



**HAZELBANK
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

www.hazelbank-church.co.uk

**Volume 34 No. 1
Summer Edition 2010**



MINISTER'S LETTER

**The Manse
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As I write this the World Cup is in the very early group stages. The first round of matches is still taking place. As you read this the cup may already have been won and the new champions are known by everyone. I would love to forecast the winners at this stage, but that would be silly as most of you know what I would say. Anyway, even at this early stage we have seen little that would attract the neutral to want to watch the game. It has been bland and somewhat boring on the whole and we watch on in the hope of seeing some exciting football. What we have seen and heard however is a noise that has been so interfering that there have been calls for it to be banned from the world cup. No. I'm not thinking of odd national anthems or players lamenting long and hard to the referee but rather

the noise of something very very few of us had ever heard of before, the vuvuzela horn!

At the start of the competition, the very first match, South Africa's home game, the noise was deafening. The press, players, commentators and some of the public (those who didn't have one) were all complaining. The BBC received over 545 complaints in the first few days alone, not that many, but enough to have them report it on the news.

However, a strange thing happened. As the competition progressed and as people watched more and more matches the comments about the vuvuzelas became less and less to the point that no one was mentioning them. The matches were still played out under the drone of the horns but it was strange because you almost didn't notice it anymore. Oh yes, you could hear it but it had stopped being noticeable, the volume was the same but your mind had somehow blocked it out.

As I thought about this I was reminded of the old phrase "in the world not of the world", a phrase that some use as they would a verse from the Bible. This saying however is not actually in the Bible even though the sentiments are there in several verses such as John 17:11&16 and in 1 John 2:15-17. The idea however is simple, while as believers in Jesus Christ and as his followers we are required to listen only to His voice, as sheep would listen to the voice of their shepherd, John 10:27 *My sheep listen to my voice; I*

know them, and they follow me. The world around us has however become so vocal in so many areas of life that we tend to allow ourselves to listen to its voice instead of the voice of Christ. He is still speaking, his message of love hasn't changed, he still desires to communicate with us on a deeply personal level and he is calling each one of us by name. So why do we find it so hard to hear him? Because our ears have become too used to the noise of the world around us and it has become our focus.

Can I urge you this Summer to take some time to draw away from the world and spend some time without TV, radio, magazines etc and simply read and meditate on your Bible? Even for half an hour each day. Take time to close out all distractions and open your ears to God, asking him to speak to your soul and to give you new ears to listen to the beautiful tones of His loving voice. May our God bless you as you do so.

Your friend
Alan Johnston

CHURCH REGISTER

ACT of DEDICATION

23rd May 2010

Zara Louise Campbell

PLEASE REMEMBER!

Please note that during July and August Morning Worship will be at the earlier time of 10.30 am and the Evening Epilogue Service will be at 8.00 pm.

DATES for your DIARY

June 27th Morning and Evening (11.30 and 6.30pm)
Rev. Sam Millar

July 4th Morning and Evening (10.30am and 8pm)
Rev. David Porter

July 11th Morning and Evening (10.30am and 8pm)
Rev. Maurice Barr

July 18th
Rev. Johnston at 10.30am with Linda Gould (New Horizon)

Please note - No evening service on 18th July - please consider going to New Horizon's evening meeting.

August 8th - 8pm epilogue service
James and Heather Cochrane (PCI workers in Portugal)

KESWICK at PORTSTEWART

The dates for this summer's Christian family conference are **Saturday 10th to Friday 16th July**. Stimulating Bible teaching every morning and inspiring preaching every evening, together with the CSSM team and crèche facilities too, there's something for the whole family to enjoy.

**HOLIDAY
BIBLE
CLUB**



9th – 13th AUGUST

6.30 – 9.00 pm

Ages 4 – 11 years

Each child must be individually
registered – Forms available early

July

Youth Event – “Uncharted”

9.15 – 10.15 pm

Think YOU can help? Contact
Cherie Hunter on 7035 4095



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A MESSAGE FROM NEW HORIZON

We're told that our world is changing more quickly than at any other time in human history. Technological advances, the latest versions, the newest releases - all symptoms of the accelerating pace of change and yet when we look around us, we wonder are things really that different from before? The rich still get richer, the poor get poorer; the strong thrive and the weak barely survive; relationships are still fractured, neighbourhoods still divided and the Christians still in the cosy confines of our pews, "loving God" and hoping for heaven. But didn't Jesus pray for God's will to be done, on earth as it is in heaven? Before we follow Jesus out of this world, doesn't he call us to love God and others in the midst of it? What would our world look like if we began to truly love our neighbours next door and around the world?

Join us this summer at New Horizon as we learn how to connect our love of God, with our life in the world. Be challenged by God's Word to live lives of grace, peace and truth where God has planted us. Be inspired by the stories of God's power and people at work bringing good news into their communities. Be at New Horizon this summer so that God can begin to break through the cycle of superficial change in our society and bring true transformation.

2010: "Loving God... Transforming Our World"

17th - 23rd July 2010

University of Ulster, Coleraine



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MONEY MATTERS

We continue to live in challenging times and it is against this backdrop that the financial position of the church may be summarised as at 31st May 2010 :-

Bank Balances

No. 1 Account	£ 8,228.34	<i>Overdrawn</i>
No. 2 Account	£ 19,972.82	
Ministry Extension Fund	£ 32,106.94	
Interest Free Loans	£ 1,000.00	

United Appeal

Target of Honour	Contributions	Decrease on 2009
£8,170	£2,426	£343

The amount given by way of Free Will Offering has increased this year by £3,460 or 11%. Loose offerings have increased by £564. Total received by FWO and loose offerings is £35,575.

Contributions to our Property Fund during 2010 currently stand at £8,850 which is a decrease of £1,597 on 2009.

Giving to the Ministry Extension Fund so far this year amounts to £3,535 which is down £989 on the same period last year.

Running costs to 31st May 2010 have decreased by £245 on 2009, this equates to a 0.5% reduction. Total running costs to 31st May 2010 are £46,475.

Expenditure through Property Account is £3,590, down £8,576 on 2009. It should be noted that no repayment on the loan from Presbyterian Mutual Society has yet been made in 2010 but had been paid in the period to 31st May 2009.

Expenditure through Ministry Extension Fund is £1,784 down £9,274 on 2009.

We have asked earlier in the year for members of the Congregation to consider redirecting some giving from the Property Account and Ministry Extension Fund into Free Will Offering to help address the shortfall in this account. I would like to thank those of you who have done this with FWO showing a considerable increase over the 2009 figure. However there is still some way to go to bring this account into order as expenditure from the number one account at 31st May 2010 exceeds income by £10,900. We would ask all members of the congregation to continue to keep this matter in their prayers and respond as you feel is appropriate for your circumstances. I would also encourage any taxpayers who have not already signed up for Gift Aid as this is a way to increase your giving to the Church without costing you any more. Please speak to Chris Alexander for further details.

David Kerr
Hon. Treasurer