



# The Irish



# Endeavourer

Summer 2026



## THE PRESIDENT'S TRAVELS

It has been great to be out and about in CE circles as President in 2026, both Hilda and I are enjoying ourselves!



In January I had my first invite-to Buckna. It was a great start; I felt at ease in a rural congregation where I was able to use my farming background to connect with the children - a great group of members who all listened well and allowed me to build up my confidence! A great evening was finished with a tour of Buckna's new church premises, great to see a thriving rural congregation. Thanks Helen and the leaders for the invite.

February got off to a great start with an invite to Clonaneese CE Sunday evening service. I had been hoping for an invite to see what goes on in Clonaneese and I wasn't disappointed! A great service, choir, teaching and fellowship over supper. Trust the various CE groups will continue to thrive and be a vibrant witness in the congregation. Back down the road the next Saturday to Moygashel for the Junior Event and I was delighted to walk into a hall full of children from Clonaneese, Laghy Methodist, Ballygawley/Ballyreagh and Clovenden. Glad I wasn't organising the games - well done to all who did! As always I was delighted to share the good news of my theme, "Jesus Loves You", helped by a bit of drama with Hilda, and the children all settled and listened well. Great to see Societies working well together and great to meet their leaders. Well done everyone.

There was a good turnout for Council and Planning on 28th February with business going smoothly and everyone working as a team. Our last meeting in the office, lots of happy memories of CE business in the hall and it served its purpose well, but going home there was a touch of sadness that an era has finished, and the fact remains that we need guidance going forward to find a new Secretary - a major point for prayer.

A new month of March and another Fun Day at Ballyhenry again a pleasure to come along and share the message which everyone listened to very well. My first experience of using a head mic when speaking here. I was told I would need it but soon got used to it! Everything was so well organised with leaders willingly giving up their Saturday afternoon with the praises, games, craft, food and prizes. Rosemary and Gary helped me in my talk by answering a few questions; great to have willing helpers! Thanks to Ballyhenry for hosting and to all who helped. So March started well and also finished well at Ballygawley/Ballyreagh's Parents' Evening. A full hall, great group of children and leaders who put on a great programme around the story of Moses. That gave me a link for my talk, the fact that Moses was a shepherd led me to speak about the Good Shepherd who loves us. Thanks Sandra and the leaders for the invite, more happy CE President memories. So all is good, lots of encouragement, plenty to think about as I speak to groups and the farming background always seems to come in handy! So I am looking forward to this season's remaining engagements whilst all the time remembering the verse I spoke of at Council - Zechariah 4:6 "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts". God Bless.

## “THE LIVING HOPE” IS RUTH’S PRESIDENTIAL THEME

Emma-Jane Condy, President of the Armagh and South Tyrone CE Union, welcomed everyone to their annual rally in First Portadown Presbyterian Church Hall. Following the singing of, “Be Thou My Vision”, Andrew Condy, from Clonaneese Senior CE, opened in prayer. Mrs. Rosemary McDaniel presented the annual report for the Union.

All joined in the singing of, “Cornerstone” before Emma-Jane gave a short report of her year as President and thanked all who had supported her in any way. She then handed over the Presidential chain to Mrs. Ruth Williamson, asking Ruth’s minister, Rev Jonathan Boyd, to pray.



Ruth introduced her theme, “The Living Hope”. Jesus Christ, who died on the Cross and rose victorious is our Living Hope. Without Him, life is empty. During the offering we sang, “Yet not I, but through Christ in me”. Mrs. June Allen (St Mark’s Senior CE) read from Luke 10: 38–42.

Mr. Philip Meeke, Irish CE President, gave the address, challenging us from the account of Mary and Martha to achieve a balance between affection and service. He emphasised the importance of having a quiet time with our Lord.



The closing praise was, “Ireland for Christ”. Mr. Alan Blair closed in prayer. The music for the evening was provided by Ruth on piano, David on drums and Hannah on clarinet (Ballygawley JCE leaders). First Portadown Senior CE provided a lovely supper which gave everyone the opportunity to mingle and chat after the meeting.



## PRESIDENT HONOURS SENIORS AND GIVES CHALLENGING ADDRESS

On Thursday 2nd April, Armagh and South Tyrone had the privilege of having the Irish CE President, Mr Philip Meeke take our Society's monthly meeting at St. Mark's Seniors' Society in Portadown.

We had a lovely time of fellowship and Mandy led the meeting while John opened in prayer and Elizabeth read the scriptures from Isaiah Ch 52: 13-15 Hilary played the music for us and everyone enjoyed the singing. Philip's theme this year is, "Jesus loves you". He brought us a challenging message on some word phrases.

He also got a few of the group to help him out. The 8 word phrases were:

- 1) The cocked crowed.
- 2) What is Truth?
- 3) Take Him Away.
- 4) I am Thirsty.
- 5) It is finished.
- 6) Was still Dark.
- 7) Feed my sheep and
- 8) Jesus Loves me.

Philip finished by summing up how we should live by faith by the Holy Spirit and not fear.

To hold on to truth and to remember what Jesus did for us so that our sins are forgiven, to faithfully follow like Mary and to share the Good News that Jesus loves You.



## Magheramorne CE Members become Church Members

Four Magheramorne Intermediate CE members who were received into Full Church Membership and who received the sacrament of the Holy Communion.



*They are pictured with The Revd Andrew Watson who is covering the vacancy.*

# Juniors Own!

## LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO JESUS

“Let the little children come to Jesus” was the theme of Magheramorne’s CE service which was led by Ava, speaking from the pulpit.

The Bible readings from 1 John 3:1-10 and Matthew 19: 13-15 were read by Lily and Ava. Prayers were led by Daniel and Lewis.

Mr Danny Lewis, from the 2025-2026 Irish CE Project Project, “Stand By Me” was the guest speaker.

The loose collection was shared between the work of the charity and the Local CE.



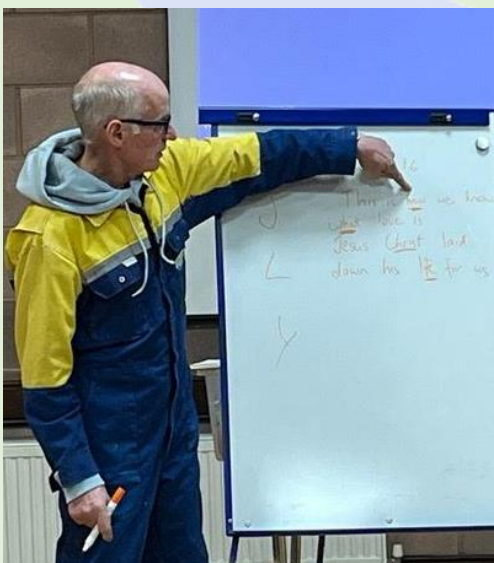
## FUN FOOD & FELLOWSHIP FOR ARMAGH & SOUTH TYRONE JUNIORS

The annual Armagh & South Tyrone Fun Day was held on Saturday 7 February in St Elizabeth's Moygashel church hall. Over fifty children attended, from Clonaneese, Ballygawley and Loughgall Presbyterian churches and Laghey Methodist. We are grateful to the parents who brought their children along and left them in our care for the afternoon. A few of the parents were able to go for a well-deserved coffee together and have a catch-up while the children enjoyed the activities.

With the help of some CE leaders, June Knox organised the games for the first part of the programme. That was a great opportunity for the children to have fun together as well as using up some energy! Emma-Jane Condy, our Local President, led the prayer time and choruses, with Ruth Williamson on the tech side of things.

We appreciated Philip Meeke, our Irish CE President, coming along with his wife Hilda. Philip shared about his own life, his family and his job as a farmer. He shared especially from God's Word how the children can put their trust in His Saviour Jesus Christ for salvation. Also how they can show Jesus' love to others by how they treat them!

The afternoon was rounded off as usual with hot dogs, chicken nuggets, juice and biscuits. Our thanks to Rosemary McDaniel and helpers for cooking and serving the delicious food.



## A Year of New Beginnings: Buckna Junior CE in Their New Church Home

June 2025 marked a milestone in the life of Buckna Presbyterian Church as the congregation stepped into their beautiful new church building. For Junior CE, it meant the beginning of a fresh chapter—full of excitement, gratitude, and a little bit of learning as everyone adjusted to new spaces and new rhythms. What hasn't changed, however, is the heart of Junior CE: children gathering to learn about God.



### Learning from Joseph: A Theme for the Year

This year our theme was *Joseph*. Week by week, the children explored Joseph's remarkable story: his dreams, his challenges, his faithfulness, and God's unwavering presence through every twist and turn of his life.

### Highlights from a Memorable Year

Several special events stood out as favourites for both children and leaders:

#### A Coat of Many Colours—With a Sweet Twist

One of the most creative evenings involved making Joseph's coat of many colours using biscuits and sweets. Sticky fingers, bright colours, and lots of laughter made it a night to remember.



## The Big Quiz Night

Competition was fierce but friendly during the "Big Quiz" night. After rounds of questions and plenty of cheering, the *Red Robins* emerged victorious—much to their delight.



## A Visit from the President

A highlight of the year was a visit from CE president **Philip Meeke**. The children especially enjoyed how he wove farming illustrations into his talk to explain God's love. His farming references – so familiar to many of the children - made his message both engaging and memorable.



## Pyjama Party for a Purpose

Perhaps the most eagerly anticipated evening was the *Pyjama Party*—a fundraiser for **Stand by Me**. The children especially loved the chance to come along in their pyjamas and take part in something a little different. The night buzzed with excitement as children built dens, launched parachutes, and dived into all sorts of activities in their pyjamas.



### Junior CE Service in the New Church

In March, we held our annual CE Service in the new Church building. The children took part with confidence, sharing readings, songs and prayers, and telling the congregation some of the things we had learned from the life of Joseph. Together we reflected on how God is with us in every situation—good or difficult—and how He works through all things for His purpose, just as He did in Joseph's life.

We were reminded of the truth of Romans 8:28:

**"In all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."**



### Looking Ahead with Gratitude

As Buckna Junior CE completes its first year in the new church building, there is a deep sense of thankfulness—for God's provision and for the children and leaders who make each week so special. The hope for the future is simple: that God will continue to bless this work, shaping young hearts and guiding every step, just as He guided Joseph.



## CLONANESE JUNIOR AND JUNIOR HIGH FAMILY & FRIENDS' EVENING WELL SUPPORTED

There was very encouraging support for the Clonaneese Junior and Junior High CE Societies at the final meeting of the season which was a Family and Friends' Evening held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

The children sang some pieces for us and practised their sword drill skills. The three sword drill winners each chose someone to help them find one last verse. The girl who won had chosen her Mum to help her, so between them they were the first to find the animal mentioned in Isaiah 40:31: the eagle!



June Knox explained the teaching in the memory verse, John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." The grown-ups had the opportunity to practise it too. The children turned round to make sure they were all joining in!



Congratulations to four children who received a small prize for not missing any evenings at CE. There can be many reasons for missing even one evening, with winter bugs, other events, etc.

We were thrilled to have Angie McKee from CEF as the speaker. She used PowerPoint illustrations to teach the missionary story of Betty Greene. Betty loved aviation and trained as a pilot. God used her in an organisation that eventually became the Missionary Aviation



Fellowship. You can learn more about her fascinating life story as a missionary pilot on the MAF website.

To round up the evening a much-deserved supper was served to the children. The visitors enjoyed tea, coffee and homemade traybakes.



Our thanks go to Emma-Jane Condy and her team for leading another year of Junior and Junior High CE at Clonaneese.



## Welcome to Ballylinney Junior Christian Endeavour!

At Ballylinney, our CE meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month, to share the good news of the Gospel with boys and girls of primary school age.

Last month, we had a special visit from Gillian Craig, the President of East Antrim CE Executive along with her mum.

Our focus for the evening was on God's promise to bless the nations through Abraham. After opening our meeting in prayer, we enjoyed singing "All Through History", which reminds us how throughout the Old Testament and into the present time, God is with us in everything.

A very energetic game of "My Chair" followed and then, after a talk and video, we enjoyed some Sword Drill together. Gillian enjoyed watching the children racing against each other to look up the verses. It gets pretty competitive and is not for the weak.

Later we spent some time discussing what we'd learned from the story before making bookmarks together, based on Ephesians 2:10 as a takeaway from our time together.

Everyone at Ballylinney hopes that this was an enjoyable evening for Gillian and her mum and we look forward to having her back in the future.



## CONVENTION COMPETITION PRIZEGIVING AT MAGHERAMORNE

Mr Gary Bissett, Irish CE Union Vice President and one of Magheramorne's

leaders, presented prizes to the girls and boys, from Magheramorne, who entered their Balaam's donkey craft into the CE Convention Competition.

Six of these young people were listed amongst the Irish CE Union Convention Competition prize winners - a great achievement.

It will soon be time for all Juniors to have your entries in for this year's Irish CE Convention Competitions and you too could be a prize winner! It is easy and it is great fun!



## JUNIORS SEE KING OF KINGS AT LARNE CINEMA

Magheramorne CE boys and girls enjoyed a trip to Larne cinema to watch, "King of Kings"



## JUNIORS' DAY WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

The Irish CE Union's annual Fun Day was organised by the Irish Union Junior Convenor, Mrs Rosemary Carson and Assistant Junior Convenor, Caroline Edgar,

A warm welcome was extended to everyone by Rosemary, who was delighted to have the Irish Union President, Mr Philip Meeke and his wife, Hilda present.

We want to say a big, "Thank You" to Rosemary for agreeing to tell us a little bit about the wonderful afternoon which everyone enjoyed so much.

On Saturday 7 March 2026 twenty four Juniors and their leaders from three CE Societies (Magheramorne, Ballyhenry and Ballylinney) attended JUNIORS' DAY in Ballyhenry Presbyterian Church and halls.

The afternoon started with some choruses (sung enthusiastically) as everyone arrived, then the Juniors split into groups and, led by Caroline, each group had to do a quick drama depicting a Bible story for us all to guess.

After this Gary led games using a parachute and hoops - these were enjoyed by all, including leaders who enjoyed watching. Belinda then did a short talk about Easter before Juniors made Easter cards which can be entered in the Convention Competitions. Thank you Belinda for all your work in the preparation for this craft.



We then headed into the Church where our Irish CE President, Mr Philip Meeke talked to us about his theme, “Jesus Loves You” using 1 John 3:16 for his talk. He encouraged us to Know Jesus, Receive Jesus, Hold on to Him but also to Share Him.

The afternoon’s activities concluded in the main hall with the children tucking into tasty snacks as they answered the quiz questions before the presentation of Prizes and certificates by the President.

Congratulations to all the Juniors whose hard work has achieved success for them in the Irish CE Award Scheme. These were all from Magheramorne and included Lily, Ruby, Poppy, Charlotte and Daniel at Gold level; Lewis, Daniel, Ava and Maisie at Silver level and Lewis, Olivia, Abbie, Eva, Hollie, Olivia and Quinn at Bronze level.



Very well done to Lewis who achieved both Bronze and Silver awards in the same year. Sincere thanks are due to John Acheson, our technical expert and photographer, for all his help.

Many thanks to Ballyhenry for the use of their church and halls and to all leaders for your help in making the afternoon a great success and a big THANK YOU to all Juniors for attending - without you we wouldn't have Juniors' Day.



## IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN JUNIORS CELEBRATE CE'S 145th ANNIVERSARY ON CE SUNDAY

Each year, the first Sunday in February is CE Sunday which means that the morning of service is run entirely by our Junior CE members. This year we celebrated the 145<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first CE meeting.



Bella led the service. Following her opening prayer, the children sang the introit, *"God is bigger than anything"*.



Kamryn then shared the reading and Joel told the congregation, visiting friends and family what we had been learning about our missionary project, *"Stand by me"*.



This year our children have been learning about the Bible – how God inspired it, the different styles of writing and content in it and how the Bible has stood the test of time, despite many efforts to destroy it. We also learned where all the books can be found and how to search for verses.

Our youngest group (8 years and under) shared the stories of the Bible's writers like Moses, Samuel, David, the disciples and Paul, while our older group (ages 8-12) shared what they had learned from the parables of Jesus in the four Gospels.

The children recited some of the memory verses they had learned then all sang, "*Your word is a lamp to my feet*". acknowledging that the Bible is more than a story book. It is our guide, it brings us light in the difficult and dark times and it tells us about the Light of the world who saves us and brings us hope for today and all of our tomorrows.



Following the children's address by our minister, Rev. Colin Gamble, we ended the service with our anthem, "Ireland for Christ" since knowing about our Saviour means we want to tell others about Him too!

## PRAISE AND PRAYER

He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time” 2 Timothy 1:9.

Praise God for His faithfulness in saving us and keeping us each day, by His grace!

Pray for the Juniors who have now finished up for the summer, that they will think about what they have heard in CE and commit their lives to Jesus as their Saviour.

Pray for Philip Meeke, our Irish CE President, that he and family will know God’s leading and blessing in their lives.

Pray for the right person to be in place to take over from Rosemary McDaniel. She will be stepping down from the position of General Secretary of Irish CE in September.

Pray for the faithful members of Senior CE Societies, for some who have health issues.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2026

September Fri 4th - Irish CE Council Meeting

***Sept Sat 19th at 7.30pm - 111th Irish National Christian Endeavour***

***Convention in Second Broughshane Presbyterian Church hall.***

***Speaker - The Revd Jeffery Blue - Second Broughshane Presbyterian Church***

***Theme - Joy in Jesus.***

If you have an event in your Union or Society, which you would like included, please email details, including date, place and title of event to

[irishcepress@gmail.com](mailto:irishcepress@gmail.com) or phone 07712979778.