

A TRIBUTE TO THE VERY REV DR WILLIAM BOYD

When Dr Tosh rang me on the morning of Tuesday 8 July informing me that our revered Senior Minister, Very Rev Dr William Boyd, had passed away during the night I was deeply saddened, as indeed we as a whole congregation were as the news broke. The crowded church at his funeral service of thanksgiving was a fitting tribute to one whose life had touched so many folk, not just in the immediate congregational family, but in the much wider arena of the whole church and community life as well.

Although I had known of him earlier in my life through his family connections in Dungannon, it was January 1971, when Olive and I moved to Lisburn shortly after our marriage and were looking for a church to join, that we first met Dr. Boyd. On our first Sunday at First Lisburn he soon made a beeline to greet us in the vestibule and on visiting us a few weeks later in our home he advised us to look around before making up our mind as to whom we would like to join. Such was the gracious nature of the man that we had no decision to make. We were to grow to love and respect his ministry to us as we settled into the fellowship in Market Square. That, I am sure, will have been the norm for all of you too.

In the over 53 years of Dr Boyd's association with the congregation he always held the membership close to his heart. As minister, pastor and friend his prime concern was to be close to his flock in every way he was able and, in particular, at times when he was needed most. His caring nature and wise counsel was a hallmark of his calling to Christian ministry and the 70 years or more that he served his Lord and Saviour is testimony of a faithful servant of God.

We convey to Mrs Boyd and his family the sincere sympathy of the congregation on their loss and pray that God will be close to them in their time of mourning.

There is much more I could have written in tribute to the life and ministry of our beloved Minister Emeritus, but in a special publication Dr Boyd's memorial record written by Rev. Dr Bert Tosh, already presented to Presbytery and in due course to the General Assembly, along with the prayers, readings and Dr Gray's address at the Funeral service, will be ready for distribution so that all will have the opportunity to remember Dr Boyd in a very personal way.

Perry Reid
Clerk of Session

Dear Friends

"Would you 'go' to First Lisburn if I wasn't the Minister?" They would. I had asked the question after 'doing' Sunday on holiday this year. It seems we at FLPC are a friendly lot.

I still remember the Easter morning eight years ago in a PCI Congregation when I – the visitor in civvies – was asked by a lady to please move, as I was sitting in her seat. Seat? This seat? It was a plastic chair, a blue plastic chair. An ordinary, blue plastic chair. It's the only thing I remember about that church.

I suppose people go to churches where they feel they are welcome, when they feel they could belong and when they feel they are valued by the others already there. Once they feel this you're looking at a potential new member. Nothing much to do with sermons, buildings or praise. If these are excellent, then you are welcomed into a church where it is good to belong. So good, you will want to contribute something to its life and work.

For some folk these days walking into a vestibule is a new experience – and a more difficult one for them than for me as a frequent flyer with PCI. If you have never walked into a Bingo Hall, a Bookmaker's Shop or a Night Club, then you have never done what some visitors to church do. You've never entered a whole new world. You've missed that feeling of *very quickly* deciding that you are an alien.

If you do Tesco every week and then try a new Tesco, you are at best unsure. Will they stock the same stuff? Are the shelves stocked in the same sequence? Where's the baskets? Will I like the place? It can be the same for visitors to our church who do church regularly somewhere else. How we welcome and how quickly we 'include' people is therefore vital.

We're currently working on a ***New Member's Pack***. It will have basic information on the Congregation – its life and work, organisations and pictures of who's who and what they do. It will have a plan of our site and lots of contact phone numbers. It consolidates the message – *you are welcome and we want you to belong*. Churches that are making an impact on today's world are finding which people first come to belong, before they come to believe.

That's why, from the welcome in the vestibule to the smile in the pew, you and I have a real job to do. We are very well placed to do it.

The ***New Member's Pack***, when ready, will be used in many ways – distribution to new developments within the Parish, given to folk who show up on a Sunday to 'check us out', and for you to use sensitively with a friend or neighbour who might just give church a go – especially if they knew we already value them enough to make them feel at home. Every single member has a part in this. After all, you never know who might sit in your seat.

John Brackenridge

MISS EVELYN WHYTE CELEBRATING 25 YEARS AS A DEACONESS

At Morning Service on Sunday 14 September, Mr Perry Reid congratulated Miss Evelyn Whyte who was celebrating 25 years since she had been commissioned as a Deaconess. He stated that in performing her pastoral duties within the congregation, Evelyn had endeared herself to everyone.

Many members have experienced her love and compassion in times of need, and with her warm caring nature and cheerful disposition she has become a much loved and valued friend to all of us. We are indeed blessed to have her as our Deaconess in First Lisburn.

During the service Mrs Elizabeth Watt, our congregational representative on Dromore Presbytery, presented Miss Evelyn Whyte with a floral arrangement to mark the occasion.

Evelyn then thanked Perry for his kind words and the congregation for their generosity.

From your Editor

Welcome back after the summer holidays. I hope you have enjoyed the beautiful weather and have come back feeling refreshed, renewed, and ready to go!

This is the time of year when our organisations resume their activities and embark on the new season's programmes. What a busy Church we are! This edition of your magazine is packed full of very interesting and informative reports on all that is going on in First Lisburn – ranging from life within our Church to outreach work abroad.

There is a lot to absorb, so, put the kettle on, sit down, relax, and take time to read and digest each article, and where possible, become involved and give your support. And for a little light relief, why not join in some of the entertainment offered by the Light Programme? For new members, or those who feel a little 'on the fringe' of things, this is a wonderful way to make friends who will introduce you to other aspects of church life.

I know you will be interested to read about the proposed ***Future First*** strategy. This major initiative is aimed at building on the youth ministry within our congregation, thereby investing in the future of First Lisburn.

We warmly welcome our Church Secretary, Ann Cochrane, back among us, and we thank Petula Vient for her sterling work during Ann's absence.

Congratulations to our young folk who have been successful in examinations during the summer, whether at school or at a higher level. We wish those who have left leaving school continued success as they embark on higher and further education courses, and, to those who have graduated from university or successfully completed other courses, we wish you every success in your future careers.

To the little children who are starting school or nursery for the first time, we hope that you are all settling well into your new environment, and that Mummy isn't too lonely!

Mary McNeight

NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 21 September	All Age & Baptism Service - 11.00 a.m.
Sun 5 October	Holy Communion - 11.00 a.m. Worship First with Communion 7.00 p.m. Guest Speaker- -Helen Warren, Scripture Union
Sun 12 October	Harvest Service - 11.00 a.m.
Mon 20 October	Congregational Committee - 7.30 p.m.
Sun 2 November	PWA Service with Rosemary Cowan - 11.00 a.m. Worship First Service – 7.00 p.m.
Sun 9 November	Presbytery Missionary Tour Speaker - 11.00 a.m.
9th-15 November	Dromore Presbytery Overseas Mission Tour
Sun 23 November	All Age and Enrolment Service - 11.00 a.m.
Sun 30 November	Holy Communion – 11.00 a.m. Worship First with Communion - 7.00 p.m.
Wed 3 December	Christmas Event organised by the City Churches

UNITED APPEAL 2003

It is that time of the year again when we shall be asking for donations for the United Appeal 2003.

The target for last year was £11,675 – members of the congregation gave £11,624 and, with the addition of Gift Aid tax refunds of £2,607, we were able to forward £14,231 to Church House as our contribution to this main appeal of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

This year, 2003, the target for our congregation has been set at £12,811. There are 401 families contributing to Freewill Offering in First Lisburn, which means that, if each family were to give £32, then we would achieve our target. Many families will give very much more than that and some will give less, but according to their means. However much or how little each gives, it is important that we achieve our target, so enabling our Church as a whole to carry out all the work that it does from year to year and on an ongoing basis.

You will shortly be receiving United Appeal literature and an envelope in which to place your donation. Please read the literature carefully and respond as generously as you can.

Jimmy Lynn, Hon Treasurer

FUTURE FIRST APPOINTING A DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTERIES

FUTURE FIRST is a major new initiative from Session, supported by Committee, to employ a full-time Director of Youth Ministries in First Lisburn. This person would join Rev. John Brackenridge and Miss Evelyn Whyte to become the third member of our congregation's pastoral team.

Over the last two years we have employed two part-time youth workers and now Session believes we can greatly strengthen our Youth Ministry and congregation by making this new appointment. Such an appointment would:-

- help us to nurture our young people with more effective and available pastoral care, encouraging them/building them up in their faith towards full and active Church membership, thus building tomorrow's church to-day;
- increase the potential for the training and development of the volunteers already involved in all aspects of our youth work;
- re-enforce the view that First Lisburn is a congregation that takes the nurture of young people very seriously, which will hopefully attract new families;
- build the pastoral support available to the congregation as a whole by releasing Rev Brackenridge and Miss Whyte from direct responsibility for youth ministry.

Session has outlined 10 core aims for a Director of Youth Ministries.

To attract the calibre of experienced person we are looking for, we have been advised that a budget of £25,000 (including benefits) per year would be required. This is a significant total, which we can reach if we all work together.

Details of these aims and information on how to give financial support will be forthcoming in pulpit announcements and in the **Future First** brochure that will be delivered to the congregation. Please give **Future First** and the future of our congregation your most serious consideration as we build tomorrow's church today.

Session Youth Work Sub-Committee

SUNDAY SCHOOL THEN AND NOW

Sunday Schools these days, it would seem, are very different from the pioneering efforts in the 18th Century. Robert Raikes (1735-1811), a committed member of the Church of England, is traditionally credited as pioneering Sunday Schools in the 1780s. One day in 1780 Raikes' business, as proprietor of the *Gloucester Journal*, took him to an impoverished suburb of Gloucester, where he was shocked to see so many wretchedly ragged children at play in the street. A local woman told him that Sundays were even worse, for the street would be filled with multitudes of the wretches..."released on that day from employment, they would spend their day in noise and riot, cursing and swearing in a manner so horrid as to convey...an idea of hell".

Raikes was so moved that he hired four women to teach children the very next Sunday. And so began his first school - for the children of chimney sweeps - in Sooty Alley, Gloucester. The hours were 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with an hour for lunch, and included an afternoon church service. During the 1780s the number of Sunday Schools grew rapidly, gradually increasing the range of educational opportunities for working class children and adults alike. They quickly spread throughout the British Isles and beyond. Common features were their emphasis on improving the basic literacy of pupils, Biblical instruction and teaching Christian values.

Ivan Craig's history of First Lisburn Presbyterian Churchⁱ tells us that the Sunday School here had its origins in 1814 when a school was opened in the Meeting House by a number of young ladies of the congregation. This was very successful and by 1859 a new School House had been provided. By 1887 there were 30 classes with 413 pupils on the roll and an average attendance each Sunday of 330. There were two Superintendents: one for the Morning and one for the Afternoon!

Our Sunday School today, of course, is very different, and is limited to about 40 minutes during the Sunday morning service - thankfully we no longer need to teach them to read and write! Yet there are strong similarities with the work of the early pioneers. At its heart, then and now, is a desire to share our faith with our young people and to see them come through into full membership of the Church. This is reflected in our core aims:

to present the Christian faith to children and young people, (a) in a manner appropriate to their age and ability, that (b) by the grace of God they will come to (c) place their trust in Jesus Christ as their Saviour, (d) follow him as their Lord and (e) become active members of the body of Christ.

Our theme of sharing faith is reflected in our teaching programme, Sharing And Learning Together (SALT), produced by Scripture Union. Sharing and learning in Sunday School is a two-way process.

As in the early days, our work depends entirely on a group of committed and caring volunteers who lead their groups on alternate months. At the moment the team comprises: John Davis (Superintendent); Maureen Staniland (Secretary); Perry Reid and Gillian Bustard (Lazer Group—Forms 2-5); Richard Millen and Jackie Brackenridge (Form 1); Maureen Killiner and Nicola Anderson (P6/7); Susan Gilbert and Petula Vient (P5); Sheila Hammonds and Jayne Price (P3/4); Lyndsey Parr and Gillian Parker (Beginners—up to P2).

These days, of course, we cannot provide the same incentives offered by the pioneers, for example instruction in basic literacy. Rather, we must compete with the many demands on the time of our young people: television, computer games, academic studies, sport, etc. In the main, however, attendance amongst the core membership of the congregation is generally good - and the reaction of our young people in Sunday School is usually very positive. But at times we can feel frustrated at not being able to reach out further, particularly to young people who have never come under the influence of the Church in their lives. With present commitments and capacity, however, this type of outreach would be difficult to sustain.

Let me briefly mention our current programme. In September we have been looking at baptism. The aim has been to help our children understand more about baptism and the practice of our Church. This has included - at levels appropriate to each age group - consideration of the biblical basis for baptism, the use of water in baptism, who should be baptised and the role of parents and the congregation in a baptismal service. The children have also been able to observe what actually happens during infant baptism at our All Age Service.

Finally, as part of our commitment to the development of leaders, we will be holding a training evening on Wednesday 1 October at 7:30 p.m. in the Boyd Room. This will be led by Rev. Ian McKee, the PCI Sunday School Organiser who is based in Church House. Ian will cover some of the basics in sharing faith with young people and we hope that some parents might also join us for what will be a lively and interesting presentation.

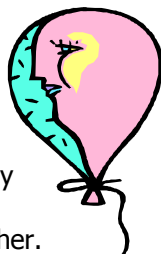
Sunday School then and now—perhaps there are more similarities than we sometimes imagine!

John Davis
Sunday School Superintendent

¹ Presbyterianism in Lisburn From the Seventeenth Century. First Lisburn Presbyterian Church. W.I. Craig (1960).

FAMILY FUN DAY AT RUGBY CLUB Saturday 31 May

First Lisburn Fun Day and Balloon Race at Lisburn Rugby Club on 31 May was a wonderful family day out for the congregation and was thoroughly enjoyed by all in fine weather.



The day started off with:

A Car Boot Sale in the morning, with tea and coffee served by Girls' Brigade officers, followed by

A Family Fun Afternoon when we had an excellent turnout in great weather. The afternoon included a Punch and Judy Show as a surprise item;

The Congregational Barbecue in the evening was also well supported, and the evening ended with the release of balloons, followed by the Epilogue and music from our Youth Choir.

Balloon Race Prize Winners were:

1st Prize - Three Day Freedom Pass of Northern Ireland for four people by bus or rail (Donated by Translink)

Winner: Florence Blair

2nd Prize - Family Outing for two adults and two children at Lisburn Leisureplex and a meal at KFC

Winner: Reggie Blair

3rd Prize - £20 voucher donated by TC Cycles, Harmony Hill

Winner: Alice Burton

4th Prize - Meal for two at the Orient Express, Lisburn

Winner: Audrey Steele

5th Prize - Skate Board donated by World of Wonder

Winner: Michael McNeight

6th Prize - T-Shirt

Winner: Nadine Anderson

£25 prize for finder of the balloon found furthest away

Winner: Ken Critchley, North of Blair in the Scottish Islands

2 Prizes (£10 each) for selling the winning label, and most balloons (50)

Winner: Benjamin Parker

A Wall Climb and Abseil held the next week attracted lots of entrants and all were generously sponsored.

Thank you to Sheila Hammonds and her willing band of helpers for all their hard work. Well over £2,030 was raised from the above events and a 'Bag Packing' day at Marks and Spencer. Our thanks to Lorna Collins for organising this.

Sunday School Teachers agreed at their meeting on 3 September to send £1,000 to PCI **Moving On** Project and £1,000 to help stock and furnish our own new crèche.

BIBLE STUDIES

What is your first thought when you read these words "BIBLE STUDY"? Maybe it is: "That's not for me." "What happens at a Bible Study?" "I don't know my Bible well enough" etc. Whatever your thoughts are when you read these words, consider checking the groups out. These possibly were some of the thoughts of the people who are now in the groups. No-one claims to know their Bible well, including the leader.

It is a time to learn together, share and encourage one another and to grow in faith together. There are good friendships and good fun. At the moment we are doing a study on the "Holy Spirit". The following are comments from a member of each group. If you want to enquire more, just give them a call.

Tuesday Group: "To me the Bible Study is a place to learn, share, be encouraged and grow together, a place to just be ourselves wherever we are on our journey of faith." Marion Craig 92662842

Wednesday Group: "The fellowship in the Bible Study has been a great encouragement to me as I seek to know more of God's teaching." Noel Stevenson 92665538

THE BIBLE STUDY GROUP meets on Tuesday at 8.00 p.m. in the Downtown Centre (except first Tuesday in the month) and on Wednesdays at 10.00 a.m.(for coffee) in the Boyd Room.

PRAYER GATHERING

This group meets each Thursday from 7 00 p.m. – 8 00 p.m. to pray for world needs, our congregation, and for people who are sick or in any kind of need. If you would like the group to pray for someone or some situation ring Margaret Perry 92677267

Evelyn Whyte

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP 2003/2004

This year the Fellowship will be meeting in Douglas and Gunnell Anderson's home (29 Belsize Road) for Bible study and fellowship on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. As a group we shall also be hosting a monthly prayer meeting in Margaret Thompson's home (32 Beechdene Drive) on the 3rd Wednesday. Everyone is very welcome. We look forward to seeing familiar and new faces this year.

Margaret Thompson

IGNITE (IT'S GOD'S NITE)

This is a group of young (and young at heart!) leaders, who meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month from 7.45 - 9.00 p.m. in the Boyd Room. We provide a place for our junior teens (10-14 year-olds) to meet together, to dig into their bibles and get to know God better.

A typical night begins with a time of praise, usually energetic songs with actions, leaving our IGnitters in hysterics as the leaders are somewhat un-coordinated and not very harmonious in their vocal talents!! We then progress to some bible study and chat in small groups - topics last semester included:

- Discovering God: to understand why it is so important to follow Jesus, we first need to understand what God is like.
- Discovering Me: looking at where I fit into all this and what God really says about me.
- Discovering Jesus: Jesus is God's answer to our problems.

This is all followed by team games in the main hall and tuck shop goodies!

In our first semester we enjoyed welcoming 20 young people and look forward to seeing them on 5 October when we start our programme. New members are especially welcome to join the fun. However, before that occurs we are having a social event on Saturday 27 September for our members old and new - invitations are in the mail!

Through all these activities we hope to IGnite your faith in God!

Gillian Bustard

PULSE PLUS

Who are we? We are a group of teenagers (13+) who get together to discover what God has to say to us today.

What do we do? We spend some time worshipping God, then we look at what our Bibles have to say using drama or discussion. Everyone is free to say or ask what they want...or just to listen. Then we break for coke, Pringles and craic!

Where do we do it? We get together at 7.45 p.m. in the Boyd Room and finish in the Downtown Centre at 9.30 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in each month.

ARE YOU WELCOME? YOU BET!!!

Leaders: Paul Wilson, Lyndsay Parr and Richard McNeight.

CROSS COMMUNITY GROUP

What is that? It is a body of people from First Lisburn, St Patrick's and St Columba's Churches, with others from different Lisburn churches, who meet on a monthly basis.

What does it do? The group was formed 13 years ago to share our experiences of mutual suspicion, which led to much discussion of our differences in our religion and politics. We were greatly helped in our early days by David McKitterick of PACE, and many politicians of various shades.

Our aims are to promote understanding, friendship and trust between members of different denominations and to celebrate the diversity of our cultures. After quite a short time we found that the real differences were very few and that we had all quickly become friends.

The first meeting of the new session will be held on Wednesday, 8 October 2003 in the Boyd Room. Do come along – you will enjoy the cup of tea at least!

More details from Joyce Moran (Hon Secretary) or Anne Kain.

PWA

Now is the time to be considering your Winter activities ladies!

First Lisburn is full of 'buzz' these days and we too have 'jazzed up' our programme accordingly.

The PWA is for ALL ages. At the Annual Meetings in May this year in the Assembly Buildings, Church House, the hall was packed at both afternoon and evening meetings – and the age range was very widespread indeed, so – ladies – you see, we in First Lisburn are the ones behind the times. Let's give our own PWA a new image and the priority it deserves. Let us pull out all the stops and get going.

We on committee have gone to considerable lengths to accommodate different tastes, bearing in mind the PWA theme 'On the Move' for the coming season.

Our meetings take place on the first Tuesday of each month, October-March inclusive.

In October our own Marion Craig will be our special guest. Marion was 'on the move' as she spent part of the Summer in Romania, and will bring us up to date on her work there.

On Sunday 2 November the morning service will be led by the PWA, with special guest, Mrs Rosemary Cowan, Overseas Vice-President and member of Executive Committee. This is a new venture for many of us and we would very much appreciate the congregation's support.

In November our guests will be Dr James & Mrs Willi Barton from Northern Ireland who are based in India (Goa) where they have special responsibility for children's ministry, under the Presbyterian Church. (See 'Points for Prayer', Day 24). James was Headmaster of Down High School at one stage. They are well known and popular speakers.

December - Members' night in December is always very entertaining – a date for your diary. The evening is in four short parts: (a) Life in the Manse with people who have experienced this; (b) Drama – Molly Redpath, Florence Blair and others doing a sketch – a bit of 'craic' is guaranteed if Molly and Florence are involved; (c) Christmas Presents – anyone who comes (and we have an open door) should bring a wrapped gift (up to £4 max.) and perhaps purchase a mystery parcel. This boosts our funds for the wider work of the church at home and abroad; (d) supper – December fare is a little more special. Can we tempt you?

In January our special guest will be Niall Lockhart, Assistant Minister in Hamilton Road, Bangor. He has spent a short time in the Cameroon with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Come and find out how languages in other parts of the world are formed and learn about the culture in the Cameroon. 'Norn' Ireland people are intelligent and are always eager to increase their knowledge – so here is a chance to do so again.

February, we hope, will bring a very large crowd and we have booked the Main Hall for this occasion. Our guest speaker will be Deirdre Humphreys from Broughshane, the mother of five, one of whom is the well known David of rugby fame. Deirdre was a PE teacher and travels widely giving demonstrations followed by a talk on the importance of keeping fit physically and spiritually. So ladies/girls – be prepared to be 'on the move' that night; no armchair aerobics allowed. 'If you are not too mobile, cheer on the 'movers and shakers'. We promise you a wonderful evening. Don't miss it and spread the word!

March - our final meeting - will also be popular, especially with gardeners. Rev. David Alderdice (retired minister of Wellington Street Presbyterian Church in Ballymena, now living in Glenariffe) is a well known and popular speaker. His theme will be 'Garden in the Glens'. Until recently his handiwork was open to the public. This meeting will be open to everyone (male and female). Gardeners, would-be gardeners and armchair gardeners are most welcome. We have a mini-sale that evening (no gift above £2) and it must be coloured green.

We on committee have done our best to make our programme attractive. Please – may we count on your support? Even though you can come only to the occasional meeting you will be warmly welcome.

Each meeting is designed to have a spiritual theme running through it and, even though we have left behind unfinished tasks: a less than clean cooker, a stack of used dishes, a pile of ironing, phone calls to return if you can recall who is expecting them, a grumpy husband – 'what – are you leaving me on my own again?' - homeworks to be checked, etc. take time out for YOU – leave your cares behind – just get out and go home spiritually and physically refreshed. Who knows, when you return home all those jobs just might have been completed!

Helen Kinhead

CHRISTIAN AID

All volunteers and friends of Christian Aid are invited to the Boyd Room on Thursday morning 25 September. Coffee will be served at 10.30 a.m. and we will have as our speaker Mrs Deborah Doherty, the Northern Ireland Co-ordinator for Christian Aid Ireland. Deborah is at present in India visiting Christian Aid sponsored projects, she is only expected back in her office on 24 September so we will be very privileged to have her speak to us so soon after her return. Her pictures and stories will be 'hot off the press'.

The purpose of our meeting will be to organise the start of the Bread and Cheese Lunches on Tuesday 7 October and to encourage each other in our fundraising efforts. We are grateful to all our customers and helpers who raised £5,150 last season. Readers may also be interested to know that the total collected in the Lisburn area from Door-to-door and Flag Day during Christian Aid Week in May was £25,146. If you are free on the 25th then do come along and hear Deborah tell how that money will be used.

Hazel McCall

CHEER-YOU-UP CLUB (CYU)

A warm invitation is extended to all senior citizens to join us in the Boyd Room at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday 17 September when we begin our new session.

We meet twice a month, ie. the first and third Wednesdays. A varied and interesting programme has been arranged and we would love to see more new members coming along. If transport is a problem, we can arrange to pick you up – just contact me, Helen Lynn on 9266 3285, Evelyn Whyte on 9061 3410 or Margaret Bailie on 9267 2052.

Helen Lynn

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - SHOEBOX APPEAL

Leaflets about this are now available – it is time to really get started – OUR TARGET THIS YEAR IS 300 BOXES – we hope you will again respond in a very positive manner.

PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE SIZE AND TYPE OF SHOEBOX AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT IS AND WHAT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

It is very tempting to fill larger boxes – however, please note that these have to be dismantled and re-done into smaller sizes – last year there were about 40 in this category! It takes quite some time to check every box; all unsuitable items have to be removed and replaced with something else. We are extremely grateful to all those people who have been knitting hats, scarves and gloves and donating various items and money during the past few months – this will give us a great start. It costs £2 per box for transportation, which means that when we reach our target of 300 boxes, we will need £600. To date, each year we have taken part in this scheme, we have been able to cover the transport cost and send extra money because of the generosity of our members and friends. If anyone would like to volunteer to help cover and pack boxes, please contact Evelyn or myself – we hope to arrange a number of “work-in” days to do this between now and the end of October!! Donations of Christmas wrapping paper and sellotape would also be very welcome. Many thanks in anticipation of your support again this year.

Helen Lynn

WIDER WORLD

Wider World is a most interesting little magazine which is issued quarterly and costs a mere £2 per year. We have a surplus of these books and you will notice that some back numbers have been placed around the church. If you do not already subscribe to this magazine, please take one of these home with you to read with the intention of placing an order. We do not wish to cancel any of this surplus next year.

Helen Lynn

DOWNTOWN CENTRE

At the commencement of a new session I would encourage you to prayerfully consider helping with the ongoing work of the Downtown Centre. The work is expanding and, to maintain its efficiency, more help is required. Over the last year I have seen people really being encouraged, ministered to, and lives being changed for the better. With this in mind, I ask for your help. Please pray for the areas noted in prayer points and, if you would like to receive more information about the Centre, please do contact me. I have outlined briefly the programme and the areas where people can offer volunteer service. Thank you for all your support and encouragement throughout last session and a special note of thanks to all volunteers who make the work the success that it is.

VOLUNTEERS: Opportunities in the following areas are currently available:

- Administration (general office duties)
- Catering (preparation, serving, washing up)
- Driving (collection & leaving people home from group work)
- Childcare (Suitable qualifications are preferable)
- Arts & Crafts (***Perhaps someone would be willing to take a 4-6 week project in art or craft work***)
- Sign Language (working with Deaf Senior Citizens)
- Befriending & Counselling (may be in group situation or one-to-one)

Volunteering hours vary according to what each person is able to commit to.

The Centre already supports, and would actively encourage, people with special needs to be involved in volunteering work – this area of work is at present operating on a Wednesday throughout the day.

Pray for...

- everyone who comes into the centre who may find life very difficult
- wisdom and guidance in organising the various activities
- the staff member, volunteers and Management Committee
- prayerful, practical and tangible support
- the provision of disability access via the Downtown stairs

PROGRAMME – SEPTEMBER 2003

Parent & Toddler Group – Monday	10.00 am
Contact Group – 2 nd & 4 th Tuesday	10.00 am
Caring Friends – 1 st & 3 rd Tuesday	10.00 am
Get Together Club – Wednesdays	2.00 pm
Deaf Senior Citizens – 2 nd Wednesday in month	10.30 am
Cheer You Up Club – 1 st & 3 rd Wednesdays	2.00 pm
Parenting Courses – 6-week course running throughout the year	
Support Group running 4 times per year	
Parenting Facilitator Course (OCN accredited to Level 3) Thurs	9.30 am
Friday Club – Fridays	10.30 am
Townswomen's Guild – 9 Oct, 13 Nov, 11 Dec	– 10.00 am

In addition to the above, the Centre also provides:

- "One to One" - support, advice, befriending & counselling
- Help with completing various forms & documentation

For further information please contact the Co-Ordinator, Margaret Bailie, The Lisburn Downtown Centre, c/o First Lisburn Presbyterian Church, Market Square, Lisburn, BT28 1AG
TEL or FAX: 92 672052 Email: downtowncentre@msn.com

LIGHT PROGRAMME

The **LIGHT PROGRAMME** was the brainchild of Miss Patricia McBride, our former Assistant Minister, and set out to be a means of bringing together members of the congregation in social activities and to give them an opportunity to get to know one another. The success of this can be judged by the numbers of people who, through participating in the various events, have forged friendships.

This has been of particular help to those who live alone or have difficulty in finding someone to share their interests with. Since its formation seven years ago, over 250 members of the congregation have enjoyed the friendship of the Programme.

An open invitation is extended to everyone in the congregation to come along to our very informal meetings, and a cup of tea or coffee, which are usually held on the 14th of each month, and bring forward ideas for future outings.

Having just completed another year of social activities, we are about to embark on our next programme of events. These will take place over the next few months and include visits to the cinema, concert programmes and other activities.

Our Christmas Dinner will be held on Friday 12 December and is always most enjoyable. Lists for the various outings will appear on our notice board in the vestibule.

Noel Stevenson

FIRST LISBURN SCOUT GROUP

It will be another exciting year for the Scout Group at First Lisburn and we have a Squirrels Section, Beaver Section and Cub Pack, catering for boys and girls aged from 4 - 10½ years.

All groups meet on Tuesday evenings:

Squirrels	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	(In the Basement)
Beavers	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	(In the Main Hall)
Cubs	7.30 – 9.00 p.m.	(In the Main Hall)

Anyone who would be interested in becoming a leader in any of the Sections, should contact David McCready (Tel: 92 693757)

Unfortunately, after two years of searching we have been unable to fill the role of Scout Leader which has now been vacated and, although we have had the largest Scout Troop for some years, we are unable to continue with the Troop. If anyone is interested in taking over this role they will be given full support and ongoing training.

David McCready

CONGRATULATIONS!

MRS ANNABELLE POOTS, MBE

Warmest congratulations to Annabelle Poots who was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours this summer. Annabelle's selfless work for the community, and especially for those in it with learning disabilities, has been publicly recognised with this award. We who know this unique woman admire her achievements.

Annabelle was a founder member of the Lisburn Special Care School Parents' Association almost 50 years ago and since then she has worked tirelessly with the young people and their parents making sure that those with learning difficulties should play as full a part as possible in community life. To this end Annabelle has sat on advisory boards and committees at local and national level. She also takes the young folk on residential weekends and to competitions on this island and as far away as London. She has dedicated her life to the service of these vulnerable members of our community, both children and adults, and to her youngest daughter Sylvia, known and loved by us all. Her helpmate and husband, Sammy, is a constant supporter of Annabelle in all she undertakes. She also finds time to carry out her role as the matriarch of a large family of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The eldest of a family of 16, she served in the Royal Air Force during the War.

Annabelle puts her flower arranging skills at our disposal in First Lisburn with her warm smile and 'nothing is too much trouble' attitude - she has a great love for her church and we are proud and privileged to have her as a member of First Lisburn.

Joyce Moran

MARK ROBINSON

Vice-Captain – Irish Under-18 Hockey Team

The past summer was one of enjoyment for me, both on and off the playing field, after hearing of my selection for the Irish Under-18 Hockey Team around Easter. Not only of my selection, but also the news that I had been given vice-captaincy of the Squad, a tremendous honour that brought responsibility and respect.

After months of hard training and disciplined dedication, the 17-strong Squad set off to compete in the European Nations' Cup 'A' Division in Barcelona, Spain, at the beginning of July. Being one of only two Christians in the Squad, and with the position I'd been given, I felt I had a real opportunity to share and live out my faith. Soon after settling into our 'Plaza Hotel' near the Olympic Stadium and other fabulous sights in Barcelona, we were all raring to go.

The first match saw us defeat France 2-1 and I scored the winning goal late on in what was a scrappy encounter. Further victories against Russia (4-3), Belgium (4-3) and, the most satisfying, Spain (6-1) meant that we went into the European Cup Final against possibly the best hockey nation in the world, Holland, on the final day of the week. Unfortunately, they proved their class and ability by thrashing us 8-2 after some great hockey.

Nevertheless, we took European Silver (no mean feat) on a very emotional final day.

A thoroughly enjoyable experience, and one I'm sure I've learned from.

Mark Robinson

SUMMER OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

MICSKE SUMMER 2003

This summer I travelled as part of a team from Loughaghery Presbyterian Church, for two weeks, to a little village called Micske in the Transylvanian area of North West Romania, with a population of approximately 1,000 people. It is about one hour's drive from the nearest town, and we were there to work alongside the Hungarian Reformed Church in the village. The purpose of our trip was two-fold: first, to run English Lessons for the children and to do craft work with them during the day, and then in the evenings to run a Bible Club.

During the first week 42 children aged from 6 to 13 joined us each day and evening.

The programme for our second week, for older teenagers and young adults, had to be altered, as most of the older teenagers had summer jobs in a shoe-factory during the day (the only employment in the village); so English lessons were held from 5 p.m. to 6.30 p.m, and a Bible Club from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. with around 20 people each evening. The change of plan enabled the younger children to join us again in the second week, and allowed us to be involved in some practical work in the "Samuel Boarding Home" – a project to build a boarding home where 30 children, not normally able to attend school, could board during the week, attend school and return home at weekends; the home is due to open late September, but there is probably still much to do to finish it.

Our team of 12 from Northern Ireland ranged widely in age (18 to 67) and employment. We were joined by five Romanian girls who were to be a vital part of the team, our translators. We had a great sense of unity and fun, adapting quickly to our bunk beds and basic catering facilities, though we could have done with a cookery book for 101 ways to cook chicken and mince! Our Romanian team members' enthusiasm for their work with the children was great, as was their willingness to be part of the team – cooking and washing up included!!! They made our time of team devotions very special, as we worshipped together and prayed each in our own language but all as part of God's family.

On a personal note, I found it a real privilege to be in Micske this summer and, because of the size of the village and our location in the heart of it, to have opportunities to build relationships with the children and older people - whether in talking to and sharing with them, in a stumbling greeting in Hungarian, or even just a wave or smile, they were very open in their welcome. Also, to witness their difficult lifestyle, their strong faith, their desire to witness to and share that faith, and, finally, to see how God answered prayer so many times for us during our time in Micske. This was a very special time.

Marion Craig

THAILAND – 26 JULY – 30 AUGUST

I was in Thailand with OMF from 27 July to 30 August 2003. We spent the largest part of our time (nearly 4 weeks) in Manorom, a small town in rural, central Thailand, about three hours north of Bangkok. In the mornings we taught English in the local High school and in the evenings we held an English club open to both adults and children in the area.

God really blessed us with the relationships that we formed within the team and with the people we met. We bonded especially well with the English teachers of Ulit School; please pray that God will continue to give them hearts that question the Buddhist way of life and are open to the gospel.

We all formed good friendships with the students in our classes in school and at the English camp in particular. Two boys, Jam and Big, have begun attending Church and some of the members of the Church are looking for ways to keep encouraging them. Please pray for God's guidance, and that the boys will continue to learn more of God's love.

God also blessed us with the people who were looking after us in Manorom. With God's blessing, they are carrying out an awesome work.

Our last week was spent running the kids' programme at the OMF central Thailand missionary conference. This was an action-packed four days!! Seven-and-a-half hours of programme each day with three groups of about eight children. It was a rewarding experience.

It was very hard to say goodbye to all the friends that we had made but we rest safe in the knowledge that God is very much in control!

Karen Orr

MALAWI – 28 JUNE -14 JULY

On 28 June, Maureen Ross Jones and I headed off to Zomba, Malawi in South Africa with the aim of teaching an inductive bible study method and sharing the basic truths of Christianity with young women from local Presbyteries in the area.

The programme over the fortnight consisted of weekly teaching blocks. The first week we had 17 young women aged between 17-25 years of age, many of whom were poor, orphaned, and had no hope of completing their education or improving their circumstances. As the week progressed they opened up to the possibility that God could have a specific interest and plan for their individual lives.

The second week we welcomed only four girls! However, we believed this was of God, as during the first week Maureen and I had felt an increasing desire to reach out into the surrounding villages. God sent us a ministry team – an interpreter, worship leader and two girls with a desire to pray and encourage each other in the Faith.

We held evangelistic meetings in the villages, and saw many give their lives to Christ. We pray that they will attend prayer houses and churches and grow in the Faith.

We were able to express the love of God in practical ways too – providing eggs and chickens for the poor and widowed, and nutrition to enable an under-developed five-year-old to walk for the first time.

The girls from the ministry team have approached their church and asked permission to start an Evangelistic team. Please pray that God will bless their efforts to extend His Kingdom.

Christians in Malawi are surrounded by poverty, death due to AIDS related illnesses, corruption, superstition and occult influences. Please pray that God will continue to help and strengthen the church in Malawi.

Denise Kane

Marion, Karen and Denise would like to thank the members of the congregation and their friends for their prayers, support and encouragement while preparing for, and undertaking, their outreach programmes. They would also like to express their appreciation of the generous financial support received and to thank those who participated in their fundraising events, especially in the aerobics!

TANZANIA WITH TEAR FUND

This summer I had the privilege of being part of a Tear Fund Transform team working on a building project in Tanzania.

Our local partner was the Anglican Church in Tanzania. The Church is actively involved in both church planting (a dozen or so churches had been planted in rural mountain villages in our dioceses within the last two years) and social development (a new secondary school is being built in the area where we were staying, and a large scale project to pipe water to three nearby villages is due to start before the end of this year).

Our project entailed working with local builders to construct a bible school to train the local church leaders urgently required by the expanding church. Most of our time was spent working on the centre, which we managed to get from foundation level to roof height before leaving.

Aside from building, we were able to spend time with the local children and enjoy some sightseeing.

Spending a month in a country where 'essentials' like running water and electricity are seen as a luxury by most of the population was a very humbling experience, and brought home the challenges of world development. It was also immensely rewarding to be able to see and be part of God's worldwide church in a land and culture so far removed from our own.

Finally I would like to thank everyone in First Lisburn who supported me, whether financially, prayerfully, or through encouraging words: my summer would not have been possible without you.

Paul Wilson

BENONE CSSM- JULY FORTNIGHT

Firstly, I would like to thank the church for praying for me this summer and helping me to see that God wanted me to do Benone CSSM again this year.

Following a training weekend in June at Ski Supreme in Coleraine, focusing on the theme for this year's CSSM - "FBIJ" – Federal Bureau Investigating Jesus, the team then ran from 5 to 19 July. We stayed at Magilligan Presbyterian Church on air beds and concrete floor!

Each day started with a quiet time and devotions, followed by a session of Bible Study with the kids in our section; then a further session of Bible Study and songs with all sections in the marquee, with afternoons spent on the beach in the great weather God had so wonderfully provided. "Evening Extras in The Cabin" were in two parts: the first half for games etc. with the second half focusing on relevant questions and topics which young people face today: *Who am I? Who is God? Why am I here? What's wrong with the world? Is there hope?* These questions were addressed from three different perspectives: (a) the scientist, (b) the "cool" worldly people, and (c) the Christian.

There were three age groups. I was in the older section, leading a group of about four young people aged 12 - 17 through Bible Study. I formed a good relationship with my group and this was an aspect of the team which I very much enjoyed.

The evening sessions were the most special for me. It was clear that God was moving in that place and working in the hearts of the young people. We thanked God for what he had done and prayed for the days ahead. Evening praise times were really great and I thoroughly enjoyed singing (well...trying) a mixture of new and modernised old songs.

The team was very united in everything and it was God who made us all get on so well. If anyone was thinking of giving up a few weeks of their summer to do a team I would very much recommend doing Benone CSSM because it really is an amazing experience.

Andrew McDougall

HOLYWOOD P.C.

During the summer I spent a week in mid-August in Holywood, County Down, taking part in an Outreach Team at Bangor Road Presbyterian Church, named S.N.A.T.C.H. I stayed with a local family and helped lead afternoon and evening programmes at Holywood Rugby Club and the Church, respectively, for kids aged 11-18. A team of around 30, though some on and off, got alongside the kids who were from all sections of the community and, yet, who all bonded so well.

Football skills, t-shirt making, glass making, and other activities took place in the afternoon, while at the Church there was football, basketball, volleyball, pool, table tennis, computer games, tuck shop, music, etc. (90-100 kids was the norm!), along with a talk about Jesus for everyone. A set-up similar to our own 'Pulse' Youth Club.

The exhausting week saw me make many new friends, both local children and other leaders, and thanks go to the Bible Fellowship for their financial support.

Although this was a tough week in terms of looking after some really difficult kids, it was another fantastic time spent this summer, and one I will always remember.

Mark Robinson

"AURURA"- (YOUTH FOR CHRIST GAP YEAR PROGRAMME)

In September I will be moving to Stoke-on-Trent to begin a voluntary year working with Youth for Christ. I will be part of a team of staff and other volunteers, but working most closely with the full-time children's worker. My time will be focused on children's and youth evangelism and discipleship in schools and local churches. I'm excited about what lies ahead and appreciate your prayers and support.

Paula Nicol

SEND A COW LIVESTOCK FOR LIFE

A few months ago we decided through the *Send a Cow* Project, to try to raise enough money to buy two cows, each going to a family in need in Uganda. Having these cows would give each family an improved diet, a small income and would promote their self-reliance. These cows cost £750 each and the good news is that to date we have, through your generosity, raised £812.15, which means we can afford to buy the first cow, and be on our way towards the second one. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed so generously to this project and helped us reach our first target so quickly.

Evelyn and Marion

VISITORS FROM SHANGHAI

Stephen Graham is bringing his new wife, Fang Fang, to Northern Ireland on a short visit, arriving on Friday 3 October and departing on Tuesday 14 October. We look forward to welcoming her to church.

On a practical note...

Need a Window Cleaner?

Steve is willing to clean windows – Contact Maureen Staniland

Damsels in Distress!

Would anyone be willing to carry out small maintenance tasks for a suitable remuneration? There are those among us who need a little assistance. If you know of anyone, please pass their details to our Church Secretary.

...and on a different note

The Substitute Organist

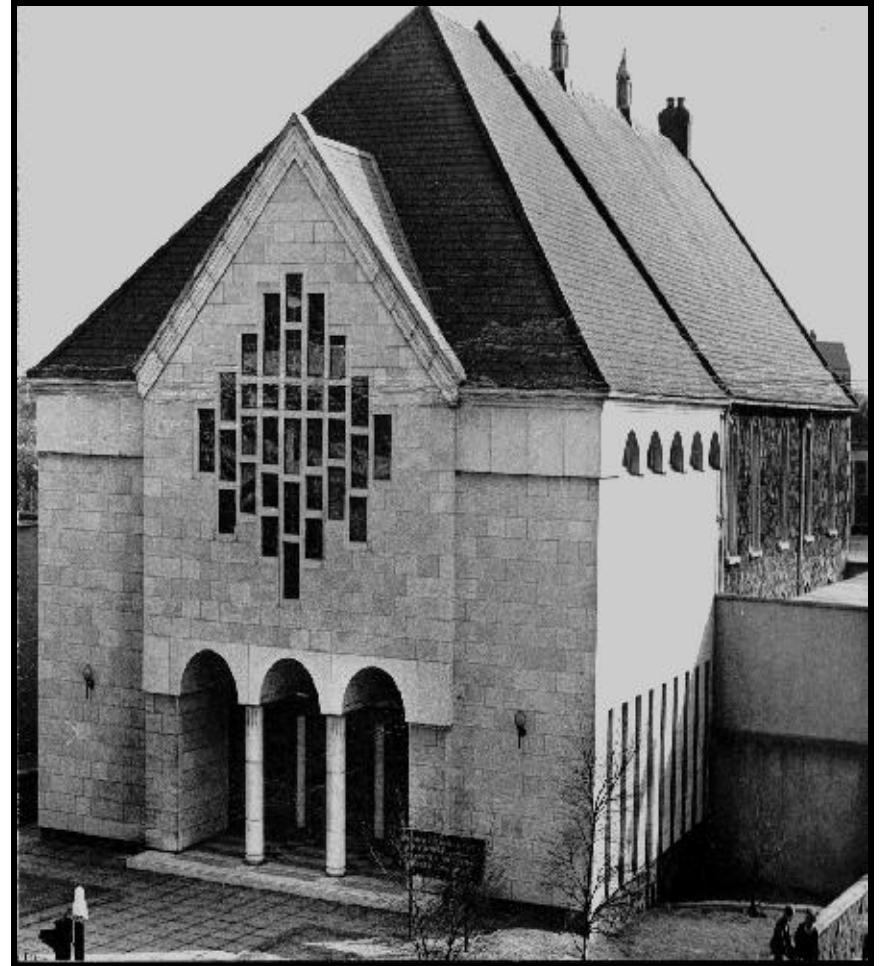
The Minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to, after the worship service, ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute.

The substitute wanted to know what to play. "Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently, "But you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances."

During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected, and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up,"

At that moment, the substitute organist played "The Star-Spangled Banner."

And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!



**First Lisburn Presbyterian
Church**

WAVELENGTH

Winter 2004