

**December
2023**

Ballymoney Church of God

(Garryduff Road, Ballymoney, BT53 7AF)



Senior Pastors: Jonathan & Yvonne Payne 028 2766 5010

Pastor's P.A: Hilary Kyle (Church Office) 028 2766 9334

Caretakers: Dougie and Dawn 0795 5998080

www.ballymoneychurchofgod.co.uk

info@ballymoneychurchofgod.co.uk



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 God's light 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' & BOYS' BRIGADE 51st ANNUAL ENROLMENT SERVICES



We were so blessed over the two consecutive weekends dedicated to Girls' and Boys' Brigade. The Enrolment Services were truly wonderful, as **Brigade Captains Hilary Patterson and Christine Patterson** presented their companies of Officers, young men and women, boys and girls for enrolment.



Guest speakers **Angie McKee and Rosalind Patterson** (Child Evangelism Fellowship) commented on how special the services had been. **Well done everyone!**

KIDZONE raises £125 for **CHILDREN IN NEED**

KIDZONE Children in Need PJ & Movie Night was a great success!

There was much fun and laughter as the children and their leaders dressed in PJs' & Onesies to enjoy a movie and some tasty treats! Together they raised **£125!** for this very worthy cause.

Thank you to everyone who gave.



Autumn Fair



A huge thank you to Mabel, Hilary, Tricia and the whole team for all their hard work in preparation for the Autumn Fair and a massive thank you to everyone who came, supported and gave.

We raised the magnificent total of **£1,909** for the **New Church Sanctuary Fund**.

A SUPER NIGHT AT SUPERSTRIKES!

What a great night of fun and fellowship as over 60 people of all ages went bowling!

There was definitely lots of enthusiasm and some healthy competition as the different teams tried to get as many strikes as possible. After all the energetic activity some went to refuel at McDonalds or Tim Hortons! Many have already been asking when another visit can be arranged!

A big thank you to Ashley for organising the night.



300 SHOEBOXES on their way to bring some joy!



Thank you to everyone who took part in this year's Shoebox Appeal; to the teams who wrapped and packed the boxes and to those who gave donations.
Your thoughtfulness will bring joy to 300 needy children this Christmas.



ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFTS



This year the scheme will again support the work of **Cherish a Child**, our very own community initiative that responds to the needs of local children. You can take part by **Purchasing an Alternative Gift** - complete and return your form and donation, in return, you will receive a Gift Card that you can pass on to friends or family. Or, if you don't need a Gift Card you can **give a donation**. 100% of your financial gift will go towards providing essential items such as groceries, seasonal clothing, nursery items, beds & bedding and educational toys. **Please see Hilary Kyle. Closing date Sunday 17th December.**

A Happy Christmas and a God-Blessed New Year

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 Yvonne & Pastor Jonathan.

SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER AT 6:30PM
(with COMMUNION)

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION **"A SAVIOUR HAS COME"**

Taking part will be the our very own
Church singers and musicians.

There will be an extra special **Kids' Club** for the 3-7 year olds.

Afterwards, there will be delicious
Festive Refreshments.

Let's pack the Church to capacity and invite others.

SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER AT 11:00AM

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

(with COMMUNION)

Come and celebrate the *Christ of Christmas*.
There will be no Evening Service.



This
Christmas
may
our hearts
prepare Him room,
our lives
reflect His presence,
our homes
radiate His peace.