



BANNSIDE BUZZ

September 2017

This month's articles

New Beginnings with Dr. Seuss

New Beginnings—Reality or Illusion?

Lots of News from the Pews

and . . .

Art and Architecture

New Beginnings

Heading off to a new life in a new land, getting married, starting work or university; all are examples of new beginnings. These, and many similar new experiences, may well be accompanied by racing levels of anticipation and excitement when we are up for the change; a different stage of life is about to unfold, “full of things that have never been,” as the poet Rainer Maria Rilke put it.

But new beginnings, even if welcomed and embraced, can also bring heightened levels of anxiety and a sense of loss, if we pause to look back at what we are leaving behind: the way things were is gone forever, and bitter-sweetness often leaves its distinctive taste on the journey to the new.

And, of course, when tragedy of whatever sort necessitates a new beginning that nobody wanted, the future can appear overwhelmingly bleak and impossibly dark: you feel you just can't go on. In a song about the passing of a loved one, Iris DeMent captures a sense of this when she sings about having “to face that empty dawn.” At times like these, the very thought of a new beginning is as cruel as it is unavoidable.

DeMent laments that she'll miss and dream of her dearly departed one, crying a million tears in the process. Then, interestingly, she says,

But the sorrow will pass
And the one thing that will last
Is the love that you've given to me.

She has memorized each line in the deceased's face, and not even death will ever be able to erase the story they tell her of how she has been loved. She has found a reason to face the new beginning: it is love, and with it she can face the empty dawn.

This is not far off St. Paul's insight that the three qualities which will endure through all eternity are faith, hope and love, but that the greatest of these is love. Love creates and enables new beginnings, even where none seem possible. That is the Gospel: the death of Jesus seemed the end, but the love of God generated the new beginning of the resurrection.

To sum up T. S. Eliot, after he has philosophically pondered and poetically presented his thoughts on the relationship between beginnings and endings: every end is a new beginning.

Welcome to this edition of Bannside Buzz; it explores the theme of new beginnings.

All good things,

Mark.

New Beginnings with Dr. Seuss



One of my favorite authors from my childhood and to this day is Dr. Seuss. When I graduated from university, I received the book "Oh, the Places You'll Go" by Dr. Seuss. One of my favourite things about this book is that it paints an honest picture of new beginnings.

It can be so exciting to have a new beginning and venture out into new places and new experiences. Sometimes going into the unknown future is wonderful and there is so much hope that lies in the unknown and the undiscovered.

While new beginnings can be exciting, there is also a level of uncertainty and fear. We hope that we are going in the direction that God has for us. We hope and pray that God will provide for us what we need.

In many places in the Bible, people were told to move and leave behind what they knew and what was familiar. The exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land is one story of a new beginning for the Hebrew people. The road to the new beginning was long and had many hurdles, but through it all, God was there traveling with them and providing for them.

In new beginnings, there is sometimes the desire to turn back to what is familiar and what we knew. It can be scary to take that step into the unknown of a new beginning. When we find ourselves looking backward, instead of turning backward, we are called to move forward on the path God has planned for us. It will be a whole new experience with many unknowns, but one thing I believe we can always count on is God guiding us, and being there to provide what we need to continue on our journey.

Life is a series of new beginnings, and God is there laying the foot path. Trust in God to guide you and provide you with what you need to continue on the new path.

"On and on you will hike.
And I know you'll hike far
and face up to your problems whatever
they are."

- "Oh, The Places You'll Go" by Dr. Seuss"

By Rev. Sarah Smith



New Beginnings in Art and Architecture

Recently Andrew and I spent a few days in Dublin, our main reason being to visit the newly refurbished and modernised spaces in the Dargan and Milltown wings of The National Gallery of Ireland.

The Gallery had been partially closed for three years while all this work was being carried out; the newly restored areas are a joy to walk through and the natural light adds so much to the building and the paintings.

I so much wanted to see the Vermeer paintings which were used as the opening exhibition in June of this year. He was one of several artists who used their everyday surroundings and created wonderful paintings with exquisite detail. Although their subjects are very similar I think the lighting in Vermeer's paintings make them just so much more special. My favourite is "The Lace Maker."



We were fascinated by the iconic masterpiece in The Gallery – "The Marriage of Strongbow and Aoife" which is now on permanent display. The other painting we loved, entitled "Military Manoeuvres," shows a group of young children pretending to be a military band. Many of them are bare-footed and dressed in ragged clothes. They are using saucepan lids as cymbals; an upturned bucket as a drum; a coffee pot; a biscuit tin; a penny whistle and a wooden sword. We spent ages looking at this picture which was so full of detail and humour.

We also spent some time looking around Parliament House, Dublin – a world first purpose-built two-chamber Parliament House.

It had its "new beginnings" in 1803 when it became the headquarters of the Bank of Ireland and the Bank still owns it to this day.

We were fascinated by the huge tapestries depicting William of Orange at the Battle of the Boyne and the Defence of Londonderry as well as the many historical artefacts on display. A magnificent building well worth a visit!

By Esther Cromwell

Ultimate New Beginning

For those who live in the Lord the greatest "new beginning" to look forward to is their passage via death to a new life in Eternity. I do not know a lot about Eternity except that God lived in that dimension before he created the Earth and that there is no time there. God created the World in 6 days and in doing so created time in this world and not in or for Eternity.

By George Derby

New Beginnings – Reality or an Illusion?

At this particular time of year, our thoughts turn to the fact that another school year is beginning. Young people are going to school for the first time or returning after the summer holidays. The retailers are competing for their share of the “going back to school” market and the bank balance takes a nose dive. Perhaps there is here new beginnings for the parents and not just for the young person!



Life, in all its twists and turns and complexities, throws up many more situations where new beginnings have to be contemplated, with some more life-changing than others: divorce, redundancy, changing job, death of a spouse, bankruptcy, moving house, moving from home for the first time, birth of a baby, transitioning from school to the world of employment, retirement, serious illness, accident, death of a parent, getting married. The

list goes on and no doubt each one of us could point to an event in our own life where something happened that changed the course of our life's journey and that necessitated us travelling down a new road or at least made us stop and take stock. This experience could be looked upon as a new beginning. But was it? Is a new beginning in the strict sense of the term ever possible in life? I question it.

When I think of a new beginning, it suggests to me starting from zero, starting with a “clean slate”. As I understand it, I cannot wipe out all my past experiences in life as if they didn't happen and move on without them having an influence on my present existence. The experiences that I have had in the past remain a part of me and they will have an effect, for good or bad, on my decisions I take in the present. Any new adventure that I embark upon, any new direction that I take or that may be forced upon me because of circumstances will be influenced by my past experiences of life. My past will come into the present with me and will play its part in shaping my future. My yesterday will stretch into my to-day, and my to-day will have an bearing in forming my tomorrow. I cannot wipe the slate clean and start all over again. If only.



A physical rebirth, if it were possible, would not get round my dilemma. People who know about these things tell me that a new born baby does not

enter the world with a “clean slate”. A new beginning, therefore, in the sense that I understand it, is not even possible in this instance. My past experience will be a mixture of good and bad and what at best can be done in my moving forward is for me to give God thanks for the good experiences in my past and, with my co-operation, ask God to heal the hurt, the pain, and the brokenness and in a sense build upon a past that has been redeemed. Yes a new beginning perhaps, but a new beginning built upon the experience of the past, albeit a past that has hopefully had some degree of healing. To my way of thinking this is a realistic proposition and to me is the way forward. Easier said than done. Is my thinking in line with scripture? You can come to your own conclusion.

By Boston Kydd

We asked Bannside members, “What new thing are you beginning this autumn?” Here is what we said . . .

I’m heading to university! **Jayne Scott**

Not sure what I’ll do, but it will be something to keep my brain working. **Liz Coburn**

I have the privilege of becoming an elder. I pray God will guide me to help others on this new journey. **Sandra Bickerstaff**

I will be designing my garden to suit me. **Betty Johnston**

I am starting a placement at Canal Court in Newry. **Julia McAnespie**

There are so many new beginnings, especially at this time of year. We pray for God’s guiding presence and love as you and your family take your first steps in whatever new adventure awaits you!

Bannside has recently focused on stewardship—how we use our time, talents and resources to create a vibrant family of faith. The theme of the service on Sunday, 24th September was “I’m In and I’m Involved!” and it was a time when we could each reflect on our commitment to each other and to the worship, work and witness of Bannside. It’s easy to think that life at Bannside rolls on, with or without us, but each person is so important, and you truly are missed when you’re not here! Do prayerfully consider your commitment to showing up and taking part and growing with us. We need you, and we all need each other!

A young boy had just passed his driving licence. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss the use of the car. His father took him to his study and said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your school grades up, study your bible a little and get your hair cut and we'll talk about it."

After about a month the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. You know, Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair...."

To which his father replied...."Yes, and they WALKED everywhere they went!"

Anagram

Can you figure out these anagrams of former British Prime Ministers?

1. Churlish Nit Clown _____
2. Brainy Lot _____
3. Recharge That Tram _____
4. Hollow Drains _____
5. Cattle Element _____
6. Annoyed Then _____
7. Petrol Beer _____
8. Hard Hat Weed _____
9. Smarmy Old Canada _____
10. Artful Harbour _____

Answers can be found on page 11

The road to success is not straight. There is a curb called Failure, a loop called Confusion; speed bumps called Friends; red lights called Enemies; caution lights called Family. You will have flats called jobs. But, if you have a spare called Determination; an engine called Perseverance; insurance called Faith, and a driver called Jesus, you will make it to a place called Success!!



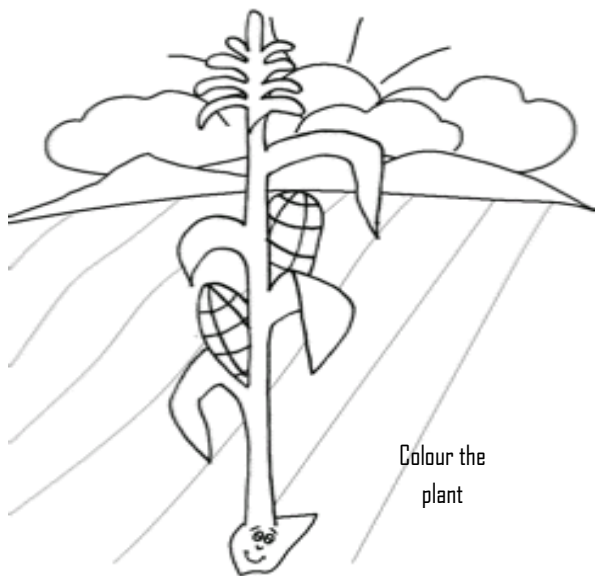
Cast all your care upon him; for he careth for you
1 Peter 5:7

ALL AGE ACTIVITIES

Find the solution of the word grid

1 2 3 4 5

Solution S O L U T I O N



Colour the plant

But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Matthew 13:23

Complete the puzzle of what 'Jesus said'

For example, F → → ↓ = Q

1. S ← ← ↑ = _____
2. G ↓ ↓ ← = _____
3. L → ↑ ↑ ↑ = _____
4. O ↑ ↑ → = _____
5. F → → ↑ = _____
6. J → → → = _____
7. V ↓ ↓ ← = _____
8. Z ↑ → ↑ → = _____
9. P ← ← ↑ = _____
10. Q ↓ ← ← = _____
11. M ↓ ↓ → = _____

I	G	E	C	X	D
K	H	P	W	V	Y
H	X	R	Y	M	T
F	L	Z	E	K	C
D	T	Q	H	O	E
N	J	W	S	U	B

Jesus said, "I am _____

Do you know where this verse is located?

NEWS FROM THE PEWS



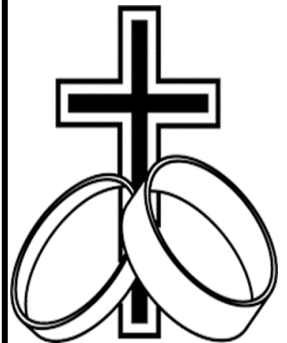
*Congratulations to
Gillian and Robert McNaugher
celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary*



*Congratulations to
Karen Edwards and Neil King
On their wedding on the 7th July 2017*



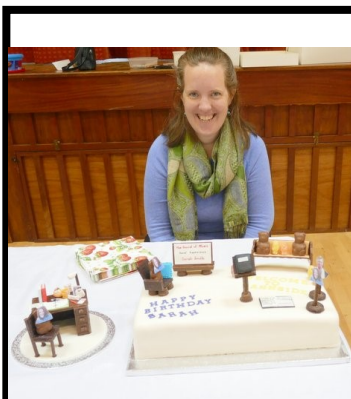
*Congratulations to
Derek and Stella
McMaster on their
50th Wedding Anni-
versary
on 18th March
2017*





Robbie Carswell has been a very busy boy!

Achieved the Banbridge Town under 10 Lions Clubman of the Year, winner of the Craigavon Shield and Sands Plate plus the Town Sports P5 flat race silver medal which helped his school to be overall winners at this level.



A warm **Bannside welcome** to **Sarah Smith** who has arrived from Atlanta, Georgia to be our new Assistant Minister. Her first duty was cutting a birthday cake.



Baptism of
Finnur Henry
Christensen
2nd April
son of Sarah and
Matt





Bannside members enjoying the Church BBQ in June.



Emma Doherty and Sophia flexing the plastic at Harrods. Sophia was Emma's host on Ulster Project Delaware 2016.



Christine and Robert Nesbitt were at Buckingham Palace in May because of Robert's involvement as Captain in 1st Banbridge Boys Brigade. In attendance were the Queen, Prince Philip, Prince Charles, Camilla, Prince Andrew and Sophie.



Iris Watters celebrated her 80th birthday on 16th Sept. Also Iris and Jim celebrated 59 year of marriage on the same day.

Answers to the anagrams.

1. Winston Churchill
2. Tony Blair
3. Margaret Thatcher
4. Harold Wilson
5. Clement Attlee
6. Anthony Eden
7. Robert Peel
8. Edward Heath
9. Ramsay McDonald
10. Arthur Balfour



Any More Ideas?

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

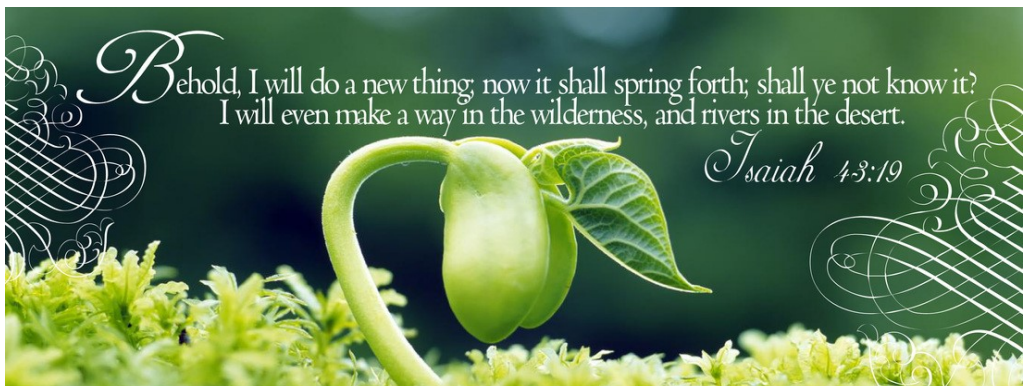
Harvest Thanksgiving Services 8th October

Reformation Sunday 29th October

Celebration of Communion (a.m. service) 5th November

Remembrance Service 12th November (10.45 a.m.)

Favourite Hymn Service 19th November



The theme for the December issue will be "GOOD NEWS."
The deadline for submissions is Sunday, 12th November '17
Email: bansidemagazine@gmail.com