

Please contact me if you have anything you would like to have included in this announcement sheet.

Submission deadline is Wednesday evening.

Gift Day

At the recent Church Council meeting we noted that the Society Steward's account, which covers our normal church outgoings, was almost £5,000 in deficit at the beginning of March. From January 2015 our monthly Circuit Assessment (the amount we must pay to the Methodist Church in Ireland to cover ministerial stipends, National Insurance, pension contributions and support of central activities) has risen to £2,915 per month. In addition, heat and light for our premises cost an average of £174 per month and rates £88 per month. While the deficit will be recovered to some extent through the Government's Gift Aid scheme, we considered we should make the congregation as a whole aware of the situation.

The Church Council has therefore decided to hold a special Gift Day on Saturday 18 April 2015 to help address the current need and also to ask that, wherever possible, we consider increasing our individual Freewill Offerings which go directly to the Society Steward's account. We did not have a Gift Day last year as we were conscious that the congregation was focussed on funding the Building Project. The Gift Day, and the request to consider increasing our monthly Freewill Offerings, is not in any way a criticism of the financial contribution of the congregation. That has consistently been generous. Rather, we consider that we need to be transparent with the congregation and respond to the current financial situation of our church to prevent it becoming any more serious. We would commend this matter to your prayerful consideration.

K Stewart
Society Steward

E Service
Treasurer

Society Stewards

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

Minister - Rev Gary D Millar

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

March 15th - 22nd 2015



I am sooo glad God does not tell me all my faults all at one time,

Sunday 15th March

Mothersing Sunday, Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship with Rev Gary Millar WMC
 12.00pm Morning Worship with Rev Gary Millar IMC

Tuesday 17th March

8.00pm Whitehead Bible Study Dobson
 Room

Wednesday 18th March

7.30pm Islandmagee Bible Study 2nd
 Presbyterian Manse

7.30pm WMC Choir AGM Dobson Room

Thursday 19th March

7.00pm WMC Choir Practice Dobson Room

Friday 20th March

7.30pm WMC Fashion Show (see notice below) Dobson
 Room

Sunday 22nd March

10.30am Morning Worship with Rev Gary Millar WMC

12.00pm Morning Worship with Rev Gary Millar IMC

A fashion show with a difference! At Whitehead Methodist Church **Friday 20 March at 7.30pm.**

The show will be presented by War on Want.

A tasty supper will be provided. Admission by ticket only.

Suggested donation for the ticket is £10 per person.

Tickets can be obtained from Phyllis at 93378528.

All proceeds in aid of the Whitehead Methodist Church Building Fund.



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To the hardships of life, the famous poet Robert Frost would say this:

"In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on."

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TRAINING FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALING

Divine Healing Ministries is offering training to those who would like to be involved in the ministry of healing. This will take place on five Thursday evenings in St Anne's Cathedral Hall, Belfast from April 30th until May 28th, 8pm to 9.30pm. Training will be taken by Brother David Jardine and members of the team of Divine Healing Ministries.



People can come if they wish to use the skills learnt in their own church, to work with Divine Healing Ministries, or just to learn more about the healing ministry. There is no fixed charge for the course, but people will be able to make a voluntary offering on the last evening.

Church Mice

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What an Alcoholic can teach the Church

Philip Yancey interviewed a young alcoholic who had formerly been an active church member, but had allowed Alcoholics Anonymous to replace the church. When questioned why, the young man responded, "Mainly I'm trying to survive, and AA helps me in that struggle far better than any church." Yancey explored further, "Name one quality missing in the local church that AA somehow provides."

The alcoholic stared at his coffee, watching it go cold. Finally he looked up and whispered one word: "Dependency." He explained, "Most church people give off a self-satisfied air of superiority. I don't sense them consciously leaning on God or on each other... Maybe God is calling us alcoholics to teach the saints what it means to be dependent on Him and on His community on earth."

When a mother saw a thunderstorm forming in mid-afternoon, she worried about her seven-year-old daughter who would be walking a mile from school to home. Deciding to meet her, the mother saw her walking nonchalantly along, stopping to smile whenever lightning flashed. Seeing her mother, the little girl ran to her, explaining happily, "All the way home, God's been taking my picture!"

From Christianstories.com

VICTORIA TIMES (19TH SEPT 1990)

In 1990 Danny Simpson of Ottawa, Canada was given six years imprisonment for robbing a bank of \$6000 using an elderly Colt .45 pistol. He was arrested and the gun was impounded by the police, where it was recognized as an extremely rare collectors' item, worth between \$12,000 and \$100,000. It was made under licence by the Ross Rifle Company in Quebec City during WW1, one of only 100 Colt .45's ever made there. Simpson could have walked into any gun shop and sold the pistol for at least twice the haul from his raid without breaking the law. How many

of us Christians fail to realise the significance of what we hold so lightly day to day? There is power and hope, and a future in the Word of God.