frequently and maize, which has been planted in the northern region, is looking green. We pray that it continues to grow with the continued rainfall. We know that much of Africa continues to have problems with rain and we need to pray for rain to refresh the barren land and bring life back to the poor communities.”

Nepal—Peter and Valerie Lockwood write, “The India – Nepal border blockade, which started after the formal declaration of the new Nepal Constitution on 20 September 2015, has continued. Since then there has been a shortage of goods throughout Nepal, particularly petrol and gas. It has been particularly hard winter with no gas to heat homes, limited electricity supply, firewood prices soaring and a general sharp escalation in prices. Medicines for hospitals and clinics are also running short. Construction work has slowed as transportation of materials has increased sharply.”

Stephen and Laura Coulter are settling back into their work in Nepal.

John Alexander Sinton (1884-1956) VC, OBE, OSStG, JP, DL, MB, Bch, BAO (Belf), DPH (Belf & Cantab), DTM (Liv), MD (Belf), DSc (Belf), FRSM

Jack Sinton was born in Victoria, British Columbia, to Northern Irish parents on 2 December 1884. The family returned to Lisburn, Northern Ireland, in 1890 where he and six siblings were brought up by their mother, his father having returned to Canada.

He was educated at The Nicholson Memorial School, Lisburn; RBAI Belfast and The Medical School at Queen’s College Belfast of The Royal University of Ireland where he had a distinguished academic career, obtaining honours in virtually every subject. He graduated in Medicine, Surgery, Midwifery and Gynaecology in 1908 taking top place in all. In 1911 he took first place in the entrance exam to the Indian Medical Service (IMS) and was gazetted Lieutenant on 29 June. Newly commissioned officers of the IMS had to serve a minimum of two years in the military branch of the service.

At the outbreak of the War he was posted to Kohat in the North West Frontier Province of India as Medical Officer with a moveable column of Lancers.

In October 1915 he joined the Indian Expeditionary Force sent to relieve the siege of Kut in Mesopotamia. He was appointed as Regimental Medical Officer for the 37 Dogra Regiment. The force engaged the Turks on 6 January 1916 and by the 9th had prevailed. It was during this action that he was hit by a bullet, and, although wounded himself, he continued tending to the wounded throughout the battle. In the same campaign he was mentioned in despatches four times and was awarded the Russian Order of St. George. His VC was gazetted on 21 June 1916.

He continued his research into malaria after the war and in 1921 was appointed director of the Malaria Survey of India and later became Coordinating Officer and a Member of the League of Nations’ Malaria Commission.

At the outbreak of the Second World War he became a consultant malarialogist to the War Office and, as a Brigadier, was sent to the Middle East.

After the war he retired to Cookstown, settling at Slaghtfreedan Lodge on the shores of Lough Fea. He took an active interest in many aspects of life in Cookstown. He continued his involvement with his alma mater, now The Queen’s University of Belfast and became a Member of its Senate in 1948, then the Pro-chancellor in 1952; High Sheriff of Tyrone in 1953 and a Deputy Lieutenant in 1954. He was President of Cookstown Branch of The British Legion 1948, then the President of Cookstown Branch of The Royal Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene 1948, then the President of Cookstown Branch of The Royal Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene 1954. He was President of Cookstown Branch of The British Legion and also of No 4 Group. His list of medals, awards and achievements is long but in brief: he was elected Fellow of The Royal Society in 1948, the only Fellow with a VC, a record that still stands; in early 1956 the Royal Society for Tropical Medicine awarded him with The Manson Medal, their highest honour and posthumously the United Nations included him in their “Big Six of Malaria”. He published over 200 papers mostly under his own name.

He died 25 March 1956 and had a military funeral and burial in Claggan Presbyterian Churchyard. His Obituary in The Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene by his friend Col H.E. Short said that, “One could not have wished for a better officer or a truer friend.”

Announcements for inclusion in the bulletin must be with:
Paul Ferguson (paulferguson@firstcookstown.co.uk or 028 8644 8601)
no later than 12 noon on Fridays of this week.

First Presbyterian Church Cookstown
(founded 1646)

of The Presbyterian
Church in Tyrone
in the Prebistry of Tyrone
gathered to worship on
Sunday 31 January 2016
WORLD LEPROSY DAY
11.30 am & 3.00 pm

Welcome!
Please take this Bulletin home with you.

Strive for peace with all your heart—
Christ Himself is our peace
Psalm 34:14b; Ephesians 2:14

Remember: www.firstcookstown.co.uk You can access this Bulletin, listen to service recordings, and contribute news and updates, along with much more information.

Before any Service, speak to God; During the Service, let God speak to you;
After the Service, speak to one another! MISSION is every believer’s responsibility!

MORNING

Holy Scripture: Antiphonal Psalm 103:1-5 (page 605)
Nehemiah 1:1-4; 2:1-6 (page 485)
Matthew 8:1-4 (page 972)

REBUILDING, RESTORING – WITH GOD’S HELP

Praise:
IPH 118 He’s got the whole world in His hands (arr. Burt)
IPH 146 Jesus put this song into our hearts (Kendrick, arr Peacock)
CH3 465 Hands to work and feet to run (Winchmore)
IPH 347: 1,3,5 Jesus Christ is waiting (North Coates [92])

EVENING

There will be a separate Bulletin for the Service at 3.00 pm

This week at a glance

Today
10.30 am Elders’ Monthly Prayer Time in The Morrison Room until 11.00 am
11.30 am All-age Service—Revd Dr Isaac Thompson. The service will be introduced by Dr Margaret Wallace, a member of the Board of The Leprosy Mission. Note: the loose offering this morning will go to The Leprosy Mission. Note: The Leprosy Mission secretary in First is Heather Park, to whom gifts for The Leprosy Mission may be given throughout the year.
3.00 pm Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance for the life of Brigadier JA Sinton, to mark the 100th Anniversary of his Victoria Cross, followed by reception in The Main Hall. Preacher: (Maj Gen) Revd Dr David Coulter, QHC (Chaplain General). Offering for The Poppy Fund.
7.00 pm Orritor Youth weekend in Orritor Church Hall; Youth Service. Speaker: Rev Gordy McCracken. Follow on Facebook: www.facebook.com/OrritorPresbyterian
Monday
6.00 pm  Squirrels meet in Halls until 7.00 pm.
7.00 pm  Beavers meet in Halls until 8.00 pm.
8.00 pm  Explorer Scouts meet in the Hall until 9.30 pm
8.00 pm  PW in The Morrison Room—Summer 2015 Outreach Teams

Tuesday
10.15 am Prayer Cell in The Minister’s Room—all welcome
7.00 pm Presbyterian Business Committee in The Minister’s Room until 7.20 pm
7.30 pm Presbyterian of Tyrone in The Morrison Room
7.45 pm Bowling Club in The Main Hall—all welcome

Wednesday
10.30 am Bible Study in The Loft, until 12 Noon. “Fit for Purpose—a caring fellowship. Study 4: Caring for when we are marginalised” (Mark 1:40-45). All welcome!

Thursday
10.30 am elevens@first in The Morrison Room until 12 Noon. Sardinia by Rosemary Gilmour—all welcome!
8.00 pm Prayer Cell in The Minister’s Room—all welcome.
8.00 pm Scouts meet in the Hall until 9.30 pm.

Friday
7.30 pm PCI Overseas Rally in High Street Presbyterian Church Antrim. Taking part: Derek French (Spain); James Cochrane (Portugal); and Ivan and Maureen Patterson, (Hungary).

Saturday
9.00 am Guides’ County Training in Hall complex, until 5.00 pm
10.00 am Marriage Preparation in First Presbyterian Church Magherafelt, until 3.00 pm.

Next Sunday
11.30 am Annual Bowlers’ Service—loose offering for NI Chest, Heart and Stroke
3.00 pm Mission: Every Christian’s Responsibility—monthly prayer time in The Minister’s Room, until 3.30 pm—all welcome.
7.00 pm Revd Dr Isaac Thompson

February 2016
Tuesday 9 Scout Leaders meet in The Upper Room
Wednesday 10 Bible Study at 81 Sweep Road at 7.30 pm. The Church in Acts: “The Church’s Message”- all welcome!
Friday 12 Start of annual Christian Aid Lunches, 12.00—2.00 pm—in The Main Hall.
Monday 15 Presbytery Central Finance Meeting in The Morrison Room at 7.30 pm
Thursday 18 Trefoil Guild in The Morrison Room 10.30 am—12 Noon
Saturday 20 Church Walk in Dungannon Park. Meet at our church car park 10.00 am. Everyone must welcome.
Sunday 21 Start of Annual Cookstown Bible Week in Molesworth. Revd David Johnston, Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church, Bangor.
Wednesday 24 Bible Study at 81 Sweep Road at 7.30 pm. The Church in Acts: “The Church’s Messengers”- all welcome!
Monday 29 Annual Scouts’ Parents’ and Friends’ Evening in The Hall at 7.00 pm

A Gift Aid claim will be prepared in early February. If anyone, who has signed a Gift Aid declaration, has recently ceased to pay income tax please let Colin Rea (8676 5845)or Bob Agnew (8676 3513) know.

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Gift Aid

ROTA—read through them carefully!

SOUND DESK ROTA

This Morning..................................Stephen Park  Next Sunday....................Andrew Johnston

F.W.O. TEAM ROTA

This Week...................................Iris Black, George Black, Noel Johnston, Derek Short
Next Week..................................Bob Agnew, Noel Forde, John Faulkner, June Reid

COLLECTION ROTA

Manse side (January)........................................Keith Hamilton, Glen Millar
Gallery (January)............................................Alastair Hamilton, Sydney Faulkner, Colin Parke
Town side (January)........................................Anne McGuffin, Rex Simpson
Manse side (February)......................................David McDowell, Moira Shaw
Gallery (February).........................................Ian Allingham, Stephen Caldwell, Robert Leonard
Town side (February).................................John Faulkner, Noel Forde

FLOWER ROTA

Today .................................................Mrs Linda Donaghy
Next Sunday...........................................Mrs Ethne Barbour

CAR PARK ROTA

Today ....................................................Robert Leonard  Next Sunday......................Jim Donaghy

CHURCH STEWARDING ROTA

January ....................................................Robert Hamilton, Ian McMullan
February .....................................................Alan Badger, Colin Rea

JUNIOR CHURCH ROTA

Today ......................................................Joan Park, Janet Thompson, Katie Wilson
Next Sunday.............................................Margaret Hamilton, Alison Bell, Leah Berryman

CRÈCHE ROTA

Today ......................................................Helen Black, Sarah Thompson, Kim Johnston
Next Sunday.............................................Rachel Johnston, Zac Johnston, TBC

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERVISION ROTA

Next Sunday................................................Kenneth Brown, Andrew Johnston
14 February.................................................Robert Hamilton, Brian McGlaughlin

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PRAYER FOCUS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND PRAYERLINE: (edited)

For full versions, visit: www.presbyterianireland.org

Home:

The Moderator: Rt Revd Dr Ian McNie visits The Presbytery of Iveagh, from today until next Sunday. Remember him as he speaks at various services and meetings, and that he will bring encouragement to many people.

Rosemary Spiers – Deaconess serving in First Presbyterian Church Antrim, “Last year at Tiny Tots we celebrated 21 years. With sadness and delight we will say goodbye to Emily Orme, one of our helpers for the past three years at Tiny Tots. Emily and her husband John and their two children are returning to Japan to serve God with OM.”

Stephen Young – Community Outreach Worker serving in Brookside Presbyterian Church, involved in the ongoing work of the Brook cafe as they try to reach the lost of Ahoghill through a Friday morning outreach.

Pray for the Ahoghill food bank - a joint outreach by Brookside, Trinity and First Ahoghill Presbyterian Churches. Pray that this outreach would show the love of Jesus and that more people would realise their greatest need is to know the Lord.

Corvally and Ervey Presbyterian Churches, Co Monaghan – are vacant at present, as part of the wider group including Castlesfandley and Frankford. Remember elders and other leaders.

Overseas:

Brazil – Pray for Naomi Keefer’s health and safety, particularly with Aguazinha being a breeding ground for mosquitoes, and the latest Zika virus outbreak in South America.

East Africans in the UK:— yesterday, the PCEA congregation in London held a special training day for the congregation’s leaders who were elected recently for the year 2016. The leaders are being officially inducted during the service today.

Malawi – Johnny and Lyn Dows, based in Livingstonia, write, “Rains are now coming more