please forward them to Gary by email if possible, or by telephone.

www.nihospice.org

Methodist Church in Ireland – Whitehead & Islandmagee

Announcements

7 December 2014

Advent Week 2

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson

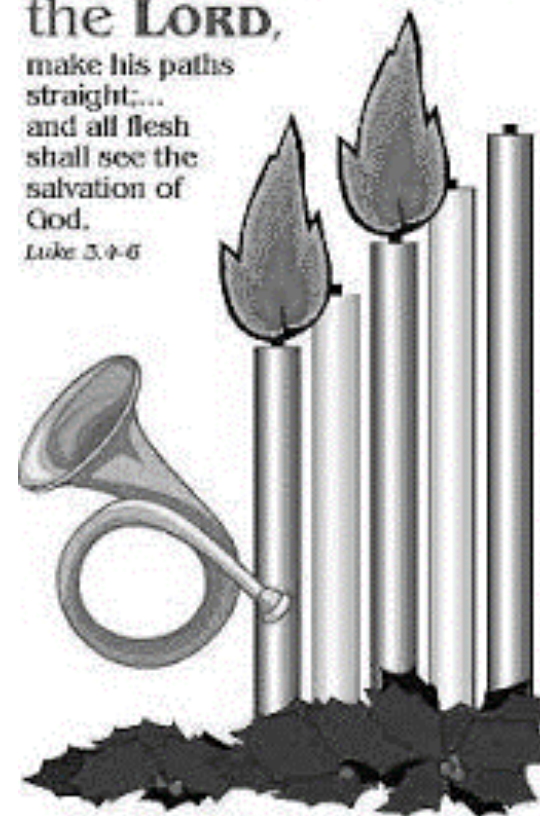


That guest speaker last Sunday looked very familiar, and so did his message.

Prepare the way of
the **LORD**,

make his paths
straight...
and all flesh
shall see the
salvation of
God.

Luke 3:4-6



Stewards

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Sunday 7 December - 2nd Sunday in Advent

Toy Sunday & Holy Communion

10.30 am WMC Worship Rev G Millar
12.00 pm IMC Worship Rev G Millar

Tuesday 9 December

8.00 pm WMC Bible study (Lectionary readings in Methodist Newsletter)

Thursday 11 December

10.00 am WMC Craft Class

Friday 12 December

8.00 pm Larne Choral Society in Christmas concert at WMC - tickets at the door - suggested donation £8.00. Light refreshments included.

Sunday 14 December - 3rd Sunday in Advent

10.30 am WMC Worship Rev G Millar
12.00 pm IMC Worship - *Mince Pies & Punch from 11.45am* Rev G Millar



If anyone has Home Mission collecting boxes at home, please bring them into church for counting as soon as possible. Replacements and additional boxes are available in church.

A huge thank you to everyone from WMC who made our contribution to the Victorian Street Fair possible. I have heard many complimentary comments about the warmth of the welcome you gave to the folks who visited us, and the high quality of the handmade crafts and home-baked goods on sale to the public.

*Apparently we even had a better class of junk on sale!
The total raised at the time of writing (Thursday) is £3,200. Well Done!*



WATCH NIGHT SERVICE 2014

This year our Watch Night service in Whitehead MC will be a candle-lit time of reflection and prayer to see in the New Year. Please do make this event part of your plans for the Christmas season, and invite your family and friends to join us too



This is the last printed Announcement Sheet until the New Year. Please refer to the Christmas Letter that will be circulating from this week on.

Twas much, that man was made like God before,

But that God should be like man much more.

John Donne.

The First Billionaire

The very first person to reach the status of billionaire was a man who knew how to set goals and follow through. At the age of 23, he had become a millionaire, by the age of 50 a billionaire. Every decision, attitude, and relationship was tailored to create his personal power and wealth. But three years later at the age of 53 he became ill. His entire body became racked with pain and he lost all the hair on his head. In complete agony, the world's only billionaire could buy anything he wanted, but he could only digest milk and crackers. An associate wrote, "He could not sleep, would not smile and nothing in life meant anything to him." His personal, highly skilled physicians predicted he would die within a year.

That year passed agonizingly slow. As he approached death he awoke one morning with the vague remembrances of a dream. He could barely recall the dream but knew it had something to do with not being able to take any of his successes with him into the next world. The man who could control the business world suddenly realized he was not in control of his own life. He was left with a choice.

He called his attorneys, accountants, and managers and announced that he wanted to channel his assets to hospitals, research, and mission work. On that day John D. Rockefeller established his foundation. This new direction eventually led to the discovery of penicillin, cures for current strains of malaria, tuberculosis and diphtheria. The list of discoveries resulting from his choice is enormous. But perhaps the most amazing part of Rockefeller's story is that the moment he began to give back a portion of all that he had earned, his body's chemistry was altered so significantly that he got better. It looked as if he would die at 53 but he lived to be 98. Rockefeller learned gratitude and gave back from his wealth. Doing so made him whole. It is one thing to be healed it is another to be made whole.

Church Mice

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'Twas the season of Advent
and all through God's house
not a creature was stirring,
except
for one
mouse



The others were snuggled
all warm in their pews.
The sermon, it seems,
put them into a snooze...



But no visions of sugarplums
danced in *their* heads -
God's children were dreaming
of *Jesus* instead...

