

Ballymoney Church of God

(Garryduff Road, Ballymoney, N Ireland, BT53 7AF)



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What if....

What if the manger had been empty, and no angel in the sky,
Had stopped to tell the shepherds that they really should pass by
A dark and humble stable where God's glory shone around,
And the Father's precious only Son – a baby – could be found?
Then there'd be no heaven waiting, and no Saviour's arms held wide
To welcome His invited guests to come and step inside.
There'd be no heavenly Bridegroom, no glorious wedding feast,
No church, no heavenly family, from the greatest to the least.
If Joseph had been obstinate or Mary had said, "No"
If the wise men hated travelling and didn't want to go,
If the shepherds there in Bethlehem kept quiet about it all,
Would there be a Christmas story of a humble cattle stall?
If He who reigned in heaven, the King enthroned on high,
Had been too busy making worlds to leave and come to die,
Or if all our pain and helplessness, our shame and our disgrace
Had triggered only justice, and no amazing grace.
There would be no friend like Jesus to calm us in the strife,
No saving free forgiveness – no second chance at life,
No gentle Holy Spirit to change us from within,
No overcoming power, no victory over sin.
So come with me on tiptoe and we'll take you to the place
Where Jesus, baby Jesus lies, with tears upon his face,
Assuring us of gospel truth that in this tiny form
Within the hay – on Christmas Day - Redemptive Love was born!

(Jill Briscoe)



Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade 46th Enrolment Services



The Enrolment Services were truly blessed of God, as families joined with us as **Captain Hilary Patterson** and **Captain Mark Boreland** presented their companies of Officers, young men and women, boys and girls for enrolment. Guest speaker at the G.B. Enrolment, **Angie McKee** (Child Evangelism Fellowship) and Jonathan Gracey (NI Director B.B.) commented on how special the services had been.



We are so proud of our Brigades. Well done to everyone who took part.

HOPE all wrapped up in 276 SHOEBOXES of LOVE!

This year we were able to give **276** shoeboxes to **Drop Inn Ministries**. Over the next few weeks these Shoeboxes will be transported to **Eastern Europe & Africa** where they will be distributed to children who live in orphanages, are in hospital or whose lives are affected by poverty. **Thank you** to everyone who took part in the shoebox appeal. Your thoughtfulness will bring joy to many needy children this Christmas.



Also, a BIG thank you to Lyndal Speers, Louise Ogle & their team of willing helpers who spent many hours shopping and packing 242 of these boxes!

CELEBRATING 72 GLORIOUS YEARS!

Sunday morning began with **Pastor Yvonne** bringing a powerful, very challenging sermon on "**Vision**". In the evening **Pastor Jonathan** gave a beautiful photographic presentation of the Church's History here in Ballymoney. Then came the moment where he revealed through a 'Virtual Tour' the **Brand New 650 seater auditorium and 160 seater Prayer Room**. The Congregation watched with amazed emotion how the old was 'married' with the vibrant new to create a truly impressive new Sanctuary for Ballymoney Church of God. There was such joy after the Services as people went home to discuss all kinds of ways to fundraise to bring the Plan and Purpose of God into the realms of reality over these next few years.

Exciting days ahead!



"For the vision is yet for an appointed time..." Habakkuk 2:3

KIDZONE raises £100 for CHILDREN IN NEED



"KIDZONE", their Leaders and even the Pastoral Team dressed in Onesies for a night of much fun and laughter! The magnificent sum of **£100** was raised for this very worthy cause.

SYMPATHY

To the Family of **James McCook**, a beloved Elder and faithful member of Ballymoney Church of God.

To the **Hugh Patterson & Bobby Blair** Families on the sad passing of **Maud**. A beloved and faithful Sister in The Lord.

Our prayers surround you.
"Safe in the arms of Jesus"

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT



You decide how much you want to spend, select an appropriate alternative gift then complete and return along with your



donation to Hilary Kyle. You will then receive a gift card which you can pass on to family or friends and your money will go to help very needy children in the Philippines.

100% of the money you donate will benefit those in need.

Closing date for ordering is Sun. 16th Dec.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY
ITEM IN THE NEWSLETTER
PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

A Happy Christmas and a God-Blessed New Year from Your Pastoral Team

As your Pastors we sincerely thank the whole congregation for your love, trust, prayers and support. We wish you a blessed festive season and a New Year filled with promise as together we serve the Lord and our community. We love and appreciate you all.
Pastor & Mrs Taylor, Pastor Yvonne & Pastor Jonathan, Pastor Jon & Louise.

SPECIAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FRIDAY 7th DECEMBER AT 7.30PM SENIORS' CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sponsored by the Girls' and Boys' Brigades, it is a feast not to be missed. We love our seniors who over the years have so faithfully attended and financially supported the church.
P.S. Santa will also be calling with some festive hampers!

THURSDAY 13th DECEMBER AT 12.30PM SENIORS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH

If you are a Senior come along and join us for a beautiful, tasty, festive lunch and an hour of relaxed fellowship.



The Wonder of
Christmas
is not in the presents,
but in *His* presence.



SUNDAY 16th DECEMBER AT 6:30PM CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION "Rejoice O World!"

100's of leaflets will be given out inviting people to what promises to be a truly blessed evening. Taking part will be the Choirs, Groups, Soloists, Musicians and others. There will be an extra special **Kids' Club** for the 3-7 year olds. After the Cantata there will be the much appreciated **Mince Pie Supper** prepared by our Catering Team. Let's again pack the Church to capacity and invite others.

SUNDAY 23rd DECEMBER AT 6:30PM CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

The Carol Service promises to be another special evening. Join with us for lively Community Carol Singing and a wonderful **Nativity Play** performed by the children.

W.O.W! Women of Worth hosts a Coffee Evening and Cake Sale
in aid of Cherish a Child. FRIDAY 11TH JAN. @ 7:30PM

Come and enjoy the Comedy Sketch with Puppets and People!

STAR WARPED

Join us for a real Family Night of fun
and fellowship for a very worthy cause.

Freewill offering at the door.

