

Dear Friends

Summer in First Lisburn is a quiet time. Perhaps too quiet for our own good. The quietness, though pleasant, does bother me just a bit. Whilst many of our folk are involved in outreach programmes, overseas trips and congregational outreach, it is all 'somewhere else'. One of Matt's first comments was how quiet the place seems for the last week in the summer. Interesting. I thought. Perhaps then, things will be different next summer? If so, it will be because many of our own folk are committed to a programme here, on our own doorstep.

Coleraine Assembly Conference

Not that the Church has been entirely asleep since June - Evelyn, Margaret and Tom were involved in the Special Assembly Conference at Coleraine from 9-12 August. The three themes of the Assembly Conference were: meaningful worship, authentic fellowship and effective outreach. Bang on the nail. It seems every church in Ireland reckons that these three issues are what we all need to brush up on. I tend to agree.

Some congregations have been grappling with the three themes for some time, though the Conference seemed to be aimed at those who have hardly begun that process. Perhaps we are somewhere in the middle? In any case, it would be arrogant and foolish to suggest we have nothing new to learn. Session is beginning to get to grips with the feedback, and doubtless we shall see what others think in due course.

I have lost count of the number of positive comments I received from Assembly participants on how good the praise and fellowship was. It seems the worship struck a chord with most folk – by all accounts it was professional (in the best sense of the word) and vibrant.

Kirk Session

The eldership can be a daunting prospect, and our new elders deserve our encouragement and support. In particular, if any turn out to be your new district elder, welcome them into your homes and open your hearts to them so that they will be enabled to be as effective as possible. The dynamics of the Session will change considerably as we all get to know each other better, and as we settle in to a new phase.

Staff

Our staff team is also experiencing change as we say hello to Matt. Already he is asking questions and making noises. All very positive. I am sure he will make a vital contribution to our youth work, and also to the staff team. We warmly welcome Matt and Jill to First Lisburn.

SALT or Light?

Just as you were beginning to get to grips with **SALT**, the title of our Sunday teaching material has changed to **Light Years!** It is nothing much more than a change in title and we will still follow the theme of one story from the Bible each Sunday in worship and Sunday School. Nonetheless it reminds us that September sees the beginning of the new church session and gently reminds us that First Lisburn - though comprising all sorts of people from many backgrounds and ages - is one church family. No bad thing. The whole church family worships around the same theme, which also prevents me from harping on about my chosen favourite subject in any given week. We the 'adults' are mirroring what is taught in Sunday School which is divided into: *Bubbles 5 and under*, *Splash 5-8s*, *Airstream 8-11s* and *The Grid 11-14s*. These are new titles but carry the same idea – all of First Lisburn worshipping together and being light in the world. (*Light Years is produced by Scripture Union*)

John Brackenridge

A Profile of Matt, our new Director of Youth Ministries...

Matt Craig, the fourth of five children, grew up in central Pennsylvania, USA before moving to Philadelphia in 1998. Prior to starting a degree in Primary Education, Matt worked as a nursery school teacher/administrator. While at university he also worked as a firefighter and paramedic, as well as managing to be the youth worker at Media Presbyterian Church. In addition to working with the youth at Media, Matt was responsible for looking after the PCI Volunteer, Jill Owens. Look after her he did: Matt and Jill were married in June 2003 and now reside in Jill's home town of Broughshane.

From your Editor...

I hope you are all feeling refreshed after the summer break, despite our rather disappointing weather. We are hoping for a pleasant October to get our garden 'to bed' for the winter.

As is always the case at this time of year, our magazine is packed with interesting information on the forthcoming programmes of the various organizations, and reports from those who have represented the congregation at conferences or been on outreach projects during the summer. Plenty for us to digest.

Following Matt's inspiring Commissioning Service last Sunday, we look forward to his ministry among the young folk in our congregation, and I look forward to keeping you up-to-date in future editions of *Wave/length* on any new youth initiatives under Matt's direction.

We congratulate those who have been successful in examinations during the summer. To those of you who have just left school, we wish you well as you embark on higher or further education courses, or pursue your chosen careers.

Perhaps you have moved to a new school, or just started school or nursery for the first time. We hope that you are enjoying your new environment.

Excitement in Shanghai...

Congratulations to Stephen and Fang Fang Graham on the birth of their baby son, Patrick Calvin, born in Shanghai on 4 June. I understand proud parents and baby are all very well, and the congratulations and best wishes of the congregation have been relayed to 'Mum and Dad' through the wonderful technology of email.

Can you use a stapler and a rubber thumb?

I am hoping to form a small team of volunteers to help with the collating of *Wave/length* each quarter. You would only be involved for one day or so during the week *Wave/length* is issued (four times a year). If you are available during the day and would be willing to help, Vera and Teddy and I would be most grateful for a little assistance - interspersed with coffee breaks, of course!

Mary McNeight

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Miss Evelyn Whyte will be on holiday from 19 – 26 October

Sat 2 October 10.00 am Downtown Variety Sale

Sun 3 October 11.00 am Holy Communion

6.30 pm
Worship First - Informal Communion
and Report on Summer Outreach (2)

Sun 10 October 11.00 am Harvest Festival Service

Sun 7 November 11.00 am PWA Service – Guest Speaker Zöe Vallely

Sun 14 November 11.00 am Royal British Legion: The City's Festival

of Remembrance Service in First Lisburn

Sun 21 November 11.00 am Enrolment Sunday for Uniformed

Organisations

Sun 28 November 11.00 am Holy Communion

7.00 pm Presbytery Launch of the new

PCI Hymnbook

FROM YOUR TREASURER

The Moderator's Sudan Appeal The response to this appeal has been excellent. Members of the congregation have donated £2,514 including £483 Gift Aid tax returns.

As already noted in our last Annual report, only a minority of our members give to the church by means of a *Standing Order*. From a financial point of view, this ensures a steady flow of cash during the course of the year. Please consider paying by this method - ask me for a mandate form. And don't worry about putting nothing in the plate on Sunday morning - just smile at the collector and wave him/her on! The preferred alternative is, of course, to pay *annually* - preferably in the early part of the year.

Youth Ministry fund This fund is progressing well. Some have not yet started contributing - Ted Parks will be having a word with you!

Post of Treasurer You will know that I withdrew my resignation as Treasurer, due to a lack of volunteers to take over. However, I would still like to call it a day - so please talk to me if you might be interested. It really is an interesting 'hobby' - it is fully computerised and you get to know many in the congregation. Requirements of the job are a practical knowledge of book-keeping and payroll administration, and an ability to use a computer, including Sage software, Excel and Word.

Jimmy Lynn

“GET A LIFE” SPECIAL ASSEMBLY, COLERAINE 9–12 AUGUST 2004

Evelyn, Margaret and Tom want to say “thank you” for the privilege of representing the congregation at the “Get a Life” God...real and relevant, Special Assembly, as they give us an insight into the proceedings...

The purpose of the special assembly was:

- To focus afresh on God’s greatness and grace, so that we may renew and deepen our relationship with him and each other.
- To seek to understand better the challenges of the cultures and the contexts in which we find ourselves.
- To explore how we can engage in, and equip ourselves for, meaningful worship, authentic fellowship and effective witness in today’s world.

Approximately 900 delegates came together from different aspects of life. Sunday school teachers, youth workers, ministers, elders etc. made for an interesting mix with an average age younger than at the General Assembly. Worship was led throughout by a group from Knock Presbyterian Church.

We had two main speakers:

Professor Don Carson, Research Professor of New Testament at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School Illinois, USA, during the three mid-morning sessions, presented from a biblical perspective the challenges facing the church in Ireland today.

The Rev. Martin Allen, Minister of Chryston Parish Church, Glasgow, during evening celebrations, earthed and brought challenge on the theme for the day.

Meaningful Worship (Day 1)

This was viewed from many different angles. After opening worship we had a session on “Facing the Challenge” with the Rev. Dr William Crawley, presenter of *Sunday Sequence*. We watched video clips of people interviewed on the street - their views on the church were an eye-opener. Dr Crawley then interviewed Malachi O’Doherty, Religious Correspondent, on his beliefs and how he saw our church, and this was followed by an interview with Dr Trevor Morrow. The challenge was that we as a church need to constantly seek to be real and relevant to the community in which we live.

Professor Don Carson, in his first talk on “Worship at the Well” (John 4 1-42) shared how God has called us to be true worshippers of Him.

The evening address was “The necessary vision” from Revelation 4 & 5. Worship is not limited to Sunday. The challenge is to grow to know God more.

Authentic Fellowship (Day 2)

After worship, a “no punches pulled” session aimed at putting the theme of the day into an Irish cultural context.

Elisha Rooney from the Dept. of Community Affairs, UUI, gave delegates a wake-up call, telling them just how out of place she felt in our gathering! She discussed with the Moderator, the Rev. Dr Ken Newell, our need as a church to make ourselves open and available to EVERYONE outside our doors.

Professor Don Carson spoke on the need to develop authentic fellowship with one another – not just Christianised friendship. We must first develop authentic fellowship with God and His Son before building other relationships. During afternoon seminars, small groups viewed a video presentation based on the theme of the day, followed by questions and discussion on matters relevant to our own congregations. We really could see the enormous potential of using this material in church.

The Rev. Martin Allen gave a talk on “The Identifiable Bond” based on 1 Thessalonians 1. He spoke about us as Christians committed to Christian truth, conforming to Christian lifestyle and practising Christian love.

Effective Witness (Day 3)

Continuing the theme “Facing the Challenge”, Dr Crawley interviewed Dr Garth Higgins from Trinity College Dublin and the Rev. Lesley Carroll, Minister of Fortwilliam Church.

Dr Higgins was asked questions about our culture and, to get us thinking, we were asked what kind of coffee we drank to help determine which category of church we fitted into. He was stumped by someone who only drank tea!

Professor Don Carson spoke on effective witness from Acts 17, when Paul went to Athens and found a city full of idols. He pointed out that in today’s society we find all kinds of gods. As Paul preached the good news about Jesus and the resurrection, so we need to do the same today.

Rev. Martin Allen spoke in the evening from 1 Thessalonians 1 on how the gospel came, not simply with words, but also with the power of the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction to the Thessalonians and how they turned to God.

OUR RESPONSE: One of the aims of this Special Assembly is to bring back material, and for us as a congregation to see how we can be more relevant in the society in which we live. **WATCH THIS SPACE!**

Evelyn Whyte, Tom Kinkead and Margaret Thompson

FOCUSFEST 2004

This year's FocusFest was held on 18 and 19 June in the King's Hall Belfast. The theme was "Imagine the Church as God Intended".

For the first time the conference had two main speakers on Friday Night: Nancy Beach from Willow Creek in Illinois, who spoke to the more mature ladies, and Charlotte Scanlon-Gambill from Abundant Life Church in Bradford, who spoke to the younger age group.

Nancy again was the key speaker on Saturday, and her talks were interspersed on Saturday afternoon with a choice of 12 seminars, led by a variety of speakers, all tackling challenging and relevant issues for life today.

The conference was attended by around 3,000 ladies and was led in very special times of worship by Geraldine Latty. Twenty-three of us went along to FocusFest on the Friday night, and ten went back again for the Saturday. This was a really challenging conference; it was good to be there and to enjoy each other's company and craic.

Marion Craig

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

What is your first thought when you read the 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.*" Whatever your thoughts, 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 continuing the study of Mark's Gospel.

The Bible Study Group meets on Tuesdays at 8.00 pm in the Downtown Centre (except first Tuesday in the month), and Wednesdays at 10.00 am (for coffee) in the Boyd Room.

Our first meeting is on Tuesday 12 October at 8.00 pm.

Evelyn Whyte



SUNDAY SCHOOL FUND RAISING DAY LISBURN RUGBY CLUB - SATURDAY 12 JUNE

The Sunday School Fun Day, held on Saturday 12 June, was another great success. Although the morning started off dull, it didn't deter the keen car booters; we had 60 cars all selling their bargains. Our thanks to those members of the congregation who came along selling and buying, and to the Girls' Brigade who sold burgers and hot dogs all morning.

The weather, getting better by the hour, was perfect for our fun afternoon. We had approximately 140 children who all enjoyed the competitions, games and side shows, while their parents enjoyed the coffee and chat; there really was something for everyone.

The barbecue cooked by our expert chefs David, Noel and John, and the homemade salads provided by parents and teachers, were second to none. So, while the sun shone and the chat just got better and better, 175 people all ate their fill!

The evening ended with a short epilogue led by the Rev. Brackenridge, the theme being "Give credit where credit is due". The Sunday school sang and 300 balloons were released.

Credit is due to a lot of people, too many to mention, who helped put this day together. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way, with special thanks to those who supplied food and all who came along to eat it.

It was wonderful to have such great support and good fellowship with our church family and friends.

The Sunday School Fun Day raised £ (Mary I will hopefully)?SHEILA



BALLOON RACE PRIZE WINNERS



| | |
|---|--|
| FIRST PRIZE Furthest travelled balloon (to Downpatrick) Winner: Matthew Steele, Lisburn Matthew won a family outing for two adults and two children to Lisburn Leisure Pool and a meal at KFC | |
| 2ND PRIZE (Balloon to Downpatrick) Family outing for two adults and two children to Lisburn Omniplex and meal voucher for Harry Ramsden's Winner: Rhianon Kelly, (Ticket sold by Brittony Kelly) | 3RD PRIZE (Balloon to Magheralin) Dome tent and sleeping bag Winner: Ian Parker, Kinallen (Ticket sold by Benjamin Parker) |
| 4TH PRIZE (Balloon to Blaris Road) Sunday Lunch for two at Pizzarelllys Winner: Maria Rafferty, Dundonald (Ticket sold by Benjamin Parker) | 5TH PRIZE (from balloon tickets sold) Pocket Kite Winner: Joan Lunn (ticket sold by Kim Hammonds) |
| 6TH PRIZE (from balloon tickets sold) Lunch for two at the Orient Express, Lisburn Winner: B Harrison (Ticket sold by Emily Millen) | PRIZE FOR FINDER OF FURTHEST TRAVELLED BALLOON £25.00 Winner: Claire Turley, Downpatrick |
| PRIZE FOR PERSON WHO SOLD MOST BALLOONS £10.00 Winner: Benjamin Parker | PRIZE FOR PERSON WHO SOLD WINNING LABEL Kite Winner: Hayley Steele |

Congratulations to all prize winners and thank you to everyone who sold and bought tickets.

Sheila Hammonds – Fun Day Co-ordinator.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION



The Sunday School Car Boot Sale, part of the excellent Fun Day on Saturday 12 June at Lisburn Rugby Club, was a good opportunity for our members to move on some of their bric-a-brac. Two cars were "manned" and at the end of the morning we had made £220 towards our funds.

On Saturday 28 August we catered for 90 Royal Black Perceptory members from Randalstown and Glenwherry. We would like to thank all who contributed to this worthwhile event. The total raised was £698.

PWA Theme for the incoming year is "Going for Gold" – a good choice after the Olympics. We warmly welcome any *new members* to our meetings on the first Tuesday of each winter month at 8.00 pm in the Boyd Room.

First Meeting Tuesday 5 October 2004 takes the form of a "Members' Evening" informing and reminding ourselves of what PWA is about. It will include our plan for the year ahead and updates from members who attended the "PWA Workshop". The preview suggests feedback should be entertaining and novel while raising serious practical discussion points. This will be followed by supper.

The evening will be an opportunity to hear what we do.

What we get is **FELLOWSHIP**, big time.

For further details contact Anne Kain 92 663073

CROSS COMMUNITY

The Cross Community Group will recommence on Wednesday 13 October at 8.00 pm in the Boyd Room. The theme for the session will be "Bridges of Healing" and during the year we will be incorporating this concept in our thoughts and discussions.

A special experiential learning course will take place over the six weeks of Lent entitled 'Creating Community'. During the course the participants will be encouraged to create within the group the type of community that they would like to experience in Northern Ireland.

We are hoping that many First Lisburn members will come along to the monthly meetings of the Group, and we would especially like to welcome them to the above-mentioned course where their contribution to the denominational mix would be greatly appreciated.

Joyce Moran
Secretary

CHRISTIAN AID NEWS

Bread and Cheese Lunches will begin again on Tuesday 5 October and we look forward to welcoming back our customers.

We extend an open invitation to all to come and join us in the Main Hall of First Lisburn anytime between 11.30 am and 2.00 pm (tip: it's best to come early if you want your favourite choice of soup). We raised £4,500 for Christian Aid last session, slightly down on the previous year but still a worthwhile sum. A little goes a long way in poor countries - for example, that amount could mean fresh clean drinking water in nine more villages.

Christian Aid Week, over all, raised £25,228 in the Lisburn area and this will be used to fund self-help projects around the developing world. We were also given the opportunity to collect at Sprucefield on Saturday 24 July. We decided to donate that collection of £2,110 to the Sudan Emergency Appeal.

I will steal a phrase from one of the Rev. Brackenridge's children's talks - "Time, Talent, Treasure". Many people around First Lisburn give of their time, talents and treasure to help Christian Aid build a better life for the poor and I would just like to say a big thank you to all.

Hazel McCall

FROM HELEN LYNN...



CHEER-YOU-UP CLUB for Senior Citizens

We are re-opening on **Wednesday 22 September at 2.00 pm in the Boyd Room**. This will be an informal meeting and we look forward to seeing you all again.

Thereafter, meetings will be on the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

We would like to see more new people coming along to join us – we can provide transport if required.

Our meetings start with a short devotional time, followed by a speaker, quiz, visits, or whatever has been arranged for any particular day, and finish with a cup of tea and biscuits, etc. (most important!)

If you need any more information, please contact Evelyn Whyte: 9061 3410, Anne Kain: 9266 3073 or Helen Lynn: 9266 3285.

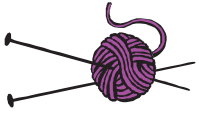
DOWNTOWN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

We would like to thank Marion Craig for the hard work she carried out as our Treasurer; we really do appreciate all the time and effort she put into it. We wish Marion well in the future as she takes up her duties as one of our new elders. We also thank David Flinn for his work as Secretary.

We are please to welcome onto our Committee, Mrs Carol Campbell as our new Treasurer, Mr Noel Stevenson as Secretary and Mrs Maureen Cox as Assistant Secretary.

Helen

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2004 SHOEBOX APPEAL



Our annual appeal for filled shoeboxes is now under way. We hope your response this year will be as generous as in previous years. Last year, Samaritan's Purse sent over one million boxes from the UK to children across Eastern and Central Europe – included in this were 334 from First Lisburn and we aim to increase this to 350 this year.

Leaflets are available giving details of

- the size of box and contents which can be sent
- the list of items which are not acceptable because of Customs regulations in the receiving countries

Remember to include £2.00 towards the cost of transportation of your box.

Over the last few months, we have accumulated quite a stock of hats and scarves, and also soft toys. If you leave space in your box we will add these in for you. If possible, please do include a pair of gloves. A very big thank you to all the ladies who have so generously given of their time to knit the hats, scarves and teddies, and to those who have helped to cover boxes.

Closing date for the receipt of boxes will be Sunday 24 October.

Helen

WIDER WORLD

There are still a few spare copies of *Wider World*. Perhaps some of the new church members would consider subscribing to this magazine! It only costs £2.00 per annum, which is really reasonable when you consider the quality of the magazine.

Jimmy Lynn, Church Treasurer, would appreciate payment as soon as possible from the few who still owe for this year.

Helen Lynn

Downtown Variety Sale

Saturday 2 October 2004

in the Main Hall
10.00 am - 12.30 pm

STALLS: *Cake, Crafts, Fruit & Vegetable
Books, Toiletries
Grocery & Household Goods
Sweets & Tuck, Small Bric-a-Brac
Toys & Baby Clothes
CDs, Playstation Games, Music & Cassettes*

Refreshments will be served

ITEMS CAN BE LEFT ON PLATFORM IN MAIN HALL

Admission Free (a box will be available should anyone wish to make a donation)

Friday 1 October:

Main hall has been booked to set up stalls for Saturday morning.

Help is required from 2.00 pm–4.00 pm and 6.00 pm–8.00 pm.

Can you spare the time for part of each session, or at one or both sessions?

Strong Men required to help set up tables

Volunteers to set up stalls, arranging and pricing items for sale

Saturday 2 October:

Volunteers required to serve on stalls, serve refreshments, other catering duties and to clear up afterwards, box unsold goods for charity shops and/or disposal, put tables away and cleaning up.

Margaret Bailie, Downtown Co-ordinator
Thank you

LIGHT PROGRAMME

Our winter programme is now well under way with the following programme of forthcoming events arranged for 2004/05:

Saturday 2 October Visit to Waterfront Hall to hear The Drifters in concert.

Monday 1 November *Blithe Spirit* by Noel Coward – Grand Opera House

Friday 26 November Aled Jones Gala Concert at Waterfront Hall – all our tickets are sold.

Friday 10 December Christmas Dinner – venue to be confirmed.

Saturday 8 January Viennese Gala Concert in the Waterfront Hall

March/April Ulsterbus Tour to Killarney – dates, prices to be confirmed.

All members of the congregation are most welcome to participate in all events organised by the Light Programme, and **all** are particularly invited to come to the monthly meetings and put forward ideas for outings. The Light Programme exists to give members of the congregation a sense of fellowship and belonging and *you* can make a contribution.

Watch the announcement sheet each Sunday for additional events.

Noel Stevenson

FIRST LISBURN SCOUT GROUP

We are delighted to announce the re-start of the Scout Group on the week commencing 20 September, thanks to our new leaders, Ronnie Cartmill and Jonny Clarke. We also welcome Judith Clarke, Jayne Magee, Alan McNeill, Anna Colhoun and Sharon Walker to our leader teams in the other sections.

Details of the group are as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|--------------|---------------|
| Squirrels (aged 4-5) | Tuesdays | 6.30-7.30 pm | Basement Hall |
| Beavers (aged 6-7) | Tuesdays | 6.30-7.30 pm | Main Hall |
| Cubs (aged 8-10) | Tuesdays | 7.30-9.00 pm | Basement Hall |
| Scouts (aged 10-14) | Mondays | 7.30-9.00 pm | Basement Hall |

We still need more help with the Scout and Squirrel sections and if you would like to help, please contact Rosie McNeill on Tel: 92 603957.

Alan and Rosie McNeill

OUTREACH MATTERS

OVERSEAS UGANDA - AUGUST 2004

First of all, may I thank everyone for their prayers and support to make my trip to Uganda possible. Primarily, I was one of a team of eight women, including Denise Kane, whose main outreach was to women. However, where there are women there are usually children, so we took along a team of young people aged between 17 and 32. They worked in two identified schools, and also with the children of refugees who had settled in Nakapinyi, not far from Besaniya, where Denise manages Cherub, a children's rehabilitation home. Although we visited Cherub on several occasions, our ministry was not under Africare, the Christian organization that sponsors Denise, but with IGNITE, formerly United Christian Mission, that has been developed by Denise's sister, Louise, and her friend, Diane, over the past two years.

For the women's team, the first week involved leading a women's crusade in the United Christian Centre, the church of Stephen and Joshua who visited First Lisburn earlier in the year. Our theme was 'He came to set the captives free'. We hoped that this ministry would reveal that, as Christians, although assured of salvation, we can be held back from being all that God has planned for us, because we allow things from our past to be used as an obstacle in our Christian growth. This crusade proved very successful.

Our second week was spent mainly with the refugees who had settled in Nakapinyi. One of my most rewarding experiences was the close one-to-one contact with the refugee women through what became known as 'Prayer and Pampers'. Here, while administering a hand massage, a message was delivered through an interpreter and we witnessed many giving their lives to Christ. It was Denise who had brought the refugees' plight to the attention of Africare. As a result, other Christian outreach teams have now become involved and are building a church, school, and indeed a new community. The two teams achieved much in a practical and spiritual way during their stay in Uganda. For me, my whole Ugandan experience has provided a period of spiritual growth and it has humbled me greatly. I thank God for this journey. (Jeremiah 29 v11-14).

Laura McMillan

Karen and Lynsey also join Louise and Denise...

During August, Lynsey and I travelled to Uganda to spend ten days working with a team from IGNITE, a ministry run by Denise Kane's sister, Louise. During that time, we worked with children in schools, a refugee camp and a home for street children. It was a fantastic experience. The kids were so glad to spend time with us, as we were with them, and we were able to have a lot of fun with them as well as sharing God's love and His Word. One of the most valuable things I learned during my time there was that sharing the message of Christ is not solely about teaching, but also about showing them God's love by the way that we act and by being interested in them as people, with all of their physical needs. (Matthew 25 v35-36)

After the team left to return home, we went to Besaniya to spend a week working with Denise. Lynsey spent time sorting out computer work at Cherub and teaching some of the boys new worship songs. I spent the week with Denise, seeing the type of work she does at Cherub and in the outreach clinics in which her team is involved. It is a wonderful place, where the kids have their physical, educational and spiritual needs met.

Karen Orr

Copies of Denise's Prayer Letter are available in the vestibule.

KOSOVA SUMMER 2004

On Friday 2 July 2004 I set off for Kosova as part of a Summer Team organised by European Christian Mission to spend two weeks in a town called Peja. Our team consisted of 28 members aged from 17-62, and the purpose of our trip was to run Kids' Clubs and Ladies' Groups, in both cases to have the opportunity to share our Christian Faith through word and action. As we travelled from the airport in Pristina to the town of Peja I felt a real sense of joy and expectation to be returning to the town I had visited in 2001 and seeing the familiar landmarks along the way.

As in 2001, our accommodation was a house owned by Operation Mobilisation; it is really well designed for team visits, with perhaps the exception of the showers (2 for 24 girls!!). It is set in an area of great beauty, high on a hill, surrounded by the mountains leading to Montenegro and Albania, which were regularly used by the people of Peja during the war when they had to leave their homes and country.

Our days were busy, with two Kids' Clubs each morning and one each afternoon; then three times each week, four of us met with the Ladies' Group, and we also had the privilege of visiting some of these ladies in their homes.

Returning to Peja I saw that quite a lot of new building had been done since I was last there; the poverty, lack of employment and the needs of a large number of the people are still great, but the openness, friendliness and welcome of those we met was wonderful. It was a privilege to be there, to join the small congregation of 25-30 led by Pastor Ganni in the ECM Church, to share our times of worship with them, and to encourage and be encouraged by their witness to their Christian faith in a town of 100,000 people of whom 90 per cent are Muslim.

In conclusion I would just like to ask you to remember Diane and Primrose (working full time in Peja) in your prayers, as they reach out to those most in need through practical help, and also as they lead the Ladies' Bible Study and Kids' Clubs week by week in the church.

Marion Craig

SARAH VISITS EUROPE

Our adventure started with three days of team building in Holland, after which I knew God had amazing times planned for us. Leaving Holland we drove to Belarus. When I got there and saw the conditions I would be staying in, I just wanted to go home. But after a day I got use to it. Here we were working with people of around the same age as ourselves. We played sports with them and held some services. The people were so accepting and just wanted to sit with us and learn English. It was in Belarus that I got baptized, which was an amazing experience! It brought me so much closer to God.

Next we travelled to Ukraine. This was very different from Belarus. Here we worked with younger children where we played sports, took meetings and did craftwork. The children came from so many different backgrounds, including orphans. This week was an emotional roller-coaster for the whole group; it was a spiritual challenge, but as a team we picked each other up and stayed strong. Next we travelled to Slovakia where we did more street evangelism, which I really loved. Slovakia was more like a holiday and after being out of our 'comfort zone' for nearly three weeks we started to slip back in again.

The whole experience was amazing. I think I loved Belarus best because it was the most challenging mentally, physically and spiritually! I have grown so much as a Christian, and I have learnt the importance of prayer. At the moment I am planning to go back again. I want to thank everyone in the church who supported me, financially and in prayer.

Sarah Hill

STREET REACH 2004

This summer, following Summer Madness, I took part in Street Reach, a Christian outreach team whose main objective and ethos is to practice Jesus' love in the community. The four communities identified for this work were Ballymacarrett, Falls, Willowfield and the Shankill, the latter of which I became involved in. Our practical 'hands on' work included cleaning and tidying those areas that were run down and unsafe or unfit for young children/youth to play or socialise in. Our aim was to provide a safe and clean environment, which we managed to do, along with providing a community BBQ; this allowed us the opportunity to get to know local families. I found this experience extremely rewarding because I was able to work alongside a team of people who came from very different backgrounds, and also because I was able to share the love of Christ with young people who had little or no knowledge of him at all.

Samantha McMillan

SNATCH 2004

This year's SNATCH Team (Summer Nights At The Church Hall) was again held in Bangor Road Presbyterian Church, Holywood, and included many forms of outreach and relationship building with both the 'churched' and 'un-churched' youth of the town.

Three members of our congregation were involved for this one-week period in mid-August – Ashley Parks, Keith Lunn and Mark Robinson. We spent the time with different host families from the two main Presbyterian Churches there. The Team consisted of around 35 members from Holywood, Lisburn, Belfast and even the Czech Republic, though not everyone was there at any one time, due to work commitments.

The theme of SNATCH 2004 was "See The King", urging the kids to see that Jesus is King above everything else. A couple of long days were spent transforming the main church hall into a film set in preparation for the opening night's event – *Holywood Live!*

A typical day (was there one?) saw the Team meet each morning for excellent teaching sessions led by the church's summer assistant minister on various themes, mainly from the Old Testament - very challenging.

Holywood Rugby Club was the venue for our two-hour afternoon activities, with football, blow-up assault courses and messy games, enabling us to build good friendships with the kids. Banner and poster painting took place at the church for those not football-orientated - these guys produced some incredible art works! A comical photo treasure hunt on the streets of the town brought more variation to this year's programme, with hilarious public interaction!

The evening programme ran from 8-10 pm in Bangor Road P.C. We normally entertained around 70 kids, and took a significant step away from the orthodox youth club format of football, tuck shop and table tennis. While we still provided these, we included dramas, dances, a film night, a band night and the use of multi-media technology during the talks on our "See The King" theme, which was our main focus of the night.

Due to minor discipline issues, we even had members of the local PSNI sitting in with us, and they particularly enjoyed the *Holywood Live!* show on the first night. One officer said it challenged him to go back to Church with his family!

As prayer was a vital ingredient during SNATCH, a Prayer Room was specifically set up to pray for the activities, relationships and the kids. It was always occupied by church or team members and was a great reassurance. The week was so enjoyable and new friendships were established between leaders and the young people in Holywood. It was great to see God working in Holywood, and the work the churches are doing there.

Many thanks to those who prayed for us during our fantastic week.

Ashley Parks, Keith Lunn, Mark Robinson

NICOLA RETURNS HOME FROM 'URBAN PROMISE' - TORONTO

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

This is the start of a new season in my life! The past four years have moulded, shaped and stretched me in ways I didn't know was possible. God has shown me what it is to TOTALLY lean on Him and TRUST Him. I experienced situations and saw situations where I had NO CONTROL – only God could control it. It is a scary moment when you realise you are NOT in control. But then comes relief when you experience God taking control. If there was one thing I learned over the past four years, it was that I can't change the heart of a child, I can't heal hurts, I can't protect them from harm, I can't always be there – BUT GOD CAN AND IS!

I don't know what this new season in my life holds, but it is a time to step back, breathe and BE STILL before God.

Thank you for all the letters, cards, e-mails, prayers, financial support, hugs, tears, smiles and LOVE over the past four years. Truly this is a family! And I am looking forward to being a part of it again.

Many Blessings, Nicola Lunn

Here's a little bit of mental exercise for you – find the 'hidden books' of the Bible in this paragraph. The answers will be in the next Wavelength.

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke). It kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam especially since the names of the books were not capitalised, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most interesting task for you. Yes there will be some difficult ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them. There will be loud lamentations if it is not found. One lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there are sixteen books of the Bible hidden in this paragraph. One preacher found fifteen books in twenty minutes – but it took him three weeks to find the sixteenth one."

MY CRICKETING YEAR

It is good to hear of sporting achievements of our young people. Greg Thompson, son of Ian and Gail, tells us of his meteoric rise to full Senior Cricket International level in one year at the age of 16.

October/November '03 I travelled most weekends to Balbriggan (North County Cricket Club in Dublin), the Irish Cricket Union's centre of excellence, for training and trials under Senior Irish Coach, Adrian Birrell. At the end of November I was selected for the final 14 to travel to Bangladesh for the Youth U19 Cricket World Cup. I was the youngest member of the squad.

February '04 Having arrived in Bangladesh and, after a fantastic opening ceremony, our first two matches were against test playing nations, West Indies and Pakistan. We performed well, losing by only six runs to the West Indies (who played in the competition final). Unfortunately, we were beaten by eight wickets by eventual winners, Pakistan. In the final game of the group stages we beat Papua New Guinea by over 100 runs. Finishing third in our group, Ireland travelled to Chittagong to play against Canada and Uganda in the Plate competition. We beat both teams convincingly, but were, unfortunately, defeated by the home nation in front of the biggest crowd we had ever witnessed. In the semi-final we lost to the Australians, rated the best in the world, by 340 runs to 290 – a very creditable effort.

Now eliminated, we were on our way home to our friends and family after three-and-a-half weeks in a foreign country. The Bangladeshi people were very friendly but, in this third world country, poverty was always in our faces. I was glad to be heading home, even if it meant back to the routine of school!

April '04 I was honoured to be called up to train with the senior Northern Cricket Union (NCU) side. I also was selected as captain for a Northern Ireland U17 Squad, to play over three days in Hampshire. Based in Southampton, the highlight of the tour was our first evening, when Shane Warne, the Australian leg-spin bowler, was the focus of a press conference, answering questions, as captain of Hampshire, on the start of a new domestic cricket season.

June '04 The night before my last GCSE exam, I received a phone call from the Senior Irish Coach, Adrian Birrell, informing me that I had been selected to play for Ireland against the MCC at Limavady in a few weeks' time. I couldn't believe it! Let's just say I could hardly concentrate on my Business Studies exam the next day!