

FIRST LISBURN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Minister's letter

Two weeks. That's how long I can take on sabbatical this year - two whole weeks! I'm meant to go away, read books and come back a better person. Two weeks hardly seems long enough, does it? It's a moral dilemma: am I meant to go somewhere nice and read a book with sunglasses on, or do I just head up north to the drizzle and the odd fish supper? And what, I need to figure out, do I study when I get 'there'?

A conference on 'How to make your mind up' or 'What to do when spoilt for choice' sounds about right.

In my conference quest I came across the Willow Creek Community Church seminar entitled '**The Seven Myths of Volunteerism**'. The seminar goes like this:

Myth 1: There are just not enough volunteers to go round.

Too many churches spend their time having 'm, s, g' meetings - moan, sob, groan meetings - where folk wring their hands about the lack of volunteers, instead of developing a strategy to reach them.

Myth 2: Volunteers are only capable of doing the tasks that are low in strategic importance.

Unless staff respect the dignity and capabilities of what a volunteer can bring, there will never be a volunteer revolution. High capacity volunteers need high capacity opportunities to serve; medium capacity volunteers need medium capacity opportunities to serve; low capacity volunteers need low capacity opportunities to serve. So we need a wide portfolio of varying-capacity opportunities.

Myth 3: Volunteers are free help.

Volunteers can offer enormous amounts of help, but are never free. They need competent leading, nurturing, coaching; they need equipment and resources; they need a staff member to lead them. Every church needs a volunteer champion on staff.

Myth 4: Most volunteers want to serve in only one position.

Very few volunteers hit the jackpot first time. Staff and volunteers need to stay in a consistent dialogue, a dialogue that allows load adjustment, migration to different volunteering opportunities, exploration of other volunteer opportunities, etc.

Myth 5: Volunteers are not interested in training and development.

Volunteers always like getting a little bit better at what they do. There should be training when a volunteer begins a position, and there should be ongoing training.

Myth 6: Volunteers need encouragement from heaven, but not much from anyone else.

Churches need to create a culture of inspiration and encouragement. It doesn't require a degree, money, or even much time. We forget that volunteers have lives!

Myth 7: Volunteerism is a one-way deal - all output, no input

Many ministers think that they can't lay demands on busy people. That means that they think volunteering will diminish the quality of volunteers' lives by laying one more stress on stressed-out lives. But volunteerism done right will not diminish the quality of their lives - it will do the opposite.

What all this means is this: in First Lisburn any single organisation which loses its volunteers closes the doors next week. Without volunteers all of First Lisburn would shut down within a fortnight. As a church we have a very high level of volunteers and at all levels of commitment. Some run organisations, others fill a shoe box once a year. All are needed. The last year has seen a whole new raft of volunteers covering the communication team, new elders, new Scout leaders, Sunday School helpers and GO - to mention only five areas. Some have stopped doing things they have done for a long, long time, others have moved to new spheres of service, and some are volunteering for things like F.L.A.S.H. for the first time. For me, this is part of what makes FLPC such a nice place in which to be part of the staff team.

I reckon I should 'donate' my sabbatical to a bunch of volunteers in First Lisburn. (I believe 'bunch' is the collective term - or is it 'team'?) Trouble with that is - who would do their '9-5' jobs - if they can find the time for such? And, anyway, if a whole bunch - sorry 'team' - of volunteers headed off to a conference in California on 'How to get your clergy motivated - the seven myths of being a minister', who exactly would do all the work here? Any volunteers?

John Brackenridge

VISIT OF THE MODERATOR

SUNDAY 3 APRIL AT 6.30 PM - WORSHIP FIRST

The Moderator of the General Assembly, The Rev. Dr Ken Newell, will lead worship on the subject of his theme: *Live a Life of Love in Lisburn.* Members and clergy of St Patrick's, Railway Street P.C. and Christian Fellowship Church will join us.

MEMORIAL PLAQUE IN MEMORY OF DR BOYD

On Sunday 17 April during morning service, Mrs Boyd will unveil a memorial plaque to her late husband. The Congregation has presented this plaque in loving memory of Dr Boyd. It reflects the affection in which he is held and records his year as Moderator of the General Assembly. The plaque will be located in the ground floor of the church building - between two of the windows on the Market Street side.

The wording (as seen below) has been agreed by the General Assembly's Church Architectural Committee.

**To the Glory of God and in memory of
The Very Rev. William Boyd M.A. D.D. 1908 - 2003
Minister of First Lisburn 1950 - 1972
Moderator of the General Assembly 1967
A man of vision, wisdom and humility
A beloved pastor and friend**

From Your Editor...

Signs of Spring are in the air as we look forward to longer days and warmer weather ahead. What lovely sunshine we had for Annual Review Sunday, followed by our second Pot Luck lunch - another huge success with families of all ages joining together to enjoy each other's cooking! Again, the variety of main courses and sweets were delicious and I am sure any mothers who were there felt they had a treat. We thank the ladies who organized the lunch and all those who worked hard to make sure that everything ran smoothly.

There is quite a lot to absorb in this edition of your magazine, so I would suggest you make yourself a 'cuppa' and take time to digest it all.

We congratulate Tom Kinhead on the publication of his book *Over Forty Years of Operation Mobilisation in Ireland* in which he tells of his personal experiences over the years with OM. I look forward to reading it and learning more about the work of this missionary society in Ireland.

You will also be interested to read the article received from a past pupil of Market Square Public Elementary School, in which she recalls with affection her early schooldays in our church hall. I want to thank our anonymous contributor for giving us a rare insight into education in the Nineteen Twenties.

It is good to hear a number of our members will be embarking on outreach programmes during the summer. I look forward to receiving your reports for a future edition of *Wavelength*.

Mary McNeight

A personal thank you...

Annabelle and Sammy Poots would like to express their thanks and appreciation to the Rev. John Brackenridge and Miss Evelyn Whyte for their very caring attention during Sammy's recent illness, and to all their good friends in the congregation who visited and sent cards and good wishes to Sammy, and also supported Annabelle during recent weeks. Sammy is making good progress and we all wish him a full recovery.

LISBURN DOWNTOWN CENTRE

Drivers urgently needed

The Downtown Centre urgently needs transport and drivers, especially on Wednesday afternoons for the Get Together Club, and on Friday mornings. Please speak to Margaret Bailie.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 19 March	8.00 pm	'The Passion'
Sun 20 March	11.00 am	Morning Worship 'The Passion'
Sun 27 March	11.00 am	Easter Sunday Service
Sun 3 April	6.30 pm	Worship First Service: Speaker The Moderator, The Rev. Dr Ken Newell
Fri 8 April		Girls' Brigade Parents' Evening
Sun 17 April	11.00 am	Morning Service – Unveiling of Memorial Plaque in memory of Dr Boyd
Sun 17 April	11.00 am	GB District Parade in First Lisburn
Sun 1 May	11.00 am	Morning Worship led by The Rev. Dr John Dunlop
Sat 11 June		Car Boot Sale and Sunday School Fun Day

Holy Week Services

Mon Tues & Wed 21, 22, & 23 March	7.00 pm–7.30 pm	in the Upper Room
Thurs 24 March	7.00 pm	Holy Communion in the Church
Fri 25 March	7.00 pm	Service of Contemplation in Church

Good Friday March - organised by Lisburn City Churches

We will gather at 12.30 pm to leave at 12.45 pm to walk from Jessops in Bow Street to Market Square for a short time of worship. This year the order is: A Welcome from The Rev, Brian Gibson; Father Sean Rogan will introduce the hymn *Amazing Grace*; Paul Dundas (the new Rector of Christ Church) will lead us in the Reading and Thought and Brian Anderson from Seymour Street Methodist Church will lead us in prayer and The Lord's Prayer. We close with an Easter Hymn. *Please plan to join us for this short act of Easter worship. It is a very special opportunity for the Christian folk of Lisburn to proclaim the message of Easter with one voice!*

LISBURN FESTIVAL – organised by Lisburn City Churches

This will take place on **2-5 November 2005**. There is to be a meeting of youth leaders in early March to pursue this. The local Scripture Union committee will be helping in the youth events. For all the congregations we plan to have a contemporary worship event on **Saturday 5 November** with music provided by the Cathedral worship band and drama etc. On **Sunday night, 6 November**, we plan to do a version of *Songs of Praise* with people voting for favourite hymns, the format to be similar to the TV programme. (We hope that the Further Education College may be our venue).



HEALING MINISTRY

Why should we even consider the introduction of a healing ministry? Healing was very much part of Jesus' ministry and of His witness on earth. Also, it was very much part of the New Testament. Over these last years the healing ministry has been practised in all different branches of the church including the Presbyterian Church. We have a General Assembly Divine Healing Committee. Presbyteries and individual churches hold healing services on a regular basis and we have had a few here in First Lisburn.

It was said to me some months ago: "The healing ministry is very important, not only for physical healing but for a whole sense of well-being." Jesus came to bring wholeness, care of body, mind and spirit.

Over these last few months the healing ministry has been discussed at Session. A number of elders met with David Jardine from Divine Healing Ministries. A report from this meeting was brought back to session and it was agreed that six training sessions would be taken by the Divine Healing Ministries starting on 9 February. Along with the training there is the opportunity to attend the healing services taken by Divine Healing Ministries. The training to date has been very challenging. On Sunday 1 May, Rev. Br David Jardine will speak at 'Worship First', and from the month of May we will have times when the church will be open and those trained will be available to listen to and pray with people in a quiet and gentle way. We will arrange a time during the day, and an evening time for those who are not available during the day. Dates and times will be given in the near future.

In many ways we all need healing daily as we face the challenges of life. One of the greatest gifts anyone can experience is God's peace in the middle of a difficult situation. God in the name of His Holy Spirit wants so much to minister to all of our needs. Jesus said in John 10:10b: "My purpose is to give life in all its fullness."

DIVINE HEALING MINISTRIES:

Healing services: (All weekly)

Monday - St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast - 8.00 pm

Tuesday - St Finnian's Church, Cregagh - 8.00 pm

Evelyn Whyte

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB 15–21 AUGUST 2005

First Lisburn is holding a Holiday Bible Club this summer! The proposed dates are 15–21 August. As it is the intent to use this programme as an outreach to the city of Lisburn, as well as a week for our own Sunday School students, we are expecting a high attendance. Barry Keating, a former Assistant Minister of First Lisburn, is planning to bring a team of teenagers and young adults from his congregation in Seattle, USA. Barry has requested that members of his team be housed by members of our congregation for the two weeks that they are here. If you are interested in this great opportunity, please contact me soon. While Barry's team will certainly be welcomed, we still need plenty of help during the club and prior to it. As many of you know, running a Holiday Bible Club is fairly easy; preparing for it is the hard part. We need a catering team, a set-design team, as well as a number of leaders and helpers to work with the children. We also intend to hold an event in the evenings for the teenagers. **Our first planning meeting will be held on Monday 4 April at 8.00 pm. Anyone interested in helping with the planning should attend.**

If you are free from 15–21 August and if you can help with running the Club in any way, please contact Matt.

Matt Craig

F.L.A.S.H

F.L.A.S.H is up and running. F.L.A.S.H stands for First Lisburn After School Hangout. It is an after school programme run in the lower half of our building for secondary school students, currently running on Mondays and Thursdays for Yr 8–Yr 10, and Wednesday and Fridays for Yr 11 and above. So far it has been very successful and we are getting quite a few young people from the community as well.

As F.L.A.S.H continues to grow we still need additional volunteer leaders. We need people to do everything from helping with homework, playing table tennis, registering kids as they come in and out, to selling sweets and drinks. I would like to make it clear that you do not need any special qualifications to volunteer with F.L.A.S.H. At the minute we need at least ten additional adults to volunteer one afternoon a month. Several of the young people who attend F.L.A.S.H on Wednesdays and Fridays help with the younger group on Mondays and Thursdays, which are the days we are most in need of volunteers. Although they are a tremendous help, they do not count as the necessary adult leaders.

PCI have issued new Child Protection Guidelines. As of January, all new volunteers must be PECS checked prior to volunteering with young people. Since this can take up to eight weeks to process, we need to start moving on this now. You are more than welcome to come and check out F.L.A.S.H before committing yourselves to anything. I hope that you will prayerfully consider this opportunity to get alongside the young people of Lisburn.

Matt Craig

PRESBYTERY FINANCES

The March Presbytery announced the Dromore Presbytery 2005 target for United Appeal - it is £173,958. First Lisburn's target of honour is **£14,329**, which works out at **£35 per contributing family this year**. In 2004, three congregations failed to meet their target, ten paid their target and nine, including First Lisburn, exceeded their target.

Presbytery also released the 'league table' of finances. League tables have their critics; however, for what it is worth, we are fifth in a 'class' of 22. The average Presbyterian family in our Presbytery gave £327.64 to specified sources; we managed £353.56. The 22 congregations range from £197.26 in twenty-second place to £557.97 in first place. All Congregations met the Church House minimum salary increase, five voted their minister an additional amount, either to cover inflation or more. Bobby Liddle, the Minister of Legacurry, is our Moderator of Presbytery. It took £10,567 to run the Presbytery last year.

John Brackenridge

FROM YOUR TREASURER...

CHURCH INSURANCE

From time to time I am asked what the insurance implications are of certain church activities which take place. I comment on three of these questions:

Private vehicles used on church business

Youth leaders or other officers of the church may use their own private vehicles for visitations, for example, or transporting children to and from events. Mainstream insurance companies tend to view these types of activities as 'social' use of the vehicle. 'Fringe' markets or Lloyds may, however, view the matter differently and may require additional cover to be effected in relation to the class of use of the vehicle.

It is therefore essential that any person using their own vehicle on church 'business' declares this to their own insurance company as, in the event of a claim, that policy could become void.

Summer fêtes and youth activities

With one exception, any of above are covered by the church insurance – 'hazardous' events are not covered. These include such events as abseiling, rock climbing, canoeing, etc. If you are in any doubt as to whether or not an event that you are organizing might be construed as hazardous, check with the treasurer. It is interesting to note that the use of bouncy castles is completely ruled out as far as our church insurance is concerned – but if you still want to hire, then ask me to check with our brokers who will confirm whether or not the person from whom you are hiring has proper insurance.

Auctions/Sales

As the result of a European directive, there are onerous obligations on any organisation or person that sells or supplies 'second hand goods'. This applies to furniture, cookers, electrical appliances, clothing, toys... and the list goes on. If considering an auction or sale that would involve the type of items referred to, it is suggested that the Consumer Safety section of your local authority is contacted.

(The above is with acknowledgment to our Insurance Brokers – Bartholomew & James).

CHURCH INCOME

It is vital that all our members bear in mind that inflation is always with us and therefore ensure that each year they increase their giving to the church. Many do this but others do not and are still giving at the same level as they did a number of years ago. This especially applies to those who pay by Standing Order – it is easy when using this method to overlook the fact that the Standing Order needs to be updated annually. One member has not increased this for at least ten years!

Jimmy Lynn

FIRST LISBURN WEBSITE www.firstlisburn.org

Many thanks to all the organizations who have submitted information for their pages on our website. We hope

NEW HYMNBOOK FOR FIRST LISBURN

In September 2004 the Presbyterian Church in Ireland launched its new Irish Presbyterian Hymnbook. The Church has had hymnbooks before but these have always been produced in collaboration with the other Presbyterian Churches in the British Isles, though it did produce its own supplementary book *Glory to God* some years ago. However, following a decision of the General Assembly in 2001 the new book is unique to the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and, accordingly, will replace the Third Edition in FLPC.

The hymnbook contains the 150 Psalms and 66 Paraphrases of the Irish Psalter and 669 hymns and songs, including such loved hymns as 'What a Friend we have in Jesus' and 'O Worship the King, all glorious above' through to new and widely sung hymns like 'In Christ alone my hope is found'.

The hymnbook has been brought up to date with the inclusion of contemporary material and includes the work of local composers Robin Mark, Keith Getty and David Montgomery. The Language used in some hymns has been altered to make it more modern – in most cases 'thee' and 'thine' have been seamlessly replaced with 'you' and 'your'. All-inclusive language has also been used to move from the male bias of hymns like 'Rise up, O men of God' to the more inclusive form 'Rise up O church of God'. The book also provides us with a better selection of children's praise and is designed to help PCI move on in how we worship in the 21st Century.

Session has decided to use the new hymnbook in First Lisburn and that a kind gift given in memory of Billy McClenahan should be used to purchase a number of copies. A large print edition of the hymnbook is also available.

Any member of the Congregation wishing to purchase a copy (or a number of copies as a gift or memorial) of either the standard or large print version should contact Jimmy Lynn immediately. We plan to purchase the books very soon to benefit from the special publisher's discount, which is available on bulk orders placed before 31 March 2005.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CALLS FOR A RESTORATION OF 'MORAL INTEGRITY' TO THE PEACE PROCESS.

Meeting in Belfast on Thursday, 24 February, The General Board has issued this statement:

"The General Board is dismayed at the £26.5 million Northern Bank robbery on 20 December, 2004, and at the subsequent revelations implicating Sinn Fein. This wilful and planned act violated the law of God, subjected bank employees and their families to terror and cruelty, betrayed relationships with the two Governments, other political parties and people of goodwill and destroyed trust in the commitment of Sinn Fein to seek peace.

"The General Board notes the repeated denials by Sinn Fein of any involvement in the bank robbery, despite the assessments of the PSNI, the Garda Síochána, the two Governments, and the Independent Monitoring Commission. Veracity is fundamental to the integrity of any person or political party. Without veracity, there is no credibility. The denials of Sinn Fein ring hollow.

"The General Board sees the bank robbery as further evidence of a criminality which is deeply ingrained in some sections of Northern Ireland society, both republican and loyalist. It is deeply concerned at the lack of clarity about what is right and what is wrong. It reminds all citizens alike of the moral law of God, set out in the Ten Commandments, and the commands of Jesus to 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind' and to 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' (Matt.22: 37,39)

"The General Board believes that until political parties end all connections to criminality, and fully commit to democratic methods alone, there is no place for them in the future government of Northern Ireland, nor in formal negotiations about such government. Sin, cruelty and duplicity are incompatible with peace, trust and respect for human rights.

"The General Board, therefore, calls on the two Governments to restore moral integrity to the peace process by insisting that no political party shall participate in the future government of Northern Ireland unless it is fully committed to democratic methods alone and, where applicable, renounces and forsakes criminality and engages in complete, verifiable de-commissioning.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION SPRING 2005

"The General Board reiterates its commitment to a political settlement in Northern Ireland that is just and inclusive, and longs for the day when people can live together in true peace, mutual respect and tolerance. This will require integrity of purpose, speech and deed. Believing in the potential of the whole community for a much brighter future, it calls on the members of the Church to renewed commitment to pray and to work for that vision to be realised soon."

TSUNAMI GENEROSITY

With donations still continuing to come in, the Presbyterian Church's Tsunami Appeal has topped the £1.5m mark.

The Moderator, Dr Ken Newell, has expressed his thanks to the 280,000 Presbyterians around Ireland for their "amazing generosity" and described their response as "absolutely superb".

"The last months have seen unprecedented requests for financial help and Presbyterians have been consistently generous in their giving," said Dr. Newell. "I would thank them for their wonderful and amazing support.

"Appeals like this are not just about money," continued the Moderator. "They demonstrate in the strongest way Christian commitment to the world's poor and vulnerable. This will be further emphasised throughout 2005 with support for the Make Poverty History campaign which aims to convince world leaders that we need a change towards more and better aid, a real end to debt and a commitment to trade justice."

The Presbyterian Church will hold a special event on **Thursday evening, 19 May, in Church House, Belfast**, to thank people for their generosity and allow them to hear first hand how their money has been used for emergency relief and long term development in the countries affected by the Tsunami.

Our Open Meeting held on 11 January was very well attended by visitors from other PWA branches and also members of the congregation, despite a dire weather forecast. After a short devotional opening, Mrs. Elizabeth Watt, our President, introduced our speaker, Baroness May Blood.

Lady Blood told us of her humble background growing up on the Grosvenor Road, Belfast and, having left school at fourteen years of age, she went into the local mill where she subsequently worked for 38 years. During this time she noted the long hours, poor conditions of the workplace, how women were paid less than men were for similar work, and that no allowance was made for the needs of those women with families. She became a shop steward and joined the Labour party and gradually found she was becoming very interested in union affairs. Then at the age of 52 she was made redundant. What now? Then she was asked to become a paid union official, to sit on committees and advise others. The value of her work was recognized by an MBE and then a Knighthood. In the House of Lords she is recognized as a plain speaker of the truth and a hardworking member who commutes every week between her home in Belfast and the Houses of Parliament. All this was interspersed with great humour and a turn of phrase, which held her audience captive for over an hour. The applause and standing ovation at the end said much for the enjoyment of all present.

At February's meeting the Reverend Karen Campbell, Assistant Minister at Harmony Hill church came to speak to us together with her husband David who is a teacher. They took us through the alphabet in their journey together, from Adelaide Road, Dublin and their time in Kenya in different placements 100 miles apart, to the difficulty of finding the right wardrobe for a female minister! Karen spoke of her busy life and how difficult it is to find time for home life. Their music takes them out together and youth work plays a big part in both their lives. She especially reminded us to pray for and support our missionaries overseas, where many find it very lonely being the only white face in a huge country. They finished their evening as they had begun, with a new hymn out of the new Irish Presbyterian Hymnbook. A thought-provoking evening which was enjoyed by all.

March's meeting had all the business of an Annual General Meeting to be got through, as well as a very interesting talk from Eleanor McFadzean on "Looking Both Ways". This involved the members in a questionnaire, work in groups on analysing the past year's work, and looking forward to the future of PWA in our changing world.

The office-bearers elected were Elizabeth Watt, President; Inez Price as Vice-President; Joan Parks, Treasurer, and Anne Kain as Secretary. Olive Reid has agreed to 'shadow' the Secretary for a year. Welcome aboard, Olive! Some changes were made to the committee, which now consists of Isobel Kirkwood, Joan Lunn, Meta McCormick, Eleanor McFadzean, Joyce Moran, and Rena Patton. It is great to have some younger women to help with programme structuring and to re-assure long-term members that there is the will to continue the worthwhile work of women both at home and abroad. Members brought the contents of their mission boxes to add to funds, and this will be allocated to the Birthday Thank-offering Fund, which refurbishes PWA properties for missionaries home on furlough.

Twenty plus members will be going on 13 April to see *Carousel* in the Island Centre with a meal beforehand, which will cement further the fellowship found in this Church group.

Anne Kain
Hon. Secretary

CHRISTIAN AID NEWS

'2005 is a year of great opportunity. If everyone who wants to see an end to poverty, hunger and suffering speaks out, then the noise will be deafening. Politicians will have to listen.'

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Christian Aid will be celebrating its 60th birthday in 2005 so, as well as Christian Aid Week in May, there will be a number of special events throughout the year to mark this significant anniversary.

In this key year Christian Aid wants to highlight **Trade Justice** as part of the world-wide **Make Poverty History Campaign** and will be taking part in the **Global Week of Action 10–16 April**. People all over the world will be taking part, in countries across Africa there'll be carnivals and protests; in Asia rallies, there will be postcard campaigns and media stunts. More than 60 countries will be taking part in this world-wide event.

You can join in! On Monday 11 April, fast for the day and show your solidarity with the millions of people who live on less than 60p a day OR you could invite a few friends round for a **Fairtrade Coffee Party**. There will be a VOTE for Trade Justice on Tuesday 12 April 2005 at Belfast City Hall and an opportunity for Northern Ireland supporters to travel to London for a special vigil on 15 April and to Edinburgh for the G8 summit on 2 July.

Some dates to remember:

Christian Aid Week	May 15–21.	Flag Day	Tuesday 17 May
Sunday 24 April	Anniversary Service in St. Patrick's Dublin		
Monday 25 April	Annual Dedication Service for Collectors in First Lisburn		
	Special music by Jubilate		
Tuesday 26 April	Service in St Paul's Cathedral, London		
28/29 May	Game and Country Fair, Moira		
	(Christian Aid is nominated charity)		
24 November	Birthday Concert – Waterfront Hall, Belfast		

If you would like more information on any of the above events please contact Hazel McCall - 92601777

World Development Appeal 2004

The World Development Christmas Appeal 2004 raised £547,201 and this generous sum will be shared by Christian Aid and Tearfund.

Hazel McCall

From Helen Lynn...

CHEER-YOU-UP CLUB

We are approaching the end of our tenth year – where has the time gone? Our meetings are very enjoyable with plenty of fun, fellowship, friendship and food. Over the years we have lost a fair number of our members because of death or maybe going into nursing homes. We also get a few new members each year and our numbers have remained steady, although we are rather short of male members. We do extend a very warm invitation to all senior citizens to come along to the Boyd Room on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 2.00 pm until 3.45 pm approximately. We will provide transport if needed. Further information may be obtained from Evelyn Whyte tel. 90613410, Anne Kain tel. 92663073 or Helen Lynn tel. 92663285.

SEND A COW – LIVESTOCK FOR LIFE

A couple of years ago Evelyn and Marion were saving up to buy a cow. This was for some poor person in Africa – not for themselves! When others heard about it they gave them their support – the original cow became two cows, two goats and maybe a bit more. Send a Cow is a Christian organisation giving direct practical help to poor farmers in Africa by providing livestock, together with training in animal care, sustainable organic farming and low cost veterinary services.

They target the poorest people in any community – women, disabled people and orphan households. Every farmer who receives livestock has to guarantee to pass its first female offspring to another poor family, who will do the same in their turn. This means that the people are able to keep their dignity by helping themselves and just not accepting handouts. This is a very worthwhile charity; we have about £55 towards another cow – if you would like to help, there are collecting boxes for contributions, and leaflets giving lots of information. You may be interested to know the following prices: a cow £750, pair of goats £125, a pig £80, flock of poultry £60, a hive of bees £40, 100 fruit trees £30, or a whole farmyard £2000!!

SAMARITAN'S PURSE

You will remember reading in the November *Wavelength* that we had a balance of £250 left after despatching 468 shoeboxes and £1,000. We obtained information about the various programmes supported by the above charity and we decided on the one that supplies water filters to many of the African countries. Water facts: Only 2.5 per cent of the world's water is fresh; more than two-thirds of this is unavailable for human use; 2.3 billion people suffer from diseases linked to water; unsafe water causes 1.7 million deaths each year and 90 per cent of the victims are children; a water filter costs an average of £40. I hope you will agree that our small gift will save a few lives.

SHOEBOX UPDATE

Christmas is still a long way off but many members of our congregation have already been thinking about our 2005 appeal. Hats, scarves, gloves, dolls and small toys are being donated every week and I would like to thank all who have started knitting or giving. We have also acquired a number of good bargains from the sales! This is very encouraging.

Helen Lynn

SCOUT GROUP

The Scout Group started back after the Christmas break with a busy and diverse programme in all four sections. We've been celebrating the Chinese New Year, treasure hunting around Lisburn, baking and making crafts. The Beavers played some great football at the inter-district five-a-side, and we wish the Cubs good luck in their forthcoming competition against the other local Cub Packs.

The Scouts and Cubs are preparing and looking forward to heading off camping, with the Scouts taking advantage of the Lisburn District cottage in the Mournes, and the Cubs heading off to EuroCubJam at the Scout campsite in Crawfordsburn.

Due to boys moving up through the sections, we have a number of spaces available in the Squirrels. **If you know of any boys, aged four or five who would like to join the Squirrels**, please contact Rosie McNeill or speak to any of the leaders on Tuesday evenings, 6.30 pm–7.30 pm in the Basement Hall.

We welcomed back Rachel Flinn to the Squirrels and said hello to Claire Leatham as a new assistant leader in the Beavers. We also thank Jayne Magee and Liz Peel who have taken over as secretary and treasurer, respectively, on our parents' committee, and say goodbye to our outgoing committee members, Joanna Waterson and Maureen Hamill, with thanks for all their commitment, hard work and support in the past.

We are nearing the end of our 80th year and shall be celebrating at our Parents' Night on 31 May with a treasure hunt and BBQ. All past members are very welcome and if you would like to come along and/or have any memorabilia that we could display on the evening, please speak to any leader or telephone Rosie McNeill, Leader-in-charge (028 92603957).

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

Over Forty Years of Operation Mobilisation in Ireland
by Tom Kinkead.

Tom writes mainly about his personal experiences regarding the work of this missionary society in Ireland. This publication also contains interesting contributions from others who have been involved.

Over the years thousands of people of all ages from Ireland have been involved with OM through conferences, ships' visits, summer crusades, prayer groups, etc. and as a result many have left our shores to become involved with countless missionary societies including OM. Many have gone into the Christian ministry in various denominations, including Presbyterian, in Ireland and further afield.

Tom's desire is that this will challenge many people to go into all the world and preach the Gospel.

This publication costing £4.00 may be purchased in the church vestibule.

PECS CHECKING

Since 1 January this year, all those working with children and young people, either in a voluntary or a paid capacity, will be subject to PECS checking. (PECS stands for Pre-Employment Consultancy Service. It is a strictly confidential service offered by the Department of Health and Social Service and Public Safety). Essentially this means checking with the police to see whether there is any record of convictions or cautions. This is part of a major upgrading of child protection measures that were introduced a number of years ago throughout the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. It is also a good thing that we should do everything within our power to make sure that the church environment is a totally safe place for all our children and young people.

PECS checking will be processed on behalf of congregations by the Board of Social Witness, and it is likely that at certain times of the year there will be a heavy workload. It is anticipated that each application will take six to eight weeks to clear. This in turn has implications for recruitment and training of volunteers. It means that children's and youth organisations will need to think ahead and begin the process of seeking additional leaders or teachers much earlier than usual. Otherwise there could be a serious shortage of leaders.

It should be emphasised that no-one will be able to take up a position in any child or youth related activity within the congregation until the process for that person is completed. This is a major change in the culture of how we do things, and it may well prove exasperating for hard-pressed leaders who are short-staffed. But there is no way round this, and there will be no short-cuts. At the end of the day it is about the safety and well-being of our boys and girls.

So, if you are a leader, please bear with us and understand the reasons for this. And if you are a potential volunteer, please don't be offended or put off offering your services. We need you and value you, and we are all in this together.

Should you have any queries about any aspect of this, please speak to Maureen Killiner, our Child Protection Officer (CPO), or to Matt Craig, our Youth Director. Margaret Bailie, Downtown Co-ordinator, will be updating all her volunteers and is working in liaison with Maureen Killiner (CPO). Maureen, Matt and Margaret are currently working on processing our PECS checking.

OUTREACH MATTERS

Denise leaves this message with us as she returns to Uganda following her recent visit home. It was good to see her again.

I returned to Uganda on 13 February, following a two-week visit home to Lisburn.

During those two weeks I spent time catching up with family, friends and my Church family. It was a very busy and enjoyable time, with lots of tea parties and over-dosing on fresh cream!

The year 2005 began with real gusto – 30 new patients on our books, and the 20 beds full, following a break over the Christmas period. In addition to the orthopaedic programme, we now have a full-time plastic surgeon working at Mergo hospital, his name is Andrew Hodges (British). Already he has performed cleft lip and palate repairs and released post burn contractures on many children. The surgery is making an immense difference in the lives of children and parents. It is fantastic to see the satisfied smiles of joy on their faces.

This year we hope to carry out some clinics in villages that have not been reached during the few years that CHERUB has been opened.

Please pray that God will take us to the right villages and guide us to the most needy children.

Many thanks for the warm welcome home, for your prayers and gifts. I loved every moment of being back in the fellowship again. Thanks to the Sunday School for the invitation to speak, the bible studies for hosting me and for listening to my news, and to the church for letting me speak at Worship First.

It was great to meet some new members and to catch up with the old members.

The Staff at Besaniya are just praising God so much for the money received for the new computer; it will make such a difference to the work.

Thank you again for all your love and support. God willing, I will see you at Christmas time.

God bless you.
Denise Kane

MARKET SQUARE PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BY A PAST PUPIL

I started the above School in the late Nineteen Twenties. The main old entrance into the present Church Hall was the main door to the School. To the right side were hooks for the girls' coats and to the left, hooks for the boys' coats.

A partition ran across the hall about a quarter of the way up, with a door in the centre of the partition leading to the main classes of the School. On the left side of this first room Miss Betty Hyland, a tall lady with beautiful hands and soft brown eyes taught Babies and Senior Infants, and on the right-hand side Miss Mary Harper, a lady from a very well respected family from Hillsborough, taught First Standard and she also introduced all young girls to Needlework, i.e. sewing, darning and knitting. I can still recall having lumps of skin lifted on my left pointer finger trying to take small stitches.

I have always liked bright colours, so of course I was taken with the abacus with the brightly coloured beads, which Miss Hyland used to teach us to count. Our fingers came in very useful too, in addition to which we had to repeat, parrot fashion, twice times tables. The next stage was counting with little sticks in bundles of ten.

The Babies occupied the front two or three rows of the classroom with the Senior Infants in the rows behind. They were taught to use their 'Readers' and could print answers in their jotters.

I did not really look forward to going into the main part of the School through the partition door because the CANE was used there. Imagine an aisle in the desks leading up to almost the platform. The desks were arranged facing out towards the windows, and on the wall between the windows a blackboard was fixed on each side of the room. There were also a few rows of desks facing the platform. This large section of the hall held Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Standards. Sixth Standard pupils were taught in the first room in the wing to the left of the building.

I remember doing Arithmetic standing in a semi-circle outside the door of this room balancing my stiff-backed jotter resting on the crook of my left arm, writing down the answers, with my school-bag at my feet.

I remember as a young child sitting in the few rows of desks facing the platform learning to write in my copy-book, with a pen with a sharp nib that kept making a scratching noise on the paper, and every time the nib was put in the inkwell, if too much ink was put on the nib the writing was hopeless. While busy at this task, the teacher was going around looking over my shoulder as I laboriously tried to copy "A stitch in time saves nine" or some other proverb, while more interesting things were going on in the room.

For instance, Mrs Sarah Jane Crothers was teaching a class to sing 'Ye Gates lift up your Heads' to St George's Edinburgh. Another day the same class could have been heard repeating 'O Young Lochinvar is come out of the West' in unison conducted by Mr Gerald Leonard. All this activity was going on in one room – how it was possible to concentrate I will never know.

Before school broke up for the summer holidays, there was a little concert, though not a relaxing time with the Principal, Mr John Fletcher, sitting on a chair on the platform reading out the name of the next performer, all the while watching the audience to see if anyone misbehaved by talking or giggling at the performer.

Naturally, only the best pupils were asked to recite or sing. I remember a blond-haired boy with a pink and white complexion from the County Down side of the town reciting 'Tiger, Tiger burning bright', and for his second piece 'The Snare'. Maureen Crothers sang 'Strawberry Fair' and for her second song trilled out 'Where the Bee Sucks there Suck I'.

To add a little culture to the proceedings, Mr Gerald Leonard sang 'Tit Willow' from *The Mikado*, followed by 'Where ere You Walk'.

After suitable applause we all walked out into the sunshine and ran up the yard to freedom for four or six weeks.

THE ULSTER CANCER FOUNDATION - CHARITY TREK

Alan Erwin is undertaking a charity trek across Iceland in aid of **The Ulster Cancer Foundation**. He will walk for five days and sleep in a tent. He is seeking financial support as he hopes to raise at least £2,000. If you would like to support Alan, please make cheques payable to 'Ulster Cancer Foundation' and these can be posted to 'Icelandic Challenge', c/o The Squire's Adobe, 7 Old Mill Heights, Hillsborough BT26 6RF (taxpayers please enclose address for Gift Aid). Thank you.

Alan

ADVANCE
NOTICE

SATURDAY 11 JUNE

2004/2005

FIRST LISBURN, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO THE FUN DAY

The events will take place at Lisburn Rugby Club

CAR BOOT SALE – 10.00 am–12.00 noon

The event is open to the public both for selling and buying. Don't miss out on the bargains. The youth will be providing hot dogs, tea and coffee all morning.

Charges: £5.00 per car, £10.00 per van

FAMILY FUN AFTERNOON – 3.00 pm–6.00 pm

Plan to bring your family along to this fun event. It is open to all families connected to First Lisburn. The following attractions will be available:

- Side Stalls:** Hoopla, Fishing for Ducks, Jenga, Ping Pong shoot-out, Skittles, Bean Bags throw, Badge making and Badminton shot.
- Other attractions:** Under 5 play area with sandpit, slide, swing, play house, ball pit.
Chat tent for parents with complimentary tea/coffee and biscuits available

BARBECUE – 6.00 pm–8.30 pm

This event is for everyone in the congregation

Adult £6 (12 years up) Eldest Child £3. Remaining kids free

Lots of lovely home-made salads and fresh bread to go with your perfectly cooked sausages and burgers, followed by apple pie and cream.

The evening will end with a short epilogue and the release of our balloons, a spectacle well worth seeing.

BARBECUE TICKETS will be on sale at church from beginning of May

Please plan to be there, we look forward to seeing you!

Sheila Hammonds

BAPTISMS

25 December JACOB FITZELL & SARAH JANE WATSON, children of Heather and Raymond, 21 Cabra Road, Hillsborough

DEATHS

5 February MR WILLIAM HAMILTON, 70C, Causeway End Road, Lisburn
27February MISS NELL ARCHER, 27 Lisnagarvey Drive, Lisburn
8 March MRS M OSMONDE, 9 Thornleigh Drive, Lisburn

HOLY COMMUNION

On Profession of Faith

27 February MR MAURICE & MRS EVELYN WALKER, 3 Meadowvale, Lisburn
MR RONNIE WALKER, 13 Sepon Park, Lisburn

On transfer

27 February MRS LILA McLEAN, 4 Keightly Court, Hillsborough Road
from Malone Presbyterian Church

27 February MRS VALERIE RODGERS, 8 The Belfry, Dromore
from Bellaghy Church of Ireland

NEW MEMBER

MRS LILA McLEAN 4 Keightly Court, Hillsborough Road, Lisburn
from Malone Presbyterian Church

DISJOINED

MR & MRS D McFAUL 87 Glenarm Road, Larne – joined 1st Larne Pres. Church
MRS A CAMPBELL 32 Llewellyn Avenue, Lisburn

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/NEW ADDRESS

MR & MRS D CROZIER from 36 Woodview Crescent, Lisburn (no new address)

MRS E YOUNG from El Shaddai P.N.
to Rose Lodge P.N., Belsize Road, Lisburn

MRS J LINDSAY from 28 Magheralave Road East, Lisburn
to 17 Benavon Court, Lisburn

MR & MRS V MCCARTNEY from 37 Palmer Avenue, Lisburn
to 93 Killowen Grange, Lisburn

MR & MRS J MOFFETT 11 Rivergate Lane, Lisburn

CONGREGATIONAL RECORDS

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 & 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
Choir Secretary	Marion Craig	92662842
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)