



# The Greeting

**CONGREGATIONAL MAGAZINE OF MAY STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BELFAST**

VOL 101 NO 2

Web site: [www.maystreetchurch.co.uk](http://www.maystreetchurch.co.uk)

APRIL 2009

.....  
*Minister Emeritus:*

The Rev James Barnes, 3 Onslow Drive, Bangor BT19 7HQ Tel 9145-2461

*Minister:*

The Rev Keith Drury, 26 Castlehill Farm, Belfast BT5 7GU Tel 9079-9628

*Pastoral Care:*

The Rev Niall Bayly, 81 Dunluce Avenue, Belfast BT9 7AW Tel 9066-8732

*Session Clerk :*

Arthur Acheson, 56 Quarry Road, Belfast BT4 2NQ Tel 9076-0691

*Secretary and Editor :*

Robin Morton, 13 Sharman Gardens, Belfast BT9 5GE Tel 9066-0381

*Treasurer :*

Andrew Acheson, 22 Kirkliston Drive, Belfast, BT5 5NX Tel 9065-4114

*Church Officer:*

Debbie Lindores, 27 Woodvale Gardens, Belfast 13 Tel 079127-89989  
.....

## DAFFODIL DENIED

Last month in May Street we were all able to enjoy the daffodils which had been spread around the church. Apparently daffodils on Mothering Sunday make for typical flower arrangements in church but they also remind me of a sad but touching story I heard about one church just last week.

As people were leaving the many sprays of daffodils were being handed out, I imagine mainly among the ladies. As the ladies allocated them and split them up and took a few here and there, one young woman stood at the sides. She was not the pushy type and was not immersed in the 'woman's life' of church life as some of us may be. Being one of those smaller churches the ladies made sure that everyone left with some flowers,

from the older members down to visitors. But none were offered to the younger woman.

They did see her, some even made an effort to lean over her to ensure others got flowers but although seen, she remained invisible to their world of actual sight. So there she remained in a grassy plain of spring of flowers, yet feeling though she stood in an arid desert.

Soon the hustle and bustle was over, the flowers and the according acceptance of the community had been dispensed. Those who carried daffodils were in, those who didn't were out, the maths was simple but the symbolism was staggering.

As the young woman left, she saw a broken daffodil on the ground, its head torn from the stem. She stooped down and picked it up and



# EASTER GREETINGS





**Montage magic:** An example of the Rev Keith Drury's artwork - this image is of his wife, Deborah.

carried it from the church. But a voice kept telling her this was not for her. This was not destiny, even the ashes of the flower yard were not hers to keep. So she took the one broken daffodil, and left it on a low wall. Both parted, both left alone and both hurt by the joyous celebration we call church.

It's hard to believe such a touching story could be found from one small flower but then most of us can be bruised as easily as soft petals. For us at May Street, change is unquestionably around the corner, for congregation and minister alike. For all of us it will be something of a bruising experience. Having invested so much time and energy into May Street, it is very difficult to leave it behind. I feel a little bereft as I experience a range of emotions involved with parting.

However, I don't believe I could have taken the church any further than I have done. At our recent EGM's decisions were taken which left me unsure as to how to progress and I didn't see how I could deliver the congregations wishes, especially those expressed at the second meeting. In accepting I couldn't deliver what the congregation wished, it seemed I had no option but to move on.

I have learned a lot during my time at May Street, more than in all the years of ministry prior to it. Perhaps I found I was unable to fully establish my vision at May Street and in some ways as the May Street machine grew I felt more and more like a stranger within it and felt my vision was slipping away. However ministry is a little different from most other jobs and perhaps I could express it

## **MINISTER'S RESIGNATION**

by using the words of the old Eagles song, Hotel California, for as the song says, "you can check out but you can never leave!" So, whilst I leave PCI, per se, I remain a minister without charge. In the world of business, that is a minister without portfolio.

I hope to continue my involvement with PCI and with local churches helping congregations find new and creative ways of expressing their faith and beliefs among the local communities where they witness. I also wish to continue the gospel communications of [www.sidewaysart.com](http://www.sidewaysart.com). To help fund these ministries I hope that my art will produce an income stream. In the main I will be focusing on what I call art'o'biography which is an art form which chronicles a person's or a building's life story.

It could even tell the story of an old motor car or be a visual family tree. On page two you can see an example of what I mean by looking at the picture of Deborah I painted recently. The words behind her face tell the story of her life with cuttings taken from childhood to the time as a grammar school student she represented Northern Ireland in a debate in the House of Commons. The words then continue capturing the story of her life through until recent. There are also images included of May Street and a thousand other little curios which help articulate her life.

Then there are a couple of books I want to write and I'm sure there are a few other things which have slipped my mind for the present. But none of this makes the leaving any easier. It is a bruising experience but an experience from which we will all emerge the stronger.

I trust that as I leave May Street you will go from strength to strength and become a tranquil place within the city where the bruising and loneliness that people experience in life will be addressed by the accepting and welcoming love of Christ.

KEITH DRURY

At the conclusion of morning service in May Street on March 15 the Rev Keith Drury announced to the congregation that he intended to tender his resignation as minister of May Street and director of Belfast city centre mission. His five-year contract had come to an end in November. He said he would give three months' working notice, and expected to terminate his employment on July 31. However, with holidays, he would probably be conducting his final service at the end of June.

He told the congregation that having to wear two hats had increasingly meant that he had divided loyalties. Mr Drury had told the congregation that it faced decisions on the way forward and that following the EGM, he was not certain as to where the congregation wished to go. He said a dialogue needed to be developed between May Street, the Board of Mission in Ireland and South Belfast Presbytery. Mr Drury said he felt his job would have come to an end in a matter of months, in any event. He said he intended in the short term to become a full-time artist, but said he would be trying to convey the message of Jesus Christ through his art. Sideways.art, the website he had developed, would be focusing on gospel-based publications, and he was keen to work with other congregations in this area. Mr Drury spoke of his sadness at letting of a ministry which he had developed over the past 20 years.

The clerk of session, Arthur Acheson, then addressed the congregation. He paid tribute to Mr Drury's role and said that five years ago, few would have imagined that so much could have been achieved. Urban Soul had been developed, a young people's night club started, a midweek prayer mission involving 20+ young people had taken root and considerable media interest evinced in May Street. He said the congregation must now face up to its responsibilities.

As regards the next steps, Mr Acheson told the congregation that he would be pressurising South

Belfast Presbytery to expedite the appointment of a convenor of the vacancy. Mr Acheson said he had already told Church House that May Street did not wish this to be handled as a normal vacancy. He intended to raise this matter at a meeting of South Belfast Presbytery being held on March 21.

ROBIN MORTON

## **MAY STREET VACANCY**

At its meeting on April 6, May Street congregational committee was given an update on developments since the Rev Keith Drury announced his intention to resign. Arthur Acheson, the clerk of session, reported on a meeting held earlier that day at Church House involving a delegation from May Street and representatives of South Belfast Presbytery and the Board of Mission. May Street was represented at the two hour meeting by Arthur Acheson, Barry Bell, Kathleen Rea and Robin Morton.

The key development is that South Belfast Presbytery intends to appoint a convenor of the vacancy at its next meeting on May 5. The convenor's role will be to liaise with the Kirk Session and the congregational committee during the vacancy. South Belfast Presbytery also gave an assurance that church worship, pastoral care and outreach activities will continue as normal following Mr Drury's departure.

At the committee meeting Mr Acheson rehearsed four options which were currently under discussion:

- 1 Organise an orderly closedown of the church with final approval for an amalgamation with another congregation being granted by the General Assembly in June 2010, pastoral care being continued under the auspices of the new partner congregation.
- 2 Hand over the outreach work to South Belfast Presbytery's proposed City Centre Mission organisation, which may include retaining a Sunday service for as long as members wished.

- 3 Create a new flexible church which would be based around existing stakeholders including the congregation, members of other churches who have become personally involved in May Street outreach, Urban Soul, Belfast House of Prayer, Halo nightclub and interested business people.

- 4 Develop a dialogue with Berry Street congregation to see if there are any grounds for working together.

South Belfast Presbytery has encouraged May Street to hold conversations with interested parties with a view to developing proposals for the way forward, and members of the congregation are invited to participate in this process, through contact with Arthur Acheson or Robin Morton. The aim is to devise a plan so that the changeover from Mr Drury to the convenor can be as seamless as possible.

These are challenging times for May Street and your prayers are invited as we seek to chart a new future for the church.

ROBIN MORTON

## **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of May Street Presbyterian Church, held in the lecture hall on Monday February 23, 2009.

The Rev Keith Drury presided, and 25 members were present. Attendance and apologies were noted in the attendance register.

Mr Drury opened the meeting with prayers.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the 2008 ABM, which had already been circulated, were agreed, on the proposal of Alan McCrum, seconded by Gordon Kirkpatrick. The minutes of the EGMs of December 7, 2008 and January 5, 2009, which had already been circulated, were agreed on the proposal of Frank Boyd, seconded by Arthur Fannin.

**Reports:** The report of the Kirk Session was presented by Arthur Acheson. The report of the congregational committee was presented by Robin Morton. The Weekly Freewill Offering report was presented by Barry Bell. The report of the finance committee and the audited accounts were presented by Andrew Acheson.

In response to questions, Andrew Acheson explained several points of detail. He said May Street had started the year with a balance of £74,217; income of £126,000 had been received, but expenditure of £156,000 had been made, leaving a closing balance of £44,201. He said the fourth of five annual payments of £30,000 from the Board of Mission, to cover outreach staff costs, had been received in April 2008, and it was hoped that the final payment would arrive shortly.

Andrew A said that if everyone who subscribed to the church operated the Gift Aid scheme, a further £2,143 could be claimed back from the Inland Revenue. In answer to Roy Williamson, he said that the practice was for May Street to recover Gift Aid tax from donations made to third parties unless a donor specifically requested that the benefit was passed on to the third party.

The treasurer expressed thanks to Sunday and Thursday organists, Colin Johnston and Charles Maginnes, who generously gave their services at no charge to May Street.

In response to a question from R Williamson about Urban Soul cafe, Arthur A said that it was hoped the cafe would reach breakeven by mid-2009. However, if this did not prove to be the case, the option was being explored of the operation being franchised out to Margaret Potts on a zero cost basis. Margaret Potts had expressed an interest in such an arrangement. This would mean that the cafe would continue to operate, and that counselling could take place, but at no cost to May Street, apart from providing the space for free.

Arthur A explained to R Morton that the Barnabas Ventures monthly payment of £1,000 was continuing pending a decision by the planners. If the DoE approved the scheme, then work would start and May Street would, under the terms of the development agreement, qualify

for a lump sum payment of £250,000. If the DoE rejected the application, but it was the subject of an appeal, the monthly payment would continue. If the DoE rejected the application and the developers withdrew the proposals, the payment would cease.

Andrew A explained that accounts for the Thursday outreach were now included in the main MSPC balance sheet. The choir and the Tuesday Circle continued to operate their own finances, but provided the finance committee on an annual basis with details of transactions.

Mr Drury expressed thanks to all those who had presented reports. The reports were then adopted on the proposal of Gordon Kirkpatrick, seconded by Jimmy McCrossan.

Gordon Kirkpatrick was thanked for his role as auditor of the accounts. He was reappointed on the proposal of Arthur Fannin, seconded by Jimmy McCrossan. G Kirkpatrick said Andrew Acheson was to be congratulated for the way in which the accounts had been prepared.

Reports were then presented on behalf of the Tuesday Circle (Ena Kirkpatrick), the choir (Valerie Morton) and the Youth Church (Jenny Wilson on behalf of Julie Wilson).

Arthur Acheson, who was acting as peace agent until a successor to Stephen Wilson was appointed, said he believed that peacemaking and reconciliation were a vital aspect of May Street's work. He reported on a recent cross-community meeting at Fitzroy Presbyterian Church which involved the Housing Executive and dealt with the question of shared neighbourhoods. Among the issues examined were how different traditions should be accommodated, and how contentious matters such as flags and bonfires should be handled. He said the Housing Executive had been positive about the role played by the churches to date.

The next event on the peacemaking calendar was a cross-community meeting looking at the Muslim faith. It was to be held in Urban Soul on March 11, and all members of May Street were invited to attend. Arthur A said he would keep the congregation up to date by means of pulpit announcements and insertions in The Greeting.

**Thanks:** Votes of thanks were passed to Chris Hewitt for looking after the creche; to Kathleen Rea for her ministry to the shut-in members of the congregation; and to the ladies who helped Betty McKeown with the catering at the BB Officers' lunches.

**Buildings committee:** Alan McCrum announced that as previously intimated, he was standing down as convenor of the buildings committee. Mr Drury paid tribute to A McCrum for the contribution he had made in this capacity over many years to May Street.

**Urban Soul funding vehicle:** Arthur A reported that at a meeting of potential funders in Urban Soul, it had emerged that government funding was available for the work, but that it could not be allocated to individual churches. The suggestion was that Urban Soul should adopt a non-denominational constitution modelled on a similar scheme at Willowfield Parish Church. He asked the ABM to approve this move in principle. Roy Williamson said it would be important to see the wording of the Willowfield constitution to see what was being entered into. Arthur A assured the meeting that the wording would be scrutinised. At present, he said, the Urban Soul Action Group was 50% composed of May Street representatives, and this would continue. In terms of the use of premises and activities, he said, Urban Soul would not be agreeing to anything which would run counter to the view of the May Street congregational committee, with the Kirk Session retaining ultimate control. The proposal that this funding vehicle be approved in principle was agreed on the proposal of Arthur A, seconded by Andrew A, with one abstention.

**Pastoral ministry:** Mr Drury welcomed to the meeting the Rev Niall Bayly, who was responsible for pastoral visitation in May Street. He praised the work carried out by Mr Bayly, both in visiting members of the congregation at home, and officiating at funeral services. In response, Mr Bayly said it was a pleasure to be part of the scene in May Street. He said he had become endeared to the congregation, and counted it a privilege to be involved.

That being all the business, Mr Bayly then said grace and supper was served.

## KIRK SESSION

Entering our 180th year together, the congregation of May Street has much to be thankful for. We look ahead in a changed and changing place. The world outside our doors is our world, just as the rooms within the building are our rooms. The nature of a city in this world is change, but Jesus Christ is constant. Our prayers are that our work will be glorious in His name and constant to Him.

During 2008, we encouraged our minister, Rev Keith Drury, to pursue his special interests and develop his talents in verbal and visual communication, enabling him to have some special time allocated specifically to allow him to develop the work. The outcome is being well received on his website [www.sidewaysart.com](http://www.sidewaysart.com), which has caught the attention of the local and national media for its innovative approach.

This special time which Keith allocated to developing the message followed on directly from the Award for excellence in communication which he received from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland at the Assembly in June 2008. Communication being our core business and Keith reaching the end of his formal contract as Minister of May Street Church and Director of City Centre Mission, there could have been no more fitting award during the last months of the formal contract. We offer him our sincere congratulations and thanks for this innovative and original work.

We have been assured by the wider church that the Minister's current contract will continue to run until May Street and the Presbyterian Church in Ireland have worked together to formulate the next stage of the work in the city centre. Our congregational secretary has kindly sent a variety of opinions and suggestions from individuals and groups in May Street to the South Belfast Presbytery. We expect to soon have discussions

with the Presbytery and Board of Mission in Ireland on possible futures, starting with the next meeting of the joint Advisory Board. Whilst a formal Presbytery visitation was due in 2008, this has been postponed so that it can be combined with a view on the future work here. We feel that this is a sensible arrangement.

Many minor alterations have been taking place in the basement, including improvements to the café and to fire exits, disabled access (in progress) and repairs to the flood damaged floors. These improvements are necessary for our work and are strategically located and sufficiently modest so that they will not be wasted during any major works such as those proposed by Barnabas Ventures whose project has been the subject of meetings at senior level within the Department of the Environment Planning Service. A decision on the planning application is awaited.

The people of May Street, the Church, comprise many more than those listed in our statistical returns. People who were unknown to us just a few years ago are now regular visitors to midweek worship services, informal café discussions and events. Some of these people had never been to church before and we don't get a second chance to make a first impression! We are pleased that some have returned again and again..... so the first impression must have been OK.

There is never one right answer to the provision of a precisely appropriate worship service for so many different types of people. Some prefer traditional worship. Some like experiments and surprises. Some like it small and others were spiritually touched by the 800+ gathering "Urban Hymns" organised by Stuart Bailie whose knowledge of modern music in Belfast is second to none and whom I described at the event as a "One Man City of Culture". We wish to encourage links such as these with contemporary cultural endeavours in the city, developing the philosophy so ably articulated by our Minister in his joint roles. Whilst there is undoubtedly difficulty in developing both roles simultaneously, we have worked with

Keith to ensure that the May Street vision fits as well as possible with the developing vision for city centre mission of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

The placing into administration of the Presbyterian Mutual Society, which is so closely associated with the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, has had some personal consequences for members of May Street, some of whom have approached the Minister for advice. Others who may not yet have done so are encouraged to discuss any concerns with the Minister so that May Street can provide advice or assistance if possible.

Three members of May Street died during 2008 and we thank God for their decades of caring, energetic work in the family of the church. Our thoughts and prayers have been expressed to the families of these longstanding members:

August 4 - Cecil Johnston

October 12 - Louisa Adams

December 20 - Catherine Torney

Rev Niall Bayly assists the minister with pastoral care for the congregation and we thank him for his continuing care and attention to our members, many of whom are unable to attend church.

We sincerely thank our organist and choirmaster, Colin Johnston and our friend Charles Maginnes. Each gives freely of his time to bring the Binns organ to life on Sundays and Thursdays respectively and to introduce special music to May Street to match the Christian calendar.

Keith continues to surprise us! Commissioned to coincide with the United States of America's presidential inauguration, his portrait of Barack Obama hangs in Belfast's President's Club and was featured on the BBC website. He has developed Sideways Art as a clever world wide web-based opportunity to have people consider important issues with words and pictures arranged to create very innovative messages, appropriate to people's own circumstances and needs. Interaction is

encouraged through a weblog (or “blog”). The development of a new younger church through Keith’s city centre role is heartening and serious work. Mostly aged between 20 and 40 years, this young church (which does not yet want to formalise its existence in traditional “church” terms) is carrying out innovative and prayerful work. It has serious ambitions for Belfast city centre at all times of day and night.

I wish to thank my fellow elders, members of the congregational committee, the congregation and friends of May Street and the wider church. The work output of this group of people – “our church” – continually encourages and amazes me. Here is dedication with willing hearts, inspired by Jesus and acting to further His kingdom here in Belfast – day and night.

ARTHUR ACHESON  
Clerk of Session

## **CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEE**

At this time last year I concluded my report by saying that it was vital that May Street congregation remained flexible, agile and open-minded about the challenges that confront us at this time. Over the past 12 months the issues which we face have begun to become a lot clearer. And this year we need to decide whether we see the changing circumstances in which we find ourselves as a threat or an opportunity.

But although such weighty concerns have formed the backdrop to committee’s deliberations over the past year, we have had other matters to consider. As you will be aware, committee’s primary duties are to act as stewards of the congregation’s finances, oversee staff, maintain the church buildings and look after the use of our buildings.

As regards those buildings, the reactivation in August of the Urban Soul Action Committee was a major step forward. This body augments the work of the May Street buildings committee, and brings together representatives of May

Street congregation, the midweek outreach team and Urban Soul, our basement cafe. The committee is very grateful to David McAuley and Ruby Hutchinson who have shouldered so much responsibility on the Action Group.

Among the nettles which the Urban Soul Action Group has grasped is the application for an entertainments licence for the May Street basement. It should be explained that events can be held in the sanctuary without an entertainments licence, because this portion of the building is used principally for religious worship. Unfortunately, the same dispensation does not apply to the basement.

However, if we wish to develop our outreach, and promote the Halo non-alcoholic night club project, we need to have an entertainments licence in place for the basement and schoolroom. This means we have to meet a range of conditions, such as upgrading our toilet provision and providing emergency exits. The work has been progressing in recent weeks and we owe a debt of gratitude to Ruby Hutchinson for taking the lead.

Ruby was also involved in organising the new floor for the Urban Soul cafe, which suffered water damage in the floods of August 2008. The opportunity was taken during the Christmas holidays to proceed with the work, and within the space of three weeks the damaged old floor was removed and a brand new wooden floor was laid. While steps were taken to alleviate dampness under the floor we recognise that the basement will never be fully watertight. At the same time, the layout of the Urban Soul cafe was altered. The new floor, with its underlay, provides a naturally better insulator and the result is a cosier and warmer Urban Soul.

Of course it is one thing to have the lay-out correct, but another to have an efficient cafe in operation. To this end we are indebted to Margaret Potts, who was appointed as cafe manager in July. Margaret has taken to the task with enthusiasm, and is putting her experience in the catering field to good use.

The appropriate phrase, perhaps, is to say that Margaret has an appetite for the work. She starts each day with a prayer time with her staff and they go about the day's duties with enthusiasm. We are greatly blessed to have Margaret involved in Urban Soul and I am glad to report that the public has responded to the fare now on offer. A recent experiment has been the opening of the venue at breakfast-time and other initiatives include the launch of outside catering, by providing sandwiches for nearby offices. There is clearly great scope for expanding the work of Urban Soul, which provides so many people with a warm welcome and a place of tranquillity in the midst of a busy city centre.

The committee was pleased that during the autumn Margaret and Jean McCrum were able to combine the efforts of the May Street catering corps with Urban Soul. The result is that on Thursday, the busiest day of the week, a united team operates in the provision of lunches. Our thanks to all concerned for bringing about this sensible rationalisation.

Although Urban Soul aims to feed both the soul and the stomach, marketing is key to its success. To this end we are grateful to Colin McKeown, whose graphic design skills have been to the fore in designing and installing attractive new signage and marketing material. Colin has identified with the outreach in May Street and committee is working with him in the hope that his company, Whitespace2, may be able to use the parlour room as an office. Not only would it be good to have this part of the church regularly used, but such an arrangement would strengthen May Street's links with the business community.

As the committee has come to learn, not everything that is tried in the realm of outreach works. A case in point is the Economic Forum which is currently in abeyance. We much appreciate the commitment and enthusiasm of Raymond Sexton, who set up the forum, and readily acknowledge that this initiative opened doors for May Street which otherwise would

have remained closed. The present economic circumstances have made it difficult to proceed with the forum, but we hope that when the upturn comes, the forum will be reactivated.

One idea which did work was the Halo nightclub, to which I have already made reference. Two pilot evenings were organised by Juls Martin and his team and May Street committee was happy to facilitate this. The idea is to provide a venue for young adult clubbers which is free of drink and drugs, and the strong attendance showed just how much demand there is for such a nightspot. May Street's advantage is that it is right in the heart of the city and is accessible to all. Committee hopes that an entertainments licence will soon be in place and that this initiative will be able to resume.

At a slightly less frenetic level, committee is grateful to Chris Hewitt for her endeavours in the midweek ministry. Chris's role, inter alia, was to open the church at lunchtimes for visitors and for counselling, and over four years she showed that this exercise was fulfilling a need in the city centre. As members of the congregation know, Chris retired as mission support executive in December and at present the church gates are open and visitors may access the sanctuary through the Urban Soul café. This helps with staffing and security while enabling us to welcome visitors and also provide them with a cup of coffee. Summer 2009 arrangements to handle potentially greater numbers of visitors have not yet been finalised.

May Street continues to work with Embrace, the Presbyterian grouping which provides blankets and other support to rough sleepers in the city centre. May Street acts as one of the storage depots for the teams which go out on the streets to engage with the needy – at a time of night when the rest of us are safely tucked up in bed.

In keeping with this theme, contributions of non-perishable food to the harvest service were divided between the Salvation Army and the Welcome Organisation, a charity which does such

valuable work in providing a day centre for people confronting the problem of addiction.

As the years pass, May Street is learning that although our numbers are on the decline, our location in the city centre is becoming ever more valuable. The ending of the troubles means that the city centre is no longer a no-go area at night and the revival of areas such as Cathedral Quarter demonstrates the potential.

Yet the decline in terms of active congregational members means we have to trim our sails accordingly, in order to make best use of the resources which are available. One casualty in 2008 was the Georgian Christmas on May Street event, which committee decided was a bridge too far.

When one door closes another opens and on October 25, May Street was packed to the doors for Urban Hymns. This was the first time that our sanctuary had been used as a venue for the Belfast Festival and the success of the concert perhaps points the way to the future. Quite what Dr Henry Cooke would have thought of his pulpit being used as a podium for singers one does not know, but surely he would have been encouraged to find every pew filled, probably for the first time since he was the preacher.

The concert formula worked again as recently as last Saturday when renowned country singer Nanci Griffith played May Street as part of the Belfast Nashville Songwriters Festival. The committee is pleased to see such use being made of the sanctuary and there is no doubt that such events bring over our threshold people who would otherwise never have contemplated visiting May Street Church. While such events bring in useful donations to help cover our ever increasing overheads, we believe that there is also a payback in terms of raising the church's profile.

One thing that raised May Street's profile a couple of years ago was the controversial planning application by Barnabas Ventures to build a £36m high rise twin towers development above our sanctuary, enveloping the church and making use

of the adjacent car park site. The application is still with the Department of the Environment planning service, and we await developments.

Ideas are one thing but nothing works without people who are prepared to roll up their sleeves. Committee is grateful to Debbie Lindores, our church officer, who keeps the place spic and span and is responsible for opening and securing the buildings for various occasions. We also acknowledge the role played by Andrew Acheson, our treasurer, Barry Bell who looks after the weekly freewill offering, Alan McCrum, buildings committee convenor, Valerie Condy, who looks after use of premises, Julie Wilson, our youth church superintendent, and Stephen Wilson, who acted as peace agent last year. I must make mention of the "doorstep duo", the ever faithful Clive Gilmour and Arthur Fannin. We are also grateful to Arthur Acheson who has concentrated our minds and streamlined our meetings since taking over as chairman during the minister's extended period of leave last year.

In my capacity as editor of The Greeting, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my correspondents. But I must single out Elizabeth Doran, who provides material and also collects and distributes the magazine for me. The Greeting plays an important role in boosting May Street's image and facilitating communication with the congregation. One special moment for me during 2008 was the celebration we held for the centenary of the magazine, and I again thank committee for giving me a book token as a mark of its appreciation for my work.

One hundred years ago May Street faced challenges, and today the situation is much the same. As members of the congregation know, May Street has been asked by South Belfast Presbytery to give consideration as to how it sees the future unfolding for the church. The trigger for this was the completion in November of the Rev Keith Drury's five-year contract to act in the dual role of minister of May Street and director of city centre mission.

## **WEEKLY FREEWILL OFFERING**

This is the 21st Report that I have given as WFO Convenor and it is maybe time that I stood down from this office.

But I am not going yet for I feel that the last thing the church needs are resignations at this particular time while we are still groping around in the abyss of uncertainty with trepidation about the church's future.

There will be no future for May Street unless we desperately want it. Financially we cannot go it alone for very long. We are spending faster than the money comes in and although great progress has been made in some areas there are places where massive work must be done fairly soon.

That brings me back to the WFO which is the backbone of the finances which we generate ourselves. Unfortunately as you will see by the accounts the total has fallen quite considerably this year as against last year. The downward trend continues.

Now it is not just because some of our contributors have died which is very sad, but happens most years.

In the past I have received bundles of WFO envelopes filled with the weekly givings of members who have not been able to attend the services. Fifteen to 20 envelopes banded together was quite common. This practice has ceased entirely this year and has accelerated the speed of this year's downturn. By filling an envelope for a Sunday you cannot attend but will make a substantial difference to the current year's total.

My thanks to those generous members who have obviously given our financial situation prayerful thought and show their love for May Street Church by regular donations not only to the WFO but to the other statutory collections. The Fabric Fund, The United Appeal, The Flower Fund, the Thursday Outreach and most impressively the Leprosy Mission.

We much appreciate Keith's contribution over the years and committee was encouraged to learn that the present arrangement will be extended until a new way forward is charted. But it behoves May Street to think long and hard about the options which are open to us.

To this end, committee held a special meeting in December at which a range of views was put forward. This was followed by a two-part congregational EGM, details of which have since been circulated. Given that the Board of Mission is already closely involved in funding the outreach work at May Street, it is clear that May Street congregation is not the only stakeholder in the consultation process.

That said, the congregation has a valuable input to make, but it is vital that we face reality. Change is on the way, but we should see this as an opportunity, not a threat. So far, we have only skimmed the surface of the huge potential which exists for outreach.

There is a huge untapped demand beyond our doors and this is a time for May Street to look outwards, not inwards. The congregation has a proud tradition of being there for people in need and we must not be found wanting at this point in time.

South Belfast Presbytery and the Board of Mission in Ireland have heard our views and we now look forward to detailed discussions which reflect their thoughts and the opinions of May Street. We understand that the wider Presbyterian Church in Ireland would like May Street to be part of the ongoing city centre mission. We have a pivotal role to play in promoting outreach on behalf of the Presbyterian Church, and in reaching out to people beyond this building.

To this end, it is essential that we are selfless, not selfish. Difficult decisions lie ahead but with God's guidance I believe we can forge a new future for May Street which will make Christ's Kingdom relevant once again to the city centre in which we have been planted.

ROBIN MORTON  
Congregational Secretary

## THE CHOIR

My personal thanks to our energetic Hon treasurer Andrew Acheson who keeps me right, has all the figures at his fingertips and forages after whatever Gift Aid contribution can be claimed.

I do not intend to give a doom and gloom report. I have just given the facts as I see them but I am persuaded that the Barnabas Partnership or similar is essential, a lifeline for survival and progress towards long term worship on this site. The attitude of "It will do me my time" is not good enough.

It is up to us to see that Christian worship continues here after we have gone.

The will to achieve must be burned within us and I will leave you with a quotation from the book of Habakkuk which I think encapsulates our situation and certainly inspires me.

"I will work a work in your days which ye will not believe though it be told you."

BARRY BELL

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

This year we have again been trying to run Sunday School and creche on a fortnightly basis. This is to give the children of our church time to learn about the Bible and grow together. I understand that it can be difficult at times, with lives being busy and the good weather coming in. However I feel it is important that children get this opportunity and would therefore ask for full attendance on these dates if possible. The dates are available in the latest issue of The Greeting.

In December we had our Gift Service and I would take this opportunity to say a big thank you to everyone who contributed so generously.

The Sunday School enjoyed a trip to see 'Mother Goose' in the Opera House. We cheered, we booed and we hissed and we had a great time. So thank you again to the church for funding this trip for us every year.

JULIE WILSON

The choir continues to lead the praise in May Street Church Sunday by Sunday. Although our membership has declined over the years, we can frequently claim to have a 100% turn-out of our members, something which many larger choirs might envy, were it not one of the seven deadly sins!

We are pleased that our numbers have been augmented by our friends Patricia Bertenshaw, Chrissie Hewitt and Margaret Potts for special services such as Christmas, Easter, Harvest Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day. We thank them for their support.

During December, the choir broke new ground by carrying out a poll of the congregation to establish May Street's top 10 carols. This idea stemmed from the publicity given to a similar poll by the BBC. We were greatly encouraged by the large number of members who took part. The results were collated by the choir and the top three were included in the Christmas Carol Service on December 21. Our results were slightly different to those at the BBC – May Street's winner was "Oh little town of Bethlehem".

It is with sadness, and yet thankfulness for her life, that I record the death on December 20 of former choir member Catherine Torney. Catherine was closely involved in many aspects of May Street and was a long-standing and faithful member of the choir, leaving our ranks just a few years ago. After her retirement she continued to be greatly interested in the activities of the choir. She was a great friend to us all and is sadly missed.

In closing I would like to thank, most sincerely, our organist Colin Johnston who plays for us week in, week out. Colin cheerfully keeps us in tune and is a most talented exponent of the organ. We also acknowledge the support of Robin Hewitt, who kindly fills in on the piano when Colin is on leave and also helps with music at special services.

VALERIE MORTON  
Choir Secretary

## TUESDAY CIRCLE

We resumed our meetings in September after our summer break and the speakers were as follows:-

- Sept: Billy McMullan, her subject was self esteem.
- Oct: Joy Jackson was scheduled to speak to us on first aid but she was unable to be present.
- Nov: Mrs Jackson was able to join us and we had a very useful talk.
- Dec: Christmas Dinner, cooked by Margaret Potts in the lecture hall and enjoyed by all.
- Jan: Jean McCrum was persuaded to give a cookery demonstration assisted by Ena Kirkpatrick.
- Feb: Nelson Small a floral art demonstration. In March we plan to have our 40th annual meeting and on March 22, a thanksgiving service has been arranged to give thanks for 40 years of Tuesday Circle activities. On April 28 we hope to go to Mount Stewart, National Trust property, to have a meal. Despite not advertising this year, we had a few bookings for our catering services, we had groups from New Mills, Cookstown, Tullyullan and Mountnorris.

We have also provided hospitality for St Colum's Theological College re-union (a regular for a few years now), and groups from Ballymoney and Aghnacloy.

During the year a few of our members had illnesses, but I am glad to report that Eleen Watt, Judy Morton and Joanne Sims are all well again. Vera Lemon and Dorrie Morton can no longer be with us but are in our thoughts and prayers.

During this year our numbers have been small at some meetings giving us some concern for the future but we, after some discussion, have proposed some changes which we will put to the gathering at the AGM in March and we plan

to go forward to the 2009-2010 session with enthusiasm.

ENA KIRKPATRICK  
Secretary

## TUESDAY CIRCLE 40TH ANNIVERSARY

The Tuesday Circle was formed 40 years ago and was the brainchild of Rev William Finlay. He wanted to bring the ladies of the church together for fun, fellowship and food! But it was more than a May Street ladies group - as friends of the congregation joined in friendships were formed, were strengthened and are still going strong!

Over the years, we met in the church on the fourth Tuesday in the month and when the troubles were at their peak and it was considered too dangerous to meet in the city centre, we met at each other's houses.

Daffodil teas were very popular at that time and we took great delight in organising these, with musical items from the Tuesday Circle members. Being an ambitious group, this soon progressed to us performing "The Good Old Days" on the stage. Word of mouth resulted in churches inviting us to bring their performance on the road over several years. Of course we could never have done this without Robin Hewitt who carried us though the musical items with his fabulous musical accompaniment! Also the support of Sam McKeown, George Hill and Jimmy McCrossan who helped with props, sound and crowd control and the groupies who loved to follow the show, namely the children of the performers!

Other notable events that we organised Include:

- Hosted fashion shows – not only in May Street, but other venues
- Barn Dances in the school room
- A fund-raising Mile of Pennies
- A lunch for 150 people celebrating May Street's 150th Anniversary



**Tuesday team:** At the 40th anniversary celebrations for the May Street Tuesday Circle are (front row, from left): Betty McKeown (founder member), Joanne Sims (outgoing president), Patricia McCrossan (president), Jane Bell (founder member) and Ena Kirkpatrick (secretary); back row (from left): Maisie Baird, Betty McVicker, Muriel Nelson, May Mercer, Deborah Drury, Kathleen Rea, Jean McCrum, Mona Templeton, Chris Hewitt, Evelyn Gourley, Joan Gillespie and Heather Johnston. Pic: Janet Booker

- Monthly coffee after church on the first Sunday of the month
- Sunday lunches
- Hosted the Harlandic Choir
- Progressive Supper (starter, main course, dessert, tea/coffee at four locations!)
- Various catering - church parties, lunches, evening meals

We have raised money for both the church and various charities over the years.

We continue to meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday of the month, inviting guest speakers covering a wide range of topics, such as beauty demos, cook-ins, health and safety, crime prevention, card making, flower-arranging, and speakers from local charities. Ladies from May

Street and friends of the congregation are invited to join us.

We celebrate 40 years of friendship, fun and food, and thank God for the years past and the years to come.

PATRICIA McCROSSAN  
Founder Member

## WELCOME MAT

May Street has played host to a number of important events in the past couple of months. On Saturday February 21 around 450 people packed into the church for a concert by country artist Nanci Griffith, part of the Belfast Songwriting Festival. The organisers were pleased as to how the venue worked out.

On Saturday March 21 there was a concert by



**Many thanks:** *The Rev Keith Drury makes a presentation to Chrissie Hewitt who retired in December as May Street mission support executive Pic: Janet Booker*



**Party time:** *Cutting the cake to mark the 40th anniversary of May Street's Tuesday Circle on March 22 is the organisation's first president Jane Bell (centre, front row) along with founder members Betty McKeown (left) and Patricia McCrossan (right). Lending support are (back row from left) are the Rev Keith Drury, May Street, the Rev Mairisine Stanfield, Ballynahinch, who was guest preacher, and Joanne Sims, the outgoing Tuesday Circle president. Pic: Janet Booker*

the most accomplished Elgin Park School Band from British Columbia in Canada. The 70-strong band was on a tour of Ireland to coincide with St Patrick's Day and took part in the big March 17 parade in the centre of Dublin. We were delighted that they fitted May Street into their programme, and their concert was excellent. A good mix of music, all very professionally performed. We hope they will come back to see us.

On Sunday April 5 the BB Officers (Belfast Battalion) held their annual parade service

at May Street, the service being conducted by the Rev Willis Cordner from 1st Bangor Presbyterian Church.

And on Saturday April 11, May Street was the venue for a Love Belfast - New Frontiers meeting.

## **JANE ADAMSON**

Sympathy is expressed to the family of May Street member Jane Adamson, who died in the Ulster Hospital on April 4. Her funeral service took place at May Street on April 8, and was conducted by the Rev Niall Bayly. Mrs Adamson, a long-standing member of May Street, was a regular attender at May Street until some years ago, when she moved into the Somme Nursing Home in east Belfast. She is survived by her son Ian, a former Lord Mayor of Belfast, and his sisters Isobel and Alexis.

## **BEST WISHES**

Best wishes for a speedy recovery are expressed to May Street member Derek Gourley, currently recuperating at home in Helen's Bay after surgery. We hope he will be back at May Street soon.

## **MANY THANKS**

At its meeting on April 6, the congregational committee passed a vote of thanks to former clerk of session Sam Nelson, for the contribution he had made to May Street over many years. As most members of the congregation are aware, Mr Nelson and his wife Muriel, both long-standing members of May Street, have moved to Orangefield Presbyterian Church, where their children and grandchildren worship. Mr Nelson came through the ranks of the Lifeboys and the Boys' Brigade at May Street, and served as congregational secretary and then clerk of session. He was also part of the group which was instrumental in launching the Thursday lunchtime services at the time the late Rev Kenneth Weir was minister of May Street. We wish Sam and Muriel well at Orangefield.



**Graduation time:** *May Street elder Robin Hewitt with his son Peter, who had his Ph.D conferred on him in Cambridge on March 21. It was a triple celebration because Peter's wife Karis recieved an MA, and Karis' sister CAtherine also had an MA conferred on her, all at the same congregation Peter and Karis (in lower picture) were both students at Gonville and Caius College in Cambridge. Mr Hewitt and his wife Mavis attended the graduation ceremony.*

## URBAN SOUL

Urban Soul café, which operates in the basement of May Street Church, has been having a busy time recently. On April 4, a cooked breakfast was served to 21 members of Orangefield Presbyterian Church's men's group, to prepare them for a walking tour of the city centre. Then that evening a large group from Muckamore Presbyterian Church came up to town to join with the Belfast House of Prayer for an evening of coffee and prayer, which was very uplifting.

The café will be closed during Easter week but will re-open on Monday April 20. Margaret Potts,

the café manager, has revised the opening hours, and the café will open between the hours of 9am and 2pm over the next few months. Thursday evening openings are also on the cards, so please inquire for details.

## ST MALACHY'S RE-OPENS

May Street was represented at a service to mark the re-opening of our neighbouring church, St Malachy's in Alfred Street. A favourite Belfast haunt of poet John Betjeman and composer Benjamin Britten, the Catholic church has been restored to its original Victorian glory after a 15-month £3.5m renovation project. The service was conducted by the Bishop of Down and Connor, Dr Noel Treanor, and among the guests was the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Tom Hartley. Also present was Dr Ken Newell, the recently retired minister of Fitzroy Presbyterian Church. St Malachy's and May Street are linked by a cross-community reconciliation project.

## CHRISTENING TIME

Sunday May 3 will be a red letter day at May Street because it will be the baptism service for Elliott Matthew Robert Acheson, the new grandson of our clerk of session Arthur Acheson and his wife Elizabeth. The baby, who was born on November 25, is the first child of Graham and Melanie Acheson, who live in Edinburgh. And Elliott is the first cousin of Ben Acheson, son of May Street treasurer Andrew and his wife Eleanor. Congratulations to Graham and Melanie, and best wishes for the baptism.

## EXTREMISM IN RELIGION

The Belfast Inter Church Group convened in May Street's Urban Soul café at 7.30pm on Wednesday March 11 to discuss "Extremism in Religion".

Rev. Dr Johnston McMaster of the Irish School of Ecumenics and Dr Mamoun Mobayed, a specialist psychiatrist, spoke lucidly on the topic



***Dr Mamoun Mobayed (left) and Rev. Dr Johnston McMaster with Sandra Rutherford from Fitzroy in Urban Soul café at the start of the Inter Church evening on “Extremism in Religion”***

and there was time for questions from the group of some 20 representatives from the various Belfast churches.

We thank Sandra Rutherford for organising and chairing the event and look forward to further means to deepen understanding of the various texts and philosophies which underpin the religions we find locally and farther afield.

ARTHUR ACHESON  
Clerk of Session

## **BELFAST HOUSE OF PRAYER**

*The Belfast House of Prayer is a new prayer group which meets in Urban Soul, in the May Street basement, on Thursday and Saturday evenings. It is open to all, and regularly attracts more than 20 young people who meet for non-denominational Christian prayer and praise. May Street is happy to provide a venue for this emerging group and to encourage it in its mission. In this article, leader Evan Brown, who is from Alaska, reports on a weekend pray-in which the group organised in the May Street lecture hall over the last weekend of February.*

I am very excited about our three days of day and night prayer (24/3) that kind of officially consecrated our hearts and our vision to the Lord of raising up a day and night house of prayer in Belfast. And many thanks to May Street for hosting us, and being so supportive of our vision!!!



***Prayertime:*** Scenes from the Belfast House of Prayer weekend pray-in at the start of March.

It was incredible!!!

We did it on the last weekend of February/ first weekend of March, so the 27th, 28th, and 1st and 2nd here in the lecture hall of May Street Presbyterian. We started at 8am on Friday morning and went until 8am on Monday morning, with some people always being in the prayer room at all times. We split it up into shifts and had corporate meetings at 8 o'clock every night. The presence of God was just so incredibly real, and it continued to get stronger as the days went on.

We had eight or nine different people who spent 15 or more hours straight in the prayer room at one time or another throughout the weekend!!! There was such a peace and a grace to wait in the presence of the Lord. It was so amazing to be walking around this busy city in the midst of all the whirlwind of activity and craziness and then come into this place of stillness and peace and strong presence of the Lord.

The corporate nights were amazing as well, we just came together and worshiped the Lord and cried out for ourselves and for our city and the nation. The Lord just kept drawing different people every day, on Saturday night my friend Ned from the travelling community came, and on Sunday night we had several friends from the Falls area as well as people from all over east Belfast, and a group from the Coleraine House of Prayer coming down to lead worship for us that evening. Anyone who knows the history of Belfast and Northern Ireland will know how incredibly powerful that is, that we had people from the west, from the east, and from the travellers coming together in the city centre worshiping and praying for unity and peace!!!

We are currently having Thursday night prayer meetings every week in May Street, and a Saturday night meeting focused on building community and exercising our spiritual giftings. We hope to do more weekends of continuous prayer in the near future. We have a vision to eventually see a day and night house of prayer raised up in the city centre. To be a place of individual and corporate encountering of the Lord's presence, and a place of refuge. There could be a lot said about that, but to try and sum it up very briefly you can check out my blog at [rediggingthewells.blogspot.com](http://rediggingthewells.blogspot.com)

If you want to. I put up a blog just last week that tries to give a very brief but to the point vision for where we are going, and why we are going there.

Thank you to May Street for being so encouraging and supportive.

Blessings.

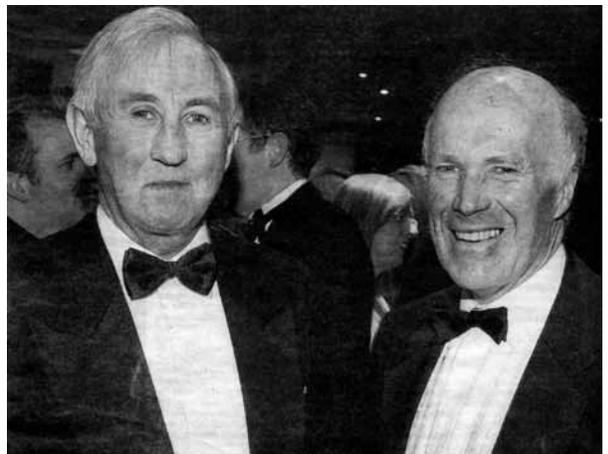
EVAN BROWN

## AWARD FOR EDITOR

ONE of the Belfast Telegraph's longest-serving journalists has been honoured with a special prize at a major local awards ceremony. Veteran reporter Robin Morton, who is also editor of *The Greeting*, received the Chairman's Special Recognition Award at the 2009 Coca Cola Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR) Press and Broadcast Awards.

The awards were held at a glittering ceremony in Belfast's Europa Hotel on March 20, and saw journalists and broadcasters from across Northern Ireland celebrate their achievements over the past year.

Robin's career began with the Tyrone constitution in Omagh in June, 1971, and has spanned 36 years with the Belfast Telegraph. During that time he has covered some of the most momentous events in Northern Ireland's recent history, including, many of the key events of the



**Smart set:** Robin Morton (right) editor of *The Greeting* with Ed Curran, editor in chief of the Belfast Telegraph.

troubles. He has also worked on the Telegraph's business desk since 1993.

Belfast Telegraph editor Martin Lindsay said: "It is wonderful for Robin, who has been a part of Northern Ireland's newspaper industry for 50 many years, to be recognised with this award."

The competition is open to all journalists in Northern Ireland and is judged by a senior panel of journalists based in London and Dublin.

Report by MATTHEW McCREARY

*Congratulations Robin from all your friends at May Street.*

## WHAT DOES LOVE LOOK LIKE ?

Love was nailed upon a cross  
With thorns pressed to His head.  
Love hung there between two thieves,  
As from His side He bled.  
Love was the voice that said "Forgive,"  
As His tormentors stood nearby.  
Love is the One that lives again,  
For love can never die.

"He is not here: for He is risen..." Matthew 28:6

## WINDOWS

Tell me what you see, my Friend,  
From the windows of your house.  
"I see green meadows flecked with flowers  
And silver trees in sun lit bowers,  
I see bright birds, the sky's bright dome,  
And happy children running home."

Tell me what you see, my friend,  
From the windows of your soul.  
"I see tired creatures, weak and blind,  
The agonies of all mankind,  
The stranger's need, my brother's loss,  
And Jesus hanging on a Cross."

## THE FOOL HATH SAID

"There is no God" the speaker cries,  
"Don't let your thoughts be changed,  
The universe evolved itself,  
The world is self-contained".

Just then an urchin in the crowd  
A skilful pebble throws  
Which accurately lands upon  
The atheistic nose.

"Who threw that stone? "the speaker roars,  
At which the cockney elf,  
Intuitively keen, retorts ...  
"No one! It flew itself".  
So a pathetic casualty,  
Discomfited and worse,  
Goes home to meditate upon  
This causeless universe.

## THE LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO

No atom of the cosmic dust of space  
Is hidden from the glory of God's face,  
Yet, He who holds the Sun and Moon apart  
Can make His dwelling in the human heart.  
I cannot bide from those unclosing eyes.  
I feel His presence when I sleep or rise.  
He is within, beyond, above, below.  
What is this love that will not let me go?

## LIGHT AFTER DARKNESS

Dark was the night when Jesus suffered,  
Dark was the night when Jesus died;  
Dark was the night when sin was cancelled  
By our Saviour crucified.

Bright was the dawn that Easter morning,  
Bright was the path the Saviour trod;  
Bright is the everlasting glory  
Of the conquering Son of God.

## **THE MEANING OF THE CROSS**

Life is not an easy stroll along a peaceful path,  
Nor is it a pleasant dream beside a quiet hearth.

Life is not a bed of roses...it's an uphill climb,  
And we have to fight and suffer - struggling all  
the time.

That's God's way of making us courageous,  
brave and strong,  
Not by smoothing out the road when things are  
going wrong.

If we never had to meet with adverse  
circumstance

Soft and weak we'd soon become...unable to  
advance.

Some go under, broken by the first stroke of the  
rod.

Others see in every lash the hidden hand of  
God. Trouble, sorrow, difficulty, pain, disaster,  
loss. That is how we live and learn the meaning  
of the Cross.

## **LITTLE WORLDS**

A bird lived in a painted cage beside a  
windowpane  
Knowing nothing of the wind, the sunlight,  
and the rain.

Poor little Bird ! It was as well he did not  
realise

That his tiny wings were meant to beat  
against the skies.

A man lived in a little world of ready-made  
ideas, A cramping cage of prejudices, and  
of doubts and fears.

He did not know that out beyond the  
ranges of his thought

Lay a strange and lovely world where  
miracles were wrought.

Year by year he lived content behind his  
prison bars,

Never looking up to seek for God amongst  
the stars.

In many forms the Lord appeared and yet  
he could not see.

Poor little man! He lived and died in his  
captivity.

## **EASTER DAWN**

Around two thousand years ago today  
The stone upon his grave was rolled away,  
And in the blinding darkness of the tomb  
He rose and shattered there the grief and gloom  
Within the hearts of those who worshipped him,  
Although that day and time have now grown dim,  
One message through the ages has been hurled;

His love is hope and light for all the world.

and as the dawn of Easter fills the skies

We, too, with him in spirit must arise;

For even underneath us in the earth

There is a faithful promise of rebirth,

If there's a stone against your heart today,

Look up to him and it will roll away.

Poems supplied by  
ELIZABETH DORAN