

Dreams



BANNSIDE BUZZ

May 2016

This month's articles

Dreams v. Reality

Chloe Martin's Trip to Kenya

Marilynne Robinson Speaks at McCracken

and . . .

A Life in Music

Dreams

Martin Luther King, Jr. had one; so did Abba; you will have had thousands, some vivid, most not remembered at all.

I am talking about dreams.

On the trivia front, I wonder if you know the first dream in the Bible. It is found in Genesis 20, was experienced by Abimelech, King of Gerar, and is a thoroughly strange affair. God comes to Abimelech in a dream and first off menacingly says, "You are as good as dead" (Genesis 20 v.3). Abimelech responds that he is innocent of what God is threatening to kill him for, and that he has a clear conscience and clean hands to boot (Genesis 20 vv.4-5). Eventually God and Abimelech get the matter sorted out without God carrying out the initial divine threat, but it is all a touch perplexing.

By the beginning of the New Testament, God is still communicating via dreams, but this time to preserve life rather than threaten death. According to Matthew in the second of a sequence of four dreams, the Lord appeared to Joseph as he slept, warning him to take Mary and the new-born Jesus to Egypt (Matthew 2 vv.13-15) just before an irate Herod unleashed his death squads on Bethlehem's baby boys. There is a degree of perplexity in this story too, for while the life of Jesus is preserved other innocents are slaughtered and their parents are understandably inconsolable (Matthew 2 v.18).

Dreams often come wrapped in an aura of mystery, whether understood as one of the means God communicates with humanity or as one of the ways the human subconscious functions. They also, in how we use language, play a vital part inspiring the human imagination in its search for a better world. In this sense, some of the great poetic oracles of the Hebrew prophets may rightly be called dreams. Something like Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I have a Dream" speech also clearly flows from that prophetic tradition. As the black twentieth century American poet, Langston Hughes, memorably puts it:

Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly.

Welcome to this edition of Bannside Buzz., which explores different understandings of dreams.

All good things,



Dream Keeper

Bring me all of your dreams,
You dreamer,
Bring me all your
Heart melodies
That I may wrap them
In a blue cloud-cloth
Away from the too-rough fingers
Of the world.

-Langston Hughes

Dreams v. **REALITY**

The Swedish pop group Abba had a hit “I have a dream”. There are four lines in the song that jump out at me. One verse starts “I have a dream, a song to sing to *help me cope with anything.*” Another verse says “I have a dream, a *fantasy to help me through reality.*” Abba, in each verse, go on to sing about their dream.

I cannot help get the feeling that, for Abba, a dream is a coping mechanism, a way of dealing with life. The dream seems to be a way of lifting one out of the humdrum of daily living into a fantasy world which makes coping with reality easier. Another line reads “If you see the wonder of a fairy tale *you can take the future even if you fail.*” A bit airy-fairy for my liking! However having said all that, we all can have our dreams provided we keep a check on reality.



It is good sometimes to dream. The couple standing at the alter rail making their marriage vows will have dreams of the future. And why not? The new parents will have a dream of what kind of future they want for their little one. And why not? The new entrant into the world of work will have the dream of a future career. And why not? The dream car, the dream home, the dream job, the dream holiday are all part and parcel of the language of the day. Dreaming can lift one out of the world of everyday living and this may be no bad thing as long as one remembers that reality beckons at the door. A dream that is not too far fetched may even provide a goal for one to aim at.

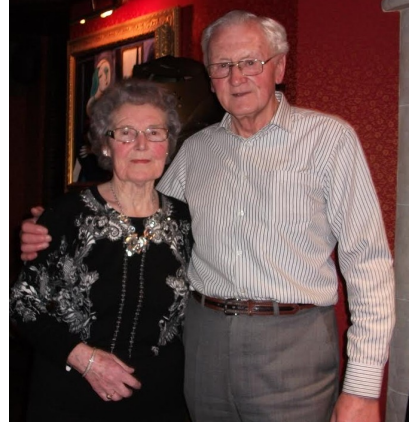
Dreaming is a mental exercise that can give us a “bit of a lift” and provide for a time the ideal life that we want in contrast to life as it is being experienced at the present. Perhaps dreaming is a way of bringing the future we would like to have into the present. Like lots of things in life, dreaming can have a plus and minus side to it. However no matter how much we dream, reality soon bites and we have to find our peace and comfort and solace in the real world. Does scripture provide the answer? What about Philippians 4: 4 – 9? Have a read and see what you think.

By Boston Kydd

NEWS FROM THE PEWS



*Congratulations to
Rachael McCrooy and Stephen Maxwell
23 April '16
Wishing you both much happiness!*



Happy 80th Birthdays!

On Friday the 26th February a huge number of friends and relatives gathered at Banbridge Rugby Club for a surprise party for Billy and Millicent Ferguson, who celebrated their 80th birthdays. Those present included son John, daughter-in-law Marion and grand-daughter Hannah from Melbourne; son Robert in from Saudi Arabia; and daughter Anne with grandson Brian.

We wish our organist and choirmaster Alastair Mitchell many years of happiness and good health as he steps down from his regular position with Bannside to enjoy semi-retirement. Kerri Doherty and Ben Matson provide a musical tribute in his honour on his last official Sunday, 24 April '16.



Welcome and Blessings to



Brooke Hilary Beattie

Baptised on 24 April '16

With parents Ryan and Carol

and the wider family



Isaac Samuel Hanna

Baptised 6 March '16

With parents Alison & Richard

Please join us in praying that Bannside will be a place of belonging for families who bring a child for baptism and, indeed, for all of us. A crèche is available every Sunday for babies and toddlers.



Micah Oliver and
Isla Eve Watson

Baptised
20 March '16

With parents
Lynn and Wayne
and
big brother Theo!





IMPACT hosted young people from an international church in Belfast for a fantastic evening of games, music and fellowship. Leaders Chris and Angela reflected on how we can be light in our friendships and why we should choose our friends wisely.

We welcomed Mrs. Lorna Palmers from Magherally Church of Ireland for the PW service on 13 March.

Lorna, a very talented musician and teacher, spoke on the importance of music in worship. She reminded us that music is something we bring to God both personally as individuals and corporately as a body of believers. She encouraged us to bring our best efforts to God in praise and worship.

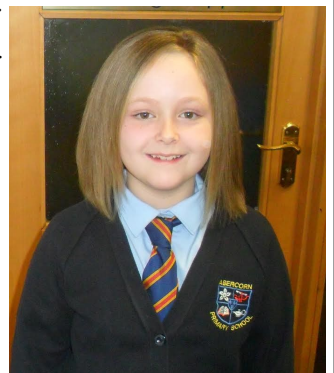
The service was full of a diverse range of music which helped Lorna illustrate her points. It was a beautiful and very meaningful service!
(Lorna with Barbara, Christine and Caroline)



Maxine Williamson took the plunge and did a parachute jump for charity. Well done!



GB member Hollie Hubert got her hair cut for charity and raised £1,500 for the Little Princess Trust, which provides wigs and hair pieces for children going through cancer treatment.
Well done, Hollie!



GB Display '16: Another Crowd-Pleasing Hit!



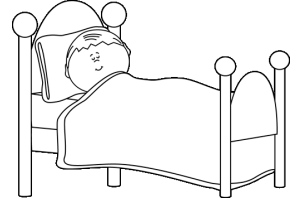
The girls and their leaders worked very hard to put on another great show of singing, dancing and acting to the delight of proud mums and dads and other family members. The theme this year was all about animals.

Well done to all the girls pictured here who won awards!



Day Dreams and Night Dreams

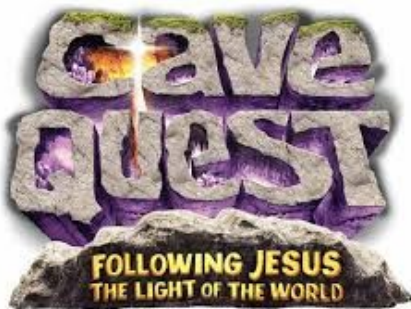
To my way of thinking, there are two types of dreams. There is the dream which we cannot control and there is the dream which we can control. At night, we hop into bed, pull up the duvet, close our eyes and pray for a good night's rest. Sometimes we dream, and sometimes we don't. The dreams we have may be good or may be bad. Why we have them and if they mean anything, I just don't know.



On the other hand, there are the day dreams. These are thoughts we allow ourselves to have in which we accomplish something we have always wanted to do. In these dreams, there is something to aim for, something that takes a lot of time and effort, but all is worthwhile as these dreams will come true one way or another if we ask our Heavenly Father to help us every step of the way.

I think we should all have a dream. Sweet dreams, everyone!

By Liz Coburn



Holiday Bible Club 2016

Cave Quest promises to have all the fun and meaningful Bible learning of past HBCs. We'll meet this year's Bible buddies and learn new songs and dances. We'll enjoy great snacks at Cavern Café. We'll get active with Spelunker Games and Sports. And most importantly,

we'll welcome the community into a space where God is known and loved. Please consider what you can do to make all this possible!

If you are a returning or new volunteer, please let Kim McAnespie know (07725518907). We will be starting preparations soon!



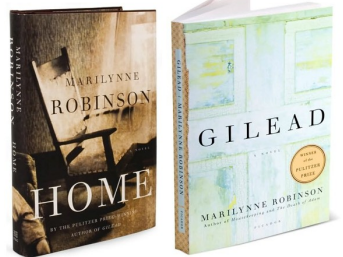
MARILYNNE ROBINSON SPEAKS AT McCRACKEN MEMORIAL CHURCH

*(Several years ago, the Wednesday night Bible Study read **Home**, a work of contemporary fiction with a prodigal son theme. The novel deals with issues of faith, love and forgiveness and provided rich material for thought and discussion. Eppi Rose was part of that group and reports on a talk given by the author during her recent visit to Belfast.)*



Marilynne Robinson is the author of four novels and a considerable quantity of very interesting and challenging non fiction material. Her novels have garnered many literary awards including the Pulitzer Prize(US) and the Orange Prize(UK). Marilynne, born in 1943, is currently Professor of English at the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop and has taught there for many years. She was brought up a Presbyterian and later became a Congregationalist, sometimes preaching in her local church. She loves the old mainline Protestant tradition that she hails from, with its Calvinist theology, for being serious about things that deserve serious attention, eg social issues and the degradation of the environment, and also for its openness to acknowledging the value of other religious traditions and for its reluctance to judge harshly.

Her talk at McCracken centred on forgiveness and love. Referring to Paul's letter to the Romans, chapters 1 and 2, she cautioned against taking verses out of context. Paul appears to be lambasting mankind for their litany of wickedness in chapter 1 yet in chapter 2 he commences very surprisingly but with equally strong language against judging others. Marilynne stressed the divine and the human within every living being and as fellow human beings we are all called 'to love one another as ourselves'. She identified the degree of difficulty we have in loving ourselves as the stumbling block to truly loving others. She advised us that by gaining a better understanding of ourselves we could unlock our potential to live a life motivated by love. She also referred to the current tendency to ditch the past in favour of the new and said that that left us somewhat dislocated and ineffective in the world.



She pointed out that we have a rich heritage to draw on in order to move forward with understanding and confidence. She brought us a wonderful message of hope and encouragement that we can all make a difference.

What a coup, McCracken, getting Marilynne Robinson.....thank you very much!

P.S. President Barak Obama drew up a list of people whose views most interested him so that he could arrange to have a conversation with them. Marilynne Robinson was the first on his list. You can see a transcript of this conversation on the Marilynne Robinson website.

150th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Children's Society



2016 marks the 150th anniversary of the newly-renamed Presbyterian Children's Society (formerly the Presbyterian Orphan and Children's Society). This change of name was decided in light of the current nature of requests for assistance. The new name more accurately reflects the nature of the work carried out, and a new logo has also been designed.

The main areas to which grants are given are: (1) children whose parents are separated or divorced (2) children who have at least one parent who is deceased and (3) children who have a parent who is disabled, ill or unemployed and in severe need.

Since its formation in 1866, it is estimated that 43,000 Presbyterian families have received help from the society and last year £578,050 was spent in helping 380 families in over 200 congregations throughout the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The Society wants to assist all Presbyterian families who are in need and with this in mind, we hope that members in Bannside will continue to support the Society. Last year, £2520 was collected, and I trust that our support will continue.

By Roberta Cosgrove (Congregational Agent)

Iveagh Presbytery PW Rally

On April 7th five members of PW travelled to 1st Rathfriland Presbyterian Church for the Annual Iveagh PW Rally.

We all enjoyed the uplifting community singing to start and the worship led by Mrs Barbara Boyd & Mrs Maud Moorhead. The roll call indicated a total of 199 ladies present and the offering for PW projects came to over £1,000. The special speaker this year was Mrs Maureen Patterson, wife of the former

Minister of Newcastle the Very Rev Dr Ivan Patterson. During his year as Moderator the Pattersons had the opportunity to visit the Reformed Church in Hungary, with whom they had a long standing connection. Following retirement, Rev Patterson was invited back to spend 3 months last year to teach and provide pastoral ministry.



This time they had hoped to include some sightseeing but when news spread of their visit, invitations flowed in for both of them to work with the Church. Maureen explained how the Church in Hungary has had to adapt to change due to the movement of population from the country to the cities in order to find employment. This has led to many areas of high rise buildings and cramped living conditions and the need for new churches and outreach centres. Maureen was kept busy with the young ministers' wives presenting Bible studies and general support. I am sure she was a breath of fresh air being a qualified teacher, minister's wife, mother and grandmother.

While the Pattersons were there, Hungary was also faced with the Refugee Crisis. In a country already dealing with many changes post Communism and now finding itself on the forefront of the migration of refugees there is much need for support, and Maureen asked us to pray for the Reformed Church and all people of Hungary.

By Pauline White



Announcements!



IMPACT has raised over £600 for Solar Aid through our three fund-raising effort: The Light Bulb Challenge, Quiz Night by Candlelight and our Moonlight Walk. Final amount will be announced shortly. Well done, everyone, and thanks to all who have supported our young people so generously!

The following have been elected to Committee: Mary McMullan, George Anderson, Shirley Anderson. Thank you for your willingness to serve!

We welcomed 4 new communicant members into our fellowship on Easter Sunday: Ellie May Purdy, Ruth McMullen, John Scott and Sarah Topping. We wish them peace, light and hope as they journey onward in their faith.



For the second year in a row, Bannside was unsuccessful in our application to take on an assistant minister. We are now exploring other possibilities and are in the process of looking at appointing a newly-qualified candidate from the Presbyterian Church (USA) who will take up a post as an ordained assistant for one year, with possibility of extension to two years. Please keep Session in your prayers as this process continues.

We are also looking to hire a Director of Music, and an advert has been placed in the *Presbyterian Herald*. It reads:

Bannside Presbyterian Church is looking for an enthusiastic Director of Music to lead, coordinate and develop church music and choral singing at both group and congregational level. We are a musically talented and open-hearted congregation which affirms the importance of music in worship and believes that music is a gift for all to celebrate.

This is an exciting time for Bannside as we prepare for this next stage of our life together so please pray for this process and all involved, as well.

The Discovery Team is preparing for our next phase of work, which will involve gathering information and getting a clearer picture of our community and its needs. After that, we will be ready for the very creative part of the process *Dreaming Dreams* in which we envision what work God might be calling us to get involved with. Maybe our theme in this issue of Buzz has encouraged you to start dreaming dreams! More from the Discovery Team soon . . . !



Alastair Mitchell: A Life in Music

Bannside has been privileged to have Alastair Mitchell as our organist and choirmaster for over five years. On 24 April, Alastair stepped down from his regular appointment with Bannside but will fill in on a rota basis as he is able to, so the occasion was not really a 'Good-bye' but more of a 'See you soon!'

We see Alastair week after week at the organ, quietly playing music to set the scene for worship as we gather and chat, and many of us are gone by the time he packs up and leaves, so it has been easy, perhaps, to miss opportunities to chat with Alastair and get to know him more personally.

He has had a long and illustrious career in music, and was guided at an early age by his mum, a piano teacher who wanted her family to play, not only for their own benefit but to dedicate their gifts to God in Christian service. This Alastair has done in spades!

He has played in a huge range of settings, from concert halls for the BBC to evangelistic mission halls, including ones for Dr. Paisley, and accompanied Billy Graham at Haringay Arena in 1954 for his first London Mission. When the great composer and conductor Havelock Nelson told him that too much church music was interfering with his ability to play the classical repertoire, he responded with characteristic integrity by insisting that his talents were to be used in service to God, not for earthly glory.

Alastair gave up what might have been a glittering musical career to serve God in Africa, spending five years in Nyasaland (Malawi) with only a piano accordion and then 50 long and happy years in Zimbabwe. Not only did he play both organ and piano, but he was often called on to preach and so had to move quickly from bench to pulpit and back again.

We are deeply grateful to Alastair for sharing so generously of himself and his gifts with us at Bannside. We sang his favourite hymn 'Great is Thy Faithfulness' as our last hymn with him. It beautifully sums up his life of faithful service and gratitude to God, who provides all we need.



*All I have needed Thy Hand
hath Provided, Great is Thy
FAITHFULNESS
Lord unto Me.*

Kenya Trip 2016

Chloe Martin tells us about her recent special trip to Kenya, a dream she achieved with lots of support from her Bannside family!



A group of 26 students and 3 members of staff from Dromore High School went on the trip of a lifetime to Kenya in March. We were split into three groups and each group was assigned to a primary school. The primary schools were: Mama Kerry, Hadassah Mission and I was based at Ronaken Education Centre in the Rhonda slum, Nakuru along with 8 others from Dromore High School.

Ronaken was a large school with 350 children. The project co-ordinator was Jen and the headmaster was called Tom. When we arrived, the children greeted us through song and dance, the welcome was very warm and the children were glad to see us. The classes were split up into baby class, middle class and top class with 11 members of staff. The classrooms were very basic with simple benches and desks, the children owned very simple equipment.

When in the primary school as a group we prepared lessons and then taught each of the classes. On the first day I taught the top class children geography with simple drawings of the Kenyan flag and other flags from around the world. Throughout the week I also helped the teacher to mark the books and to help to set homework. When we were in Kenya it was over St Patrick's day so I taught the children about St Patrick. They really enjoyed learning about where the group came from and about other cultures. I found that they all loved to play with the balloons and they also loved blowing bubbles. Another day in the primary I taught the children about Jonah and the whale and made a simple craft along with reading the story of Jonah from the Bible. We also brought loom bands and taught the children how to make bracelets, which were a big hit!



During morning break time the children were given porridge supplied by the school. This was a highlight for the children as many of them do not get any breakfast or any other meal at home. The children loved to see the buckets of porridge coming out! In the afternoon the children ate a simple lunch of beans and cabbage.

During break time and lunch time we played with the children in the playground. They loved to play games with the footballs, rugby balls and parachute that we brought to the school with us. I taught the children the *Hokey Cokey* and *Ring a Ring a Rosy* which was a lot of fun. Even the older girls taught us some games, songs and actions. The children in the baby class were aged 3-4 and loved *Round and Round the Garden*, which brought a smile to their faces!



On one of the days we had the opportunity to visit some of the homes of the children in the school. Four children were chosen and so we bought food and essential supplies that formed a food parcel that we then delivered to each of the homes. The houses were very small and most of the homes typically had many people in a small space. The houses were very basic with little furniture such as one simple chair.

On the final day, we made the whole school a special meal which was a stew with potatoes, green lentils and carrots and we made chapati (an African flatbread) for the whole school. This meal is highly regarded and in Kenya it is normally eaten as a Christmas meal. Many of the children's families can not afford this meal at Christmas so they were so happy and grateful to receive this meal. All of the children and staff had great big smiles and were so grateful!



On the final day the children said goodbye in a similar style to the welcome with song and dance. During our time at Ronaken our group got very attached and were reluctant to leave. The children cheered and waved goodbye. The children loved coming to school each day and they really enjoyed being taught. The children, Tom, Jen and the rest of the staff were so grateful having

mzungas (white people) volunteering in their school. They were so thankful!!

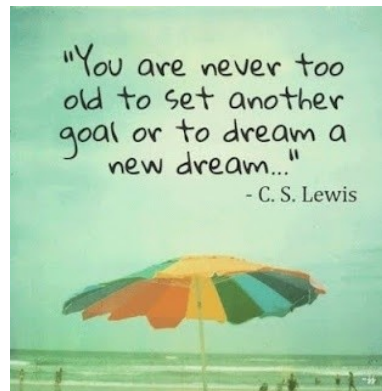
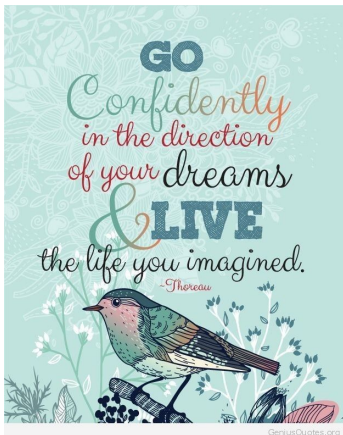
As a whole group we went on a safari at Lake Nakuru National Park. We attended a Sunday service at the local church. The service was very vibrant and full of song and dance. We also had the opportunity to visit an elephant orphanage and a giraffe sanctuary. It was a great experience to get close to the giraffes and the elephants.

Overall, this trip was fantastic I had a great time! I would like to thank everyone at Bannside for supporting me on this trip. It was appreciated greatly!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 15 May Joint Churches Christian Aid Week Service, 6.30 pm, at Bannside, speaker Deborah Doherty, Head of Church and Community, Christian Aid Ireland
- 5 June Communion 11.30 am, Rev. Wilfred Orr leading the service
- 11 June IMPACT to attend Youth Night @ General Assembly 7pm
- 12 June Children's Dav Service, followed by church-wide BBQ
- 18 June Belfast Gospel Community Choir concert at Banbridge Leisure Centre, 7.30 pm. Tickets available from billetto.co.uk
- 25-29 July Holiday Bible Club: *Cave Quest* (Kim McAnespie in charge)
- 11 Sept. Special 150th Anniversary Celebration service 11.30, former Bannside minister Rev. Ernie Rea preaching

Please mark in your diaries the week of 13-17 September as we continue to celebrate our 150th Anniversary with a Choral Festival. The festival, called *This is Why We Sing*, aims to celebrate the gift of singing together and will feature 5 different choirs over 5 days to inspire us and get us singing. We hope to get widespread participation from our congregation, community and beyond. Make plans to join in and tell your friends!



The theme for the summer issue will be 'Well-Being'.

The deadline for submissions is Friday 10 June '16.

email: Bannside_magazine@gmail.com