



Donaghadee Methodist Church Magazine



Summer 2026



The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his
hands. Psalm 19:1

Minister: Rev Louise McKee
07801 032280
Manse: 34 Breckenridge, BT21 0JA

Society Steward: Helen Johnston
07751 795044

Pastoral Coordinator: Robert Watson
028 9146 3772

The Minister and the Pastoral Coordinator are always grateful to be kept informed about any pastoral issues

website: www.donaghadeemethodist.com
*for up-to-date information about church activities
and to watch church services online*

Editor, Mary Todd
marytodd2@gmail.com

Tel 07740374442

Editorial

On weekend of 17th -19th April 2026 I attended the 65th annual weekend conference of Southern District MWI held in Castlerosse Hotel Killarney.

The title of the conference was

WHERE POWER MEETS PURPOSE

Small acts that change the world

The key speaker was Carolyn Godfrey who is the Regional Officer for Safeguarding for the Darlington and Newcastle Districts in the North East of England, a role she has held since 2015. Before moving into this Carolyn worked for many years in education, specialising in pastoral care and support for children with additional needs, mostly in the primary sector. This background shaped her deep commitment to nurturing environments where everyone can flourish.

Carolyn is passionate about embedding safeguarding at the heart of Church life, convinced that a robust safeguarding culture is essential to our calling to be a growing, inclusive, evangelistic and Justice-seeking church.

In 2024-2025 Carolyn served as vice president of Conference for the Methodist Church in Britain.

As an example she said we should drop a pebble into a pool of water and watch where the ripples go. None of us know how a small action of ours could influence another person. Think about the bread and fish donated to Jesus to feed 5,000. How can this small contribution be enough to satisfy the needs of the multitude, and we know how that ended, with so many baskets of food left.

The whole weekend was a time of fun, fellowship and learning. There were 40 in all, when we attended church on Sunday we filled the small building and the minister commented on how great it was to see the church so full. The music was provided by a married couple and a guitarist, the couple had an two year old daughter who was very keen to play the piano, that her mother played, and the bongo drums played by her father, the congregation raised their hands she raised hers too. It was a very informal service but great to be part of such an enjoyable meeting. The little girl was very well behaved, and when Mum and Dad restrained her, obeyed with a grin.

Castlerosse Hotel is a 4 star hotel sitting on the lake, we were made very welcome, the food was excellent. I hope there is another opportunity to do it all again. Mary

A word from the Society Steward

As the Reverend Louise has been on Sabbatical since Easter, I realise that in her absence, it's possibly my time to write a few words! Actually it has been a privilege to serve our congregation and to welcome our helping ministers who have so faithfully lead us. May I commend Rev. Louise for her choice of Rev. Cheryl Patterson, Rev Aian Ferguson, Rev Roy Cooper and Rev Colin Duncan who covered not only our services but Bible study and also Pastoral visiting. On behalf of our congregation may I pass on our grateful thanks for the dedication of each person mentioned above. All have encouraged, guided and Spirit lead us. Now we look forward to welcoming Rev. Louise back amongst us. We hope that you have had inspiring moments, restful moments and God guided time and study.

A wee thought from me! :- Good communication is very important in bringing and keeping a family together and going forward. Likewise in our church family and with our God. In Charles Wesley's hymn "All Praise to our Redeeming Lord " the 2nd verse has always "jumped out" to me.

"He bids us build each other up
And gathered into one

To our high callings glorious hope

We hand in hand go on”

What opportunities have we to “build each other up”? We need to take time to get to know each other better and build up important trust. We do have some opportunities to meet up during the week :- Walking, Coffee and Craft, Coffee and Chat, Toddlers, Bible Study, Book Club, Men’s Group and 3rd Sunday tea after our service.

May I ask **YOU** please, to share some of your thoughts of in what way(s) we can let others know WE CARE for them.

I will always be interested to hear your ideas.

Love and blessings to each and everyone of you.

Helen Johnston 😊

“Hi and Bye” BBQ Meet and Greet

On Sunday evening, 17th of May 2026, 14 from our Church attended a barbecue at Movilla Abbey church. They were Catering for 200 people from the Methodist Church’s in Glastry, Donaghadee, Comber, Regent Street, Bangor, C.C.Primacy and Holywood.

The evening started with a lovely barbecue lots of burgers, sausages and many beautiful desserts, the hall was packed and more chairs had to be put out, we had a Quiz Time when we were divided into groups and had to find how many hymns and songs with the word love in the title, [our team didn't win], I think it was Glasstry.

After the meal we moved into the Church for a time of worship and prayers, welcoming the Rev Jordan Litchfield and family and to thank the Rev Philip Corrigan for all his work. It was lovely to meet others from different churches and having fellowship together.
Sylvia Taylor

Visit from the President of the Methodist Church Sunday 3rd May 2026

On Sunday 3rd May we were blessed, encouraged and challenged by a visit from the then President of the Methodist church, the Reverend Alan Wardlow. After a welcome from Helen the reverend Aian Ferguson led us in the early part of the service. The

opening hymn was Praise my soul the King of Heaven. Aian led us in the opening prayers of praise, thanksgiving and confession. It was lovely to have two of Aian's grandchildren with us and the children's talk reminded us that we are all "Learners" in life and compared this, to having L plates on, when learning to drive a car. Aian reminded us that some of the things we should be learning about, is God's world, God our Creator, Provider and Saviour, and ourselves, which can be summed up in one word Love, to love God and love our neighbour.

The lesson was read by Amanda, Acts Chapter 2, verses 42 to 47 followed by the prayers of intercession led by Aian.

Reverend Alan brought the greetings of the Methodist church and thanked everyone for their prayers. He prayed that the Lord would speak to us from his holy word. Alan went on to say that the passage in Acts is a blueprint of what church should be like and shows us what he calls core principles of church. He compared this to keeping physically fit and strengthening your core. He reminded us that Acts 2 v 42 states that they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Alan emphasised that the most important principle was prayer and said that we are not praying enough; “7 days without prayer makes 1 weak “

Alan told a story of a visit he had to Cuba during his presidential designate year. He explained that during a visit to a morning prayer meeting, he was overwhelmed by the numbers in the congregation. There were 1, 300 people praying and praising God. He was then led to the basement of the church, and it was filled to capacity. People had brought photographs of loved ones and papers, bills etc. and they were praying over them. Alan went on to say that Cuba is in revival, and they know the power of prayer.

He said that another core principle is the word of God and reminded us that it is difficult to get people to attend a bible study. Alan referred to a visit he had to Romania. He was part of a group who had brought bibles to share with some people. They were standing waiting for a bus when a taxi pulled up and asked them what they were doing. When they explained he asked them for a bible. There was a bit of reluctance to give him one as they had been earmarked for people, however he did receive one. A few minutes later a group of taxis pulled up, the drivers were all asking for

bibles, the driver had contacted his friends. The bibles were all given out and they had to go and buy more.

Another core principle is that the early church was a caring church, they distributed their wealth and that spoke to the society of the day. They were following Jesus as he cared for others. Alan told another story of a lady he was speaking to in one of the local churches. The lady brought her disabled sister with her and when asked why the lady attended that particular church, she explained that she had attended other churches in the town, but she didn't feel welcome there and some people couldn't cope with the noises her sister made. Alan said there are many ways of caring. It could be a phone call, a text or a bunch of flowers. One of Alan's own experiences of this was when he needed an operation on his knee, the cost was £2800. Alan was overwhelmed when he received £3000 from a lady in his congregation with a note telling him to buy himself a pair of pyjamas with the remainder! Alan emphasised that caring isn't about money, a living church shows care and has compassion. They will know we are Christians by our love.

Worship is another core principle. Alan stated that the early church had formal and informal types of worship and had a good variety. Alan said that the worship is

not about you and me, it is all about Jesus. Alan shared an experience he had in Cuba where he learned the value of joy. After a long journey he was taken to a packed church where the noise was overwhelming. Alan stated the people were singing and dancing and one particular lady was taking people by the hand and dancing with them. Alan was praying that she wouldn't pick him but of course she did. Alan remembers feeling guilty that he was feeling that way about her joy and worship. Alan said that when he preached that day the Lord used him and when he made an appeal at the end there were 300 people in the building and 300 came for a blessing. Alan said that where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. Alan recalled a conversation he had with young Christian who when asked why he attended a particular church said it was because of the worship and the word. Alan said that no one wants to go to a dead church, but the Holy Spirit brings life and renewal.

Alan went on to say that when he was elected president the group he was working with, chose the word compelled as his theme for the year, relating to the apostle Paul who was compelled to preach the gospel. Alan said that if we want the church to grow it will only grow if people come to know Jesus. He then shared a video clip showing the growth of the church in Cuba. Alan said that the spirit of God is reviving the church in

Cuba and the same Holy Spirit is at work here. He finished by saying that if we take the core principles seriously and are open to the Holy Spirit, God can do wonderful things. The question is; - Will we let him?

After a final prayer and a hymn, we met around the Lord's table for communion. Following the service there was a lovely lunch catered by Cloud Nine restaurant. It was a memorable day in the life of our church, and we were fed spiritually and bodily.

Vivienne Clements

John Wesley

John Wesley was born on 17th June 1703. He was the 15th child of Samuel, a preacher, and his wife Susanna, who was a big influence on him all his life. Home schooled by his mother until 11 years old and then in Anglican educational institutes, he was steeped in the Anglican tradition and loved its teaching, piety and ritual.

After schooldays he sailed for Georgia in the New World. There he was a scholar until becoming a lecturer in logic and Greek. This led to his becoming a missionary.

At this time he fell in with a group of Moravians. They challenged him about his faith and this made him think.

In 1738 Wesley found assurance in the love of God and in his faith, but he came to believe he had failed in his mission and in his calling in the New World and decided to return home. By now an ordained minister, he used his influence and encouraged people to be charitable and help the poor and needy.

He was offered a living in the Church of England until he married. He was still seeking and studying, and not long afterwards he went to a meeting in Aldersgate and felt his heart 'strangely warmed' and knew at once to trust in the Lord for salvation, to his great joy.

Then a preacher called George Whitefield, who preached in the open air, heard about Wesley and asked him to stand in for him one day. Although unsure of himself, Wesley agreed. As he preached he could see people listening as they watched him, and he knew at once he had at last found his calling.

A movement emerged called Methodists, who met in groups with a leader. Wesley had started all this and encouraged his followers to support charitable causes to help the poor and needy.

Wesley preached in the open air as well, which was his calling, and loved to do so. People listened to him and gave their lives to Jesus. For many years people came to hear him preach the Gospel and Christian love and compassion to those in need. His brother Charles wrote many wonderful hymns that we still sing today.

Today Methodism is spreading all round the world despite difficulties. John Wesley was a very remarkable man and a very true Christian. I would have loved to have known him.

Margaret Connell

My wee toon [Ulster Scots]

A cum fae a wee toon caad tha DEE
About twontie mile fae Portpatrick ower tha sea.
Monie yeir ago thaim yins cum ivver tae oor wee lann.
Hit wus aa pairt o a bag maister plaan.

Mongunmrie an Hamilton was twa o tha bag names.
An it wuznae unco lang tae hit catched the ee o King James.

An Ulster plantation noo thons a guid notion he thocht.
An iver in aa kin o boats tha Laaland Scots wur
brocht.

Aa alang Co Antrim an tha lenth o Coontie Doon
Wae maist o thain arrivin in Bangor or ma wee toon.
Thaim yins wrocht haird on fairms aa day lang,
An their gauns on pit doon in monie a sang.

Presbyterian an God faerin the larnt iz tae be
Merrien an glen, tha weans naimis or dealing wae iz
whun we dee.

Wuznae allood bae tha high hied ylns o tha laan
Sae a lock o thaim sez hits aff tae tha new warl wer
gan.

Maistly young yins tae Americae wus boon
On monie a schip tae thir gran kintra cud be foon
Tha aul tha seek an thaim fain tae stap
Gien iz quhat we hae tha day, an tha ye we taak

Sae whun ye pass thoo tha wee toon o tha Dee
Hae mine o thaim fowk quha cum fae ower tha sea
Glen iz aa a culture tae luk up tae
Be unco prood o that, an hae nae mine o quhat ithers
say.

John Wright

Unco means very
Taak means talk.

Any queries about translation PLEASE ask John Wright
!!!

Indifference

by [Geoffrey Anketell Studdert-Kennedy](#)

When Jesus came to Golgotha they hanged Him on a
tree. They drove great nails through hands /and feet,
and made a Calvary;
They crowned Him with a crown of thorns, red were His
wounds and deep,
For those were crude and cruel days, and human flesh
was cheap.

When Jesus came to our town they simply passed Him
by,
They never hurt a hair of Him, they only let Him die;
For men had grown more tender, and they would not
give Him pain,
They only just passed down the street, and left Him in
the rain.

Still Jesus cried, "Forgive them, for they know not what they do,"

And still it rained the wintry rain that drenched Him through and through;

The crowds went home and left the streets without a soul to see,

And Jesus crouched against a wall and cried for Calvary.

A Favourite Hymn

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee;
thou wilt find a solace there.

A few months ago, during the sermon Aian mentioned that this hymn was written by a man from Northern Ireland. In fact from County Down. This piqued my interest so I decided to find out more. I have always enjoyed this hymn, mainly because when I was at school I was the only pupil taking music to an advanced level, and I guess the headmistress decided to use me. So I played the piano every day for assembly, as this hymn has an easy tune to remember I played it often.

The history of the hymn. Written by Joseph M Scrivens

Joseph Scrivens was born in Banbridge in 1819, he suffered many disappointments during his life .

As a young man, his fiancée was drowned the day before the wedding, while there is no evidence that he witnessed this, it is thought that he arrived on the scene soon after the accident.

Following this tragedy he emigrated to Canada where he worked as a teacher, and became known for his Christian charitable works with the poor. He met and became engaged to Eliza Roach, who died from pneumonia before they could get married in 1860.

During this period of his life his mother became seriously ill, he was unable to get back to Ireland so he wrote this beautiful poem, "What a friend we have in Jesus". He sent it back to his mother to comfort her.

It was set to music by Charles Crozat Converse in 1870, and became the beautiful hymn we sing today.

Joseph was more known for his charitable acts, than for his poetry, he is credited with writing "The way of the cross leads home"

He died in Port Hope Ontario where he had lived most of his life. The cause of his death is uncertain. His body was found in a waterway, near Port Hope, in 1886 aged 67, and historians have debated ever since, whether it was an accident or suicide.

I find this a very sad background to Joseph's life, but I know that this hymn brings a lot of comfort to people suffering from unhappiness and we can thank him for it.

Mary

Sayings of Seneca, 4BC-65ADM

It is a foolish thing to be miserable beforehand, for fear of misery to come: for a man loses the present which he might enjoy in the expectation of the future.

Seneca (c. 4 BCE – 65 CE), often called [Lucius Annaeus Seneca](#) or Seneca the Younger, was a Roman Stoic philosopher, statesman, playwright, and one of the most influential thinkers of the Stoic school.

Who is Seneca?

He is remembered for writing about how to live well in the face of adversity, wealth, power, illness, and death.

- He was born in Corduba (modern Córdoba, Spain), then part of the Roman Empire.
- He became a successful lawyer, writer, and politician in Rome.
- He served as tutor and later adviser to the Roman emperor [Nero](#).
- As Nero became increasingly tyrannical, Seneca withdrew from public life.
- In 65 AD, after being accused of involvement in a conspiracy against Nero, he was ordered to take his own life. According to Roman custom, he complied, and his death became emblematic of Stoic composure.

ARCHIE

Archie is a rescue Border Collie and is almost 10yrs old. Archie has a natural talent of finding and sniffing out golf balls.

Archie who belongs to Margaret and Philip England, has become somewhat of a local celebrity. Firstly, Belfast Live recently wrote an article on his exploits, he then appeared in an article in both the spectator and Chronicle as well as having his own Facebook page (Archie the golf ball finding Border Collie).

Archie finds the golf balls at Clandeboyne Golf Club and they are then sold back to the members to raise much needed funds for The Heartbeat Trust via the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children. Archie can find 30-70 golf balls per day, with usually 3-4 trips to the courses a week. Archie was loved by Margaret's late father Charlie Bell, whom he saw at least once a week to give him his treat. He is also loved by the majority of golfers who always find the time to give him a hug and a stroke.



We are very privileged to have such a historical building in which to worship. Maurice continues to do a brilliant

job supervising the work both inside and out.

