

Ballee Baptist Church



OUR MAGAZINE

April—June 2011

WELCOME

to the April—June 2011

issue of *Our Magazine*

Welcome to another Church Fellowship quarterly magazine. These past weeks have seen many changes around the fellowship. Some faithful members have been called home, and we will miss them so much; others called to service in other fellowships, and again they are missed from our ranks; and some new additions have come who are such a blessing, (to say nothing of a new church organ!!) It reminds me of the hymn of Henry Francis Lyte “Abide with me”...the second verse has the line “Change and decay in all around I see, O Thou who changest not abide with me”. Amidst all the changes in fellowship life that we didn’t ask for or wish for, I remind you that the Lord never changes and we have still so much to praise the Lord for. Psalm 92 v 1 says, *“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord.”* Someone has said, “He enjoys much who is thankful for little. A grateful mind is a great mind.” The Psalmist had troubles, trials and problems, but he found so much for which to thank God. Let me remind you of some of the things we need to praise God for...

1.) Thank God for His Free Salvation (2 Corinthians 9 v 15)

What God gives to us is called an “unspeakable gift”. It is not the word “unspeakable” that caught my attention, but the word “gift”. Salvation is not wage earned, it is a gift received. The Lord Jesus purchased it and gives it. The gift of all gifts is eternal life (Romans 5 v 18). If we had to live a perfect life to earn salvation we would all be doomed to a lost eternity (Romans 3 v 23).

2.) Thank God for His Daily Goodness (1 Chronicles 16 v 34a)

The Bible in this verse speaks of giving thanks and says of God, “He is good”. God is morally and ethically right in every aspect of His being. Not only does God do good things, goodness is a very part of His being. No matter what God does or allows, we must say that He acts out of His goodness. The word “goodness” in reference to God can also speak of His kindness. He is so kind to give us our family, our friends, our finances, and our fellowship. He is 100% good even when we cannot see it, or the circumstances seem to us to say the opposite.

3.) *Thank God for His Enduring Mercy (1 Chronicles 16 v 34b)*

“His mercy endureth forever” is a clause used 31 times in the Psalms alone. Mercy is God holding back what we do deserve. When God forgives us of our sin and makes us a child of God, it is a permanent transaction (Romans 8 v 38 & 39; John 10 v 28 & 29). You are not kept by your good works, but through God’s great mercy.

4.) *Thank God for His Absolute Holiness (Psalm 30 v 4)*

God is a holy God and His holiness is His glory. God’s holiness is the eternal focus of the angels more than any other of God’s attributes, for they cry, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Hosts” (Isaiah 6 v 3; Revelation 4 v 8). When we think much of His holiness, it becomes our prayer that He would make us more holy in our daily attitudes, actions and reactions.

5.) *Thank God for His Wondrous Works (Psalm 75 v 1)*

Instead of telling others, with a spirit of pride, what we have done, we need to tell them of the wondrous things He has done. “Wondrous things” are the doings of God that show His wonder working power. A “wonder” is something so special that it causes amazement, astonishment, and awe. A good example of a wonder is what God did in creation in six days or at the Red Sea when Israel crossed the sea on dry ground, and Pharaoh’s armies were then drowned as the walls of water fell upon them.

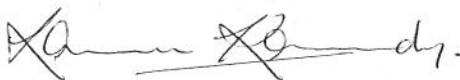
6.) *Thank God for His Righteous Judgements (Psalm 119 v 62)*

All of God’s judicial decisions are always right and righteous. Even if He determines you need to go through a valley time of difficulty and restriction, His assessment is right and He has a purpose in mind, which will be for your ultimate good. We have no right to question Him. At the Judgement Seat of Christ, He will be seen to be right, and we will bow and declare “Lord, Your way is perfect”.

7.) *Thank God for Our Daily Triumph (2 Corinthians 2 v 14)*

God’s people are not a people of defeat, but of triumph. As we walk in the Spirit from day to day, our Heavenly Father nullifies the power of sin over us. Galatians 5 v 16 says, “*Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh*”. If you live your entire life in the Spirit of God, you will know that daily victory over the old fleshly nature.

Hope you enjoy the rest of the magazine...and remember, there is so much for which to be thankful!!!



Ladies Fellowship

By the time you are reading this the final Ladies meeting will have taken place. In April we finished our season with a visit from Kathryn Campbell who gave a word of testimony

and heard of the faithfulness of God throughout her life. Each of us went away challenged by what we heard. Please pray as we organise and book speakers for September—April 2012 that God will bless the year ahead.

A new venture took place in the month of May—Walk for Live. This involved inviting friends, neighbours and unsaved from around the area and going for a good walk. After returning to the church we had a healthy supper of fruit and yogurt and then this was followed by a word of testimony from some of our own ladies. We enjoyed these evenings thoroughly and were encouraged by the numbers attending. We got slightly damp a few nights but thankfully there were no heavy showers to hinder our walks. This was a new outreach and hopefully we aim to repeat it next year.

Our outing took place on the last Saturday in April and this year we went to Fultons for coffee, had a quick visit to Sprucefield and then completed the shopping in Lisburn. We finished the day with tea at Dunadry before returning home. As usual a good day was had by all. This is a great way to get to know a lot of ladies from the church—even if you don't come to the ladies meeting so why not join us next year as we plan another day out.

Even though our meetings have finished the prayer meeting continues throughout the summer. Please plan to attend the last Wednesday of each month if possible, because folks are on holiday and it is always good to encourage those who are still able to be at the meetings.

Looking forward to seeing all ladies in September.

Lesley Kennedy





“Calling all Females....”

A “ladies only” breakfast has been organised for Saturday 3rd September 2011 in the Adair Arms, Ballymena at 9.00 am.

Come along for a great time of food and fellowship

More details will follow shortly.

Mens Fellowship

The Men’s Fellowship concluded the season with an outing to the recently refurbished Belfast City Hall on Wednesday 8th June. The 40 men in our party had a very interesting guided tour and admired the ornate craftsmanship of the interior of the historical building and its significance on a local and national basis. When the tour concluded we returned to Ballymena and went back to Pastor Jones’ home for an excellent supper which was provided by a number of the ladies from the church. The evening was a great success with fellowship, food and fun. We would like to thank all those involved in organising the evening which has now become a yearly fixture in the Men’s Fellowship calendar.

The Men’s committee of Mervyn McMullan, Sidney Campbell, David Mitchell, Wilson Burgess and Pastor Billy would like to thank all the men for faithfully supporting our times of fellowship each month and already plans are being made for the new season starting in September. The committee would like to encourage new men to come along each 3rd Wednesday of the month, September—May and enjoy a time of fellowship and friendship.

Pastor Billy Jones



March—May 2011

Our first meeting in March was entitled “Speaker’s Corner”. This involved Emma Manson, Ruth Cameron and Peter Gillan bringing a few thoughts from the passage they were given. This was a special time as it was really great to hear some of the young people and what they had learned from their passage.

Then we had a visit from Monkstown Baptist, Larne Mission Hall and Grange Baptist. We had a really good night of fellowship and fun which was then rounded off in a very appropriate way when Trevor Robinson from Larne Mission Hall spoke to us all.

On 3rd April and 1st May we had a DVD night when we watched one of Louie Giglio’s DVD’s entitled “Hope”. Then we had our annual Youth Weekend when we headed to Kilkeel CEF Centre. We enjoyed good weather, good food (both physical and spiritual) and we had a good weekend of fellowship. We would like to thank Joel Hutchinson for speaking at our Youth Weekend as we considered “Living Out Loud for God”.

Our penultimate meeting of the year was held at the home of Alistair and Zarene Whann. We would like to thank them for opening up their home for Salt to invade it!!!. Also to Julie Elder who testified that night. Our final evening was a very relaxed one as many of the young people had exams the next week. Although we were due to have Pastor Jones come to speak to us, but due to a washing machine and his diary, Pastor Jones was then doubled booked. So we had a quiz night and then enjoyed good food for the final time.

We would like to thank Deborah Kennedy, Pamela & Andrew Robinson for their commitment during the past year(s) and we wish them well for the future in their service for the Master.

The new committee for the 2011/2012 season is: Julie Elder, Joel Hutchinson, Chris Cameron, Noel Bell, Gemma Campbell, Karla Redmond and David Cameron. We as a committee really appreciate your prayers over the past year and would appreciate them for the next year of Salt, as we seek God’s guidance for Salt and also for God’s help throughout the incoming year.

Salt Committee



Why Word of Life? Joel Hutchinson

Perhaps you've been wondering why I'm going to be working full time for Word of Life (WOL). What makes WOL so special? As I shared in my recent prayer letter, WOL has been a big part of my life since I was a teenager. I was attending WOL camps, events and Associate Staff Training Weekends throughout my teenage years and benefited greatly from the training and discipleship I received from WOL staff. I was encouraged to have a daily Quiet Time in the Word and to be involved in the local church. When I was 15, I started working at the camps. I had opportunities to serve in the camp kitchen, to be a room Leader and to run the camp programme. It helped me to develop ministry skills and gain confidence. I've personally experienced WOL training and been heavily involved in their ministry so when I knew God's leading into full time ministry I was confident that WOL was an organisation which I could whole-heartedly support. WOL is committed to training up young people! My time at the WOL Bible Institute in Schroom Lake, New York, further solidified my passion for the ministry of WOL. WOL is committed to God's Word and basing its ministry solely on biblical principles. At the Bible Institute, we weren't just attending classes but we were being encouraged to live by God's Word and had opportunities to put what we were learning into practice in the dorms, on the camps and on weekend ministry trips. We were taught the difference between head knowledge and heart application. I am so excited about God's plans for WOL here in Northern Ireland because I now know how God has used WOL to shape me and prepare me to serve Him effectively. Young people need encouragement to live for God and to serve Him. I now have the privilege and responsibility of working as the Camp Director at the WOL camps where I was trained and gained my ministry experience. Unfortunately, there are many young people in Northern Ireland who are not being trained up, not given the opportunity to gain practical ministry experience. I have such a passion to see young people get a burden for their generation. Jack Wyrzten, the founder of WOL International, is known for saying, "It is the responsibility of each generation to reach their generation for Christ". WOL's purpose is to reach youth with the Gospel of Christ. We believe that we need to be empowering our young people to do just that! Please join me in praying for our young people as they take up the great commission to their generation.

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Philippians 2 v 16)

e: joel@woluk.org w: www.woluk.org

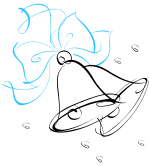
Births

Congratulations are extended to the following on the births of their babies:

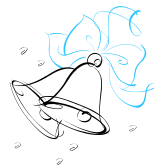
Geoffrey & Alison Colville (Baby Boy)
Stephen & Nichola Marks (Baby Girl)
Ian & Rhonda McAlister (Baby Girl)
Craig & Cherith McNeilly (Baby Boy)
Andrew & Pamela Robinson (Baby Boy)



Psalm 127 v 3 Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord



Wedding



Congratulations and best wishes are extended to Julie McComb and Mark Kelly on their recent marriage. We wish them God's richest blessing for their future together.

Proverbs 18 v 22 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing...

Deaths

Sadly there are three deaths to report:-

Brother John Wylie was called home on 6th April 2011. John joined the fellowship on 27th June 2004 and was a faithful member, but due to health problems was restricted in his attendance and involvement. We commend his wife, Doreen and the family circle to the God of all comfort and grace.

Brother Robert Cameron was called home on the evening of 13th May 2011 after a few weeks of failing health. Robert joined the fellowship on 12th January 1969 and devoted his life to God's service in Ballee Baptist. A tribute to our esteemed elder in on page 9.

Mrs Ann McWhirter was called home in the early hours of Saturday 14th May 2011 after a short illness. Ann joined the fellowship on 12th January 1969 and was a faithful member over all those years. We remember her family, Caroline, Stephen and Geoffrey in our prayers.

Psalm 116 v 15
Precious in the sight of the Lord is
the death of his saints.

Tribute to Mr Robert Cameron (1925—2011)

Our dear brother Robert was suddenly called from this earthly scene to be with his Lord and Saviour on Friday evening, the 13th May 2011. Robert was 86 years old and over all of those years enjoyed a great measure of health. In January 1995 he had major heart surgery and recovered very well. In March 2009 he had a hip joint replacement which gave him better mobility.



On Sunday 3rd April 2011 he became ill and was admitted to Antrim Area Hospital where he remained for about 10 days before returning to his home at Sour Hill. On 29th April doctors sent him to Coleraine Hospital and on 10th May he was discharged and went to stay at his daughter Isobel's home, Craig's Road, Rasharkin. Then late on Friday evening Robert took a seizure. Ambulance crew and medical staff rushed to the home and did their best to revive him.

The news of brother Robert's home call cast a deep and lasting shadow over the fellowship. Great is our loss but greater was his abundant and glad entrance into the very presence of his Lord. (2 Peter 1 v 11) Today he is in the presence of the One whom he so faithfully served.

We have treasured memories and it is now fitting that a tribute should be paid to our beloved friend and brother in Christ, one who served the Lord so well and gave his life to the work at the Toome Road.

If there was a meeting, Robert was there and always willing to take his full share of responsibility. His was a warm handshake, the welcoming smile that often met people at the Church.

His funeral service was held in Ballee Baptist on Monday 16th May. The respect and affection in which he was held was shown in the huge crowd that attended. Pastor Geoffrey Ward led in prayer and Pastor Billy Jones read the scriptures. Kellie Hanna sang that lovely solo piece, "Will I meet you on that beautiful shore?". Brother Auldwyn Calderwood brought a very fitting tribute during the service. Robert had many favourite hymns, one of which was sang at the funeral, "I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene", and this was his favourite verse from that hymn:- *"He took my sins and my*

burden to Calvary; and suffered and died alone.” Pastor Kennedy used the words of Hebrews 11 v 4 “he being dead yet speaketh”. These words were spoken to Abel murdered by his brother Cain. The Pastor left a challenge in the gospel to all present.

Throughout Robert’s Christian walk he dedicated his life to service at Ballee Baptist. He held the office of Sunday School Superintendent from 1976—1984. He held the office of Church Secretary for 20 years and was a devoted elder in the fellowship from 1st February 1970.

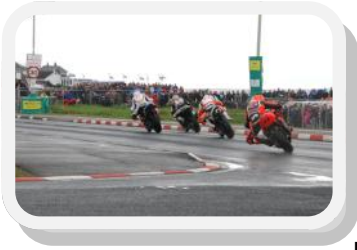
I lift the words of Moses from Genesis 6 v 4, “There were giants in the earth in those days,” and Robert was a giant in faithfulness. When the doors were open, Robert was there. Nothing but ill health kept him from the meetings. He was a man of great integrity and a trusted confidant. Robert was a giant in prayer. He never missed a prayer meeting and loved to lead the saints in prayer. Robert was a giant in encouragement. His kindness and warmth were evident to all, and he was a channel of blessing to many a soul.

Our hearts go out to the family that he loved and enjoyed, also to their spouses and grandchildren. We extend our sincere sympathy and commit them to our prayers. We commend the whole family circle to the God of all comfort and grace.

We salute his faithfulness, his courage and his memory.

Church Secretary

“Thou shalt be missed
because thy seat will be empty”
1 Samuel 20 v 18



Bikers for Christ North West 200 Outreach

Bikers for Christ has one aim, to give out the Word of God in simple tracts to as many bikers as possible. For a number of years this work has taken place at the North West 200 road races and other racing events across Northern Ireland. The tracts given out are aimed specifically towards the motorbike community and printed using up-to-date photographs. All the tracts are sized and folded so that they can fit into the pocket of a motorbike jacket.

Every year too many bikers will literally ride straight into a lost eternity from our roads. This happens all too frequent and for this reason some of this ministry involves just going out on a good afternoon or weekend to speak to bikers about my Saviour and a simple message of, "Please ride home safely."

On Saturday 21st May 2011 a team from Ballee went up to the North West. Joe Lynn, Bertie McCord, Joel Hutchinson and myself drove up early that morning (no bike needed this year, it was too wet!!! And I couldn't fit all four on my bike!!!) There was only one race and this gave us some good opportunities to speak briefly with some bikers. Generally the tracts were well received. It was amazing to look back and see hundreds of people just sitting or standing reading a gospel tract. We give God all the glory for this, it is His work alone, we are just the sowers of His seed.

We returned home tired and a little wet but rejoicing as over 36,000 tracts had been handed out in a few hours. We take great comfort from Isaiah 55 v 11, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it".

Someone asked me a few years back, "Why do you do this work?" my answer was read Luke 14 v 23, "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." That's just what we do, go along the highways and the hedges on race days and find where the souls are,. If we don't go who will tell them or how will they know about the Saviour. If you would like to help in this work in anyway please talk to us, we would love to have you along. If you can walk and hand out tracts, God will do the rest.

Don't forget GOD, He didn't forget you

"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" Psalm 9 v 17

Hell lies at the end of a Christ-less life,
For those who forget God and always cause strife.
The wicked into hell shall doubtless be turned
With no escape once there, but forever to burn.

Hell is a place, in the Bible we are told,
Where the worm dieth not, nor the fire go cold.
But all will be tormented forever and aye,
In that everlasting blaze, where there is no day.

There will be weeping and wailing in that bottomless pit,
In that never dying fire forever to sit.
For all who reject God's plan of salvation,
Forever and ever God's eternal damnation.

From the caverns of hell there is no retreat,
What will it mean at the great judgement seat?
To be banished forever, and ever and ever,
And your loved ones to see again, never more never.

Just now as you read these very solemn things,
Repent of your sins, and let Jesus come in.
He'll dwell in your heart, and walk with you there,
And take you at last to His Mansions so fair.

Dear sinner, in God's Holy Book as we read,
Of the joys that await those, as the narrow way leads
On to those Mansions prepared in the sky,
For those of His own, who will never more die.

Written by Barbara Mills.

Heaven's Bank

I have an everlasting bank
A more than golden store
No earthly bank is half as rich
How can I then be poor?

Sometimes my banker smiling says
Why don't you often come?
And when you drawn a little note
Why not a larger sum?

Why live so meagrely and poor
Your bank contains a-plenty
Why come and take a five pound note
When you might have a twenty.

Since when my banker is so rich
I have no cause to borrow
I'll live upon my cash today
And draw again tomorrow!



The Alphabet

Although things are not perfect
Because of trial or pain
Continue in thanksgiving
Do not begin to blame
Even when the times are hard
Fierce winds are bound to blow
God is forever able
Hold on to what you know
Imagine life without His love
Joy would cease to be
Keep thanking Him for all the things
Love imparts to thee
Move out of “Camp Complaining”
No weapon that is known
On earth can yield the power
Praise can do alone
Quit looking at the future
Redeem the time at hand
Start every day with worship
To “thank” is a command
Until we see Him coming
Victorious in the sky
We’ll run the race with gratitude
Xalting God most high
Yes, there’ll be good times and yes some will be bad, but...
Zion waits in glory...where none are ever sad!!

The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the
distance between your knees and the floor.

The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything!!

Young Seekers

As I was thinking how the next lesson in the series was to be explained, I thought about what I knew as a child about Noah and the Ark; then I asked my daughters if they could relay the story of Noah. My thoughts and theirs were quite similar. But when I asked them what kind of picture was in their head, they described to me a small cartoon boat stuffed with animals. Does that picture pop into your mind? Well that's not what the Bible describes. So together I hope we shall learn more about Noah and the mission God gave him to do. What has God asked you to do for Him? To build a large boat? Probably not. To ask a friend to come to the church? Maybe. To give your life to Him?



(Picture courtesy of Answer in Genesis)

RESCUE

Noah was a good man, not perfect because we are all born in sin due to Adam and Eve's first sin of disobedience. But Noah's desire was to do what God wanted him to do, he trusted God. Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham and Japeth. The earth was sinful and full of violence. God had had enough and he decided that he would destroy everyone with the earth—EXCEPT Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives. God was to give Noah directions as to how to construct his lifeboat, the Ark.

Instructions:

It was to be made of gopher wood; we still don't know from what kind of tree gopher wood came from but God said to use it, so Noah did. There was to be rooms, compartments, or nests in the ark, I expect to hold each type of animal. The ark was to be covered with a sticky, oily, tar, inside and outside. This would help to prevent water coming in. The length of the ark was to be 300 cubits, the breadth 50 and the height 30.



Now hold it....who knows what a cubit is?



Answer: it is the distance from your fingertip to your elbow, "But my cubit is longer than your cubit", I hear you say...well a man's cubit is around 51.8 cm. So can you give the dimensions of the Ark in meters?

A window was to be made for the ark, a light which could take in as much light as possible without letting in loads of rain...remember there was no glass in Noah's time!! A door was to be put in the side of the ark and there were to be three stories or levels inside. God also instructed Noah to gather all food that was needed for his family AND all the animals. Dried food would be the easiest to store on board the ark so there was probably a lot of hay, dried fruit, seeds, nuts, oats and barley. Now God also instructed Noah that two of every kind of animal, male and female were to enter the ark. But of the animals that God deemed to be clean seven were to enter the ark, and birds of the air seven were to enter also. Noah did all that God commanded him to do; and he and his family entered the ark. Then went in all the animals that God commanded and God shut the door. It began to rain and water came up from below the broken earth as well, making the ark lift up high above the hills.

Now it rained continuously for 40 days and 40 nights until all the high hills that were under the sky were covered. The flood was over the whole earth no living thing could escape except they were in the ark.

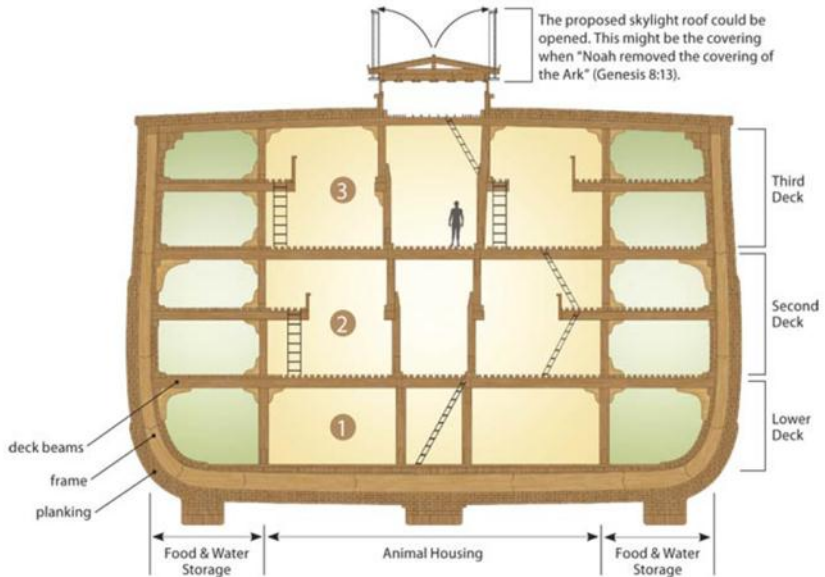
Now think on these things.

People and animals had been living on the earth for around 1656 years up until the flood. Noah was the only one God seen to be trusting in him and living that out in his life. God saved Noah and his family on the lifeboat—the Ark. But everyone else chose not to trust the God of

creation. Death was the consequence and there was nothing left on the earth that breathed because they had all drowned. The water remained on the earth 150 days but the Bible tells us that God remembered Noah and every living thing aboard the ark.

Below is a cross-section view of a possible design of the interior of the Ark.

(Source: www.answersingenesis.org)



Check out the summer activity on the website below:

www.answersingenesis.org/assets/pdf/v2i2/Bookmark.pdf

Prize-winners

For previous quizzes there are prizes for the following:

Andrew Alexander
Hannah Anderson
Mark Kernohan

Dates for your diary

Here are some important dates for the coming months....



SEPTEMBER

Sunday 18th September 2011—Fred Orr Jnr & Brazillian Pastor
Tuesday 27th September 2011 Billy Kennedy (Scotland) & G. S. Nair

For further information refer to the Monthly Information Sheets

Services

Sunday School & Bible Classes—10.15am

Sunday Services—11.30am & 6.30pm

Salt*—alternate Sundays @ 8.00pm

Good News Club*—Mondays @ 7.00pm

Bible Study*—Tuesdays @ 8.00pm

Ladies Fellowship*—2nd and last Wednesday of each month @ 8.00pm

Men's Fellowship*—3rd Wednesday of each month @ 7.45pm

Prayer Meeting*—Thursdays @ 8.00pm

Youth Club*—alternate Saturdays @ 7.30pm

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