

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH



### Spring in our steps

*Song of Solomon 2:11-12*

***“For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.”***

It is said New Year’s Day marks a fresh start; giving opportunity to turn over a new leaf. Yet the ironic thing about that day is it falls in the middle of winter. I believe a new year really begins on the first day of Spring. In this country, it is often hard to determine when that is. In fact, Solomon’s words rarely apply to Northern Ireland that **“the rain is over and gone”**.

However, Spring is a wonderful time of new beginnings. The brightness of new daffodils remove the dullness of winter. New lambs and calves bring joy to our hearts as we see them skip around the fields. Dark mornings are now light and the air is filled again with the songs of migrated birds that have begun to return. Spring is also a time for planting. No matter how bad last year’s yield was, Spring provides a fresh start.

As Christians, we have a different appreciation and awe for all we see around us. For every part of creation bears the finger prints of God.

The hymn writer got it right when he said:

**“Heaven above is softer blue,  
Earth around is sweeter green;  
Something lives in every hue  
Christless eyes have never seen:  
Birds with gladder songs o’erflow,  
Flow’rs with deeper beauties shine,  
Since I know, as now I know,  
I am His, and He is mine.”**

However, every Christian, at some point, has winter like experiences. Like the birds, we migrate away from our first love. Perhaps even now you are feeling the coldness of discouragement; and the dullness of winter in your Christian walk. Perhaps you have been in hibernation. It is very hard to turn over a new page during winter. However, as we see God’s creation coming into bloom again it serves as a reminder that winter is never here to stay. Perhaps it is time to put a spring in your step. To put the

winter behind us with its barrenness. To remind yourself that you are loved with an everlasting love. To remind yourself that the God who has put a song in the birds of spring has also put a new song in our mouth. Spring offers a new opportunity to be fruitful in some work for the Lord. We’ve all been given the seeds of Heaven to sow; yet for so many of us we keep them in the storehouse.

Of course, the greatest point of Spring is our celebration of Easter. That **“now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.”** Out of all that has budded in Spring, this is the greatest, that **“He is risen”**. How joyful to know that because He lives we shall live also. What a motivation to arise from our slumber and seek to live in the good of His resurrection. So many Christians are still living in the midst of winter. Christ says to us **“Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.”**

God Bless

Pastor S Moffitt

## THANK YOU FROM LINDA CORRY CEF

*Dear Friends at Saintfield Baptist Church*

*As I have come to the end of another time of deputation in N Ireland I can only thank God for His help and strength during 8 busy weeks of meetings and visits. His steadfast love and faithfulness have been proven time and time again.*

*Thank you for the opportunity to share a little part of the ‘Big Picture’ in Moldova and CEF’s European Education ministries with you. It was a real joy to do this.*

*Thank you too for your gift towards the ministry and work I am directly involved in. It is a blessing to be able to partner and serve the Lord together in this way. You have been a great source of encouragement and blessing!*

*I continue to value your prayers in the coming weeks as I settle in my new role and responsibilities in the European Education Department.*

*Many blessings*

*Linda x*



## UP FROM THE GRAVE HE AROSE

**by Robert Lowry (1826-99)**

*Low in the grave he lay,  
Jesus my Saviour,  
Waiting the coming day,  
Jesus my Lord!*

*Up from the grave he arose  
With a mighty triumph o’er his foes;  
He arose a victor from the dark domain,  
And he lives forever with His saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!*



Robert Lowry, the Philadelphia born author and composer of this hymn, was a popular Baptist preacher and educator who served churches in Pennsylvania, New York City and Plainfield, New Jersey.

Lowry studied theology at the University of Lewisburg, graduating in 1854 and teaching literature there from 1869-1875. He became known for his gospel songs while ministering in Brooklyn, collaborating often with William H Doane in producing gospel song collections.

Among his most famous gospel compositions are “Nothing but the Blood of Jesus” and “Shall We Gather at the River”. He also composed tunes for other’s texts, such as “Marching to Zion”, a camp meeting version of Isaac Watt’s text “Come, We that Love the Lord”, and “Need”, a tune for Annie Hawk’s hymn “I Need Thee Every Hour”.

Hymnologist Kenneth Osbeck notes that “Lowry was recognised as a most capable minister of the gospel, possessing keen insight and administrative ability. He became known as a thorough Bible scholar and a brilliant and captivating orator. Few preachers of his day had greater ability to paint word pictures and to inspire a congregation. Music and a knowledge of hymnology were his favourite studies, but always as an avocation.”

When William Bradbury, another well known gospel song writer, died, Lowry was selected by the Biglow Publishing Company in 1868 to be its music editor. In this capacity he published more than 20 Sunday school songbooks.

Mr Osbeck records this account of the composition of this gospel song: Following his reflection on the resurrection as recorded in Luke 24:6-8... Lowry found himself seated at the little pump organ in the parlor of his home, and in a very spontaneous fashion, there came forth the music and the words, giving expression to the thoughts that had been uppermost in his mind.

## MEETINGS ON THE LORD'S DAY

<b>2nd April</b>	AM/PM:	Pastor S Moffitt
<b>9th April</b>	AM/PM:	Pastor S Moffitt
<b>16th April</b>	AM/PM:	Pastor S Moffitt
<b>Easter Sunday</b>		
<b>23rd April</b>	AM:	Pastor S Moffitt
	PM:	Mr Alan Graham CEF Zimbabwe
<b>30th April</b>	AM/PM:	Pastor J Taylor

## BIBLE STUDY GUEST SPEAKER

**Mr Trevor Morrow** will bring a report on his work with Baptist Missions in Peru at our Bible Study and Prayer Meeting on **Wednesday 19th April** at 8pm.

## YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Youth Fellowship meetings will take place as follows in April:

- 9th April @ 8.15pm** — Our Story! Derek & Kirsty  
**21st April** — YF Outing (details to follow)  
**23rd April @ 8.15pm** — Mr Alan Graham (CEF Zimbabwe)

All young people P7 and above will be made very welcome at Youth Fellowship.

## SUPPLIES FOR POLAND

In July this year the Joy Foundation is once again shipping a container of aid to Poland to distribute to the poorest people of that land. The items which we can take include:

- ✧ Any clothing items
- ✧ Children's toys
- ✧ Household linen (curtains & bedding)
- ✧ Toiletries

We cannot take books, breakable items or flammable liquids.

If anyone would like to help by donating items they can be brought along to the Church or alternatively we can collect them from you. To arrange collection please contact either Ruth McMillan on 07732 251340 or David Anderson on 07812 604159. Thank you.

## LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

The Ladies' Fellowship Annual Women's Rally will take place on **Tuesday 25th April at 8.00pm**. This guest speaker at will be **Mrs Yvonne Bennett** and her subject will be 'My Designer House'. The singers will be the McMillan Sisters.

Supper will be served following the meeting and all are welcome. Please use one of the invitation cards in the entrance foyer to invite someone along to the meeting.

## ROTAS FOR THE MONTH

	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
<b>DOOR DUTY</b>	Group D: G McNeill *, N Reid *, D Armstrong, B Cleland, J Henderson, P Moore * <i>deacon in charge</i>				
<b>CHILDREN'S CHURCH</b>	David Janette	Lynsey Karen	Ed Sharon	Derek Alison	Rebekah Rachel
<b>CRECHE</b>	Lynsey Gillian	Sharon M. Heather Bethany	Janette Janet	Julie Ruth R. Joanna	Laura Rebecca M.
<b>FLOWERS</b>	Ethel Irvine	Ethel Irvine	Joan Carson	Joan Carson	Florence Armstrong
<b>INTERNET</b>	Joel & Andrew	Mark & Aaron	David & Daniel	Joel & Mark	Andrew & Aaron
<b>RECORDING</b>	Scott	Ed	John	Gary	Jonny

*NB Above are also responsible for the sound desk on the Wednesday following their Sunday recording duty.*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

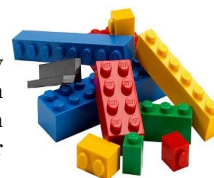
- Sun 9th April @ 3.00 pm — Meeting in Tullywest Nursing Home — Mr Daniel Lowden speaking
- Sun 30th April @ 3.00pm — Meeting in Silverbirch Nursing Home — Mr Gary McNeill speaking

## COMMUNION

It was decided recently to change the juice used during our Breaking of Bread service each Sunday to pure grape juice rather than blackcurrant juice. Therefore if you have noticed any change in flavour of the juice used this is the reason why.

## LEGO APPEAL!

Linda Corry has asked if anyone has any Lego that could be donated to help with CEF work in Eastern Europe. Lego can be given to Nigel or Karen before Easter who will forward it to Linda's Mum.



Details of items to appear in the bulletin must be given to Karen not later than the second Sunday in the month for inclusion in the next month's edition (email to: nk Reid@outlook.com).

Saintfield Baptist Church  
 51 Crossgar Road  
 Saintfield

## Monthly Bulletin



**SAINTFIELD  
 BAPTIST  
 CHURCH**

[www.saintfieldbaptist.org.uk](http://www.saintfieldbaptist.org.uk)



*April  
 2017*

*John 11: 25-26 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?*

**Sunday  
 Services:  
 11.30am  
 & 7pm**

**Sunday  
 Sch: 10.30am  
 Searchers:  
 Wed 6.45pm**

**Bible Study  
 & Prayer  
 Meeting  
 Wed 8pm**