

Rosemary Presbyterian Church

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland - NIC 104448

Rev Philip McCrea

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8th June 2020.

Dear Friends,

I trust that you are continuing to keep well and that you are managing to stay safe, particularly as the government begins to ease the lockdown restrictions.

We have been having some amazing weather in the last couple of months. This has been contrasted with some of the storms back in February, such as storm Dennis. The power of the wind demonstrated at the North Coast is awesome, to see the waves crashing against the coastline is a sight to behold.

Jesus uses the wind to illustrate the work of God's Spirit who comes and goes as he pleases in our lives. As we hear God's message the Spirit helps us to receive, understand and apply what we hear.

Like the wind God's Spirit is unseen and untameable. We don't know where He comes from or where He is going to, but we do experience His presence and power in our lives. God moves when, where and how he likes.

In John 14:15-30 Jesus tells us of the Spirit's work in our lives.

'And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive,

because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you' (14:16-18)

We will not be left alone in the world, to serve Jesus. He will ask the Father to give us a helper, the Spirit, to be with us forever. Through the presence of the Spirit our love for Jesus will deepen and He will continue to love us. Jesus will reveal Himself to us in order that our relationship with Him grows stronger. Jesus also tells us that He and the Father will come to us and make their home in our lives. It is in Jesus love that we find our identity and our security. We are able to live by faith because of the Spirit's strengthening presence.

***'But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.'* (14:26)**

The Holy Spirit will be our teacher who will lead us in our following Jesus. He will remind us of all that Jesus said. As we face different situations and dilemmas the Spirit will help us to remember what Jesus taught us and how He interacted with different kinds of people. The more we study of Jesus life the more He will be able to bring to the forefront of our minds. In this way we will become more like Jesus as His Spirit leads us. Let's pray for the wind of God's Spirit blowing through us, leading us in love for and obedience to Jesus.

Paul reminds us that, 'He who began the good work in you will bring it to a completion on the day of Christ'. (Phil 1:6). God does this work through His Spirit, empowering us to keep following Jesus.

May God continue to give you a sense of the presence of His Spirit as you seek to love Jesus and be led by Him.

Philip McCrea



I wrote to Rev Terry McMullan on the occasion of his retirement from work in Rosemary to express our thanks to him for all he had done amongst us. Terry has responded to this letter (on 4th June 2020) and I have included it below.

25 May 2020

Dear Terry,

Just a short note on the occasion of your retirement from the work you've been doing in Rosemary Presbyterian Church since 2005.

We as a Kirk Session, Committee and Congregation want to say thank you for your commitment, dedication and love shown to members of our church throughout your ministry with us. Your connection with North Belfast and Rosemary goes back a long time. You have worked with us through the vacancy period and also throughout my ministry in Rosemary, in the last 13 years. You have faithfully visited the congregation and this has been very much appreciated.

We hope that you will receive this gift of £1050 for the Zomba Action Project (Malawi) as a token of our love and appreciation for your work amongst us over the years. We want to wish you and Joyce well in your continued retirement and that you're able to enjoy a well earned rest. We will continue to keep you both in our prayers as you continue to love and serve Jesus. Many thanks again for your work amongst us.

Yours sincerely,

Philip McCrea

Since receiving this gift Terry has received further gifts, which he has included in the total he mentions.

4 June 2020

Dear Philip,

Thank you very much for your letter of 25 May in which you mention my retirement from the pastoral ministry in Rosemary Presbyterian Church which I started in 2005. My involvement in Rosemary came in June 2005, as I was about to end my ministry in Macrory P C which was closing and amalgamating with Fortwilliam P C. At the same time Rev Christina Bradley received a call to Armagh Road P C, Portadown, and I was invited by Rev John Seawright, the Vacancy Convener, to visit members of the congregation, as required, for two days each week. Over the next two years, until the installation of Rev Philip McCrea in June 2007, I preached regularly in Rosemary.

As I reflect on the thirty three years of my ministry, I realise that during the thirteen years I spent, with Joyce, as a missionary in Malawi, where our family were born, and the twenty years I was Secretary to the Overseas Mission Board of PCI, I had not been the Minister of a congregation in PCI. It is for this reason that I have appreciated the years that I have spent getting to know the members of Rosemary and particularly their pastoral and practical needs. I have been richly blessed through the years spent in Rosemary, and have



received much encouragement from the people whom I visited. My life has been greatly enriched spiritually and in every other way. Inevitably, I have been deeply saddened at the many members of Rosemary who have passed away during those years.

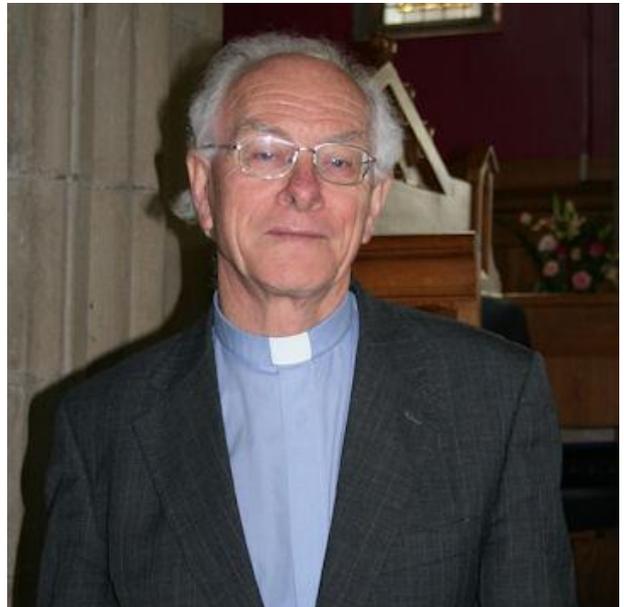
My second retirement on 31 March was due to the fact that the membership of Rosemary had reduced to two hundred and twenty families and it was the right time for me to finish my pastoral work. Though we have been in lockdown for the last ten weeks, I have kept in contact with some members of the congregation, and daily receive the posts by Rosemary members on WhatsApp.

I would like to thank the members of the congregation who contributed to a retirement gift. I received £1,250 which I have donated to the Zomba Action Project. This gift will provide a shallow well for a group of four or five villages in the Zomba area. The well will be dug and the pump installed in September this year, and will provide clean water for up to one thousand people.

Once again, thanks for the privilege of being involved in pastoral care to the members of Rosemary, and I wish the Minister, Elders, Committee members and the congregation every blessing as they take up the challenges it that area of Belfast in the coming years.

Yours sincerely.

Rev Terry McMullan.



A message from the Treasurer

Many thanks to the numerous members of the Congregation for making contributions to Rosemary Presbyterian Church during this period of lockdown. This is very much appreciated and enables us to meet our financial obligations as they become due for payment. I would encourage you all to contribute and would suggest these are made on a month by month basis until our normal weekly service resumes. This can be done by post or on line banking.

For FWO and / or other funds of the church - by cheque payable to Rosemary Presbyterian Church and posted to me at 18 Farm Lodge Road, Greenisland, Carrickfergus, BT38 8XH.

For FWO only - by on line bank transfer to 95.01.21 account name Rosemary Presbyterian Church and account number 61034898. As a reference quote your surname + FWO number. For example EAKIN No 123. This will assist greatly in identifying the donor for gift aid purposes.

Roy Eakin

Communication

We have been trying to keep in touch with everyone in Rosemary Presbyterian Church, by letter, email, phone, Facebook and Church website. Our fear is that anyone would be missed in our communications. If you know of anyone who has not been contacted please let me or any of the elders know in order that we can remedy this. Many thanks

Philip McCrea