

# LIFE & LIGHT

NEWTOWNBREA  
GOSPEL HALL

A magazine to teach, inform, challenge and encourage

## *Inside this issue:*

Enjoying Springtime!  
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Issue 1

A wise man will hear, and will increase learning;  
and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

Proverbs 1:5



## *Welcome to the first issue of Life & Light!*

Produced by Christians who meet in Newtownbreda Gospel Hall.

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 1 Peter 3:15*

## *Spring is here! Welcome new life and new beginnings*

During springtime days grow longer. The sunshine brings growth and greenery everywhere with buds bursting and leaves unfolding. Birdsong reaches a peak and spring flowers start to appear attracting bees and butterflies. Animals which have hibernated over winter appear on the first warm days of spring; hedgehogs, queen bees and frogs. Other animals such as squirrels become more active and are easier to spot. Thousands of migrant birds arrive, sand martins, swallows, swifts, and cuckoos. Nature is most busy in spring, every day brings new changes.

It is a great time to reflect on life and its purpose, The Bible states: To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. Perhaps this season will be a time when you reflect upon your life. Remember the words of the Lord Jesus: for a man's life consists not in the abundance of the things which he possesses, (Luke 12:15) life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment. (Luke 12:23) But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matt 6:33)

*To every thing there is a season,  
and a time to every purpose under the heaven:  
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

# JESUS CHRIST IS LORD.

*Philippians 2:11*

## Getting to know us!

Hi, My name is Tom, I am over retirement age and have lived all my life in east Belfast.

I meet with Christians at Newtownbreda Gospel hall. We meet each Sunday to remember the Lord, during the week we study the Bible, pray for each other and reach out to our neighbours that they may receive the joy of God's salvation as we have.



When I was young, my mother made sure that my sister and I went to Sunday School and children's meetings every week in Foundry Street Mission Hall, off the Newtownwards Road. However at the age of 13, I refused to go any more to church. The first time my parents saw me drunk, I was only 15 years old. My mother quietly said to me the next day: "Son, I never want to see you like that again" and continued to pray for me.

When I was 16, I started an apprenticeship in Mackies on the Springfield Road. It wasn't too long until I was at the card school at lunch time, I was also using the same language as the men around me and drinking as much alcohol as I could.

In the year 1971 my father-in-law was very ill and I was left alone with him in the bedroom. I soon realised he was dying and my knees shook; I said to myself: "Someone should be here to talk to him about God."

Over the next year thoughts came to me about how I had acknowledged that there was a God, when my father-in-law was dying. Thoughts also came about Jesus and why He died and I realise now that God was speaking to me through these thoughts.

On 10th February 1972, I thought about God, how that Jesus is His son, He died at Calvary, He died for me, for my sins and my knees again shook as I felt that if I didn't get saved at that moment God might not ever speak to me again. It was then I asked God to save me, I put my trust in His Son who died for my sins and at that moment I was saved.

Oh what can equal joy divine or what can sweeter be  
than knowing that my soul is saved for all eternity?

Albert Midlane



# *How can something so beautiful become so destroyed?*

What happened in Belvoir forest is as old as Earth itself. God makes everything beautiful then along comes a disease that enters, corrupts and destroys all that was once lovely.

In the first book of the Bible, Genesis 1:31 we read: and God saw every thing that he had made, and behold, it was very good. How lovely was the creation then, even man whom God had made, was pleasing to God, they walked and talked together in harmony.

But just 5 chapters later in Genesis 6:5 we read: *and God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually and it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.* How very sad that what God had made lovely had been destroyed by Sin.

The forestry service had to take drastic action in Belvoir to deal effectively with the disease, *P. ramorum*; God also had to take drastic action to deal with Sin. That action did not result in cutting us down or in punishing us who had sinned for in John 3:17 we read: For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

## **At Calvary:**

- Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures (1 Cor 15:3)
- By himself he purged our sins (Hebrews 1:3)
- He was manifested to take away our sins; in him is no sin (1 Jn 3:5)
- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

The Forestry Service has a plan to restore the forest again and God also has a plan to restore us again by regeneration, a new birth, through new life by faith in Christ Jesus. (John 3:3, 7 & 16)

God's great plan for our salvation is spoken of each Sunday at 7pm in Newtownbreda Gospel Hall, why not come along and hear more?



## ***Phytophthora ramorum* (*P. ramorum*)**

Some of the larch trees in this forest have been diagnosed with a plant disease caused by a fungus-like pathogen called *P. ramorum*. The disease has the potential to effect a wide range of woody plants and ornamental trees.

To control its spread, Forest Service will be felling trees in Belvoir Forest commencing in August 2014. It is expected that the harvesting operation will take up to 12 weeks to complete.

### **How can you help prevent the spread of this disease?**

- 1 Please stay on the forest roads and ensure that your visit results in no soil or leaf litter leaving this forest.
- 2 Please keep dogs on leads.
- 3 Do not remove dead wood, bark or any plant material from this forest.
- 4 Thoroughly wash boots, shoes and any other items in contact with the ground before visiting other areas.

if you



# Bible Reading

There is an easy way to improve your children's progress at school. It will entertain and delight them. It will strengthen the bonds between you and it is virtually free: read a book with them.

Sharing a book with a child is fun. It's a time for closeness, laughing and talking together but choose carefully the books you read.

*The Bible is the single most important book ever written.*

The Lord Jesus said: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). When we try to "live by bread alone," we are looking after our physical needs but are starving our soul of spiritual food.

We should read and study the Bible because it is God's Word to us. The Bible is literally "God-breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16). It is God's very words to us.

Here are some good reasons for reading the Bible:



- It is God's Word:  
2 Timothy 3:16
- It makes you much wiser:  
Psalms 119:99
- It helps overcome temptation:  
John 17:17
- There is a promise of blessing:  
Revelation 1:3
- It brings peace:  
Psalms 119:165
- It gives you direction in life:  
Psalm 1



*What  
Happens  
Next?*

Sometimes on a book cover you will get the words highlighted: “**Based on a true story**” but did you know the Bible is full of the most exciting stories and all of them are true stories?

Here are two stories in the Bible that we would encourage you to read to find out what happens next.

The city was called Capernaum, there was great excitement because a young man called Jesus had come into town and not only was his teaching excellent but he had power to heal those who were sick. Now there was a man in Capernaum who was paralysed, yet he had four friends who said they would carry him on his bed to meet this man Jesus. However when they got to the house where Jesus was there was such a crowd that they could not get near the door to enter in to see him. The paralysed man must have been so disappointed, but his friends had an idea - a plan to get passed the crowd and into the house. They were able to make their way around to steps which led up to the roof of the house... and what happens next is the most amazing thing - why not turn to Mark 2:1-12 and read what happens next - better still if you have children why not read this truly amazing story to them?

It was a very sad sight indeed, the poor woman, having already lost her husband was again on her way to the graveside walking behind the coffin of her only son. A man approached her and with compassion in his voice told her not to cry. He then touched the coffin and what happens next is something she would never forget for the rest of her life. Read about it in Luke 7:11-16



# Spiritual Sudoku

The goal of this Sudoku is to fill in a 9×9 grid with letters so that each column, row, and 3×3 section contain only the 9 different letters in the phrase:

God loves you  
G O D L V E S Y U

## Memory Verse

He that loveth not  
knoweth not God;  
for God is love.  
1<sup>st</sup> John 4:8

				L				
V			Y					
O	Y	L	S	E				V
Y	O		D				S	U
E	L			S			V	Y
U	V				E		D	G
S				G	D	U	Y	L
					S			O
			L					

Answers found on [www.newtownbredagospelhall.com/magazine](http://www.newtownbredagospelhall.com/magazine)

“God Loves You!” What an amazing message God has recorded for us in the Bible. God’s love is not in word only but has been demonstrated; as we read in Romans 5:8 but God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.



# Newtownbreda Gospel Hall

## Sunday School

### Starting September 3-3:45pm

Bible Lessons

Memory Verses

Choruses

Bible Magazine

BK Cards

calling all boys & girls



Belvoir Bus route:



Castleward

Grays Park

Castlehume

Belvoir Drive

Drumart

Milltown

For pickup & drop off call Lawrence on 9064 9432  
96a Newtownbreda Road - [www.newtownbredagospelhall.com](http://www.newtownbredagospelhall.com)



Newtownbreda Gospel Hall  
**Teenage Bible Class**

Every Sunday 3-3.45pm  
(Sept-June)

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path  
Psalm 119:105

**Get to grips with life's big questions:**

Is there a God? What is life all about?  
Who was Jesus? What is a Christian?

Have you ever stopped to ask yourself these four questions? They are questions that really need to be answered, as the truth should have a massive impact on our lives today! So, why not make time every week to be at Teenage Bible Class. Get to know other local teenagers as we explore these questions together, discuss the Bible and get back to basics!

For more information  
contact Stephen:

Tel: 077 0617 0386

# Wonders of Creation

## Where are we going this year?

Without an atlas, road signs or Sat Nav, at least 4,000 species of birds make annual roundtrip migrations of thousands of miles, often returning to the exact same nesting and wintering locations from year to year. Much research has been carried out about how birds manage this amazing journey and the resulting answer is a very simple one: It's built in - they are just made that way!



## Can I have a postcode please?

One of the greatest mysteries of migration is exactly how birds find their way from one location to the next. Scientific studies have been done on a number of bird species and different techniques of bird navigation have been discovered.



- **Magnetic Sensing:** Many birds have special chemicals or compounds in their brains, eyes or bills that help them sense the Earth's magnetic field. This helps the birds orient themselves for long journeys.
- **Geographic Mapping:** Because birds follow the same migration routes from year to year, their keen eyesight allows them to map their journey by different landforms and geographic features such as rivers, coastlines and mountain ranges.
- **Star Orientation:** For birds that migrate at night, star positions and the orientation of constellations can provide necessary navigation directions. During the day, birds also use the sun to navigate.
- **Learned Routes:** Some bird species, such as sandhill cranes and snow geese, learn migration routes from their parents and other adult birds in the flock. Once learned, younger birds can travel the route successfully themselves.

## In Job 39:26 God asks Job the question:

Does the hawk fly by your wisdom,  
and spread its wings toward the south?  
Job was told by God that it was not man  
(nor by inference nature or evolution) that gave  
the hawk its ability to fly or its migration desires  
but it was God's wisdom, imparted to the hawk  
by creative design!

We are reminded of this great truth of  
a wise creator God in the book of Hebrews 3:4  
*For every house is built by someone,  
but He who built all things is God!*



# Gospel Truths

## Who are we?

We are a group of born-again Christians who meet in Newtownbreda Gospel Hall and consider the Bible to be the inspired and infallible Word of God. We endeavour to follow the New Testament example of gathering to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We come from different nationalities and walks of life, with the common bond of having a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

## Times of our regular meetings:

### Sunday:

- 11.00 am Breaking of Bread (Weekly)
- 3.00 pm Sunday School (Sep-June)
- 6:30 pm Prayer Meeting (Weekly)
- 7.00 pm Gospel Meeting (Weekly)

### Monday:

- 7.00 pm Young People's Meeting (Oct-March)
- 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting (Weekly) 8.15 pm Oct-March

### Tuesday:

- 7.30 pm Purdysburn Gospel Hour (in Purdysburn Village)  
(Alternate Tuesdays, Oct-April)

### Thursday:

- 8.00 pm Bible Reading (Weekly)

- God created us for His glory.  
*Isaiah 43:6-7*
- Every human should live for God's glory.  
*1 Corinthians 10:31*
- We have all sinned and come short of God's glory.  
*Romans 3:23*
- We all deserve eternal punishment.  
*Romans 6:23*
- In His great mercy, God sent forth His only Son Jesus Christ to provide for sinners the way of eternal life.  
*John 3:16*

Visit us: [www.newtownbredagospelhall.com](http://www.newtownbredagospelhall.com)