

# Meet the elder

**Name:** Robert Hawthorne.

**Age:** 52

**Occupation:** Primary school teacher.

**Tell us about your family:** I am the youngest of seven – I have four brothers and two sisters. For the past 24 years I have been married to Audrey and we have been blessed with two daughters. Charlotte is 21 and is studying in Leicester and Amy is 17 and is studying in SRC Banbridge.

**How long have you been coming to First Dromara?** I have been coming to First Dromara for over thirty years. I have always enjoyed music and singing and during sixth form I decided that I wanted to go to a church that had an organ. Miss Meeke was my piano teacher at the time and she kindly suggested I could come to First Dromara and sing in the choir.

**How long have you been an Elder?** 16 years.

**When and how did you come to faith?** I went to the Garvaghy Young People's Meetings on Tuesday nights and I attended Sunday School in Dromara Reformed Church and I knew from an early age that I needed to be saved, but I kept putting it off. Eventually I came to faith when I was 12. It



was not a spectacular event, no crashing thunder or flashing lights, but just a peace knowing that my sin was forgiven.

**What difference has it made in your life?** It has given me the assurance that nothing happens by chance.

**How long have you been Musical Director and what does that involve?** I have been the organist for the best part of ten years now. I head up a small Worship Committee who meet with Rev Moore regularly to pick appropriate music for the services and to organise the rota of singers.

I text the singers on Saturdays to remind them that they are singing and we meet to rehearse at 10.30am on Sunday

morning. The choir sing at special services throughout the year and they will meet on Sundays immediately after the Service and on Wednesday nights for a few weeks prior to these Services.

**A word of wisdom?:** In school I have many problems brought to my attention especially after break and lunch-time about disagreements on the playground.

I try to encourage the children to treat others the way they would want to be treated and that is good advice for us all.

**Favourite hymn or song?:** It is difficult to limit to an absolute favourite but, Praise My Soul The King Of Heaven, would be top of the list of hymns and Once In Royal David's City, would be my favourite Christmas carol.

**Favourite verse or passage?:** Psalm 23. This reminds me that God is always in control through the good times and the bad.

**Tell us something we might not know about you:** In 1990 we had two weeks of mission in First Dromara. Ian and Rose were the Youth Fellowship leaders at the time and invited two friends to help with music for the Youth nights. One of those girls is now my wife!