

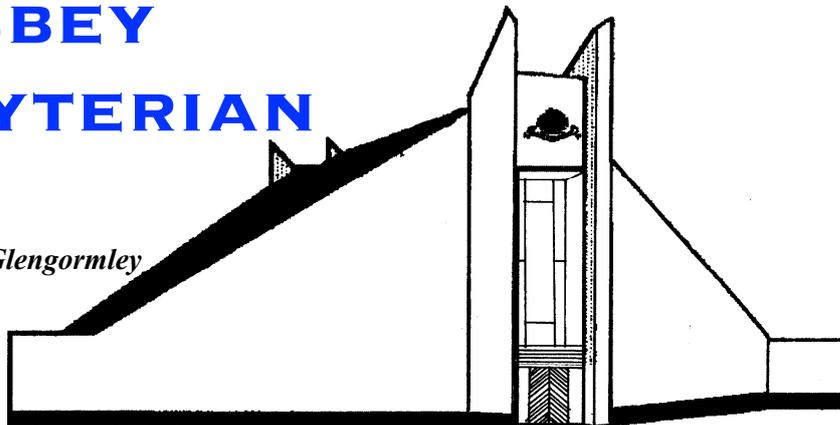
NEWTOWNABBEY FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

307-309 Ballyclare Road, Corrs Corner, Glengormley

Services

Lord's Day 11.30 am & 7.00 pm

Minister: Rev Brian McClung



9 Sherwood Parks

Newtownabbey

Co Antrim

BT36 5FY

Theatre at The Mill

Mossley Mill

Carnmoney Road North

Newtownabbey

BT36 5QA

Thursday 30th January 2014

Dear Mr Clarkson, Chief Executive & Councillors,

The Minister, Session and congregation of Newtownabbey Free Presbyterian Church wish to register, in the strongest terms, their revulsion at the insensitivity of the Artistic Board going ahead with this offensive play: *"The Bible: The Complete Word of God (abridged)"*. So much for tolerance and respect for minorities in this Borough!

What makes this decision all the more reprehensible is the discovery that, according to Councillor Billy Webb, chairman of the Artistic Board, the original decision to cancel this play was a cynical, and purely 'tactical' move by those determined to press ahead with this offensive production regardless. Yet this decision was represented to me, in correspondence dated 23rd January, as taking onboard the views of those who are unhappy with the play's contents. How low some people have to stoop in order to get their way in mocking the Bible and grossly offending others! There is nothing honourable in this conduct!

The action of those who took this decision has left in tatters any claims that Newtownabbey Borough Council has any regard for minorities. Unless, that is, you are willfully partial in your conduct and have regard only for every other minority group or opinion, other than evangelical Christians, who are offended at this play. Remember what the Scriptures say: *Be not deceived; God [including His Word] is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap, Galatians 6:7.*

Yours with much regret,

Rev Brian McClung
Minister

But we preach Christ crucified ... 1 Corinthians ch 1:23