

# Cairnshill Methodist Church

## Annual Report

2014



## Message from Minister

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I commend the Annual Report of 2014 to you, with grateful thanks to everyone who has made it possible, through financial support and practical ministry, offering their time and talents to the Work of God in Cairnshill.

As you read through the report you will note that we have much to praise God for, as not only have we encouraged each other through our worship, prayer times, bible studies and a variety of other meetings and events within our own and the Circuit churches e.g. Healing Services, Joint Holy Week Services, MWI; but we have also found ourselves continuing to outwork our mission to young people through the Junior Boy's Brigade and the Girls Brigade groupings of Explorers, Juniors and Seniors and through the joint outreach with Saintfield Road Presbyterian Church, of Junior and Senior youth clubs .

Our own Mums (Grannies!) and Tots has continued on Tuesdays and the facilities are also used by outside groups many covering the Arts – drama, dance and song; together with some fun things like...exercise classes!!

There have also been some new initiatives, developing from our Connect and Reflect Services – which, based on Café Style Church, alternated between Cairnshill and Belvoir Churches once a month, meeting at 7pm. Speakers from a variety of organisations within the Community, led to some being challenged to take up new opportunities offering support and encouragement outside the church doors, which proved to be an eye-opener for some and a blessing to all involved.

Further to Trevor Betts, the co-ordinator of Street Pastors sharing with us, some joined with members of other Methodist City Churches and 'others', in being trained as Street Pastors. They can now be found one night, 'well early morning!' a month, out on the streets of Belfast chatting and helping people to get home safely and supplying the 'flipflops' for those with heels too high to carry them! This is an outreach well received by the other agencies on the ground, together with some of the young folk, who come up and thank the folks for being there, saying it makes them feel safe.

Another speaker was Mrs. Joan Parkinson, our Methodist Chaplain to Hydebank Wood College, (formerly Hydebank Young Offenders Centre). Further to Joan's visit, Governor Austin Tracey and Joan facilitated a visit to the College for some members taking the opportunity to go 'inside' for the first time. They chatted with some of the male inmates and prison staff, including Governor Tracey, over a meal made by other inmates doing their NVQ's. A second invitation followed and found members participating with some of the female prisoners in creative writing, resulting in a joint poem; and some of the lady prisoners, with Joan's encouragement, engaged with the Emmaus Walk Community through some beautiful creative work. Our sincere thanks to everyone and we are looking forward to further opportunities to support the ministry of Care, Encouragement and Rehabilitation in Hydebank.

The 'School Assembly' Ministry at Cairnshill Primary School continues and there have also been, through The Newtownbreda United Forum, recent evangelistic outreaches, the first in the Ballroom of the Ramada Hotel, based around Billy Graham's 'The Cross.' This saw a capacity crowd of 700, led in worship by Marie Lacey and a contingent of The Belfast Gospel Choir, after which there was a time of sharing and then the video was shown. All were encouraged that some professed coming to 'faith in Jesus Christ' and other's requested a copy of the video.

The second outreach has been in the form of an 'Alpha Course,' facilitated by Cairnshill, Newtownbreda Baptist and Saintfield Road Presbyterian Churches. It is ongoing at this date and is being held in 'The Four Winds Restaurant,' where management have offered an 'upstairs room,' at no expense. Our grateful thanks to them and to all who are assisting.

As we take a much earned break to refresh and reflect, remembering of course the fortnightly Car Boot Sales, I wish everyone a very blessed summer season, praising and thanking God for what has been, praying His continued blessing for what is to come and praying that each member would prayerfully reflect where their particular gift may be used, to participate in the building of God's kingdom in the forthcoming church year.

'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'

May the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all and all whom you love, now and for evermore.

Shalom  
Rev. Louise Donald

### **Mothers and Toddlers Report.**

Tuesday mornings continue to be vibrant, fun-filled and generally noisy as we welcome toddlers and careers to participate in our action packed morning. Generally we have 15-20 adults and 20 plus children. As always I am indebted to those who put out the tables, chairs and toys every Sunday and to the women who support me in the kitchen and the church hall throughout the morning and last but not least to the men who faithfully come every Tuesday to help tidy away a packed hall! Thank you one and all.

We finish this year, as always, on the last Tuesday of May which is the 26th and after a good rest reopen mid September.

We thank God for all the children and adults who come each week and before our mornings begin we commit the safety and protection of each one to God in our prayer time together in the kitchen.

Pearl Maconaghie.

### **Sunday Evening Reflect & Connect (Café Church)**

Café church commenced in February 2014 as part of a follow up programme following our Lay Witness Weekend in November 2013. The aim of the programme was to continue to challenge those attending on aspects of their lives in the following areas:

- Find out more about spiritual growth
- How we can make a real God directed difference in our community
- Help members of our church grow closer to Christ and to each other
- Discover and know the joy of Christ in our lives
- What it means to work for God in the power of the Holy Spirit

To assist members in their Spiritual Development we ran a 6 week programme 'When God's People Pray' following a DVD series lead by Jim Cymbala pastor of The Brooklyn Tabernacle Church in New York.

Speakers were arranged on the following topics;

- Invisible traffic (Human Trafficking),

- Belfast Street Pastors and
- Joan Parkinson who is the Methodist Pastor at HMP Hydebank.

These talks helped people consider opportunities in the local area where we can make a real God directed difference in our community. A number of our members have signed up for Street Pastor training and have been going out at weekends on a regular basis. While this is physically challenging it has been considered a rewarding experience. In addition opportunities have been presented for members to become more involved with the Prison Service and visits have taken place to HMP Hydebank with staff and inmates which have challenged individual members and their views in this area.

The programme incorporated a joint Harvest Service in a more traditional format with our friends in Saintfield Road Presbyterian Church & Belvoir. An evening of fellowship, praise & reflection helped us in our aim to grow closer together as a church community.

Spiritual growth and growing closer to God was the focus during the Centering Prayer evening lead by Lousie. The opportunity to be still and reflect on our Spiritual relationship with God was very challenging as we try to create time in our busy schedules to develop this aspect of our spiritual growth. It was particularly good to be hosted by our friends in Belvoir.

Remembrance Day reflection on how we have progressed over the past 100 years from one war in the world to one world at war. Remembering is an important act and we were encouraged to reflect on God's love for us and how war is not part of his overall plan for the world.

The Belfast District Home Missions service is being hosted by Cairnshill and we will use this opportunity to develop wider friendships within the wider Methodist Connection.

The final evening 7<sup>th</sup> December is looking at the events of the first Christmas from Joseph's perspective. So come along and share with us as we try to rise to the challenge of spiritual growth, building community within our church and making a greater personal and corporate contribution to the wider community.

Finally, a big thank you to those who have assisted in the planning and delivery of the programme, it is much appreciated. Planning and prayer continues to be ongoing as we seek God's guidance for the direction of this ministry into 2015 with all feedback and suggestions for future topics are very welcome and encouraged. Please speak to either myself, Maureen, Pearl or Louise.

Keith Irvine

## **MWI Report 2014 to May 2015**

MWI 2014 season commenced with a welcome evening for our new minister Rev Louise Donald. Our next meeting was a visit from a representative of Macmillan Cancer, a cause which we in Cairnshill support each year through the Big Coffee Morning, where we charge for coffee before church each Sunday in September. The highlight of the year was in October 2014, when we welcomed as speaker to our visitors' night, the former Lord Mayor, Mr Mairtin O 'Muilleoir of Sinn Fein. Mairtin spoke very openly about his year in office and told us of the people he had met and of some of the humorous moments of his time in office. Some beautiful scenes of Ireland were shown on screen accompanied by a beautiful rendition of the 'Be thou my vision,' in Irish. I myself attempted a few words of welcome to the gathering in Irish. Over 100 people from local churches attended and all agreed that it was a most informative and enjoyable evening. A snowy start to 2015 unfortunately meant we had to cancel our January speaker, young Emily Atkinson, who was to speak about her visit to Nigeria. However Emily will be coming to speak in the New Year. Our second meeting in January was Duncan Burnett, who took us on a train journey that he and his family had undertaken over the summer.

For our MWI service in February we welcomed Dr Marion Gibson who spoke on 'God Moment ' and all agreed she was an excellent speaker. Neville Jones spoke about his visit to Uganda with the NI based charity Abaana Ministries, Neville will also speak at our Autumn District meeting to be held in Glenburn Methodist in October this year. To begin March Sr Anna Byrne, Chaplin at St Louise's College Belfast and Sr Roseleen McMahon a former Principal of St Louise's spoke. Both Sisters appreciated the warm welcome they received in Cairnshill from MWI. March also saw Jill McBride daughter of our own Bill and Joy, telling us a little about her work as a Crime Scene Officer---- This was an extremely interesting evening and we look forward to Jill's return visit in March 2016. Eileen Millar from Randalstown gave her testimony whilst painting a beautiful picture, both of her Christian life and a beautiful floral scene. The Belfast District Easter Offering service was held this year in Cairnshill, when the Rev Karen Mbayo a Presbyterian Chaplin spoke, Karen is the wife of Glenburn minister Rev John Mbayo. A number of our ladies attended the Annual Belfast District Conference held this year in Jennymount Church. This is always a good meeting, although I think this

year was particularly good as Ann Hailes, formerly of UTV, told us of her life at the television station. In the afternoon we had a most interesting talk from Mrs Barbara Boyd from Rathfriland, who brought along samples of her craftwork, which were of outstanding quality, many, of which portrayed Christian verses. I think I can safely say that MWI has had a very enjoyable season and we look forward to continuing '***To know Christ and to make Him known***'.

Jennifer McMaster  
President

***Date for you Diary***  
***MWI Invites you to a concert with***  
***The Police Male Voice Choir***  
***On 23<sup>rd</sup> October, tickets £10 will be available in early Autumn***

#### **Fund Raising Team 2014/2015**

This year the fund raising team had set itself the goal of trying to help reduce the debt that we have been carrying for the past number of years before our Anniversary in November 2016, and so, to this end, we have been trying to organise as many fund raising activities as we can.

Although our aim is to raise money we also would wish to include a social element to the fund raising, and organise events that appeal to all members of Cairnshill Methodist Church.

We began in April with our Spring Sale. This was very well attended with stalls and an Auction and we raised £1510.00 with £1000.00 of this being donated to charities.

Although the weather was not what we would have hoped for we did manage to make a little money at our Car Boot Sales (£770.00). Next year we intend to extent the Car Boot sales to fortnightly and we would hope that this would encourage more people to come along on a regular basis.

Our Big Breakfast proved a huge success and raised £820.00. We would like at this point to say a huge “Thank You” to Paul Cleland and Belle Grubb who helped us out with the cooking and even more importantly the dishes!

Hilary Uprichard’s plants raised an amazing £500.00. We need to say a huge thank you to Hilary for all the hard work that she put into this and of course for her having such wonderful “green fingers”.

Finally our Afternoon Tea and Sale Rail proved an “overwhelming” success with the numbers attending that we could not have ever expected. We made a commendable £1850.00

At present the amount raised in total is £4450.00 and so we are well on our way to reaching our goal. For us as a congregation this has been an amazing effort and it is due to the generosity of so many people. People have given not only their money but their time and their talents and we need to acknowledge that.

Dare we say it we look forward to our next venture?!!!!

The Fund Raising Team

### **Book Club**

It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone and still there are so many books for us to read.....

Last year we covered everything from Alan Johnston’s autobiography ‘This Boy’ (a Memoir of Childhood) to The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie – a mystery set in the English countryside in the 1950’s featuring an 11 year old sleuth Flavia de Luce. Perhaps the most challenging read for us was Stoner – a beautifully written and very moving novel by John Williams, certainly a novel we would all recommend.

We are always open to suggestions and when Lydia Collins, a friend of mine, suggested our December read could be “The Memory Keeper’s Daughter” we agreed. Lydia then very kindly offered to host the evening supplying not only the questions but also supper.

For us "Book Club" is more than just about books and discussing their plots and characters. It is about friendship and the sharing of ideas and we have had many lively and poignant debates on current affairs.

Our outing last year included a trip to Sligo. Sligo was chosen because we were reading 'Under a Clear Blue Sky' written by Timothy Knatchbull, Lord Mountbatten's surviving grandson. It was very moving to visit Mullaghmore and see where the tragedy had occurred.

In January we went to our now annual concert at the Waterfront Hall where we were treated to a 'Strauss' evening. At Easter we visited Crumlin Road Gaol where after an informative and entertaining tour by one of the guides we were treated to 'Afternoon Tea' in the Warden's office courtesy of Quinn's Coach Hire.

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> of June we hope to visit Sentry House and if anyone would like to join us they would be very welcome. Please just let Florence know....

Joan Atkinson

### **Praise Group 2014-15**

We are a committed group of musicians and singers who meet regularly on Wednesday evenings to practise for Sunday services and special events.

We like to prepare a variety of traditional hymns and more modern praise songs in order to enhance the worship experience and to complement the themes chosen for the services.

This year we bade a fond farewell to our Minister Colin Duncan in June and welcomed Rev. Louise Donald. Prior to this we had a very enjoyable favourite hymns Sunday Service on May 25<sup>th</sup> with some wonderful hymns and praise pieces introduced by members of the congregation. These included Chris Tomlin's arrangement of 'Amazing Grace – My chains have gone'.

After the summer break we were straight into our practices for the Harvest Services on October 12<sup>th</sup> where we sang favourites like 'Let the Heavens Rejoice' and 'Come ye thankful People Come'.

This year for Cairnshill's Anniversary on 19<sup>th</sup> October we sang, 'Open the Eyes of

my Heart, Lord' as an introit followed by a firm favourite, 'O Breath of Life come sweeping through us'. This special service ended with a wonderful song with great sentiments, 'Before the Throne of God Above'.

On October 26<sup>th</sup> the Home Missions' Service was conducted by Rev. Heather Bell whose address was entitled 'Commitment and Compassion'. For this service the pieces chosen included, 'I will seek Your Face O Lord' as our introit and 'The Compassion Hymn' by Keith and Kristyn Getty. This lovely service was concluded with Graham Kendrick's, 'Shine Jesus Shine'.

In November we were delighted to play our part in Lucy Abbot's wedding to Phil Booth. It is always a pleasure to play and sing at these occasions. In contrast the solemnity of the 'Remembrance Day' service was reflected in the hymns chosen for that day, one being 'O God our help in Ages Past'.

During November and December the focus for our practices was the 'Carols by Candlelight' service on Dec 21<sup>st</sup>. This year we wished to include a tribute to those who died in World War I so the Praise Group presented two pieces, one, a solo by Ian Atkinson, 'Belleau Wood' and then 'Silent Night' with the first verse sung in German by Norman Uprichard. This was very moving evoking memories of the great sacrifice made by the men who fought in that conflict. Along with all the traditional carols for Christmas the Praise Group also sang two lovely pieces, 'O Holy Night' and 'Mary did you know?'

Just before Christmas we enjoyed a lovely afternoon at Cregagh Nursing Home where we sang and played for Stanley Ross and the other residents. It was such a joy to have them accompany us on their tambourines and maracas and to see them join in with the carols and Christmas songs they remembered.

In the New Year we started to prepare for the Easter services. This year Cairnshill had evening services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as well as Easter Sunday. The Praise Group sang a lovely piece by Chris Tomlin, 'At the Cross – Love Ran Red' at Maundy Thursday's Holy Communion Service. Good Friday was entitled 'The Journey to the Cross' and on this evening we sang the new version of 'There is a Green Hill,' 'Come and See' and a firm favourite, 'And Can it be'. These hymns and songs interspersed with wonderful readings and reflections made this solemn occasion very moving with the whole circuit involved.

The Band and singers were all in good tune for Easter Day with 'See What a Morning', 'Come People of the Risen King' and 'Thine Be the Glory.'!

We are always pleased when new people with musical talents come forward to join us. We have many excellent musicians and very much appreciate it when flautists and our small brass band join with us.

We appreciate very much the huge commitment made by Florence, our Musical Director, who spends so much time sourcing new material and ensuring that we all turn up for practices. Who can say no?!! It is lovely that we have the talents of Adrian, Scott, Arlene, Keith and Paul, who can be relied upon to play when required.

We are always looking forward to the challenge new pieces of music bring and are grateful, also, to Ann Ferguson who gives of her time to lead us in our singing for special occasions.

Thank you to all who encourage us each week and especially to the sound team who are an invaluable support.

Katie Pearson

### **Monday Evening Prayer Group**

The Monday evening prayer group have met consistently each week over the last year.

Our prayers are shared in the spirit of love and provide us the time to pray for the needs of others, the world, the community and our church.

We begin with a short prayer each week and offer the silence to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Prayers are spoken and unspoken in this sacred space.

We celebrate the birth of our Lord in our prayers of expectation and thanksgiving at the Christmas Season and movingly take an Easter Lenten journey towards the passion and resurrection of the Cross. (We especially shared a movingly sacred music inspired, candlelit Lenten prayer time this year.)

Each week we offer prayers for healing, peace, protection and whatever the need arises. God listens and speaks through the quietness of His presence with us.

We are greatly supported by each other and are touched very deeply each week by this opportunity to share our prayers. We would welcome everyone to join in this very special time of prayer on Monday evenings from 8.30 to 9.00pm.

Ivie Jamison

**CLICK**  
**Children learning in Christ's Kingdom**

Click started in June 2014 as an alternative for the children to learn more about Christ.

The children hear about Jesus through story, singing and craft. During our time we share juice and biscuits and on occasions items they have helped to make or decorate.

During the summer our numbers were averaging around 9 – 10 and on one or two occasions we have had between 19 –21. Since September our numbers have fallen to around 5 – 6.

Although our numbers are small we took part in our Harvest Celebrations with the help of the Bible Class and what an encouragement they were. On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December we had our Children's Nativity Service the children really enjoyed telling the story of the birth of Jesus we sang a number of new Christmas songs and again we were greatly helped by the Bible Class.

From January the children will be sharing the first fifteen minutes of the main service with congregation before moving into their own time of teaching.

Maureen Thompson

### **Senior Youth Club**

The Senior Youth Club continues to thrive. Numbers are regularly forty and above. Recently an induction for P7 children was held to introduce them to the Vibe. The induction included a trip to Clip and Climb a session held for P7's only. They are now well integrated into the life of the Vibe.

Later this year a group of young people from the club accompanied by two of our leaders will be heading out to Romania. Whilst there they will be involved in running children's clubs, conducting Bible Studies and giving classes in English.

The Club continues to meet to the middle of June before taking a break for the summer. However a number of day trips have been organised to maintain contact during the long summer break.

Norman Uprichard

**Ministers and Leaders In Office 2014 and Present.**

Minister	Rev Louise Donald
Retired Minister	Rev Stanley Ross
Society Steward	Mrs Maureen Thompson
Treasurer	Mr Eric Cunningham
Property Steward	Mrs Arlene Haslett
Church Council Secretary	Mrs Pearl Maconaghie
Gift Aid Steward	Mrs Arlene Irvine
Envelope Stewards Welsh	Mrs Arlene Irvine/Mr David
MWI President	Mrs Jennifer McMaster
Local Preacher	Dr Adrian Gundy
Local Preacher	Sir Nigel Hamilton
MWI Secretary	Mrs Maura Middleton
Musical Director	Mrs Flo Johnston
Prayer Co-ordinator	Mrs Maureen Thompson
Pew Stewards Hamilton	Mr Bill McBride/Sir Nigel
Bible Class	Mr Leslie Drew
CLICK	Mrs Maureen Thompson
GB Captain	Mrs Christine McKibbin
BB Junior Section Leader	Mr Harry Grey
Parents & tots	Mrs Pearl Maconaghie
Junior Youth Club	Mrs Elizabeth Beggs
Senior Youth Club	Mr Norman Uprichard
Access NI & Child Protection	Mrs Christine McKibbin/ Mrs Arlene Irvine

Society Account for the ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014

2013	RECEIPTS	2014	2013
£	Freewill Offering	£	£
37,078	Envelopes & Standing Orders	40,254	31,030
2,475	Loose	2,629	<u>-14,400</u>
<u>6,918</u>	Gift Aid	<u>6,338</u>	16,630
46,471		49,221	3,504
			<u>498</u>
			20,632

Collections for Connexional Funds and Other Organisations			12,034
0	Child Care	296	<u>2,617</u>
362	Easter Offering	295	14,651
248	Home Missions	866	
300	MMS (Ireland) - Tax Refund	225	9,726
125	World Mission	361	2,387
291	Phakamisa	0	1,186
459	JMA	470	<u>3,589</u>
62	World Development	0	16,888
285	Adopt-A-Child	0	

130	Belfast Central Mission	0	
355	Childrens Hospice	0	
0	Invisible Traffic	225	408
0	Christian Aid	96	1,687
0	Boucher Project	500	944
0	Children's Kidney Research	915	<u>384</u>
0	Lucas Appeal	100	3,423
0	Belfast Street Pastors	100	
0	Copelands House	350	
<u>0</u>	British Legion	<u>170</u>	577
2,617		4,969	336
			300
			125
	<b>Donations</b>		<u>1,012</u>
1,750	Church Organisations	4,775	2,350
<u>1,402</u>	Miscellaneous	<u>658</u>	
3,152		5,433	
			<u>208</u>
	<b>Miscellaneous</b>		208
4,585	Use of Premises	3,414	
<u>33</u>	Miscellaneous	<u>45</u>	
4,618		3,459	
<u><u>56,858</u></u>	<b>Total Receipts</b>	<u><u>63,082</u></u>	<u><u>58,152</u></u>

<b>PAYMENTS</b>		<b>2014</b>
<b>Salaries</b>		<b>£</b>
Minister		31,710
Less Contribution by Belvoir		<u>-14,400</u>
		17,310
Organist		3,645
Pulpit Supply		<u>288</u>

21,243

**Connexional Assessment & Allocations**

Assessment			11,813
Transfers to Connexional Funds & Other Org'ns			<u>4,969</u>
			16,782

<b>Premises</b>	Church	Manse	
Electricity & Oil	6,354	1,711	8,065
Insurance	1,815	483	2,298
Ground Rent & Rates	435	1,009	1,444
Cleaning	<u>3,453</u>	0	<u>3,453</u>
	12,057	3,203	15,260

**Administration**

Audit			408
Advertising,Printing & Stationery			1,545
Telephone (Church £319; Manse £333)			652
Church Website			<u>264</u>
			2,869

**Ministry**

Copyright & Other Licences			589
Donations			269
Payment to Circuit			0
Ministers Expenses			43
Miscellaneous			<u>736</u>
			1,637

**Organisations**

Sunday School			<u>100</u>
			100

**Total Payments**

57,891

**Freewill Offering 2014**

<b>No</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Gift Aid</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Gift Aid</b>
2	30.00		41	255.00	*
5	46.00	*	43	160.00	
6	120.00		44	140.00	
7	1200.00	*	45	275.00	
8	220.00	*	46	1750.00	*
9	540.00	*	47	410.00	*
10	100.00		48	30.00	*
11	340.00	*	49	750.00	*
12	1.70		50	340.00	*
14	3900.00	*	51	244.90	*
15	190.00	*	52	244.50	
16	660.00	*	54	180.00	*
18	107.00		55	585.00	*
20	450.00	*	57	284.00	*
21	360.00	*	58	130.00	
22	290.00	*	59	180.00	*
23	130.00	*	60	260.00	*
24	485.00	*	61	86.50	
25	310.00	*	62	258.00	
26	430.00	*	63	910.00	*
28	2562.00	*	67	100.00	*
29	270.00	*	70	534.00	*
30	1200.00	*	71	735.00	*
33	360.00	*	72	185.00	
34	32.00	*	73	273.00	
36	510.00	*	74	120.00	
37	870.00	*	75	10.00	
38	335.00	*	77	69.50	
39	1980.00	*	78	1275.00	*
40	5030.80	*	80	520.00	

No	Amount	Gift Aid
81	458.00	
82	460.00	*
83	745.00	*
84	40.00	
85	300.00	*
87	180.00	
89	95.00	
93	185.00	
94	320.00	*
95	300.00	*
96	280.00	
97	690.00	*
98	1080.00	*
99	101.90	
100	650.00	*

Property Fund	
3	75.00
20	30.00
97	50.00
100	300.00 *

S/O Total	10410.00
FWO Total	29828.80
B/Fund Total	455.00

