

# THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

A publication of the Ards & North Down Christian Community Hub

**Issue 2**

## BEDSIT TO BLESSING

by Peter Mullan, Newtownards

It was christened Peter Mullan in 1951, the 2nd of two boys born to Mary Mullan. My brother Seamus was my senior by 5yrs. Mother was a single parent supported by welfare. I was fostered for a while before our little family settled in Newtownards. My brother joined the Royal Navy while I was still at school. I was a devout catholic attending mass regularly. My form teacher Sister Louis made me a class prefect, which greatly encouraged me. I left school just as the troubles broke out in Northern Ireland. Life was a struggle and working in local factories took some adjustment. My teenage years saw me lose my faith although I was always interested to religion.

My life had reached a low ebb by 1976. Years of introspective search for I knew not what? I had drug culture friends and was living in a bedsit at a place called Marsh if my memory serves me well, in Lancaster, Lancashire, England. After an acrimonious exchange with one of these friends I was left hitchhiking on the M6 toward London. A preacher called Duncan heading home stopped and gave me a lift. We talked about God. I had always believed being a lapsed catholic. There were tent meetings in Preston where Duncan put me up for the night. The theme of the meetings was "Invitation to Life", and I needed that life!

I continued next morning to London. There I found plenty of excitement meeting many old mates I knew from the old country, Northern Ireland. Eventually I returned there. I can still remember vividly the instructions given me by the labour exchange which were like prophetic guidance bringing me into contact with the man who eventually helped me to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This man Billy gave me a bible and invited me to his church at Brooklands, Dundonald. I searched for answers to my many philosophical questions. Was God really leading me to faith in Jesus? Verses like "come unto me all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me." *Matthew 11:28-29* and "I am the way the truth and the life" *John 14:6*. And reading one day on the radio from *Luke 22:31-32* really spoke to me too; "Simon, Simon, Behold Satan has desired to have you...but I have prayed for you that your faith fail not, and when you are converted..."

That night in my wee bedsit on Lower Greenwell Street, Newtownards I prayed for God to come into my heart and give me the faith to believe was the defining moment in my own conversion on the 22nd of April 1976. My wife's birthday! Although I had not met her yet. It appears God plans ahead for us. He is an amazing saviour.

'Come close to God, and he will come close to you' *James 4:8a*

June:2021



What's your story?



What is a Christian?



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