

# Ballymoney Church of God

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



## January 2019

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## 2018 A YEAR OF BLESSING

### Dear Friends,

Well it's hard to believe that we're now at the beginning of another brand new year. - **Welcome to 2019!** As we look back over the last twelve months we're still amazed at what God has done and continues to do in **Ballymoney Church of God**. We've had many visitors coming in to enjoy the services and their comments have been very encouraging.

Like every Church fellowship we've celebrated with young couples as they've pledged their wedding vows; rejoiced at new babies being born, but sadly we've also mourned the loss of loved ones who've passed away.

**2018** had so many highlights (too many to list!) but a big one that people are still talking about (and looking forward to the 7th one in June!) was **The Big Tent Crusade**. It never fails to amaze us how God pours His anointing over this special event.

**Other highlights** included the completion of the refurbishment programme of our church complex. From sanding Hall floors, painting, varnishing to new windows and doors! It's been a busy year.

**Another highlight** was the wonderful trip to The Philippines led by Pastor Jonathan with a team of 12 people. The Church raised the magnificent sum of £5,200 for Helping Hands Hearts Ministries who do a marvellous work.

A huge **Thank you** to everyone who works so diligently, Singers, Musicians, Sound and Vision departments, Car Park Men and Catering Teams. All our staff and helpers in Happi-Tots, Sunday School, Youth Fellowship, B.B., G.B. and the W.O.W! team - in fact every worker in every department - thank you, we are so blessed! You give of your time, energy, gifts and abilities each week, even our caretakers and cleaners, what can we say? - the Church is spotless! Also, a great big thank you to Dawn & Dougie and the Car Boot Sale Team. Many thanks to Lyndal Speers and her "Happy Days" Staff, we are bursting at the seams with kids as it goes from strength to strength. Also, a huge thank you to Hilary Kyle our P. A. who works tirelessly each day with such a spirit of excellence. When we think of every kingdom worker in Ballymoney Church of God we exclaim like the apostle Paul:

***"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you"*** (Philippians 1:3)

Last year was such a wonderful mix of hard work, fun, challenge, inspiration and happy precious memories. We look forward with excitement at what The Lord has in store for us in 2019.

On a personal note; the Payne, Taylor and Ogle families would like to say a huge thank you for all your kindness and prayers throughout the year – you touch our hearts deeply.

Our prayerful desire is that we all continue to move forward together in God's plan and purpose.

Let us hold fast to the Vision God has given us as we continue to shine the light of Christ in our Community.

*"For the vision is yet for an appointed time;...though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come."* Habakkuk 2:3

May The Lord richly bless you and your family in 2019  
as we press on for His Glory.

***Much Love and Prayers - The Pastoral Team.***

# CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



The Sanctuary was filled to capacity as friends and family came to join with us as we celebrated the Christ of Christmas. **"Rejoice O World!"**, our Christmas Celebration - was truly blessed of God as The Choirs, Praise Team, Singers, Musicians and others ministered in word and song. **The closing Carol, 'O Holy Night' was a fitting finalé to a wonderful evening in God's House.**



Afterwards, the Youth Hall was packed to capacity as everyone joined in fellowship over a delicious **Mince Pie Supper** so lovingly prepared by our **Catering Team.**

**Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this year's Christmas Celebration special.**

# FAMILY CAROL SERVICE



We enjoyed a wonderful evening as many visitors joined us for our **Family Carol Service.** We worshipped together, heartily sang many well-known Carols and listened as Singers and Musicians ministered. A special highlight of the programme was the **Nativity Play** performed by our very own Sunday School Children who all played their parts and sang with such enthusiasm.



**A big thank you to the children and teachers for all their hard work - God bless you.**

# Some CHRISTMAS FUN...



Enjoying Fun & Fellowship at Connect!



Santa made lots of friends at the Kidzone Christmas Party!



Chilling out at the Youth Christmas Party!



Carol Singing at The Cottage



Our Seniors' appreciated a wonderful Christmas Dinner!



Seniors' Christmas Lunch - a festive feast!



Santa & Mrs. Claus were very busy at the Happitots Christmas Party!

## Happy Days Playgroup Christmas Nativity

Many parents, friends and relatives came to see their "wee darlings" take part in the Playgroup's grand production of 'Our First Nativity' in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to Lyndal and her staff who had spent many hours in preparation for this.



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

### PASTORAL THANKS

The Pastoral Team would like to say how overwhelmed they were by your very generous Love Gift and the hundreds of beautiful cards and messages sent to their homes.  
**Your practical love and thoughtfulness has moved us beyond words.**

We will soon be circulating the new  
**Church Envelopes.**

If you would like envelopes and added to our Church Register please speak to Pastor Jonathan.

### **Maud's Pennies**

During 2018, the late Maud Patterson continued to be very faithful in her fundraising. The fantastic sum of **£1,865** was raised for the **Church Building Fund**. This great work is being carried on by her daughter Sylvia Elder who will be delighted to receive your change for this worthy cause.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

To **Hannah & John Doherty** on their recent marriage and also to **Charlotte & Ryan Doak** on their marriage.



*"...and the two shall become one" (Ephesians 5:31)*

### **Changing lives in the Philippines!**

**A BIG thank you** to everyone who gave to our Alternative Christmas Gift Scheme. The magnificent total of **£5,300** raised will make a huge difference to children's lives.

## **CHERISH A CHILD**

Throughout December, over **90** children across the Ballymoney area were blessed as a result of our 'Cherish a Child' initiative.



Food hampers were delivered to needy homes and we trust that these gifts will bring hope and encouragement in the midst of difficult circumstances.

**W.O.W! Women of Worth** hosts a Coffee Evening & 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.



## **YOUTH WEEKEND**

A weekend packed full with worship, fellowship, outreach, challenge and empowerment. This special event begins with our own very talented young people taking part in another great **YOUTH CONCERT**. All the proceeds will be going to support the wonderful work of **TEEN CHALLENGE**.

YOUTH CONCERT - Fri. 8th Feb. @ 7:30pm  
THE SOURCE - Sat. 9th Feb. @ 7:30pm

Sun. 10th Feb. @ 11:30am + 6:30pm  
C.L.I.C. - after the evening Service

See the next Newsletter  
for more details.