

FIRST LISBURN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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MINISTER'S LETTER

What you do with your gifts amazes me.

Last year Whiteabbey gave £32,475, Hamilton Road gave £20,000, Knock gave £15,971, Hillsborough gave £13,306, Belmont gave £10,685, Fisherwick gave £9,229 and First Lisburn gave £7,704 to World Development. That makes us the seventh biggest supporter in PCI. We 'beat' over 500 others. Not bad - even if we are in the top 35 biggest congregations when measured by families.

In First Lisburn I meet people with a vast range of gifts, bucket loads of latent talent and serious amounts of enthusiasm. I see people with great insight, compassionate hearts, winning smiles and busy diaries. I watch people who do things well, I spot very special gifts and I catch glimpses of rare vision and hope. I notice commitment, dedication and fresh new ideas.

What makes World Development so successful here is your ability to 'bag' your gift. Despite the many possible excuses: 'I can't find the envelope,' 'I've lost my pen,' 'I have no change,' 'When will you take credit cards?' or even, 'Nobody has ever asked me personally to make a donation,' people in First Lisburn somehow manage to avoid them all and get their hands in their pockets, handbags and wallets and put substantial gifts in an envelope. And you do it better than 98 per cent of other congregations. It's worth noting. It's a lesson to learn about the remainder of our talents and how we do or don't use them. And it's worth remembering when you and I think about our contribution to our church in terms of time, talent and treasure.

The Apostle Paul once said, 'Whatever you do, work at it with your heart, as working for the Lord...' Once you know what your gift is, that kind of determination ensures it is never lost, misspent or allowed to go unused for too much longer. And no, I've never seen a member of the Congregation spend their World Development gift on something else. Nor have I ever seen anyone give it to another equally worthy cause. That's why we're 'Number 7' after all!

John Brackenridge

From your Editor...

As we are encouraged to give generously to World Development, it is interesting for us to read about and focus on the projects that will benefit from the 2005 appeal, as outlined in the following extract from that appeal launched by PCI World Development Committee.

WORLD DEVELOPMENT APPEAL 2005

In this second and concluding year of the 'Horizons of Hope' World Development Appeal, projects highlighted and supported by Christian Aid and Tearfund are in Malawi, Burundi, the Indian state of Bihar, and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel.

In Malawi there is chronic poverty, and through the initiative of partners in the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) a fruitful development relationship has been established with Christian Aid and projects seek to address the underlying issues which maintain poverty.

Burundi has suffered from a conflict of such intensity that it has been called a hidden genocide; here positive work is being done to address severe poverty and knit the country back again.

In the Indian state of Bihar the devastation wrought by one year's flooding has hardly been dealt with before the next year's arrives. Projects supported by World Development show that significant changes for the better can be made if genuine development is pursued that empowers people and communities to tackle inter-related poverty problems.

In the Palestinian/Israeli interface poverty is increasing alarmingly and in this difficult situation, projects supported by World Development empower people to shape their lives and the life of their communities in positive ways.

Through this World Development Appeal, Presbyterians will help make hopes happen through genuine development programmes supported by Christian Aid and Tearfund in these disadvantaged countries.

Making hopes happen needs ongoing support. Through your prayers for, your interest in, and your generous giving to World Development our partners are enabled in their work of empowering people in practical ways to journey toward their horizon of hope.

Mary McNeight

E-mail: wavelength@firstlisburn.org

WILLIAM BOYD MEMORIAL FUND

Those who attend church will have seen the memorial plaque on the right hand side of the church downstairs in memory of the late Very Rev. Dr William Boyd.

At recent meetings of Session and Committee it was proposed and accepted unanimously that, in addition, there should also be a 'living' memorial. This would take the form of a fund to which there would be a donation of £1,000 per year paid from congregational funds. This would be invested in the Presbyterian Mutual Society and after a few years would accumulate to a reasonable amount. It was agreed that this fund – capital and interest - will be used to assist members of our congregation who are going on church agreed trips at home and abroad and who might find it difficult to raise all the necessary funds. This has been discussed with the Boyd family and they very readily agreed with this proposal.

Whilst we are not asking for any donations to augment this fund, nevertheless there may be someone who would like to contribute and, if so, any such contributions would be very welcome. In fact, the Sunday School has just donated £1,000 for this purpose, which is very much appreciated.

Jimmy Lynn

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 10 December		GB Christmas Shopping in Dublin
Sun 11 December	11.00 am	Morning Worship
Sat 17 December	3-10 pm	Bag Packing at Marks & Spencer
Sun 18 December	11.00 am	Nativity Play
	5.00 pm	Carols and Lessons followed by traditional refreshments
Sun 25 December	10.00 am	Christmas Morning Service
Sun 1 Jan 2006	11.00 am	Holy Communion conducted by Dr Gordon Gray - No Evening Service
Sat 7 January	3.00 pm	Sunday School Outing to Panto <i>Cinderella</i> - Island Centre, Lisburn

CAROLS IN THE CITY - Wednesday 14 December

7.30 pm - The Island Centre

An evening with the City Centre Churches (FLPC, Railway Street, St Patrick's, Seymour Street Methodist, Lisburn Christian Fellowship, Lisburn Cathedral, Christ Church). Guest speaker, The Very Rev. Dr Ken Newell.

Music and praise will be led by brass band, Friends' School, Brownlee Primary School and St Aloysius Choirs. Plan to be with us as the city marks the meaning of Christmas for us all!

Please buy your ticket from the Island Centre. £6.00.

Advance notice to all ladies:

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

FRIDAY 3 MARCH 2006 at 8.00 pm

**HOSTED BY FIRST LISBURN
(after 21 years)**

**PREPARED BY WOMEN OF SOUTH AFRICA
Theme: "Signs of the Times"**

CAN YOU HELP?

WANTED

Donation of unwanted **white cotton sheet or tablecloth**

Favourite **verses of scripture** written on a slip of paper,
including source

Kindly place in box in Church Porch on or before **Sunday 11 December**

Volunteers to sing as part of the choir for that evening

Contact for above: Elizabeth Watt 92 683391/Inez Price 92 665992



PRAYER HEALING MINISTRY

Personal Reflection

'Since going to prayer healing ministry I have felt great peace within myself, and that is God's greatest gift to me. I would encourage anyone who would like to have prayer to attend these times of prayer. It is confidential. The friends you make are special and of course there is always a welcome cup of tea/coffee, biscuits and chat.

*A verse of scripture that has been a great help to me is:
Psalm 34:18 "The Lord is near to those who are discouraged and saves those who have lost all hope".*

Peace is God's greatest gift. God cares so deeply for the whole person and wants to bring His peace and healing to every part of our lives. We as a team see that we need to pray with each other so that nothing can take away the gift of peace that God has given us.

We continue to have the church open twice a month for people to come for prayer. On Friday 18 November the church was open when the Christmas lights were being switched on. Matt and some of the young people from 'Funky Friday' joined us to go out and give out invitations for people to come in for tea/coffee, and chat. There was also the opportunity for people to go into the church for their own private prayer or have team members pray with them. Quite a number of people came in for tea/coffee. Good conversations and contacts were made, and some people were able to link up with our youth activities.

At our last team meeting we talked about having the church open just before Christmas. The group that has been doing 'Up Front' over the last number of years has been thinking about doing things differently this year. It possibly will be an evening before Christmas, and there will be more information about this in the announcements. The Prayer Healing Team are hoping to be involved in this evening, by giving the opportunity to people to call in to the church for a chat over tea/coffee and, if desired, an opportunity for prayer when Prayer Team members will be available.

**THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FOR PEOPLE TO COME FOR PRAYER
ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

WEDNESDAY

7.30 pm – 9.00 pm

14 December 2005
18 January 2006
15 February 2006
15 March 2006

THURSDAY

12 Noon – 2.00 pm

1 December 2005
5 January 2006
2 February 2006
2 March 2006

**Someone will be available to pray with you at these times
should you so desire, or please feel free to complete a Prayer
Request Form and place in box in Church Porch**

***Jesus said, "Come to me all you who are burdened and heavy
laden, and I will give you rest."***

Matthew 11:28

**For further information please contact: Church Office
on 028 9266 0144 or E-mail: office@firstlisburn.org**

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

YOUTH PROGRAMMES

The youth work in First Lisburn is in full swing and below are **some** of the programmes available to young people:

Ignite P6 – Yr10

2nd, 3rd, 4th Sundays each month 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm in Main Hall.
Last one in 2005 will be 11 December and IGNite will return on 8 January.

FLASH Yr 11 – Yr 14 Wednesdays 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm

FLASH Yr 8 – Yr 14 Fridays 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm
FLASH will end for 2005 on 16 December

Funky Friday -Yr 11 – Yr 14

1st and 3rd Fridays of every month 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm
4th Friday of every month will be attending FOCUS as a group
Last meeting in 2005 will be 16 December

Matt Craig

FIRST LISBURN FOOTBALL CLUB

First Lisburn Football Club has been competing for nearly six weeks now. We are undoubtedly working through some growing pains as we are a young team who have not played together before, competing in the very tough South Antrim Division One League. We have several members of FLPC on the squad and affiliated with the team, as well as a large crowd of non-FLPC members on the team. It has been extremely rewarding to have something that brings guys together from all different backgrounds. We are graciously sponsored by Stephen McLoughlin's Music Matters and have received some funding from FLPC and Lisburn Council's Sporting Lisburn scheme. On behalf of the whole team, thank you for all of your support and keep it coming, we need it!



Matt Craig and Roy Faulkner

Larissa –a Personal Profile...

As most of you are already aware, a trainee deaconess is currently shadowing Evelyn in her work at FLPC. And it's me, Larissa Mawhinney. Hi there! My first encounter with you folk was at the PWA Service, Sunday 6 November, when John insisted I stand in the pulpit so as you all got a good look at me!

As you will know from that introduction I had previously been working as a nurse in the cardiac unit of Antrim Hospital for nine years. I live in Antrim and belong to Greystone Presbyterian Church.

I'm currently studying at Union Theological College (Tuesday-Friday) and my responsibilities with First Lisburn are to attend Sunday services and two sessions per week with Evelyn. We've worked out a programme so as I can be involved at least once with all the activities which go on here. To date I've been involved with visiting folk at home, Thursday evening prayer group, cross community group meeting, evening with the volunteers from the Downtown Centre, Tuesday evening bible study, meeting of Kirk Session and participation in a service of worship at a local nursing home. You are a busy church! It's great to arrive into the church buildings to find them buzzing with people. Thank God for all that goes on in this place and Thank Him for you all; I've been made to feel so welcome and already feel at home! I hope to meet more of you in due course, I'm here until 22 January, and please forgive me if I don't remember everyone's name!

Now back to the assignments for me - ***anyone interested in helping me with Old Testament or Early Church History, please feel free to offer your services!***

Larissa Mawhinney

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS OUTING



Saturday 7 January

to the Panto **"CINDERELLA"**
by Lambeg Players
at

The Island Centre, Lisburn. 2.30 pm



We plan to meet in the Foyer of the Island Centre and afterwards walk back to the Church hall for a picnic tea.

(Meet at 2.15 pm sharp/Collect from First Lisburn 6.30 pm)

Parents and friends are welcome to come along,
Book your seat with Sheila Hammonds (Tel 9266 0507)
as soon as possible.

**Sunday School children – Complimentary
Parents & Friends £6.00 each.**

FROM THE TREASURER

UNITED APPEAL

It is important that church finances increase from year to year so that they at least keep pace with inflation. At any point in time during the year it can be difficult to be sure whether or not this is in fact happening. This is because many church members are irregular in their giving – nothing for a number of weeks and then an amount covering several weeks. At time of writing I am concerned that we may not meet our United Appeal target for 2005 - £14,294. For a number of years we never met the target set by Church House and the difference had to be made up from freewill offering. For the last number of years, however, we have exceeded the target.

For 2005, let us make sure that we exceed the target. If you have not yet given your donation, it is important that you do so before 8 January 2006 and a lot earlier if possible.

PAYMENT BY STANDING ORDER

One way to ensure that the congregation has a steady flow of income throughout all the months of the year is for as many as possible to pay by Standing Order, or if you pay annually, to let us have your contribution in the early part of the year.

If you would like to pay by Standing Order, please speak to me – **do not organize this directly with the bank.**

GIFT AID

Currently 50 per cent of our members have signed Gift Aid declarations and they contribute 81 per cent of our total income, including tax refunds of £25,100 during 2004. If you are a UK taxpayer, why not ask me for a declaration form – it will cost you nothing, and for every £100 you contribute, the Chancellor will contribute a further £28.

I know I am continually repeating myself with regard to Standing Orders and Gift Aid, but both are very important as far as our church finances are concerned.

CLOSING DATE FOR 2005

Sunday 8 January 2006 is the last date on which donations for 2005 will be included in that year's account.

ANNUAL REPORT

At a recent meeting of the Congregational Committee, a decision was taken that, in future, all donations to church funds would be anonymous – in other words, amounts would only be recorded against freewill offering numbers and names not printed. Since that decision, however, some problems have arisen in connection with this change, and as time is short before production of the 2005 report, I have decided that it would be better to postpone the implementation of this change until next year. In addition, I think we need to carry out a review of the Annual Report in general – over the years it has become larger and is now very time consuming and expensive to produce.

Jimmy Lynn



***Stuck for a last minute Christmas present?
Can't think of anything for the person who has everything?***

Christian Aid can come to your aid!

Choose a present from a wide range of alternative gifts on offer in the Present Aid catalogue – copies available in the Church porch – and spread both joy and laughter on Christmas morning.

The idea is that you buy a gift from the selection in your friend's name, they get a card to advise them of the purchase and the gift goes to help someone in a poor country. Just think of the fun when Granny opens her card to discover she has been given a 'Can of Worms' (£15). Seriously, a gift of worms is a godsend for poor farmers in Bolivia. Worms produce nutrient-rich compost that rejuvenates the soil, and so help farmers grow abundant crops of fruit and vegetables.

A wide range of gifts is available costing from £7 to several thousand pounds and includes practical items such as spades and seeds, a toilet, or a teacher's salary for two months, a water well or an oil press. If you are already sorted for Christmas then these gifts make wonderful birthday presents too.

Hazel McCall: Tel. 9260 1777



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The start of another season – how quickly Christmas comes upon us, with all the shopping we feel we must do - the buying of presents and hoping we haven't forgotten that Cousin Jane hates mitts, the arrangements for family members coming home – or wanting to spend Christmas away from home! And amidst it all, the baby Jesus being born in a stable with no frills and no heat except from the humble animals in that stable. Let us all be thankful for what we have this Christmas – so much more than three-quarters of the world.

We had an excellent meeting to begin our new PWA session on Tuesday 6 October at 8.00 pm in the Boyd Room. Some new younger women as well as the regulars! Some forward planning was discussed for this session's theme of "Rooted in Christ" and Inez Price led us in a very thoughtful devotional section on the Fruits of the Spirit. Our very busy November schedule was outlined and volunteers for various duties throughout the months ahead were noted. It makes the task of Honorary Secretary so much easier when I know I can rely on good back-up, thank you all. Arrangements for the Church Service on Sunday 6 November were made. We were so glad that Susie and Margaret were willing to arrange another Pot Luck lunch on that day, as it is good to be able to host our speaker afterwards. The evening finished with a sketch from Florence Blair, with Eleanor McFadzean and Maureen Staniland playing their parts in getting us back to our "Roots".

Our 1 November meeting when Lisa McClelland and Colin McKibbin told us of their overseas trips to Africa was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone there. The work of younger people (and that includes younger retired people also!) in showing their Christian concern for others is how any Christian should behave, and the difference a team makes in going out to help build homes, schools, water supplies and sewage, as well as bible classes and creating fun for the children there, cannot be praised enough and deserves our full support. We held our annual PWA Church Service on Sunday 6 November when Mrs Maureen Weir, Home Vice-President PWA, spoke to us on the way ahead for women in the Presbyterian Church, reminding us of the work carried out both at home and abroad.

Our thanks to Evelyn and Elizabeth and Inez for their arrangements beforehand, and to all who greeted people coming in and collected the offering; also to members of the congregation who expressed their thanks for a very uplifting service. Some had the opportunity of speaking to the Rev. and Mrs Weir at the Pot Luck lunch afterwards, which was much enjoyed by all.

Our Coffee Morning and Christmas Fayre on Saturday 19 November was very well supported and helped towards our fundraising efforts for our missionaries and deaconesses. All members had worked hard to produce a 'Christmassy' décor in the Main Hall and with more tables for coffee we had many visitors taking refuge from the crisp air outside. Thank you for your support, we have raised another £1,300 or so (some expenses to be met!) and we will write a cheque to PWA in Church House before Christmas.

On 6 December we are having Mrs Mary Thompson to show us how to decorate our home with Christmas greenery. We are going to use the Upper Room on this occasion, which will be a bright and larger venue for all. ***We hope some other members of the congregation will come along to this and join us in an enjoyable evening.***

I wish all members of the PWA, young and older, a very Happy Christmas and we look forward to a peaceful New Year, when our first meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 January at 8 00 pm in the Boyd Room. This will be on Divine Healing with Evelyn Whyte and Joan Weir, a thoughtful way to start 2006.

Anne Kain
Hon. Secretary

KOSOVA

Many thanks to all who supported our stall at the PWA Christmas Fayre where we raised the amazing total of £320. We are delighted with this result.

I would also like to thank everyone who supported the work in Kosova throughout the year.

Marion Craig

CROSS COMMUNITY GROUP NEWS

We have made a great start to the year with fascinating speakers and excellent attendances. At our opening meeting we welcomed Tony Brown, an Afro-American, who is well known in different parts of the world as a singer and an ambassador of peace and goodwill. He gave us a marvellous programme of singing and interesting information on the history of the Afro-American Spiritual. He acceded to our request to sing 'Ole Man River' – what power and beauty emanated from his tremendous baritone voice! Tony Brown's closing message was that we are 'to live for freedom, work for justice and share love.'

The Rev. Frances Bach, rector of Armoyn Parish Church, was our second fascinating guest. She immediately struck up a rapport with us through her open, humorous and down to earth manner. Thus we were easily connected to her thoughts on the state of spirituality in Ireland today. She left us feeling disturbed at how the cross, the symbol of Christ's death and resurrection, is so casually worn and displayed. She followed this form of ignorance with aspects of cowardice illustrated by our neglect of the talents we have been given. Mrs Bach's time with us ended in enthusiastic group discussion.

Our 12 January meeting will enlighten us on the 'One Small Step Campaign'. The speaker will be the founder, Trevor Ringland, also known for his rugby prowess.

On 8 February we will be hosting two clerics – the Very Rev. Dr Ken Newell and the Rev Gerry Reynolds from the Presbyterian and Catholic churches respectively. These two men have developed a warm friendship through which their work of peace and reconciliation has been extended.

A very warm invitation is extended to all members of the congregation to attend these meetings, you really will find them interesting and rewarding.

Joyce Moran
Secretary

THE CHRISTIAN IRISHMAN CALENDAR

The Christian Irishman Calendar for 2006 is available from Doreen Burns. Anyone who would like a calendar please contact **Doreen on Tel No. 9267 9965** or speak to her at church. The price is £1.80 and a sample copy is available on the table in the vestibule.

Doreen Burns

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL 2005



Once again the response to this appeal has been tremendous – our target was 500 boxes and we finished up with 552. Thanks must go to all who helped achieve this fantastic result – those who collected the boxes from as far back as early March, then the wrappers, the packers and the checkers. Several new people came to help this year and there was a great atmosphere. Our success again was due to the fact that we had accumulated a great number of hats, scarves, gloves, teddies, small toys, stationery items, jewellery and toiletries throughout the year. This meant we had a very good start.

A very special thanks must be paid to all the ladies who knitted so many, many hats, scarves, gloves, teddies and dolls. As we came near the last hundred boxes, we realised we were going to be short of scarves again this year! The team all started knitting but it was not possible for us to do such a large quantity. However, help was at hand – a member of our congregation heard of our dilemma and enlisted the help of her friends in the knitting group at Hillhall and they produced more than enough scarves to meet our needs, and every box had a scarf, hat and gloves.

Our collection box will remain in the church porch for donations for the future, including Christmas card 'fronts' suitable for children. Following is a breakdown of the 552 boxes:

AGE	GIRLS	BOYS
2-4 years	54	64
5-9 Yrs	141	112
10-14 Yrs	103	78
TOTAL	298	254

We also sent £1,104 to cover transport costs and intend to send the balance of £250 in the New Year in support of one of the programmes run by Samaritan's Purse.

Thank you all for your continued generous support – the children will be delighted with their boxes.

Helen Lynn

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 and we will provide transport if needed.



Our first meeting in 2006 will be on Wednesday 4 January. Hope to see you there.

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

Helen Lynn

LISBURN DOWNTOWN CENTRE

It's Christmas time and the other day I found myself, like most of you, in yet another queue waiting to buy that Christmas gift for a loved one. I was feeling somewhat cold and tired and not at all festive. Then I saw a notice in the shop that made me think of a story I had heard some time ago...

'Standing in front of me there was a little boy. His clothes were a little untidy and he was quite thin; he looked as though he was trying to look after himself. He stood there waiting anxiously, fidgeting and hopping from one foot to the other, all the time clutching a pair of woman's shoes. When it was his turn at the checkout, I couldn't believe what I heard him say to the cashier. "Hi," he said nervously, "I'd like to buy these shoes for my mummy please. We are having Christmas early in our house 'cos mummy has been sick for a very long time. I know she will like these, but could you please hurry because daddy keeps telling people that there isn't much time. I don't want to keep mummy waiting but I know that she would like to look very pretty if she is going to meet Jesus.'

The whole queue stood in silence as they watched the girl panic for what seemed like years; finally she turned to the little boy and said, "Son, I'm sorry there's not enough here." The little boy searched his pockets desperately, and finally with tears in his eyes he looked up at me.

"Mummy always made Christmas good in our house, though most years she didn't get anything. What on earth am I going to do, there isn't much time, but somehow I've got to buy her these shoes."

I couldn't do anything else I just had to help him, so I laid the extra money on the counter and caught a look of relief from the teary-eyed cashier. I'll never forget the look on his face when he turned to me with a wide-eyed smile and said, "Thanks, my Mummy is going to look so great."

As he hurriedly ran past me all excited, I felt that I'd caught a glimpse of heaven's love; God had sent that little child to remind me of what Christmas is all about. Not the presents or the food but the one gift that is freely given and often missed in the commercialism... Love.'

Over the year with the help of volunteers, I have worked with people, who, like many others in the local community, for various reasons find the season difficult. We would ask that your thoughts and prayers be with them over the coming weeks, that they too can join in the peace, hope and love of Christmas!

Thank you for your prayers, support and kindness throughout the year. May you all have a very Merry Christmas.

Love in Christ Jesus
Margaret Bailie Co-ordinator

Welcome Home Denise...

'Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her.' Hosea 2:14

I arrived home on 7 November to wind and rain – it was great! I am so excited to be back in Ireland, ready to start on the next stage of my journey with Christ.

My two years spent in Uganda will remain two of the most significant and special years of my life. God did indeed gently draw me out into the wilderness – not that I was without essentials by any means, but I was taken away from distractions and had time to learn to be still before the Lord. He has shone His searchlight into my innermost parts and revealed areas where I needed the Master's touch and even more wonderfully revealed more of 'Himself' to me. I have fallen in love with my Saviour all over again. In Hosea 2:16 the Lord declares that He will no longer be called 'Master' but 'Husband', to signify the intimate relationship that He wants us to enjoy in Him.

I am so grateful to Africare and FLPC for the opportunity to serve in Uganda and for all the love and support that I have received. It's difficult to adequately express my thanks – especially to Margaret Perry my faithful prayer secretary.

It has been a privilege to serve Ugandans on a practical and spiritual level. To see children walk again, when they had previously lost all hope, has been awesome. Please continue to pray for the vital work that Africare is doing in Uganda and if I can supply any further information about the work please do not hesitate to ask. Many thanks.

Denise Kane

LIGHT PROGRAMME EVENTS

Since the last issue of *Wavelength* we have had several enjoyable outings.

On 30 September, twenty-one Members and friends had a very enjoyable evening at the Grand Opera House to see *Rebecca*. Then on Friday, 7 October, eleven of us had a High Tea and enjoyed *Pride and Prejudice* at Lisburn Omniplex.

On Thursday 24 November a 'lucky thirteen' attended the Christian Aid 60th Anniversary concert in the Waterfront Hall and by the time this issue is published, it is hoped we will have had an enjoyable Christmas Dinner at Edenmore Golf Club on Friday, 2 December.

Our future plans include:

'Viennese Night with the Ulster Orchestra' at the Waterfront Hall with twenty-six members and friends on Saturday, 7 January.

From 2-6 April, twelve of our friends plan to go on an Ulsterbus tour to Renvyle House, Connemara.

As you can see, we try to plan a variety of outings, usually once per month, and all Church members are very welcome to join us. **Keep an eye on the Noticeboard in the vestibule** or contact David Gourley (028) 9260 1013.

At this time of 'Mid winter festivities', 'Festivals of Lights' and all the other modern P.C. terms, may we wish you all a truly '**Happy Christmas**' bearing in mind its true meaning, and may you all have a healthy and peaceful 2006.

David Gourley

FIRST LISBURN GIRLS' BRIGADE

The session began with the usual flurry of P.E. demonstrations attended by the Officers and was followed by various workshops.

The Explorer verse-speaking choir was placed first in the District Competition, ably trained by a member of the congregation, Mrs Alison Johnston.

The girls have been doing their bit for charity – Tiny Tots and Explorers completed a sponsored walk in aid of Dr Barnardos, while the Senior section walked around Hillsborough lake wearing pyjamas (and a few other layers) collecting for Children in Need. Our thanks to Heather and Peter McNeice for much appreciated hot dogs at the end. A representative from Marie Curie Cancer Care came along and spoke to the Company about the charity's work and gave each girl a flower pot, compost and daffodil bulb which they will hopefully grow.

Following a very enjoyable Enrolment Service, the Senior section served soup and sandwiches to raise funds for their weekend camp. Our thanks to everyone who supported us and helped us raise £300.

We said a tearful goodbye to Officer Louise McNeice who left on 21 November to spend a year in Australia. Our prayers go with her and our thoughts are with her family who will miss her as much as we will.

A bus trip, also for Senior funds, to the Dundrum Centre, Dublin, has been arranged for Saturday 10 December, leaving Linenhall Street at 9.00 am. Coffee and scones will be served at the Carrickdale Hotel, the day at the largest shopping centre in Europe is all your own, returning via the Canal Court Hotel, Newry, where an optional Christmas meal has been arranged. We return to Lisburn at 9.00 pm. The cost is £13 for the bus and £16 for the meal. Do join us for what promises to be a great day. **Phone Maureen Killiner on 9268 3726 or Nicola Anderson on 9260 2500.**

As we prepare for a round of Christmas activities, may I, on behalf of First Lisburn Girls' Brigade wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Maureen Killiner

FIRST LISBURN SCOUT GROUP

After a long summer break, the Scout Group quickly got into a busy programme of activities. The Beavers took part in the District Beaver sponsored walk with every beaver in the colony turning up for a ramble around Hillsborough Forest Park. Two-thirds of the funds raised stayed with First Lisburn, with the remainder being donated towards the upkeep/renovation (restoration!) of the Lisburn District cottage in the Mournes. Our Scout Troop has already experienced the cottage earlier in the year and, weather permitting, is due to go back again at the end of November.

The Cubs have been busy with, amongst other activities, a number of football competitions. Each year we challenge 6th Lisburn Cubs and we were able to bring the trophy home in October for the second year running. We have also just qualified in the first heats for the Lisburn District five-a-side football competition and are therefore through to the quarter-finals in February.

This year we welcome Barbara as a new Beaver leader, Gillian as a new Squirrel helper and Kimberley, Alison, Jenny and Amy who are helping out in Squirrels and Cubs.

Unfortunately we are soon to lose Jonny, one of our Scout leaders, and would be keen to hear from anyone out there who would be interested in coming along for an hour and a half each Monday to help Ronnie & Les. No experience needed - just a good sense of humour and a thick skin ! If anyone is interested please contact Rosie McNeill through the Church office.

With only a few weeks to go now before we break up for Christmas, we are looking forward to a visit to Crawfordsburn for a magical Christmas trail (Cubs) and various parties, with maybe even a visit from a bearded man in a red suit bearing gifts!

Rosie McNeill

***Steve and Johno
Clearview Window Cleaners and Maintenance***

Window cleaning, painting and decorating carried out. Man and van for hire. No job too small.

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TIME FOR A BROWSE AT YOUR CHRISTMAS BOOKSTALL

Everyone is encouraged to take a few moments to browse at the bookstall which is once again available at this time of year in the foyer. Do have a look, as there are many interesting and exciting titles to suit all ages. As well as possibly buying a book for someone else, why not purchase 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 2006

In this booklet there are two pages for each day of the month - one covering an aspect of the Church's mission at home, and one covering overseas. In it you will find a wealth of information about the mission of the Presbyterian Church at home and abroad. Those of you 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

FIRST LISBURN WEBSITE

www.firstlisburn.org

Attention All Group Leaders

Please check your group's information on the website. If it needs updating please forward any information to me via my pigeonhole in the Church Office, by e-mail via office@firstlisburn.org and it will reach me. Further updates can be posted at any time. Thank you.

Remember, our website is only useful when it is up to date.

Richard McNeight

Used Stamps/Spectacles and Hearing Aids

Receptacles for used postage stamps for **Save the Children** and used spectacles and hearing aids in support of **Lions International SightFirst** campaign are provided underneath the table in the vestibule.

Put the 'W' in Christmas



A mother recalls the poignancy of seeing her son in the school's Christmas programme...

That December, I had vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. I had cut back on non-essential obligations – extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and even overspending. Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moment and the true meaning of Christmas.

My son, Nicholas, was a very excited six-year-old. For weeks he'd been memorizing songs for his school's Christmas programme. I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher who assured me that parents unable to attend would be welcome at the dress rehearsal.

I arrived ten minutes early and sat down with several other parents.

When my son's class rose to sing 'Christmas Love', Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters and bright snowcaps upon their heads. He was one of the children chosen for the front row, and given large letters to hold up, one by one, to spell out the title of the song.

As the class would sing 'C is for Christmas', a child would hold up the letter C. Then 'H is for Happy', and so on, until each child holding up his portion had present the complete message, 'Christmas Love'.

Suddenly, we noticed that Nicholas was holding the letter 'M' upside down – totally unaware that his letter appeared as a 'W'.

Several pupils began to giggle at his mistake, but Nicholas had no idea they were laughing at him, and so he stood tall, proudly holding his 'W'. When the last letter was raised, we all saw the words the letters made.

With tears in my eyes I stared at what my son had done. He had reminded us all why we were there celebrating in the first place.

For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear: 'CHRISTWAS LOVE'.

And, I believe, He still is.