



# The Burning Bush - Online article archive

## A Tribute to Mrs Winifred Gallagher

By Rev Ivan Foster (Rtd), her minister for some 41 years.

Mrs Gallagher was born on 22nd April 1928. She was close to 92 years old when she was called home on Lord's Day morning past. She was born in the townland of Drumgowna near Ederny in Co Fermanagh. The family moved to Stranahone, Lack and shortly after to Aghadorra, Dromore in Co Tyrone.

She sought the Lord at an Irish Evangelistic Band gospel mission in Shaneragh Hall, near Dromore, on 7th February 1952. The preachers were Mr Willie Moore and Mr Harold Purvis.

Shortly after, she felt the call of God into full-time service and responded and entered Emmanuel Bible College in Birkenhead. After training there she joined the Faith Mission where she served the Lord for some ten years. During her time of missioning she laboured mainly around Cork in the Republic of Ireland and in Co. Antrim up here in Northern Ireland.

She married Hugh Gallagher on 16th October 1962 and two years later George was born and four years later Eveline was born. It was in between the arrival of George and Eveline that I became acquainted with Hugh and Winifred Gallagher.

On 11th February 1967, following a stirring of interest in the Northern Ireland in the gospel and in the witness of the Free Presbyterian Church, Dr Ian Paisley and Rev John Wylie preached at a packed afternoon meeting in a recently purchased and somewhat renovated shop and store in Lisbellaw. A similar crowd attended the evening meeting when Rev William Beattie and I preached.

Thus began the Free Presbyterian witness in the West of Ulster.

Hugh and Winifred Gallagher became founding members of the new congregation at its constitution just a month later. In 1968, when I had finished my studies for the ministry of the Free Presbyterian Church, I was called to be the minister of the congregation in which I had been labouring since its beginnings just 12 months before.

Mrs Gallagher played a most important part in those early days. There were those who were persuaded to try and have a former minister in the Free Presbyterian Church installed in Lisbellaw.

A petition was circulated around those attending the meetings to that end.

One day, two men arrived at the Gallagher home with the petition and Mrs Gallagher was told what it was they were trying to do. With characteristic spiritual perception and straightforward frankness, Mrs Gallagher stated to the two men: "You are of the devil. Get off my street!"

Thus Mrs Gallagher, Jael-like, of whom we read in Judges chapter 4, drove a nail through this foolish attempt to hinder the purpose of God in this part of Ulster and brought it to an end.

One of the men was so smitten by her words that he immediately recognised that he was very wrong and forthwith took steps to rectify what he had done. The outcome of this mischief-making was a sad and hurtful wounding of the infant work. However, within a very short time after I was ordained and installed as minister in April 1968, the services in the wee hall in Lisbellaw were filled again, especially on the Sabbath evenings as some 150+ crowded in to hear the Word of God. A time of bountiful soul winning ensued.

Shortly after quite a number from the Kilskeery area were drawn over to the meetings and 12-15 from that area were saved. From this nucleus a new congregation was formed and established in 1976 and I was called to become its minister in February 1978. It was the fifth congregation to be formed out of the witness started in Lisbellaw.

Mr and Mrs Gallagher transferred their membership to Kilskeery. Hugh had been ordained as an elder in



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Lisbellaw and when he transferred his membership, the members of Kilskeery requested that he serve as an elder amongst them.

Both Mr & Mrs Gallagher were stalwart members of the congregation and fervent supporters of Kilskeery Independent Christian School which opened its doors in September 1979.

Hugh Gallagher went to be with the Lord in June 1999. Since then, until recent days when increasing ill health made her attendance at God's house less regular than it had been throughout her life, Mrs Gallagher was present here.

She is at home with the Lord now. She is in her Father's house and we can but form only the slightest idea of what joys she is now partaking of.

One thing I know! She is praising God for that night in Shaneragh Hall when she gave her heart to the Lord Jesus Christ and was washed in His precious blood and made ready for heaven.

May all who gather here today to remember her, follow her example in this matter in particular and make ready for eternity.

You may listen to a recording of the full funeral service **here**.



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KILSKEERY

FREE PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

Service  
of  
Thanksgiving

for the life of

**Winifred Margaret Gallagher**

1928 - 2020

*"Absent from the body, present with the Lord."*

Tuesday, 18th February 2020  
at 2.00pm



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## ORDER OF SERVICE

Conducted by Reverend Jonathan Crane  
and Reverend Ivan Foster.

### HYMN

There's a peace in my heart that the world never gave,  
A peace it cannot take away.  
Though the trials of life may surround like a cloud,  
I've a peace that has come there to stay.

*Constantly abiding, Jesus is mine;  
Constantly abiding, rapture divine!  
He'll never leave me lonely, Whispers O so kind,  
I will never leave Thee, Jesus is mine.*

All the world seemed to sing of my Saviour and King  
When peace sweetly came to my heart;  
Troubles all fled away, and my night turned to day-  
Blessed Jesus, how glorious Thou art!

This treasure I have in a temple of clay  
While here on His footstool I roam;  
But He's coming to take me some glorious day  
Over there to my heavenly home!

### HYMN

For all the Lord has done for me,  
I never will cease to praise Him;  
And for His grace so rich and free  
I never will cease to praise Him.

*I never will cease to praise Him;  
My Saviour, my Saviour;  
I never will cease to praise Him,  
He's done so much for me.*

He gives me strength for every day,  
I never will cease to praise Him;  
He leads and guides me all the way,  
I never will cease to praise Him.

Although the world His love neglect,  
I never will cease to praise Him;  
I could not such a friend reject,  
I never will cease to praise Him.

He saves me every day and hour,  
I never will cease to praise Him;  
Just now I feel His cleansing power,  
I never will cease to praise Him

While on my journey here below,  
I never will cease to praise Him;  
And when to that bright world I go,  
I never will cease to praise Him.



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### HYMN

A wonderful Saviour is Jesus my Lord,  
A wonderful Saviour to me;  
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,  
Where rivers of pleasure I see.

*He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,  
That shadows a dry, thirsty land;  
He hideth my life in the depths of His love,  
And covers me there with His hand,*

A wonderful Saviour is Jesus my Lord,  
He taketh my burden away;  
He holdeth me up, and I shall not be moved,  
He giveth me strength as my day.

With numberless blessings each moment He crowns,  
And, filled with His fullness divine,  
I sing in my rapture: O glory to God  
For such a Redeemer as mine!.

When clothed with His brightness, transported I rise  
To meet Him in clouds of the sky,  
His perfect salvation, His wonderful love,  
I'll shout with the millions on high.

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*The family wish to express their sincere thanks and  
appreciation for your kind words of sympathy  
and your presence at the funeral service today.*

*The family invite everyone to join them for tea in  
the adjoining Church Hall after this service.*