



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Another anniversary marked in Kilskeery



Robert and Dorothy Edwards with the plaque presented to them

2004 has been a very significant year in the history of our congregation. Back on 5th April, we celebrated five years of gospel broadcasting from an independent radio station in the Republic of Ireland. This was the first Free Presbyterian gospel broadcast from within Ireland. Since then, some nine gospel programmes are broadcast each week under the auspices of "Let the Bible Speak", the radio ministry of the Free Presbyterian church of Ulster. 5th April also marked the 40th anniversary of the minister's conversion to Christ. In our foregoing report, we noted the congregation's Christian school's 25th anniversary.

The calendar of thanksgiving was rounded off by a marking of the 30th anniversary of the opening of our first church building on 17th Aug 1974.

Each year, on the Lord's Day closest to the 17th, the congregation has a special gift day. Despite the many special offerings and the outstanding generosity shown by our congregation, it was decided to continue with that tradition. The special offering came to £2800, which did not include the normal weekly offerings. Dr. John Douglas, Clerk of Presbytery and a pioneer of those days in the 1960s and 1970s when Free Presbyterianism was going forth with power and many new congregations were being formed, was the guest preacher at our afternoon service.

Summary

Before he spoke, Rev. Ivan Foster gave a brief summary of the formation of the congregation in Kilskeery and the struggle against much opposition to build the first gospel hall. Particular mention was made of the generosity of the small handful of new converts in the area as they gave unstintingly to the work of raising a building in their own area in order that there might be a place where the gospel would be preached and a door of opportunity presented to their neighbours. At that time, they were also faithfully supporting the building of Bethel Free Presbyterian meeting house in Enniskillen where they were in membership. The generosity of those Christians, many of whom are still in attendance in our congregation, was epitomised by the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Edwards who gave a large part of their garden, at the cost of one old penny, as a site for the gospel hall. A special plaque was presented to them commemorating their generosity. Dr. Douglas presented the plaque on behalf of the congregation.

A tape of the service is available from our church.