

FIRST LISBURN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

Housekeeping Monthly 13 May 1955 is not my everyday reading, you understand? It contains *The Good Wife's Guide*, written to make the 1955 home a happier place and which, for the 2004 reader, makes for a good laugh.

My 1955 publication gives the 'wife' this sound advice as she prepares for the return of hubby from work: "Have dinner ready...prepare yourself...be a little gay...his boring day may need a lift and one of your duties is to provide it."

Today, the meaning of words has changed and the 2004 home is a very different place. Some will say for the worse, others will say for the better - and especially if you have three kids and know the worth of a tumble-dryer.

The Magazine continues:

- Gather up all schoolbooks, toys, paper, etc. and then run a dustcloth over the tables.
- Over the cooler months you should prepare and light a fire for him to unwind; catering for his comfort will provide you with immense personal satisfaction.
- Prepare the children. Take a few minutes to wash their hands and faces, comb their hair and change their clothes. They are little treasures and he would like to see them playing the part.
- At the time of his arrival, eliminate all noise of the washer, dryer or vacuum.
- Be happy to see him.
- Listen to him. Remember, his topics of conversation are more important than yours.

(Just as I was writing this, a Friday afternoon at 1.20 pm, Nelly phoned me from India, like a long lost friend. She asked, "Have you seen the Tele 2 ads on the television?" I had not! I wished it was 1955).

- Don't complain if he's late home or even if he stays out all night. Count this as minor compared to what he might have gone through that day. (At this point 1955 became interesting).
- Have a cool or warm drink ready for him.

- Arrange his pillow and offer to take off his shoes. Speak in a low, soothing and pleasant voice.
- Don't ask him questions about his actions or question his judgment or integrity. Remember, he is the master of the house.
- A good wife always knows her place.

So, where do we go from here? Firstly, congratulations to all women who resisted marriage in 1955. I now know why. Secondly, if you have a relationship which is anything like the above, seek counselling now. The Presbyterian Relationship Counselling Service awaits your call. And, thirdly, if you think there is nothing wrong with all this, you need to get out more. A lot more.

If a good church guide had been written in 1955 and my eyes were to light on it now, there might not be so much to laugh at. Perhaps more to make me weep? In some churches women still make the tea and men still make the decisions. In some, the language is 400 years out of date - not 50. In most, the prevailing words in song are 100 years out of date - yes, I know... and at this point we realize that, whilst most of us have thrown out the mangle from the scullery, we haven't quite 'moved on' with the same pace and enthusiasm in church. At times we can be too stuffy, or even too formal; we may also expect outsiders (who most people are these days) to step back in time if they enter our gates. All this in an age of informality, equality, and competition for 'customers'. This applies to the minister as well. I can't help feeling that a visitor from outside our church family might find too much of the 'wireless, coal dust, *The Archers* and *Torchy Torchy the Battery Boy*' (I loved it) culture and less of the 'compact disc, Radio 1 and *The Simpsons*' culture.

I tell myself that roles and relationships in church have moved on - but only in some places and only in part. There are still traces of a 'performance' culture. There is still an 'appearance' culture. There is still a 'them and us' culture - in one way or another. There is still an 'insider' culture which can be fuelled just as much by young people in the church as by us more senior members. And there is still a culture that church should change last. We don't know why, but we think this is only right.

And yet, we all know why we have a washing machine. The principle is simple: ***we need to wash clothes*** - so we have a Tricity Bendix. Not a twin-tub. Our washing machine is the 2004 practice, but the principle - ***we need to wash clothes*** - stays the same. Often our decision to buy the new product is made when the old one breaks down.

In 1955 we needed a hymn book - and we still have them. The principle is: ***the people need to see the words if they are to join in***. In 2004 the practice in First Lisburn - but by no means all others - is to have screens. Same principle, different practice. To me this is a key reformed idea. To me it answers most of the dilemmas we face, and many of the arguments we want to avoid. It is certainly the best solution to our need to be relevant, vibrant and yet rooted in our cherished traditions and core values.

Of everything I come across in church - from Church House to my hymn book - I now ask the same question: "What's the principle behind this?" The answer is usually clear and simple. On the hymn book my answer comes back: "So that ordinary people can sing praise to God in the vernacular, or as we say today, everyday language," and I know where the idea came from - Geneva; and who thought it up? Calvin. What's the practice today? Well you can work that out for yourself. Almost every organisation, meeting, practice and tradition from robes, drums, participation in worship, choirs and praise groups, types of liturgy, notice boards, to how we dress in church, goes back to that one question and *especially* for reformed Christians: What's the principle behind this? What you or I like, are used to, prefer, or have just 'done' for the last 50 years is actually less important and potentially divisive.

Most homes today need a washing machine. In 1965 if you could afford it you maybe had a twin-tub. In 1955 you maybe washed by hand. Different practices, but the principle is simple - dirty clothes need to be cleaned. You might prefer your twin-tub because it brings back happy memories. But if you want to run a good household these days you need a washing machine. A twin-tub might just look a bit daft. Quaint at best. Mystifying to anyone under 30.

And yet, I just can't help loving my grandfather's old clock even though it loses 15 minutes every day. Nobody trusts it. But I just like it. The kids place no real value on it - and why should they? No reason at all. I wind it up every other morning. I always will. I like my computer, but I love my fountain pen. But my computer is best for 2004. And, unlike everybody else I

know, I detest my mobile phone, but know it is good for me to have one because ministers don't spend all day at their desks. They cycle around the parish waving and smiling benignly at people. Don't they?

First Lisburn is a fine congregation. I love the place. You know that. It is a church for this city and this day - all of us together with age and background mattering little. We *are* working on bringing in the missing generations. We *are* trying to bring them into a church which is a family where we are equals – in Christ. Our Kirk Session following on from the Special Assembly is increasingly asking, "What principles do we believe in?" And once we know, then asking, "What's the practice for 2004?" We are asking these questions about our worship, our mission and our fellowship.

But let me end with a pure and simple affirmation about First Lisburn. In terms of families we are 39th largest in PCI. That means about 510 are smaller. Perhaps this means we ought to do most things well. We ought to lead the way at least some of the time. Only seven congregations in PCI gave more than us to **World Development** in 2003. We in FLPC gave an amazingly generous £7,212.56. To put it in context: there are 31 congregations in the Ballymena Presbytery and they gave £15,501 between them. There are 20 Congregations in the Templepatrick Presbytery and they raised £16,691 in total. In fact we almost matched some Presbyteries: Foyle (20 congregations and £8,959) or Newry (30 congregations and £8,511). The principle? ***First Lisburn believes in helping people trapped in poverty.*** The practice? Over to you in 2004.

John Brackenridge.

New Internship - Ashley Parks

Congratulations to Ashley Parks whom Session has appointed to a new post of Youth Intern. He will work under the guidance and supervision of Matt Craig, our Director of Youth Ministries. Ashley has shown great interest and potential in pursuing a career in youth work. After looking at various options, Session felt that it would help Ashley's career path to create this part-time, honorary post during his gap year. His main areas of responsibility are Sunday night's IGnite group and the new after school groups. He will be in post until the end of the summer 2005.

Richard McNeight
Convenor, Youth Sub-Committee

From your Editor...

As I sit at my computer working on our Winter *Wavelength*, it is early in the morning and I have just been listening to *Thought for the Day*. We have all been waking up to a familiar voice on the radio this week and Teddy and I have been listening with great interest to Mr Brackenridge each morning.

As Christmas approaches, there is a long list of diary dates for your attention. Hopefully we will have pleasant weather for our UPFRONT Carols on Saturday 18 December.

We all wondered how our experimental Pot Luck lunch would go on Sunday 7 November – well, what a treat we had! Such a variety of delicious casseroles etc. and gorgeous sweets, all shared and enjoyed in a relaxed and 'no fuss' atmosphere. We look forward to the next one. It really was a great success following the inspiring Service led by members of our PWA.

You will notice that I have introduced in this edition a list of useful contacts. I selected those which I felt would be most useful to members on a regular basis; it can be amended or added to on request. Our new website will have full information on all Church matters, and our organizations etc., but I thought it would be helpful to have this list included in *Wavelength*, especially for those of you who do not have easy access to a computer.

You will be interested to read Dr Gray's account of his visit to St James's Palace, London on Tuesday 23 November – "A Right Royal Occasion". In 2002 Dr Gray became the first non Church of England chaplain to be appointed to the Chapter of the Priory of England and the Islands. The Order of St John supports St John Ambulance and the St John Ophthalmic Hospital in east Jerusalem.

It is with regret that we record the death of our former member of Kirk Session, Mr Norman Crossley. We thank God for his commitment and contribution to His work in First Lisburn. We convey our sympathy to Pat and Adrienne and pray that God will continue to support and comfort them.

Thank you for all your interesting and varied contributions to *Wavelength* – there would be no magazine without them. So keep them coming – my file is always open.

May I wish you all warmest greetings for Christmas and the New Year.
Mary McNeight

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Pastoral Cover

Please note that Evelyn will be away on leave from Thursday 23 December to Wednesday 29 December and that John can be contacted by mobile phone (07796277431) from Thursday 30 December to Saturday 1 January.

Sun 5 December	11.00 am	Morning Worship
	3.00 pm	Scout Carols & Lessons with Brass Band
	6.30 pm	Worship First Service
Mon 6 December	7.30 pm	Congregational Committee Meeting followed by Youth Sub-Committee Meeting
Sun 12 December	11.00 am	Morning Worship
	5.30 pm	IGNITE Family Meal
Tues 14 December	2.30 pm)	Gala Celebrations of Christmas Peace
	7.30 pm)	Waterfront Hall, Belfast
Thurs 16 December	7.30 pm	2 nd Annual Simon Dickey Memorial Concert, Island Centre, Lisburn
Sat 18 December	2.00 pm	UPFRONT Carols & Christmas Message outside the Church
Sun 19 December	11.00 am	Nativity Play
	5.00 pm	Carols and Lessons followed by traditional refreshments
	7.30 pm	Service at St Michael The Archangel
Sat 25 December	10.00 am	Christmas Morning Service
Sun 26 December	11.00 am	Morning Worship - informal Service No Sunday School
Sun 2 January 2005	11.00 am	Morning Worship led by Evelyn and Matt No Sunday School
	6.30 pm	Worship First Service of Communion led by Rev. John Brackenridge
Sat 8 January	2.30 pm	Sunday School Outing to Panto <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> , Island Centre, Lisburn

Advance notice for your diary

Palm Sunday - 20 March 2005 - United Presbytery Evening Service

Anahilt Presbyterian Church at 7.00 pm with Rev. Dr Russell Birney

LEARNING TO LISTEN COURSE

Christian Listeners is an Acorn Trust Christian Foundation resource that trains people in listening attitudes and skills through a variety of courses that are led by trained tutors. It is the aim of the Trust to develop an understanding of 'listening' and in this we are following the example of Christ.

During the four-week course in September we were reminded again about how others, and we, need to be listened to. The course had three parts to it:

- Listening to others
- Listening to yourself
- Listening to God

Nineteen people from First Lisburn enrolled for the course and one person from another church in Belfast. Two volunteer trainers came from the Acorn Christian Listeners; they taught us skills and showed us how vital it is that we listen to others and that it is real ministry we can offer.

As well as listening to others, part of the course was listening to ourselves, being aware of where we are at so that we are free to listen to others. Each evening we were asked to divide into pairs and put what we had learned into action by listening to one another without saying anything. For many of us this was a hard task as most people are much better at talking than listening. One of the things that came across was how helpful it is to be really listened to and as we learn to listen to others we are offering something that is of great value.

The third part of the evening was a time to Listen to God with the use of scripture and music; these times were really special. We were always brought back to the fact that all that we do and are comes from our relationship with God.

Evelyn Whyte

MATT - DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

A word from the big, bearded American.

First of all, I would like to thank everyone here at First Lisburn for making Jill and me feel so welcome. I have spent the first three months mostly getting my feet wet, although I must say they are more like soaked. It has been an eventful time and I have enjoyed every minute of it. It would be impossible to list all of the wonderful things that the youth have been up to or the plans for the future, but here is a brief update on IGnite.

IGNITE: Our theme in this Olympic year is Hebrews 12:1-2: "...let us run with determination the race that lies before us. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus..." Each Sunday night is based around discussion of things that we need to do or not do, in order to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus in this race that is life.

We kicked off our year with the 'Big Day Out, Big Night In'. After a trip to the swimming pool, it was BBQ, games, movies and snacks *all* night. Seventeen IGnitters were among the group of 38 that ventured on the PCI MAD weekend in October. Held at Coleraine University Campus, the focus was on Micah 6:8 – to love mercy, act justly, and walk humbly. A great time was had by all, even though the boys had to sleep on a church hall floor while the girls were in the lap of luxury at Guysmere Youth Centre! The 'Trick or Truth' Costume Party on 31 October was well attended with some incredible costumes and photos to last a lifetime.

This season has seen a change in the IGnite schedule; **we now meet from 6.00 pm-8.00 pm on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.** It seems that this earlier time is more convenient for families. I am excited to say that we have over 45 youth on our IGnite roster with an average attendance of 35. There are also a few newcomers every week which is fantastic! **We will end this year with the IGnite Family Night on Sunday 12 December**, beginning with a 'light meal' (my wording of 'dinner' scared the Bible Fellowship who will be preparing the meal) at 5.30 pm.

We are truly blessed at First Lisburn to have such enthusiastic young people. I pray that First Lisburn will be a welcoming environment for young people to grow in their faith.

A BIG thanks to all of the leaders; a programme is only as good as the volunteers. If you have any questions about our youth events, please do not hesitate to get in touch. **Matt Craig Tel: 07916250846**

RICHARD INTRODUCES "GO"

"GO" is a new initiative for adults that gives us the chance to get to know others in the congregation. We get together every two weeks in Richard and Susan McNeight's home, 20 Lombard Avenue, where we drink lots of coffee and have a bit of craic! We are also enjoying a video series called "Christianity Explored", which is similar to the Alpha course. Don't worry if you have missed the first sessions, you are welcome to take the video home to catch up (if you wish). We also plan to have a social event every 4-6 weeks - last week 34 folk went to watch the Belfast Giants. If you would like to **GO** and want to know more, please contact Richard McNeight on 92 676668, Roy Faulkner, Margaret Thompson or Sheila Hammonds, to name but a few. Watch the church announcements for details.

Richard McNeight

FROM YOUR TREASURER

By the time you receive your copy of *Wavelength*, you should have already received a letter from me telling you how up to date you are with your giving to the several funds of the congregation. **Sunday 9 January 2005 will be the last date by which donations received will be included in the 2004 Accounts** – any received after that date will be credited to 2005. I would appreciate it, however, if you would complete your giving much earlier than that – that would give me a head start in finalising the Annual Accounts.

The **United Appeal** target set for First Lisburn for 2004 is £13,902. To date we are still well short of reaching that target. I know that many who normally support United Appeal still have to contribute – if you have not already done so, please regard this as a gentle reminder.

And now that 2005 is almost here, why not ask me for a **Standing Order** form and pay directly into the congregation's bank account – many already do so. This improves the congregation's cash flow position and you don't have to put money in an envelope every Sunday.

And when you have done that, why not ask me for a **Gift Aid Declaration Form** if you are a United Kingdom taxpayer and have not already signed one. An extra 28 pence for every £1 you contribute is a big help to the congregation's finances.

Does the name '**Desmond Francis**' mean anything to you – if so, please give me a call on 9266 3285 and solve an ongoing mystery! Jimmy Lynn

WORLD DEVELOPMENT APPEAL 2004

The title of this year's World Development Appeal is 'Horizons of Hope' and the focus is on Christian Aid and Tearfund supported development projects in Rwanda, Ethiopia and Cambodia. Each of these countries is either marking or about to mark the anniversary of an event which severely impeded genuine development for some of the world's poorest, most disadvantaged people: in Rwanda it is the 10th anniversary of the horror of the genocide; in Ethiopia it is the 20th anniversary of massive famine; next year will be the 30th anniversary of the start of the Khmer Rouge's murderous reign in Cambodia. The point of the appeal is not, however, to linger on the past, but to concentrate on the horizons of hope towards which poor people in these countries are travelling, often overcoming vast legacies of death, destruction, violence, hunger, bitterness, and trauma. Six projects will be assisted by this appeal, two in each country. They work alongside local communities addressing vital issues, including improving health-care, sourcing water for drinking and irrigation, developing income generating schemes, advising on sustainable agricultural programmes and giving skills training and education.

Ongoing work needs ongoing support. Through your prayers, your interest and your generous giving, World Development enables our partners to continue bringing compassion, comfort and practical help directly to the poor, the marginalized and the exploited as they journey towards their horizons of hope.

Hazel McCall



Christian Aid lunches continue every Tuesday in the Church Hall from 11.30 am – 2.00 pm. If you haven't been before, do come along and bring your friends. You will be offered a choice of delicious home-made soups to accompany your bread and cheese. What better way to warm up after a cold morning in the market or Christmas shopping in the city, and you will be supporting those who work hard to raise substantial funds for Christian Aid.

Hazel McCall

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

This autumn we were delighted to welcome Matt Craig, our new Director of Youth Ministry, into Sunday School. Matt will be leading a group of Form 3+ young people each Sunday morning where they will be thinking about the challenges of becoming full communicant members.

We got off to a good start in September with numbers generally up on last year. In the age groups from Beginners up to Form 2 we normally have about 55 attending, with a further 10-12 young people participating in the Form 3+ group. Parents, please do encourage your children to attend regularly; they will receive a very warm welcome from committed leaders in a caring environment.

Our group leaders this year:

Beginners, P1/2	Lyndsey Parr and Gillian Parker (Assistants: Susan McNeight and Fiona Wilson)
P3/4	Sheila Hammonds and Jayne Price
P5	Susan Gilbert and Petula Vient
P6/7	Maureen Killiner and Nicola Anderson
Form 1	Richard Millen and Jacquie Brackenridge
Form 2	Perry Reid and Gillian Bustard
Form 3+	Matt Craig

The team continues to meet monthly to prepare for the month ahead and to think about any special needs of our young people. Your prayers for the work of Sunday school are much appreciated.

If you feel you could contribute to Sunday School as a group leader, assistant, or in some other capacity, please do speak with the Superintendent, John Davis.

We are still adjusting to the new *Light* teaching and learning programme produced by Scripture Union. It replaces the *SALT* programme we had grown accustomed to over the last few years. *Light* has some useful new features, not least a well resourced website where you can download activity materials. Parents, please do have a look at the website:

www.scriptureunion.org.uk/light

The theme of the PCI Youth and Children's Project this year is "Helping Hands". The project will be supporting work on the island of Sumba in Indonesia. There are three main components:

- **Health** - the purchase of urgently needed health equipment
- **Sunday School** - providing materials and equipment for Sunday Schools
- **Youth** - helping build a youth centre.

More about this project in the New Year, but please note that our first fund-raising event will be **Bag Packing in Marks and Spencer on Saturday 18 December, 10.00 am to 2.00 pm** — please do try to support this effort.

To discover more about the aims of Sunday School, have a go at the word puzzle.

To l _ _ _ n m _ r _ a _ o _ _
J _ _ _ _ and h _ w _ e c _ n
be o _ r S _ _ _ _ _ r, _ _ _ c _ _ r
and _ _ i _ _ d.

John Davis

CROSS COMMUNITY GROUP

Our Group endeavours to understand and celebrate diversity in religious denominations and in culture. To this end we greatly enjoyed our two guests in November who were from India and the Philippines. Gerard and Eve were gracious, beautifully mannered and most appreciative of our welcome to them. They both come from densely populated countries where wages and salaries are low. Gerard was in management at home and Eve is a nurse of nine years' experience. Both of them had difficulty in getting jobs here and the work they are doing is below their qualifications. Gerard was studying for a year in England before he came over here - his grandfather came from Holywood, Co Down, we were amazed to learn! Eve came to work here so that she could pay for the education of her children. They like being in Northern Ireland, though they have met with some unpleasantness - taunts and suggestions that

they should return to their own country. They did not dwell on this and Gerard said that of all the people he has seen in the UK and in Holland, we smile the most!

Our Christmas meeting will be held in the Boyd Room on Wednesday 8 December at 8.00 pm, when we will entertain each other with stories and songs together with all those who would like to join us.

ADVANCE NOTICE FOR ALL What type of community would you like to experience in NI? A Course entitled 'Creating Community' will take place for six weeks during February and March in the Boyd Room. It will be facilitated by our own Olive Bell and the Rev. Charlie Leeke, both of whom work for peace and reconciliation in the Methodist and Church of Ireland churches respectively. We are most fortunate that these experienced people can be with us. The dates are consecutive Wednesdays from 9 February until 16 March. The only cost is £3 for a personal booklet. It is described as an experiential learning course. Please speak to Joan Parks or Joyce Moran for further information.

Joyce Moran

FIRST LISBURN GOES ON THE WEB: www.firstlisburn.org

ATTENTION ALL ORGANISATIONS

We hope to be launching our new website in January. We would like to give a page to **every** church organisation as we hope this will be a source of up-to-date information for members and those who are new to us.

Could we ask each organisation to put together information about who it is, what it does, what its target group is, when and where it meets, an outline of its events and, if possible, a contact name and number. This could be done in bullet form or in 2-3 paragraphs. If you have a photograph, that would be helpful. Adrian Wilson, who is building the site, can take a photograph for you. For ease, we would be very grateful if we could have this information as a Microsoft Word document on a floppy disk or CD.

If you have any questions or require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Richard McNeight Tel: 9267 6668 or Matt Craig (see Staff list). Thank you.

Richard McNeight

A RIGHT ROYAL OCCASION

Tuesday 23 November 2004, St. James's Palace, London. Some 250 people had gathered for the Investiture of Knights and Dames of The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, to give the full title. All stood for the formal processions: first the Chaplains, myself among them, then representatives of the Pories of the USA, Canada, South Africa, Wales and Scotland, followed by the Pory of England and the Islands. Afterwards came the Grand Pory's procession of senior officers, culminating with the Grand Pory, Richard, Duke of Gloucester.

After the National Anthem and prayers, the first to be invested, as a Bailiff Grand Cross (the highest grade in the Order), was Nelson Mandela. As he entered, tall, frail, assisted by a steadying arm, a deep silence descended, an intense stillness, filling the room, gripping, breathtaking, a wordless tribute by 'the great and the good' assembled there to the huge stature of this one man - once a terrorist, then tormented and tortured through long years of imprisonment until 1990, becoming a statesman and thereafter transcending the temptation to repay evil by evil, or hatred by bitterness.

Duly invested, he was greeted by the Grand Pory in a time-honoured formula: *Rise, Confrere. On behalf of Her Majesty I receive and greet you as a Bailiff Grand Cross of this Most Venerable Order.* Unexpectedly - for this was not in the formal script - he then responded in those tones so unmistakably Mandela, *Please convey my thanks to Her Majesty.* So regal in bearing, so humble in manner.

As he withdrew, passing just a few feet away from me, I felt privileged to have been for a few minutes in the presence of this living legend: the embodiment of magnanimity, of forgiveness, reconciliation and hope. A role model for all leaders. The essence of humanity. Like Jesus long before him.

Gordon Gray

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION



At the first meeting of the new session, The President, Elizabeth Watt, welcomed several new members. This year it was decided that we support the Birthday Thank-Offering Fund which supports the maintenance of two flats and a house for the use of our missionaries on furlough. Florence Blair then introduced the Ballywellcant PWA who showed us how, or rather how not to run a PWA - some of it hit home rather too well!

Florence also reported on the information given to groups at the Dromore Presbytery PWA Committee Meeting and Workshop. Supper closed a very good evening.

November was a busy month. Devotions at the monthly meeting, based around the theme of "Diet" as we run the Christian Race, were followed by a Keep-fit session with Laura McMillen which left us in need of an early supper! The following Sunday, Mrs Zoe Vallely, Central President PWA in Ireland was the guest speaker at our Annual Service. She gave us a challenging, motivating address on how we should "Go For Gold" - this year's PWA motto - in our Christian lives. Afterwards members joined in the Pot Luck lunch. We thank the organisers for giving us the chance to host Zoe at that. She has taken the idea on board.

A new-style Coffee Morning and Christmas Fayre took place on Saturday 20 November. The aim was to create an attractive Coffee Morning in welcoming surroundings where hopefully people would come and chat with friends and browse through a variety of seasonal items on our Christmas Table. They did. We say a big thank-you to all who supported the event. We thank, too, the members for all their tremendously hard work. To date the total raised stands at over £1,300.

On 7 December our devotional time will include a short slot by Marion Craig, during which she will tell us of the needs of the "Women in Kosova". Later we will enjoy a short sketch from our resident drama team under the direction of Florence. The evening will close with the singing of carols and supper.

May the peace and joy of Christmas be with you all.

Anne Kain

SALAD DAYS – A CATERING TALE

An Open Invitation from the PWA To all Members of the Congregation

**AN EVENING
with
BARONESS MAY BLOOD**

“From The Shankill to the Lords”

**Tuesday January 11 2005
First Lisburn Church Hall**

Widely acclaimed as a most entertaining, witty speaker

AFRICARE UGANDA – NOVEMBER 2004

Many thanks to all who supported our stall at the PWA Christmas Fayre. We raised approximately £260 for Denise Kane towards her work amongst the children in Uganda. We are very pleased with this result.

Evelyn, Margaret, Marion and Helen

One Saturday in August,
The last to be exact,
We catered for some “Blackmen”,
It was strange and that’s a fact.

The reason that I say this
I must explain to you;
All the “Blackmen” there were white,
Now, that was something new.

Something else was weird that day,
I had to rub my eyes;
Some men wore aprons, some wore skirts
That was a big surprise!

They were from Ballymena
So that could explain a lot,
They’d come to Lisburn to parade
And didn’t give a jot.

The tables they were laden,
With salads of all kinds,
Bread and butter, pots of jam,
And sweets to blow your mind.

Everyone was busy
With jobs they had to do;
Jean was washing dishes
Of which there were a few.

Annabelle was at the door
Welcoming all and smiling,
Lilian was assisting her,
A duo most beguiling.

The rest of us were serving tables,
Boy, were we kept busy,
The food was going down a treat
And we were getting dizzy.

But the President and Secretary
Had it all in hand,
Everyone knew what to do
So we were a happy band.

We thought we’d go *al fresco*
This was a late decision,
An operation carried out
With military precision.

The “Bistro in the Garden”
Could well have been our logo,
But business wasn’t all that brisk
In fact it was a slow-go.

The time then came to tidy up,
Perhaps the hardest chore,
Backs were aching, hands were red,
And Vera’s feet were sore.

Helen lent us Jimmy,
She surely has him trained.
He carried chairs and tables,
Not once did he complain.

To everyone who played their part,
PWA says thanks,
Especially Joan the treasurer,
She’s skipping to the bank.

*Florence Blair PWA
28 August 2004*



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2004 SHOEBOX APPEAL

What a wonderful response to the above appeal!! As you know, our target was 350 boxes, but we ended up with 468. Sincere thanks must be paid to all who helped achieve this fantastic result. First of all, there were those who collected the boxes; next came the 'wrappers', the 'packers' and the 'checkers'. All of these helpers did a great job; it was really good that many of the newer members of the congregation came along to help. There was a great sense of fun and fellowship while the work was being done. Several people discovered they had attended the same church as someone else and there was quite a lot of reminiscing. It was all very interesting to me as a 'blow-in' to Lisburn. Everyone got to know someone they had hardly spoken to before – a particularly good aspect of the appeal work. The reason we were so successful was in no small way due to the fact that we had accumulated a great number of hats, gloves, scarves, teddies, small toys, stationery items and toiletries throughout the year. This meant that boxes could be filled without too much last minute shopping for all the bits and pieces.

Thanks must be paid to the ladies who knitted so many, many hats, scarves and gloves. Each box did contain a hat and gloves but we were about 70 scarves short in the smaller sizes. There was a great variety of colours and styles. We hope the ladies will continue with their knitting during the coming months and, if anyone who doesn't knit would like to donate double knitting wool in any quantity, large or small, we would be very grateful. We can usually get volunteers to do the knitting. Also, if you wish to donate anything such as small toys, ie. dolls, balls, skipping ropes, pencils, crayons, cars, we will be happy to receive them – there is a box left in the church porch permanently.

The following is a breakdown of the 468 boxes:

AGE	GIRLS	BOYS
I,	54	44
5-9 Yrs	125	89
10-14 Yrs	79	77
TOTAL	258	210

We sent £1,000 and intend to send the balance of £250 in the new year when we find out more about the various programmes run by Samaritan's Purse.

Thank you all for your very generous support. I am sure the children who receive your boxes will be delighted with them.

As we like to enclose a Christmas greeting card to each child with their shoebox, I would be most grateful to receive the 'fronts' of any Christmas cards you receive, which are suitable for children, for inclusion in the boxes next year. Thank you.

Helen

A very special thank you to Helen for her sterling work throughout each year in organising and co-ordinating the collection of items and filling of boxes for the Shoebox Appeal. This is no mean task and her tireless efforts, far from being taken for granted, are very much appreciated by the congregation, and by her team of helpers who so willingly give of their time in the run up to Christmas. Thank you, Helen.

CHEER-YOU-UP CLUB

A warm invitation is extended to all senior citizens to join us on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. We meet in the Boyd Room from 2.00 pm until 3.45 pm approximately. Our meetings are informal and friendly. We will provide transport if needed.



Our first meeting in 2005 will be on Wednesday 5 January. Hope to see you there.

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

Helen Lynn

LISBURN DOWNTOWN CENTRE

Christmas is a time when many people experience a feeling of excitement, hope and love. All around the city we see brightly shining lights and decorations. Children are excited knowing that the festive season has arrived.

But in the words of the song: "Spare a thought for the other ones" - the lonely, those struggling to make ends meet, those whose loved ones are not with them, those who have made mistakes and are now paying for the consequences, those who are depressed...and the list goes on..."the other ones". We can't help everyone but we can help and encourage those whom God graciously brings across our path of life.

The season of giving is here. Gifts can cost a little or a lot; they come in all sorts of wrappers and are various sizes and shapes.

We can give ourselves, our lives, in the service of God and others. We can become candles in the darkness on the cold dark winter nights of life's experiences. We can shine in the city where we live. In this position we give God the glory and the praise. We are able to be ourselves, in Jesus.

A gift at Christmas is what we can be - not one that is bought with money but our time and love. In this way we reach out, yet not by our own dictates but by the power of God living in us.

Now is a great time to show that God is good, and He is faithful.

Christmas Events

Downtown will be hosting a number of Christmas activities for the various groups that meet from week to week. If you would be able to help in any way please let us know.

Downtown Variety Sale – 2 October

The total amount raised by the sale was £998.86. A special thank you to everyone who helped with the sale or supported the event by their presence.

To everyone associated with Downtown, who in various ways throughout the year support the work – thank you. May you have a happy and blessed Christmas.

Margaret Bailie, Downtown Co-ordinator

LIGHT PROGRAMME

By the time you read this, over 80 members of the congregation will have enjoyed visits to walks, concerts and plays during October/November.

Further outings in the pipeline are: our Christmas Dinner on Friday 10 December, Viennese Concert on Saturday 8 January and, by popular request, another visit to the Palace Stables, Armagh, on Friday 11 February 2005 to see the "Spooks, Spectres and Spirits" and to be royally entertained and fed – all for £16.

This will be the third visit to the Stables and, if previous experience is any criterion, will once again be thoroughly entertaining. The list is in the church vestibule, so why not sign up and come along.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of the Light Programme, to wish all of you a Happy, Peaceful and Joyous Christmas and New Year, and once again invite you to join in all our activities.

Noel Stevenson

1ST LISBURN SCOUT GROUP – 80 YEARS ON

Congratulations to our Scout Group as they celebrate their 80th Anniversary. Rosie gives us a potted history of the Group since its formation...

To mark the 80th Anniversary of our Scout Group this year, we invited members of the congregation to join us in a soup and sandwich lunch in the Church Hall after the Enrolment Service on Sunday 21 November, when everyone was offered a slice of 'anniversary cake'.

Our Scout Group was formed on 24 September 1924 as 63rd Belfast Scout Group and renamed as 1st Lisburn Scout Group in 1934 when the Lisburn District Association was formed.

The Wolf Cub pack (now Cub Scouts) was formed in 1932, with Beavers formed in 1969 and Squirrels in 1990. The original blue scarf was changed to brown in 1942, with the gold border added in 1984 as part of the diamond jubilee celebrations.

The Scout Window in the Church was installed to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the Scout Group in 1984, and the badge that we all wear on our scarves was designed for our 75th anniversary in 1999 and is based on the Resurrection Window.

In the New Year, because of the progressive movement upwards between the sections, there will be vacancies in our Squirrel section for boys of 4-5 years of age. Anyone interested, please contact Rosie on 9260 3957.

We hope to see you all at our Scouts Carol Service in First Lisburn on Sunday 5 December at 3.00 pm, when a brass band will provide the music.

Rosie McNeill

OUTREACH MATTERS

AFRICARE – UGANDA

In her recent prayer letter, Denise brings us up to date on her work at Cherub, a Child Health Education and Rehabilitation Unit within Besaniya Children's Home, 12 miles east of Kampala.

The weather is very hot, sometimes unbearably so, and Denise is looking forward to some rain!

Meanwhile, work at Cherub is progressing well with some children coming to the end of their treatments, and parents are delighted with the results. Dr Fluvio is particularly pleased with the progress made on club feet. Denise has been assisted by her sister, Louise, who has been teaching the mums English and helping with administration work.

The feeding programme at Nakapinyi is ongoing with a positive change in the children. Among the stories Denise tells of the children, she writes particularly about Christine, an eight-year-old girl who has been suffering from neglect and malnutrition, and whose mother is now receiving counselling in the hope that she will be encouraged to love and care for Christine and her other seven children.

Denise thanks everyone for their support and asks us to continue to pray as they plan their future work. She also asks us to pray for her sister, Louise, and for all the children in their care and their families.

This is just a summary from Denise's letter - full copies are available in the vestibule.

BIBLE BRAIN TEASER

I hope you were all able to find the 'hidden books' of the Bible in the Biblical Brain Teaser in the Autumn Wavelength – here are the answers:

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."

WIDER WORLD

If anyone else would like to order this magazine, please contact me on 9266 3285. The annual cost will be £3.00. It is an interesting magazine and keeps us up to date on many missionary aspects of the Presbyterian Church.

Helen Lynn

YOUR BOOKSTALL AT CHRISTMAS

The congregation will see that the bookstall in the foyer is operating again at this time of year. People are encouraged to take a few moments to browse – there are many interesting and exciting titles to suit all ages. As well as possibly buying a book for someone else, what about purchasing one for yourself to help you in your walk with God? Topics covered are wide and varied and there is sure to be something to capture your interest.

Tom Kinkead

POINTS FOR PRAYER BOOKLET 2005

For each day of the month there are two pages, one covering an aspect of the Church's mission at home and one for overseas. You will find this booklet contains a wealth of information about the mission of the Presbyterian Church at home and abroad. Those who already receive the booklet do not need to re-order and new readers are encouraged. Please speak to Tom Kinkead or telephone him at 9266 5095.

Tom Kinkead,
Overseas Agent

CHRISTIAN IRISHMAN CALENDAR 2005

Anyone who would like to order the Christian Irishman calendar for 2005, please contact Doreen Burns: Tel No. 9267 9965. The price is £1.80 and a sample of the calendar can be seen in the Church Office.

This and That

Steve and Johno

Clearview Window Cleaners and Garden Maintenance

Window cleaning, grass cutting, patio cleaning, hedge trimming, stone laying etc. carried out. Tel. 9266 6343 or Mobile No. 07775 853 511

Stamps For 'Save The Children'

Miss Nancy Martin would be very pleased to receive all used postage stamps to raise funds for Save the Children. Many more are needed - so, with Christmas cards arriving, please save your stamps and pop them in the box provided underneath the table in the vestibule. Thank you.

Lisburn Lions Club

Sight First Campaign

Please continue to assist Lisburn Lions Club in its collection of used spectacles and hearing aids in support of the international **Sight First** campaign. Your unwanted spectacles and hearing aids could give the gift of sight or hearing to a person in the Third World.

A bin for the collection of used spectacles and hearing aids has also been placed underneath the table in the vestibule. Thank you.

Teddy McNeight

CONGREGATIONAL RECORDS 2004

BAPTISMS

26 SEPTEMBER PAIGE ELIZABETH BROWN, daughter Beverly and William, baptised on profession of faith
 21 November SASHA McCLURG, infant daughter of Denise and Ashley, 14 Maze Park, Lisburn
 28 November REBECCA CYAN JANSON, daughter of Michele McCall, 46 Old Mill Heights, Hillsborough

MARRIAGES

25 October PAULA NICOL and REV. PAUL GALLUCCI
 29 October GILLIAN LUNN and JOHN MOFFETT

DEATHS

26 September MRS BETTY HARVEY, 10 Cloverhill Avenue, Lisburn
 2 October MR BILLY McCLENAHAN, 20 Hillside Court, Lisburn
 26 October MRS W COURTNEY, 4 Rosslyn Park, Lisburn

HOLY COMMUNION

28 November MRS MAY DAVIS, 73 Waterloo Road, Lisburn, on profession of faith

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

MR & MRS E CROMIE from 27 Woodview Crescent, Lisburn
 to Apartment 1a, Wopping Lane, Hillsborough

MR & MRS M McALISTER from 5 Ridge Park
 to 64 Antrim Road, Lisburn

MR THOMAS STEELE from 185 Moira Road, Lisburn
 to 23 Pothill Lane, Old Ballynahinch Road, Lisburn

If you are aware of errors in any part of our Church records, e.g. wrong address etc., please notify the Treasurer, Jimmy Lynn. (Tel: 9266 3285)

SOME USEFUL CONTACTS

Clerk of Session	Perry Reid	9266 2922
Congregational Secretary	Alan McIlmoyle	9266 2823
Congregational Treasurer	Jimmy Lynn	9266 3285
Sunday School Superintendent	Dr John Davis	9260 2576
Porch Duty Convenor	Bobby Watson	9266 5837
Sunday Duty Convenor	Dr Derek Bell	9260 1010
Bible Study Groups & Prayer Gathering	Evelyn Whyte	9061 3410
Bible Fellowship	Douglas Anderson	9266 6193
'GO' Group	Richard McNeight	9267 6668
Cross Community Group	Joyce Moran	9267 8284
Church Friends	Helen Lynn	9266 3285
Cheer-You-Up Club	Helen Lynn	9266 3285
PWA Secretary	Anne Kain	9266 3073
Christian Aid	Hazel McCall	9260 1777
Catering Officer	Margaret McIlmoyle	9266 2823
Light Programme	Noel Stevenson	9266 5538
Girls' Brigade	Captain: May Armstrong Contact: Maureen Killiner	9268 3726
Scout Group	Rosie McNeill	9260 3957
Designated Person for Child Protection	Maureen Killiner	9268 3726
Church Flowers Organiser	Annabelle Poots, MBE	9267 5915
Wavelength	Mary McNeight	9261 2451
IGNite, Pulse and all enquiries for children and young people	Matt Craig	(see Staff page)

