

# Connsbrook Avenue Congregational Church

Welcome!!!

December 2009

Newsletter

We would like to give everyone a very warm welcome to Connsbrook Avenue Congregational Church. Whether you regularly attend here or this is your first visit with us, we trust you will enjoy being with us and find your visit helpful.

Our Minister is

Rev. Charles Collins  
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Belfast BT4 2EH  
Tel.028 90293113  
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Our Web-site is

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

So far we have had 1276 visitors [65 visitors this month including some from USA, Turkey and Ireland].

Other Links

The Evangelical Fellowship Of Congregational Churches  
[www.efcc.org.uk](http://www.efcc.org.uk).

Congregational Youth  
[www.congregationalyouth.org](http://www.congregationalyouth.org)

# Daily Readings For The Month



Dec 1	Ezek 40-41,	2 Pet 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 2	Ezek 42-44,	1 John 1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 3	Ezek 45-46,	1 John 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 4	Ezek 47-48,	1 John 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 5	Dan 1-2,	1 John 4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 6	Dan 3-4,	1 John 5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 7	Dan 5-7,	2 John	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 8	Dan 8-10,	3 John	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 9	Dan 11-12,	Jude	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 10	Hos 1-4,	Rev 1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 11	Hos 5-8,	Rev 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 12	Hos 9-11,	Rev 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 13	Hos 12-14,	Rev 4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 14	Joel,	Rev 5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 15	Amos 1-3,	Rev 6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 16	Amos 4-6,	Rev 7	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 17	Amos 7-9,	Rev 8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 18	Obadiah,	Rev 9	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 19	Jonah,	Rev 10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 20	Micah 1-3,	Rev 11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 21	Micah 4-5,	Rev 12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 22	Micah 6-7,	Rev 13	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 23	Nahum,	Rev 14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 24	Habakkuk,	Rev 15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 25	Zephaniah,	Rev 16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 26	Haggai,	Rev 17	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 27	Zech 1-4,	Rev 18	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 28	Zech 5-8,	Rev 19	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 29	Zech 9-12,	Rev 20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 30	Zech 13-14,	Rev 21	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dec 31	Malachi	Rev 22	<input type="checkbox"/>

# Dates For Your Diary

## **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

7.45pm Bible Study – Speaker: Charles Collins

## **Thursdays 3<sup>rd</sup>**

10.00am Mums & Tots.

## **Friday 4<sup>th</sup>**

7.00pm Trekkers [Groups 1 & 2]

8.30pm Trekkers [Group 3]

## **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>**

11.30am Morning Worship – Speaker: Charles Collins

7.00pm Evening Worship - Speaker: Charles Collins

The Lord's Supper.

8.30pm Open House @ Glen & Katherine's – *All Welcome*

## **Monday 7<sup>th</sup>**

2.30pm Ladies' Meeting – Speaker: Colin McFarland.

## **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>**

7.45pm Prayer Meeting

## **Thursdays 10<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am Mums & Tots.

## **Friday 11<sup>th</sup>**

7.00pm Trekkers [Groups 1 & 2]

8.30pm Trekkers [Group 3]

## **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>**

7.30pm 16+ [At the Manse]

## **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>**

11.30am Morning Worship – Speaker: Charles Collins

6.30pm Trekkers Service – Speaker: Dr Scott McCloskey

## **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>**

7.00pm Nursing Home Service

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>**

11.30am Morning Worship - Speaker: Charles Collins  
7.00pm Evening Worship @ Bloomfield Congregational Church

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am Christmas Day Service.

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>**

11.30am Morning Worship Speaker: Michael Ferguson  
7.00pm Evening Worship with Bloomfield Congregational Church

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup>**

11.15pm Watchnight Service @ Calvary Baptist Church.

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**

11.30am Morning Worship - Speaker: Charles Collins  
The Lord's Supper.  
7.00pm Evening Worship - Speaker: Colin McFarland

*The Son of God became the Son of  
Man in order that the sons of men  
might become the sons of God.*

*John Blanchard*

*Just a thought...*

## God's Indescribable Gift

I remember as a young boy asking my parents for an alarm clock for Christmas. Don't ask me why, but I did. It certainly wasn't because I was keen to get up early or anything like that. I just wanted an alarm clock. I think one of my friends had one and I just liked the idea of it.

Anyway, the big day arrived and I began to open my presents and rummage through my stocking. Guess what I found? A clock! Was I the happiest boy in the world? No I wasn't - it was a clock, but it



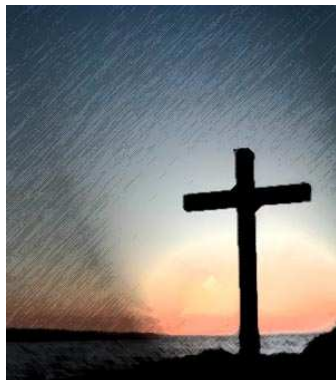
wasn't an alarm clock. It was just an ordinary clock. It looked so old fashioned that it wouldn't have looked out of place on my Granny's mantelpiece. It was a wind up clock, it didn't have a back light on it and it didn't make a sound. It wasn't what I wanted and, regretfully, I don't think I was too slow in showing my disappointment

to my parents.

That story reminds me of another gift that I didn't want. For 17 years of my life I had heard the good news that God gave His 'gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life' [John 3v16]. I had attended Sunday School, Bible Class and Church where the Word of God was faithfully taught. Time and time again I heard the gospel and time and time again I rejected God's gift. It was like I was saying to God 'I don't want your gift'.

Though I had rejected His gift many times, God had not rejected me. No-one needed to tell me I wasn't perfect. I knew I wasn't. But over a period of time I came under conviction of sin. I knew I needed to have my sin dealt with. I began to read my Bible and ask questions

about who Jesus was and how could He save me. The incident of Jesus forgiving the man lowered through the roof [Matthew 9v1-8] really spoke to me and one evening, after a church barbeque, I heard the gospel once more and I knew that night I couldn't reject God's gift anymore. I could do nothing else but confess my sin to God and trust Jesus Christ to save me.



What a difference Jesus has made to my life. He has brought a sense of purpose and meaning to it. I know that He is with me day by day. He has given me peace with God and because of His death, resurrection and ascension to heaven He has guaranteed me a place in heaven for ever. Because He is alive for ever He is able to help me in the difficult times of life. No wonder Paul says Jesus is God's '*indescribable gift*' [2 Cor 9:15] to all who repent and trust Him as their Saviour.

I trust you may all have a happy and joyful Christmas and above all you will not reject God's gift to you but that you will come to Christ and trust Him to save you.

Charles

## Why was Jesus born?

‘you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins’

[Matthew 1v21]

‘I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance’

[Luke 5:32]

‘The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost’

[1 Timothy 1:15]

## Creation Weekend

Fossils, Dinosaurs & The Bible

Speaker: Prof Andy McIntosh

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2010

*‘And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good’* [Genesis 1v31]