

FIRST LISBURN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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MINISTER'S LETTER

It's September. So here are a few 'start of term' ramblings on soup, specs and snacks.

These are three genuine letters on soup, specs and snacks. They show just how animated people can be about what they 'want'. I can write about them easily, since FLPC seems to currently be inundated with thank you letters and positive comments for all your hard work. So, here are the letters – minus a few names:

"Dear Sirs,

Recently, I purchased a box of your "Soup in a Mug" product. I was very disappointed to find that, upon opening the box, there were sachets of soup powder, rather than the SOUP in a MUG promised. If I am correct, soup is a liquid item. The product inside was a solid powder. Furthermore, no mug was included – even though the box pictures a mug! I feel that your packaging is very unfair, as both the wording and pictures promise a mug, and no mug is supplied.

I look forward to hearing from you..."

First Lisburn's notice board is carefully worded. (I shall refrain from quoting it, as a refresher should not be needed...?) It is the packaging – in a delicate shade of blue – of a rather special product. You and I are the 'contents'. I suppose it is only fair that those who read our welcome get a taste of the real thing inside? And who says you can't be solid, in a gentle hue of blue and yet be warm, welcoming and nourishing as well? (and mug free...)

A second letter, though daft, is also genuine, and written to a bus company:

"Dear Sir/Madam

Yesterday I went to the opticians on one of your buses. The opticians didn't have the glasses I wanted so I have to go again next week. Can I get a refund on my bus ticket please?

Thank you for your help."

FLPC volunteers are the bus company of the Church. You too spend your hours helping ordinary souls get to where they can see better the things of God. This place would fold without volunteers. You work hard and you try your best to get people to their destination in the journey of life. This year, it would do no harm – if ever you put pen to paper or finger to keyboard – to make sure to thank the volunteer who gets you and your family in FLPC where you need to go.

And finally, from soup and buses to another genuine letter, this time about crisps:

"Dear X crisps,

I just thought I'd write to you to tell you that I think your crisps are really ace – especially the Marmite flavoured ones.

I'll continue to be a happy customer so long as you don't take the Marmite crisps off the market – in which case I wouldn't be a happy customer. I wouldn't be an unhappy customer either. I wouldn't be a customer at all, in fact.

On the subject of funny flavoured crisps, had you thought of Hellmann's Mayonnaise flavoured crisps? I love Hellmann's Mayonnaise with a passion – I'm sure it would taste superb.

Yours sincerely,"

and the reply...

"Dear Mr X

Thank you for your recent enquiry regarding our Marmite Flavour Crisps.

We take every care and pride ourselves in ensuring our products reach our customers in perfect condition and we are always delighted to hear from people, like yourself, who really appreciate this.

Thank you for your Hellmann's Mayonnaise flavour crisps. The introduction of new flavours is always a difficult decision, as I am sure you will appreciate that each individual wants their own particular favourite flavour to be available.

As we all have different tastes and different ideas, the choices are endless! We will continue to bring our consumers excellent value and exceptional new products, as well as introducing new flavours and launching new promotions. You can be assured that our Marketing Team is continually looking to 'tickle your tastebuds' with exciting new ideas! Once again, thank you for writing to us and for your interest in our company; your views are very important to us.

Yours sincerely,"

I think I prefer crisps with the tiny wee blue sachet of salt in them. I don't even mind having to poke about to find them. I can manage salt and vinegar. Pepper flavoured is good. And I don't at all mind some of the newer flavours.

But what if I were offered a 'salt only' church? I wouldn't be so sure. It wouldn't be church. And as for a 'your salt must come in a wee blue bag' church, it would be a frighteningly dull place. Tasteless, too, after a while. And if an 'inflicted flavour only' church was all anybody was allowed, it would be a degrading church for people with a stomach for variety. And 'the only flavour worth its salt' church would be an abusive church to those with a liking for cheese and onion. The only benefit of 'salt only' would be that you would have to share with fewer and fewer people.

If I do church like I pick crisps – that is, if my spiritual taste buds say what 'I want' is the same as what 'others are given', then I create a selfish and overly salted church. And that tends to push up the blood pressure. Too much salt isn't good for me. Sometimes, they say you have to limit your salt intake for your own good.

John Brackenridge

From your Editor...

I hope you are all feeling refreshed and renewed after the summer break.

However, not all of us have had a break – once again the young people of First Lisburn, under Matt's direction, and with the help of many youth leaders, enjoyed another very successful Holiday Bible Club in August, followed by a wonderful Service the following Sunday led by those involved during the week. I do not need to elaborate on this, as you can read all the very comprehensive reports on the many amazing things our young folk have been up to over the summer, and their future plans.

This is the time of year when our congregation resumes its activities and the various groups and organisations embark on the new season's programmes. As we can see from the reports, we are all encouraged to become involved in congregational life, where new members would be warmly welcomed. Those of us who attended the first week of the Alpha Course last Sunday look forward with interest to the weeks ahead as we explore our Christian faith together.

Congratulations to all who have achieved success in examinations during the summer. We wish all students and school leavers well as they pursue their chosen careers, and hope that pupils who have moved to new schools or little children starting school or nursery for the first time have all settled in well to their new environment.

And for the children...

You will see I have included a page specially for you. I hope you will have fun with it and that you will enter the competition – you never know, you may win a prize!

Mary McNeight

Email: wavelength@firstlisburn.org

Used Stamps/Spectacles and Hearing Aids

Receptacles for used postage stamps for **Save the Children** and used spectacles and hearing aids in support of the international **Sight First** campaign are provided under the table in the vestibule.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Miss Evelyn Whyte will be on holiday from 6-12 November

Sun 1 October	11.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Worship First – Informal Communion and popular hymns
Sun 8 October	11.00 am	Harvest Festival Service led by the Rev. Purvis Campbell, Belmont Presbyterian Church
Sun 22 October	11.00 am	Downtown Service
Sun 29 October	11.00 am	All Age Service
Sun 5 November	11.00 am 8.00 pm	PWA Annual Service with Mrs D Humphries & Pot Luck Lunch Presbytery Overseas Service (no Worship First)
Sun 12 November	11.15 am	Remembrance Day Service
Sat 18 November	10.00 am	PWA Christmas Fayre
Sun 19 November	11.00 am	Enrolment Sunday for Uniformed Organisations
Sun 26 November	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sun 3 December	11.00 am 6.30 pm	Morning Service Worship First with Denise Kane 'Focus on Uganda'
Sun 24 December	11.00 am 6.30 pm	Children's Nativity Carols and Lessons with refreshments served afterwards

CAROLS IN THE CITY – Wednesday 13 December

The Island Centre

An evening with the City Centre Churches (FLPC, Railway St, St Patrick's, Seymour Street Methodist, Lisburn Christian Fellowship, Lisburn Cathedral, Christ Church). Plan to be with us as the city marks the meaning of Christmas for us all!

Please buy your ticket from the Island Centre.

Special 2007 Services

Derek Bingham	Studies in Ephesians 4, 11, 18, 25 March and 1 April 2007
Desi Maxwell	The Big Story, 4, 11, 18 November 2007

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB 2007 13-17 August 2007

Prayer Healing Ministry



What a wonderful privilege again this year during the Holiday Bible Club to open the church doors and invite people into the church to pray for the work of the Holiday Bible Club. There was the opportunity for people to sit and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and chat; to talk with members of the team, or to go in and have time alone with God using the creative prayer displays to help in prayer. These were put together under the leadership of Margaret Thompson and Karin Finlay alone, with the help of John Finlay; we thank them for making this all possible.

Quite a number of people came in with a need to share and to have prayer. This year we widened this outreach to include two afternoons of activities for women. On one afternoon Maureen Baird taught "painting on wood" assisted in the background by her husband Patrick who prepared the breadboards. On the other afternoon Ruth Baird, along with Elma Watt and other able volunteers, did an afternoon on card making. It was lovely to see people enjoying time out.

Thanks go to all who shared in this ministry over the week, to those people who did not stand up in church on the Sunday on which the Holiday Bible Club took the service, when Matt asked for all involved in the week to stand. Without each of you doing your part, all that happened would not have been possible. Another example of the body working together, each part doing its bit to make it all happen.

The church continues to be open twice a month; again we would encourage you to come and use the opportunity to take time aside in the quietness of the church. If you wish to have a team member pray with you, just ask the team members in the church porch.

THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FOR PRAYER ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

WEDNESDAY

7.30 pm–9.00 pm

18 October 2006
To be arranged
To be arranged

THURSDAY

12 Noon–2.00 pm

5 October 2006
2 November 2006
7 December 2006

Jesus said, "Come to me all you who are burdened and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

Evelyn Whyte

BIBLE STUDY GROUP



The Bible Study Group continues study on "great Prayers of the Bible". These are studies that challenge us to develop our prayer lives and deepen our relationship with God. The discussions are challenging and lively.

YOU ARE WELCOME

Wednesday 10.00 am for coffee in the Boyd Room

Tuesday group will not be starting until the end of the Alpha Course. But the group plans to meet informally each month. See announcements for details.

ALPHA COURSE



The Alpha Course is underway but there is still room for more.

If you still wish to come, please contact:

Helen Lynn 9266 3285
Noel Stevenson 9266 5538
Hilary Diamond 9266 6755
Email: diamondh@btinternet.com

FOCUS FEST 2006

Focus Fest 2006 took place in the Waterfront Hall Belfast on Friday evening 16 June and all day Saturday 17 June.

The theme for this year's event was '**Who Really Cares?**' and was focusing on how we live in a world where people need to feel loved and cared for more than ever, where the pace of life is frantic and everyone seems to have so little time; a world where we face difficult issues and need to know how to face them while remaining true to our faith as Christians – all of these issues are relevant to each one of us.

The event was led by two key speakers, Paul Tripp from Philadelphia and Andrea Wigglesworth from Scotland, both of whom focused us on the whole aspect of Caring.

Sixteen of us went to Focus Fest this year and joined a capacity filled Waterfront Hall, being challenged, enlightened and encouraged through the speakers and also through the very powerful Ministry of Worship led in a sensitive and gifted way by Geraldine Latty.

Time was available to enjoy coffee breaks, catch up with friends and explore all the "stands" and shopping opportunities provided, finishing off with "testing" the latest Chinese Restaurant, as we had a meal together enjoying the food and each other's company.

This was a very special weekend in so many ways and we now look forward to Focus Fest 2007 – maybe you would like to join us?

Marion Craig

Wider World

We still have a few spare copies of *Wider World*. It contains lots of interesting items – something for everyone. Cost £3.00 per year. Anyone interested in subscribing to this magazine, please contact Helen Lynn on Tel: 9266 3285.

FROM THE TREASURER

UNITED APPEAL

It is approaching Harvest Festival time once again, at which Service we take up a special collection for the United Appeal of our church. I hope soon to receive the literature from Church House and when I do, I shall mail it out to all our members, together with an envelope for your contribution. The target for First Lisburn set by Church House and Dromore Presbytery is £14,621.00 – an increase on last year of 2.2 per cent. This is a substantial amount of money and so everyone needs to respond generously.

FREEWILL OFFERING – 28 MAY 2006

The records for that week have been lost! I shall refer again to this matter when I write out to you during November, and if you find you are one week short in your recorded giving, then let me know on Tel. 9266 3285. You may of course contact me anytime now, but you will have a better idea whether or not you are short when you have received a record of your giving as at 29 October – 43 Sundays.

Jimmy Lynn

CHRISTIAN AID

Bread and Cheese lunches will begin again on Tuesday 3 October in the Main Hall at First Lisburn.



We look forward to welcoming back our regular customers and hope to see many new faces. Lunches are served anytime between 11.30 am and 2.00 pm with a choice of fresh home-made soup, bread and cheese, tea/coffee and biscuits.

Hazel McCall

CROSS COMMUNITY GROUP

This Group had its preliminary meeting earlier this month at which some 'catching up' was done and the programme for the new session was introduced. The Committee agreed that the theme for the year will be 'Encounter, Encourage, Enjoy'. All our speakers were given this title and invited to apply it, where appropriate, to their talks to us. The following is the first half of our programme bringing us to January 2007:

- Thurs. 12 October** at 8.00 pm in St Columba's:
Rev Dr Gordon Gray who will introduce us to Serendipities he has experienced within the theme
- Wed. 8 November** at 8.00 pm in First Lisburn:
Dr Michael Patterson will speak on 'Casualties of the Troubles'
- Fri. 24 November** at 8.00 pm in First Lisburn
Table Quiz (at which we hope for your support)
- Wed. 13 December** at 8.00 pm in the Island Centre
Carols in the City
- Wed. 10 January** at 8 00 pm in First Lisburn
Mrs Nuala O'Loan, Police Ombudsman

Numbers attending our meetings have been consistently high and many express their pleasure at being attached to a Group which strives to bring down barriers, of whatever kind, between people and which generates such goodwill and fun. We are always looking for people to join us who have a desire to stretch out the hand of friendship across denominations and thus begin to understand the customs and beliefs of others with whom we share this green and pleasant land.

Joyce Moran, Secretary

The Irish Mission Calendar (formerly The Christian Irishman)

This redesigned calendar has useful diary appointment lines at the back of each month. Cost £2.30.

*If you would like to order a calendar, please contact **Doreen Burns (Tel: 9267 9965)** or speak to her at church.*

NEWS OF SUMMER ACTIVITIES FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB 14–18 AUGUST 2006



There were a lot of people involved in the Holiday Bible Club week this past summer and, like a broken record, I want to again say a huge 'thank you' to all of those who were involved. Over 150 young people came through the doors during the week, not to mention many adults coming to do crafts and receive prayer, all made possible only by a large group of volunteers and many hours behind the scenes.

The highlights of the week for me were watching leaders being stretched beyond their comfort zones, many different personalities bonding together in an authentic community to pass on the love of Christ, and watching the young leaders 'step-up' and further develop their leadership skills. It was indeed an amazing week, which was certainly blessed by God.

Below is a report on 'Escape' by Mark Robinson who put together a tremendous programme for teenagers, and a report from Lynn McKeever who put her skills to the test during 'Xpedition Force'. Thanks again to all of those involved in every aspect of the week and in preparation for it.

***Please note that the dates for HBC 2007 are set:
13-17 August 2007.***

Matt

Mark's 'Escape' Programme

Question: How could we attract young people of secondary school age, 11-18 years old, into Church this summer?

Answer: Pure and unadulterated fun!

Comedy boxing, flashing lights, loud music, wacky stunts, and messy challenges! Couple this with the provision of a safe and friendly place for kids to come, and you have some idea of what took place when 'Escape' rolled into First Lisburn in August, transforming the church as we know it.

The Downtown Room became a relaxed concoction of black plastic-covered walls, fluorescent paints and ultra-violet lighting, whilst the Main Hall became the site for many shows, stunts, sketches, silliness and sheer enjoyment.

'Escape' ran from 7.30 pm-10.00 pm Monday to Friday and attracted a total of 100 teenagers from the surrounding area, some of whom belonged to our church and others who had never previously set foot in any church building.

Armed with a 23-strong team, the vast majority from FLPC, 'Escape' sought to attract newcomers to the Gospel, as well as to encourage the young people who belonged to local congregations to continue in their walks with Christ. The way we went about this was simple: building relationships with the children, a clear ethos set around a structure of youth club format and up-front activities.

The first night saw the week's opening event: 'Lisburn Live', a show involving comic sketches, dramas, games and challenges, multimedia presentations and a local band called Exitline.

Tuesday saw the visit of Fire-fighters for Christ NI who performed a rescue demonstration and talked about the benefits of being a Christian in the Fire Service.

Wednesday involved indoor stunts, challenges, and an interview with the 2003 Irish Downhill Mountain-biking Champion, Colin Ross, who shared his faith and how it ties in to the world of extreme sports.

Thursday was Challenge Night with different stations set up: dance-mats, drum kits and a huge 40-ft indoor inflatable football pitch into which you were strapped and played in teams of five! On a side note, Keith Lunn got gunged(!) in a large purpose-built tank following a democratic vote from the kids across the week in the 'Gunge a leader' stakes.

Alongside each night's main activity, a talk was given by a different team member to communicate God's love for us and what He's done through Jesus' death on the Cross.

Finally Friday night came, the night the rest of the week was building up to. Taking a similar format to Monday's event, it included dramas, videos and powerful sketches as well as a talk by Matt Craig which challenged everyone there as to where they stood with God, and IF He had a part to play in their lives.

On the whole, it was an exhausting week for all involved, but a very enjoyable one! New contacts were established with local young people, friendships were deepened with others, and a few young people made commitments to faith in Jesus, which is awesome!

Our sincere thanks go to Joan Lunn and all those involved in providing meals and refreshments for our team throughout the week! Also to John Lunn for his expertise and help with sound and lighting, as well as the many others who dedicated time, effort, materials and (crucially) prayers. And, of course, to the team members who worked very hard in helping 'Escape' go down a success and for being a part of the ongoing and critical youth work in First Lisburn.

Mark Robinson

Lynn's 'Xpedition Force' Experience

Way back in May I thought I had six weeks of holiday ahead. A 'child-free zone', apart from my own! This is the time of year that is eagerly anticipated by all teachers.

I'm not sure how it happened. The Jacqui Brackenridge/Matt Craig Tag Team well and truly sucked me into something called the Holiday Bible Club. I had no experience of Bible Clubs, during the holidays or otherwise, and have had little contact with children under the age of 11 but the Xpedition Force theme sounded really interesting – challenging but interesting.

Due to other commitments I wasn't able to attend any of the preparation evenings, so as time went on I still felt a little bit unsure of how this would all pan out. I'll admit it, I was nervous. I was reassured by all involved that Matt, Jacqui and the team had enough control-freak tendencies between them to ensure that all would go without a hitch and even if it didn't, there would be plenty of back-up.

As the week of the HBC drew closer and the preparations grew more frenetic I started to get a real sense of fun – this was going to be big and it was going to be good! The Hall looked fantastic decked out with a fake mountain and enough foliage to suggest that this was going to be a real adventure. There was no doubt in the minds of the children that entered the hall that they were impressed. You could just see it in their faces. Even the panic in the faces of us HBC novices (of which there were a few) disappeared with each new smile and inquisitive little comment from the children. Questions ranged from, "Is that a *real* mountain?" to "Who is this God person?" to "So, when are the biscuits coming?" (and that was just the youth leaders!).

Each and every inquiry was taken seriously and answered in a fun and honest way. That's what I found most refreshing – the children actually wanted to know more about Xpedition Force, about God and about First Lisburn. The job was done! The HBC did what it set out to achieve.

Time actually flew. The structure of the programme was so well organised that, in a blink, the week was over. The crafts, the sports, the drama, the bible reading, the prayers, the activities, the trip to the park, the dressing up (the less said about that one the better! – the week was just jam packed and totally exhausting for me personally, but worth the frayed nerves and anticipation beforehand.

So, what did I enjoy most? Obviously, working with such eager little children was wonderful, but the welcome I received by the other leaders was probably the best thing. I was so impressed by the stamina of the youth leaders who gave 100 per cent for the full week. I have attended a few churches in my time but for the first time ever, I felt part of a real community. It was a privilege to serve God with such fantastic people.

The following week I felt just a little bit bereft. No Holiday Bible Club – until next year!

Lynn McKeever

SUMMER MADNESS/STREETREACH 2006

On the last day of school in June, I led 21 young people and leaders to Summer Madness which is the annual Christian festival held at the King's Hall in Belfast. Around 1500 young people attended the event which was a life-changing experience for many. Through teaching, workshops, worship, etc., young people were given the opportunity to experience, strengthen and renew a personal relationship with God through His son Jesus.

Several stayed on and several more joined me for another five days in tents at the King's Hall. This time was for StreetReach where 1000 young people armed with paintbrushes, spades, rakes, kids' games, and the Gospel, hit the streets of Belfast. The following are some thoughts from one of the Streetreachers...

Matt

Amy's Reflections on StreetReach

God's heart for Belfast was recognised this summer by over a thousand Streetreachers of all ages and nationalities, who came together with a common passion for serving the communities in Belfast for the glory of God.

During the second week of July, following on from the huge Christian festival, 'Summer Madness', StreetReach impacted the communities of Ballymacarett, Ballymurphy, Beersbridge, Woodvale/Springfield, Holylands, Lenadoon, Sydenham, Sandy Row, New Lodge, Tigers Bay, Willowfield, Lower Falls and Lower Shankill, seeking to help others in any way possible and to respond to the individual needs of the people in each area in a Christ-like way.

The aim of StreetReach 2006 was simply to show the love of God to people in a practical and effective way, whether it was by cleaning gardens, organising street parties or youth clubs, painting murals or simply getting alongside people and showing an interest in their lives. It was amazing to see how God enabled us to go to into these areas and attract positive attention, despite Belfast's notorious paramilitary influences, conflicts and prejudices. There was something very special about the Streetreachers themselves making a point of accepting each other despite their differences in faith or colour, and making an impact on Belfast by standing against the hatred we saw and, instead, responding with love, acceptance and respect for others.

The week was tough both physically and emotionally, and some of the situations we found seemed impossible to solve, but with God's help we realised that it was not by our power but by God's that we were able to do His will in Belfast.

StreetReach is a fantastic way for people of all ages to do something real and rewarding for the city of Belfast, and the plans for StreetReach 2007 are looking to be bigger and better than ever. Hopefully we can pick up where we left off this year, and can look forward to seeing what StreetReach can do in 2007!

Amy Brackenridge

SNATCH 2006

Led by Ashley Parks

This year I volunteered with Hollywood Youth Trust, an organisation which works with all the churches in the town, and whose aim is to see the Holy Spirit work in all the kids of Hollywood.

In August I co-ordinated and led a holiday club for the kids in Hollywood. Six other young people from our church: Deborah Lowry, Katie Armstrong, Neil Graham, Simon Watt, Mark Robinson and Keith Lunn, also made the trip. We had a great leadership team, ranging from about 20 leaders in the afternoon to about 30/35 for the evening programmes. I was in charge of running the week, and therefore I had the opportunity and privilege of leading the leaders.

I asked Deborah Lowry, one of the leaders from our church, to express her experiences of the week...

Deborah's reflections:

SNATCH stands for **S**ummer **N**ights **A**t **T**he **C**hurch **H**all, but that doesn't even begin to describe what SNATCH is.

Based in Hollywood, Co. Down, the churches in the local community and the team of leaders worked together to stage football tournaments, crafts and treasure hunts in the afternoons, then a youth club each evening, which included games, playstations, a live band and a lot of tuck! I'm fairly sure some leaders are still paying off what they owe the tuck shop!

The theme for the week was John 10:10 "...I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full." The aim was to, firstly, relate to the kids and their issues and introduce them to Jesus, then invite them to open their minds and their hearts to Him. It was so discouraging at times when the kids would refuse to listen, constantly poke fun and become disruptive during the presentations but despite all this, those same kids would be waiting outside the church the next night, an hour before the doors opened. God works in mysterious ways.

As with most missions, there were obstacles to overcome, yet so many rewards. I was so disheartened at the very beginning of the week when numbers seemed so low. But God was just easing us in gently because by the middle of the week numbers had tripled and we had over 30 kids baking bread and fairy cakes, not to mention another 30 who were participating in a football tournament at the same time. My highlight had to be the obvious relationships being built between leader and child throughout the week. No kid was left without a leader to challenge, to talk to or just hang out with. I, personally, befriended three 14-year-old girls who were tough and intimidating, much like most of the kids there. But underneath all the bad language and the 'street cred', were three amazing and good kids. I was so sad to say goodbye to them and pray that they will visit the drop-in centre run by Holywood Youth Trust starting this month.

This was my first time working in Holywood, unlike other members of the team, and already from being in the area, working with and listening to people who had been brought up there, it is clear that God's hand is upon everything going on there and everyone involved. The power of prayer was key to every aspect of every event during that week, the power of prayer which we are all so quick to under-estimate at times. Bible studies and quiet times in the mornings became something the team depended on for motivation and unity. Again, disciplines which we should all practice daily, but so often fail to do. SNATCH isn't just a one-week summer scheme, it is a constant battle for the kids of Holywood. Through God and God alone, a house has been found to renovate and provide a haven for the kids all year round. Continue to pray for this house, these kids and this place. God will do great things and I, for one, can't wait for SNATCH 2007.

Deborah Lowry

Deborah's report basically sums up SNATCH for all the leaders involved. For me, however, it was so much more. I learnt so much and gained so much experience through every aspect of the event, and I also found I had to rely on God's strength so much through the difficult and challenging times, of which there were a few. The kids were mostly from unchurched backgrounds and were more challenging to work with than any kids any of us have worked with before, which is why I think it is so important for us to follow up on the work there, and keep those relationships with the kids strong. Please pray for the work of Holywood Youth Trust for this coming year and that the kids will keep coming back to the programmes that HYT run for them.

The week was a huge success; we already have kids asking us the dates for next year, as are some of the leaders.

I could not have asked for a better leadership team to work with, and I can't wait until SNATCH 2007!

Ashley Parks

CSSM – PORTSTEWART

Once again this July I spent a week in Portstewart on the North Coast with a Scripture Union Mission named CSSM. This was the third consecutive year that I have been a leader on this team. The mission ran from 9-14 July, and was for children aged 4-14. With such a large age group, we had three sections and I was co-leading the oldest group for children aged 11 plus. This brought more responsibilities than previous years, but was a challenging and rewarding experience.

After many meetings and times of preparation, CSSM began on the Sunday with a newly named "CSSM Live" meeting at the bandstand on Portstewart promenade. This is a great location as it is very public and catches the interest of people simply passing by. CSSM Live took the format of an open air service with a quiz, various sketches and skits and a short talk. It ran each afternoon for the entire week. In the mornings and evenings we would have sections where each age group would meet separately and have various activities catered to suit them. For example, with the oldest age group we would play games in the park, have leader testimonies and short talks, go to the beach, and go to Morellies etc. All fun stuff!! On the Friday evening we had a barbeque for all the age groups together, along with parents, families and the like.

Among the hectic days and organising of lots of various activities, we did have a set time each day to ourselves. This allowed us to focus and prepare ourselves individually, which was very beneficial. In addition to this we would have team devotions twice daily: once in the morning led by one of the mission leaders, and again in the evening led by a member of the team. Again these were very useful times of preparation and team bonding.

The week was very busy and hectic with so much going on every day. However, this is to be expected of CSSM, and indeed any mission team. It is one of the reasons why it is such a rewarding experience. With being on the same team the previous two years it was also very encouraging to see the same faces returning each year and to further build those relationships.

In conclusion, a very enjoyable, rewarding experience, from which I learnt a lot.

Simon Watt

A Word From Our Youth Director...

Another season of Youth Programming has begun with a change to the older teenage fellowship group and the loss of several wonderful leaders.

Funky Fridays has moved to Sunday nights following IGnite to better suit the busy schedules of our young people.

IGnite is sad to say goodbye, for at least this year, to Simon Watt, Mark Robinson, Keith Lunn and Neil Graham. Although they will hopefully be around occasionally, IGnite will also be seeing limited involvement from Ian Robinson, Sarah Hill, and Karen Orr.

The above are a great loss to the Youth of First Lisburn and we wish them well in their new endeavours.

Despite the loss of several tremendous leaders, IGnite, FLASH, and the unnamed youth fellowship now on Sunday nights, are up and running with an influx of new members attending.

For more information on our Youth Programming and for photos from the recent HBC, please visit our website, www.youth.firstlisburn.org.

Matt

FLASH

A Plea for Leaders

Due to a massive loss of leaders and the busy university and work schedules of our existing leaders, we have the need for several new leaders in FLASH.

FLASH, our after school club for secondary school students, is now in its third year and has a reputation amongst young people of being a great place to hang out after school. It has a 'youth club' atmosphere where the young people get to choose from various activities, including sports, crafts, video games and simply hanging out with their friends.

At this point we are looking for at least 10 people to give two Fridays per month from 3.00 pm-5.30 pm.

If you are available during this time I hope that you would prayerfully consider serving the young people in our community as a leader in FLASH.

Desirable Qualities

Patience
Flexibility
High threshold for noise
Willingness to engage with young people

Duties may include

Set-up and Clean-up
Supervision of sports
Participation in crafts
Supervising chill-out room
Dispensing tuck
Helping with homework (not a popular choice among attendees)

Please contact me ASAP if you are even remotely interested in this great opportunity.

Matt

Where are they now?

Many of our young adults are busy with their noses to the grindstone in their further studies. It is important for us as a congregation to remember and support these young people, especially those who are spending this next year further afield. Please pray for these individuals throughout the year that God will continue to guide and protect them. If you would like contact information for any of them, please let me know.

Matt

Ian Robinson	–	University of Ulster at Coleraine
Neil Graham	–	Anglia Ruskin University, England
Keith Lunn	–	Gap Year as Youth Intern in Orangefield Presbyterian Church
Greg Thompson	–	Durham University
Mark Robinson	–	Queen's University Belfast (Year abroad in Mexico City, Mexico in conjunction with Latin Link)
Simon Watt	–	Queen's University Belfast (Year abroad at Neumann College outside Philadelphia, USA)
Emily-Anne Anderson	–	Edinburgh University
Samantha McMillan	–	University of Ulster at Magee
Katherine McCreary	–	Leeds University
Deborah Lowry	–	Newcastle University
Victoria Anderson	–	Edinburgh University
Nikki Lunn	–	University of Ulster at Jordanstown
Ashley Parks	–	Belfast Bible College
Nicky Parks	–	Belfast Institute
Sarah Hill	–	Lisburn Institute
Gary Sloan	–	Lisburn Institute
Nadine Anderson	–	Stranmillis University College
Andrew McDougall	–	University of Bath
Michael Orr	–	Durham University
Allison Rodgers	–	Queen's University Belfast
Lloyd Phillips	–	Queen's University Belfast

You can read more news from our young folk on their plans and experiences in the pages ahead.



FAMILY BARBECUE AND FUN EVENING IVY HILL SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

We had a marvellous fundraising Family Barbecue Evening on Saturday 2 September organised by the Sunday School. The venue was at Ivy Hill, Lisburn, home of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Boomer, grandparents of our three McNeight boys.

The facilities were great and very safe with a very good clean barn.

A very big 'thank you' to the Boomers for allowing us to use their grounds. The weather was fine, if a little damp towards the end, but this did not spoil the event. Thank you to our expert chefs, Noel Robinson, John Hammonds, John Canning and Richard McNeight, also to our parents and teachers who provided a wide variety of salads.

The 250 balloons, when released, were reluctant to leave Ivy Hill, but eventually took off, mostly in a group. Watch the next edition of *Wavelength* for results.

Andrew Vient kindly supplied us with music and he and Keith Lunn had us on our feet with party games. The younger set had much more energy than us more mature folk!

We ended a wonderful evening with songs led by Ian Robinson and some of our talented singing youth. The Rev. Brackenridge led us in a short epilogue when he used some of the young folk with electricity and water in a talk about the family circle.

A great evening came to an end, although folk enjoyed chatting for a while longer. We need more evenings like this. Fundraising is only part of this. Fellowship and getting to know each other is all part of the life of our congregation.

Around £400 has been raised which will go to the Presbyterian Church Sunday School and Youth projects.

Thank you to all our sponsors who again supplied us so generously and, in closing, a big 'thank you' to Sheila Hammonds and her band of helpers for a very well organised event.

Maureen Staniland



Child Protection in Practice: Sunday School and Crèche

In Sunday School and Crèche we provide a safe, secure and loving environment in which our children and young people are respected and free from abuse of any form. Our practices are informed by the Child Protection Policy of Kirk Session and by the Guidelines of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland as set out in *Taking Care* (2004) - you can view these documents on our website: www.firstlisburn.org

1. All parents/guardians are encouraged to share in morning worship with their children – however, we realise that this is not always possible.
2. Where children are not already in church we ask that, in the interests of child safety, children are not “dropped off” for Sunday School, other than by prior arrangement with the Superintendent, before 11.20 am. The “drop off” point is the church vestibule (front entrance).
3. We ask that parents/guardians personally pick up their children promptly at the end of morning worship when leaders will ensure that children are handed over to them in the Main Hall – Sunday School ends at about 12.10 pm.
4. All leaders and helpers in Sunday School and Crèche are recruited according to the policies set out by Kirk Session and in *Taking Care*, section 2.5. They are familiarised with and work according to the Child Protection policy of Kirk Session and the guidelines in *Taking Care*.
5. We aim to abide by the recommended ratios of leaders to children as set out in *Taking Care*, section 2.1.
6. Whilst in Sunday School and Crèche children are at all times under the care of a member of staff.
7. In Sunday School and Crèche there is no inappropriate physical contact between leaders and children.
8. Crèche staff will change nappies provided parents agree and can supply nappies.

9. Sunday School does not provide for a change of pants or clothes for children.
10. Children up to four years of age will be accompanied to the toilet by two leaders who will assist with toileting as required.
11. Children over four years of age will, as required, be accompanied to the toilet door by a leader but the leader will not enter the toilet with the child.
12. If parents or guardians have concerns about any aspect of the practices followed in Sunday School or Crèche they should immediately contact the Sunday School Superintendent, John Davis (Tel: 9260 2576; Email: jpdavis@onetel.com)

John Davis
Sunday School Superintendent
September 2006

POCVA

Attention all youth organisation leaders

If you have any new leaders in your organisation this year please pass their details over to Matt Craig for POCVA (formerly child protection) clearance. This also applies to leaders who may not have been active for a few years. Thank you.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

OUR YEAR AHEAD

Summer has come to an end once more and we find ourselves looking forward to yet another year of interesting and entertaining evenings with the PWA. The committee has put together a wide and varied programme which we hope will be enjoyed by all our members, and we would encourage new members to come along and experience for themselves the friendship and fellowship enjoyed by others.

We commence on **Tuesday 3 October 2006, at 8.00 pm in the Boyd Room**, with a short Keep Fit session with Laura McMillan and take a look at Our Year Ahead:

Sun 5 November	Annual Service with Mrs Deirdre Humphries
7 November	David and Maggie Steele, Missionaries from Malawi
Sat 18 November	Coffee Morning and Christmas Fayre
5 December	Floral Workshop with Fara Moffett
9 January 2007	"The Way Ahead" with Charlotte Stevenson
6 February	Fabric craft demonstration with Beth Reid
6 March	AGM.

Date to be arranged for a Victorian Evening with emphasis on War on Want.

We do hope you will join us.

Olive Reid
Hon. Secretary

ReachOut Magazine

This is an interesting magazine published every two months (February, April, June, August, October, December). In addition to Irish Mission workers' reports, there are also reports on many other aspects of mission and outreach on the island of Ireland. Annual cost £6.00.

Anyone who would like to subscribe to 'ReachOut', please contact Doreen Burns (Tel No. 9267 9965) or speak to her at church.

LISBURN DOWNTOWN CENTRE



Downtown groups and activities have all recommenced, and at the commencement of this new session I want to take time to pay tribute to a fantastic longstanding volunteer who has just retired this year from the Management Committee. This person is Helen Lynn.

Helen is the kindest person, who is reliable and can be depended upon at all times. When Helen said, 'I will fundraise' she would go all out to do this. If she was responsible for organising something or doing a task, no matter how small or large, she would give 100 per cent effort, commitment and time. Helen being a founder member of Downtown, volunteered her services on the management committee tirelessly through the years from its inception. For her dedication to the work of Downtown I pay tribute. Such volunteers are of much value and I sincerely thank her on behalf of the management committee, volunteers and myself for that entire commitment and service.

Helen, when others speak well of you, you have acceptance; but when the truth speaks well of you, you have character. Thank you.

Downtown Centre Annual General Meeting Monday 6 November commencing at 7.30 pm.

All volunteers are invited, and anyone else from the congregation who would be interested in learning about what has been going on in Downtown within the last year would be made most welcome. We will be electing new committee members, and if you are interested in putting your name forward for consideration and/or knowing more about what it means to be a member of the management committee, speak to Colin McKay, Rev. John Brackenridge, Evelyn Whyte or myself.

Training Courses

Basic Health & Safety and Food Hygiene certificated training courses are being held again on Tuesday 10 October 10.00 am–12 00 noon and on Thursday 12 October 7.00 pm–9.00 pm. For anyone who caters for church or other related functions, or for anyone who is involved with the various organisations, it is essential that a grasp of legislation in the area of Health & Safety and food hygiene is clearly understood.

The course that we are offering is endorsed by the Lisburn City Council Environmental Health Department.

For more information and to enrol in the training please contact myself on 028 92 672052 or Email downtowncentre@msn.com.

Volunteering opportunities

Get together Club for adults with learning difficulties – arts and crafts and music project worker required. Tuesday morning for four weeks commencing at 10.00 am until 12.00 noon. There will be a 15-minute tea break at 11.00 am. All equipment and materials required will be provided. For further information please contact me.

Volunteer administrator

Duties will include typing, filing, and general office duties. Eight hours a week is required and these can be flexible. Someone who has experience working in an administration capacity would be an ideal candidate.

Final Thought

To make life work the way God intended it to, we must learn how to lean on others, yet know how to lend them support; be generous enough to give, yet always be humble enough to receive; honest enough to confess our faults, yet always be willing to forgive.

Margaret Bailie, Downtown Co-ordinator

CHEER-YOU-UP CLUB

CYU Club began this winter session on 20 September with 'Who wants to be a millionaire'. All senior citizens are most welcome to our Club. We meet in the Boyd Room on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 2.00 pm. An interesting programme has been arranged. Transport can be supplied if necessary.



Our 'Send a Cow' project is nearing completion – we have collected £664.00 to date and so we just have another £86.00 to raise. Some needy family in Africa will then be supplied with a cow, thus giving them an independent living and preserving their dignity.

Our current fundraising is in the form of another fireside quiz for club funds. Please support us by buying your copy for £1.00.

Drivers - we need a few more to help with transport now and again.

Music - we also need someone to play the piano at our meetings. Please let us know if you would be willing to help.

Helen Lynn

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL 2006



It is now time to start filling your shoebox – information leaflets are available in the porch.

The team members ask that you read the leaflet carefully taking note of the following points:

- Box and lid should be wrapped separately (boxes with hinged lids are **unacceptable**). The box should measure approximately 12 inches by 7 inches (any larger boxes have to be dismantled and the contents put in smaller boxes).
- Please label your box with the special label for either girl or boy and the age that it is intended for, e.g. 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14.
- Fill your shoebox with gifts listed. Do **NOT** wrap any items individually.
- Please include £2.00 for every box you fill. Cheques should be made payable to Samaritan's Purse. Use the special envelope on the leaflet and, if you are a taxpayer, please consider **GIFT AID**. For every £1.00 donated, a further 28p can be claimed by Samaritan's Purse from the Inland Revenue. This does NOT cost you anything.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE DETAILS ON THE ENVELOPE AND PLACE INSIDE YOUR BOX ON TOP OF YOUR GIFTS.

- Please secure your lid with an elastic band. **DO NOT SEAL THE BOX AS IT HAS TO BE CHECKED TO ENSURE IT MEETS CUSTOMS REQUIREMENTS.**

Your co-operation on these points will be appreciated.

Details of items suitable for a shoebox gift are set out overleaf.

ITEMS SUITABLE FOR SHOEBOX GIFT

- ❖ Hat, gloves and scarf
- ❖ Facecloth and wrapped soap
- ❖ Toothbrush and toothpaste
- ❖ Notebook (ruled or plain)
- ❖ Colouring book
- ❖ Picture book
- ❖ Pencils, pens, felt tips or crayons, rubber and sharpener
- ❖ Ball (small – no bigger than a tennis ball)
- ❖ Small jigsaw
- ❖ **For boys:** Toy car, truck or similar item
- ❖ **For girls:** Jewellery, e.g **clip-on** earrings, bracelet, necklace, hair accessories, small doll
- ❖ Small toys, e.g. yo-yos, whistles, mouth organ, etc.
- ❖ Greetings card or photo of yourself
- ❖ Sweets (sell-by date must be at least March 2007 or later)
- ❖ Small musical instruments

We have a quantity of soft toys – if you leave a space in your box, we will include one of these for you

DUE TO IMPORT REGULATIONS, ALL GOODS SHOULD BE NEW OR NEARLY NEW.

PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

- ❖ Chocolate bars or Smarties, Buttons etc. – **due to Customs regulations in receiving countries.**
- ❖ Other edible items, e.g. crisps, cake, biscuits, tinned food
- ❖ Any battery-operated item
- ❖ War related items, e.g. toy guns, knives, soldiers, action men
- ❖ Clothes (other than hat, scarf and gloves)
- ❖ Glass containers, mirrors, or fragile items
- ❖ Liquids of any type, e.g. blow bubbles, shampoos, bubble bath, toiletry sets, aerosols, roll-on deodorants, nail varnish
- ❖ Marbles or sharp objects, scissors. etc.
- ❖ Books with words
- ❖ Medicines
- ❖ Anything of a political, racial or religious nature
- ❖ Novels

We hope you will be able to bring in your filled shoeboxes as soon as possible. Our final closing date will be Sunday 29 October.

During the year there have been a lot of church members and friends working behind the scenes to enable us to reach our target of 600 boxes. We are well on the way to achieving this and I would like to thank everyone who has been or is still working towards it. Your help and generosity is greatly appreciated. The children will be delighted with their shoeboxes.

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.” Matthew 1:19.

ONE SUMMER IN SEATTLE

by Rev. Dr Gordon Gray

Well, not exactly Seattle – we were based in Edmonds, fifteen miles north of Seattle, on the shore of Puget Sound. Originally a lumber-milling settlement from the later nineteenth century, Edmonds is nowadays a commuter community and a favoured retirement location. Our former Ordained Assistant, the Rev. Barry Keating, of Maplewood Presbyterian Church had invited me to stand in for him during an extended study-leave and sabbatical. So Margaret and I flew out on 20 June, a nineteen-hour journey door to door, and an eight-hour time change. Barry and Nancy's house would be our home until 20 August.

Maplewood, set in a pleasant residential suburb, numbers upwards of 200 Communicant members. My nine Sundays included a Communion Service, the Sacrament of Baptism and a guest-sermon by the Rev. Father Bob Camuso of the nearby St Thomas More Roman Catholic Parish, where I preached on the Saturday evening in a reciprocal invitation. In some ways the pattern of the Maplewood Service was noticeably different from ours in First Lisburn. For example, immediately after the Prayers of Confession members get up and greet one another, but I found this tended to stray into general conversation. For Intercessions, individual members would stand up here and there and ask for prayer for family members or friends or for personal concerns. People tended to applaud after every musical item, apart from the two (only) hymns. I confess I struggled to maintain the sense of 'divine' worship over against the merely human. However, the atmosphere was always lively, responsive and welcoming.

Sunday 30 July was notable for another reason. Our son Tim, from Berkshire, and in Richmond, Virginia for a business conference, had flown across the USA to spend the weekend with us and so was in church that morning. By sheer coincidence also present were the Rev. Peter and Heather Lyle of Ballyholme Presbyterian, Heather being the daughter of the Very Rev. Dr Godfrey and Mrs Margaret Brown of Ballycastle!

Small world indeed; but in other ways we realised how far from home we were and how different the world looks from that far north-west USA. We were on the Pacific rim, looking west to Japan, China and the Phillipines. The ethnic mix of the Seattle area reflected this in a big way. North Vietnam and its nuclear threat seemed much closer. Hawaii was a favoured holiday destination. But even the best of the Seattle papers carried never a mention all summer of Northern Ireland or cricket.

The Middle East and especially the awful war in Lebanon dominated CNN TV news, but from an American perspective. There was much more overt criticism of the Bush administration's foreign policy than I had experienced on previous recent visits.

Between weekends we explored something of our wonderfully scenic surroundings, from snow-capped mountains to enchanting islands to quaint towns, some of them seemingly stuck in a 'Victorian' time-warp. On three successive weeks we visited rowing friends from Queen's University days – in Vancouver, Victoria and Napa/San Francisco. On this latter trip we also met up with our niece Tracy Williamson, Margaret's sister's daughter. That was the day the new airline threat caused a clamp-down on baggage.

Despite that, we arrived back safely on 29 August via the World Rowing Championships at Eton and a grand reunion with Tim, Clare, Robert (7) and Emma (5) and also Philip, down from Northampton for the occasion.

And, yes, we too had a summer of brilliant sunny warm weather – including August!

LIGHT PROGRAMME NEWS

We hope all our Light Programme members have had a good break and if you have already been on holiday, that it has been enjoyable.

We have quite a varied programme planned and still more to come:

23 September Amble in Castlewellan Forest Park followed by a meal.

26 October 2.30 pm. 'Stones in his Pockets'
Grand Opera House, Belfast.

28 December Peter Corry – Lagan Valley Island Centre

6 January Viennese Evening with the Ulster Orchestra
Waterfront Hall, Belfast

25-29 March Ulsterbus Tour 'Scottish Borders and English Lakes'

Once again we cordially invite members of the congregation to join us in any of our planned outings. For further information check the notice board at the side door of the vestibule or contact me, David Gourley Telephone No. 9260 1013.

1ST LISBURN SCOUT GROUP

The Scout Group is recommencing on 25/26 September 2006. All boys between the ages of 4 years – 14½ years are very welcome.

Squirrels	(aged 4-6)	meet	Tuesdays	6.30 – 7.30 pm
Beavers	(aged 6-8)	meet	Tuesdays	6.30 – 7.30 pm
Cub Scouts	(aged 8-10½)	meet	Tuesdays	7.30 – 9.00 pm
Scouts	(aged 10½-14½)	meet	Mondays	7.30 – 9.00 pm

1st Lisburn Cub Scouts did extremely well at the Northern Ireland 5-a-side football finals and are to be congratulated; they came fourth out of the 26 packs who participated. An excellent performance was given by all.

As promised, the junior sections were visited by the Party Professor to round off the year and everyone had an enjoyable time.

We would like to congratulate Barbara Kirk (Beaver Leader) on the birth of her son Aaron – mother and baby are doing well.

Finally, new members and leaders are always required and anyone wishing to join our Group please contact the Group Scout Leader, Irene Richer on 9267 0041.

Irene Richer
Group Scout Leader

VIRFURILE CHILDREN'S CAMP, ROMANIA

Nicola, Nadine and Tracey represented the Girls' Brigade European Fellowship on a trip to Virfurile Children's summer camp in Romania for a week during July.

The children's summer camp was formed by Harry and Wilma Sommerville in 1991 in the beautiful village of Virfurile, and for ten weeks during the summer between 50-80 children bring the place alive. Many of the children are under-privileged, gipsy or orphaned, but they are loved, fed and clothed, and sound bible teaching is combined with much fun and laughter. We all enjoyed the beautiful singing of the children and leaders each day; their songs filled the camp with much joy and happiness.

Although we had many chores to allow the camp leaders extra counselling time with the children, we still had plenty of time to spend with the children and enjoyed long walks up hills and across rivers where we would be separated off in groups for games, bible teaching and dramas. Each night we all met together and the children, leaders and ourselves would enjoy entertainment and singing. Two of the puppets Stevie and Susie joined us on our trip and the children enjoyed them so much that they decided to stay.

Every day was a new and different experience for each of us with a week of rewarding days and emotional events. The camp was overjoyed with the money we donated, £1600, and the many gifts we gave.

Thank you all for all your support!

Nicola, Nadine and Tracey

FIRST LISBURN FOOTBALL CLUB UPDATE

First Lisburn Football Club survived its first year in the South Antrim Football League and is back and ready for action. We will be playing our home games this season at Barbour Playing Fields in Lisburn and hope that we will continue to get support from the congregation.



Besides competing in the SAFL, the Club also has a social element to it in that many people come down and train with the team even though they have no desire to compete on Saturdays. This is something that we want to continue to do so we invite all men (minimum age of 16 and NO upper age limit) to feel free to come to training on Tuesday nights currently at the Brambles from 6.30 pm-8.00 pm for a bit of exercise and great banter.

We also hope to start a Bible fellowship running after training every week. Please contact me if you are interested in any of the above, or just show up.

Matt

Steve and Johno

Clearview Window Cleaners and Maintenance

Window cleaning, gardening, painting and decorating carried out. Man and van for hire. No job too small. Tel. 9266 6343 Mobile No. 07775853511

Maintenance Joinery work carried out Tel: 9266 2264

FOCUS ON UGANDA

The invasion of Uganda by the Irish began on 30 June, with an influx of mums and sons from the Down Battalion Boys Brigade, Christchurch in Kilkeel. They were joined and followed by teams from Emmanuel Fellowship, Lurgan, Crinken, Glenavy Parish, Ignite, Abaana and Love for Life.

The teams used their various talents to build accommodation blocks, paint and tidy existing structures, carry out medical clinics, women's arts and crafts, child evangelism programmes, and health education lessons with a particular emphasis on sexual health. This year we were also fortunate to have a team member who is involved in teacher training programmes at home; she was able to encourage staff in their role and introduce new methods to maintain discipline without using the cane (which has recently been banned). The teachers lapped up the new tools, as the Ministry of Education in Uganda has not provided any other disciplinary guidelines to replace the cane.

Members of the health team visiting Rapha, along with their rural health clinics, were also able to make valuable recommendations and set goals in partnership with Dr Felix and the staff, which will assist them in developing the work into the community in the coming months.

All in all it was a busy summer, especially for the FOL guesthouse staff in Emmaus; it was a baptism by fire! Three teams at once into the recently refurbished guesthouse – I am glad to report that the staff coped admirably with the different Irish dialects, noise and sense of fun.

Aside from all the wonderful practical work that was achieved over the summer months, more importantly lives were changed – both Irish and Ugandan! One quiet, humble Kilkeel lady saw four women come to Christ as a result of sharing a short message and doing a piece of craft work on the theme of a free gift. I don't know who was more blessed, the preacher or the four ladies who received Christ. Over the summer there were many children and adults who committed their lives to Jesus.

Whilst it's great to show the love of Christ in a practical way, there is little to replace the relational aspect of the team's visits. Our heart in FOL is to see long term relationships built between churches in Ireland and communities in East Africa, where united in Christ we work in partnership to share the gospel, encourage each other and assist on a humanitarian level. Many people seeking to assist in the future are doing so because of the relationships they have built with fellow believers in Uganda.

We are excited to see that Emmanuel Fellowship is seeking to make a commitment with the church and school in Jandira as a result of their visit. Love For Life (www.loveforlife.org.uk) is also looking at a strategy for the next few years in conjunction with the FOL office to educate and empower young people with a knowledge about sexual purity and sexual health.

So... if you are 18 plus (no upper limit) and you would like to get involved in 2007 team visits to Uganda please contact me at denise@fieldsoflife.com. If you are not in a position to actually go on a trip but would still like to be involved I would love to hear from you.

Denise Kane

More news from our young folk...

LATIN ADVENTURE – 'STRIDE' MEXICO

On 21 September I set off for a year's mission in Mexico with the international Christian organisation, Latin Link. Having spent a couple of months in Ecuador with them on a 12-strong 'STEP' team last summer, I decided to link up with them again as they could facilitate my Spanish language year abroad with Queen's University.

This individual placement, called 'Stride', is a flexible initiative run by and co-ordinated by Latin Link. I will spend a week in Guatemala on orientation before heading up to Mexico City where I'll be working with children aged 3-16 who are on the fringe of becoming hardened street kids, in a home where I'll also be living. Outside this structure I have the freedom to set up any clubs, activities or programmes that I feel will aid the kids in having fun and improving their general day-to-day living. No doubt some football sessions will feature!

The need in Mexico City caused by homelessness, drug abuse, pollution, and many other factors is massive. And yes, I am very scared! Although the academic purpose for this trip is language improvement, it's very much a year in which I'll be challenged and stretched in new ways and will no doubt experience new things.

However, the secret to this coming year for me is total reliance on God and His power. I would really value your prayers during this time, and would also like to thank those who have helped me to raise the financial support needed to participate in this scheme.

Mark Robinson

JOURNEYS THROUGH TANZANIA

For the whole month of July, along with thirteen other pupils and two members of staff from my school, RBAI, I had the pleasure of spending my time in Tanzania on the east coast of Africa. During my four weeks there I encountered a huge range of different emotions, and encountered an amazing variety of places from alpine deserts to sandy beaches.

The first week was spent as an acclimatisation week in preparation for our ascent of Mt Kilimanjaro in the third week. This took place in an area called the Usumbara Mountains and, in hindsight, was the most enjoyable part of the trip. Each day during our trek, we would walk through villages where the people were so welcoming and happy to see us. The children, especially, loved to get their picture taken and then to see themselves on the screen. On a couple of occasions we even got a few impromptu games of football going and it was a delight to see the happiness we could bring to these children just by our mere presence.

This week did have its scares, however. For example, on our second night during the trek while camping outside a convent, somebody thought it would be a good idea to leave an open tub of peanut butter lying out while we went for dinner. After dinner, we came back to the tents to be told that a pack of wild dogs had been rampaging around the camp in our absence. Let's just say that didn't go down well with the teachers!

The second week was spent at a secondary school near a village called Kifaru. Frankly, my memories of this place aren't the best. This week was probably the low point of the trip. From the moment we arrived we could all tell this was going to be a hard week. We received a very frosty reception, and were then told they expected us to build a basketball court and paint a new classroom block in five days. Unfortunately, this was very unlikely to happen due to our tight budget and sheer lack of manpower. In the end, however, we did paint the inside of the classroom block and it seemed to be greatly appreciated by the staff of the school. But, to be fair, they did let us watch the world cup final on their TV.

The third week is certainly a period of my life I will never forget – the ascent of Mt Kilimanjaro, the highest in Africa. These few days were very testing both mentally and physically. We were following the Marangu route up the mountain, staying in huts each night. The first day was a three-hour walk from the base to Mandara huts where we spent our first night. The second day was much more testing than the first; around a six-hour trek, ascending around a thousand metres and on very rough terrain. This was without doubt the most trying day of the trip due to the

distinct fall in oxygen levels and fatigue. However, when we eventually reached the second huts at Horombo, around 3700 metres high, it was worth every step as the view was truly incredible. In fact, we were so high we could see planes flying beneath us, and that is not a joke! However, that was as far as I got. A viral infection, mixed with fatigue and the lack of oxygen meant I had to come down the mountain and back to a hotel in the nearby city of Moshi. I rested up here for several days and then set off again.

The fourth and final week was unforgettable. The first half was spent on safari at three separate locations, Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro Crater and Tarangire National Park. It was incredible to see all the animals in their natural habitat. The final three days in Tanzania were spent at a beach resort, Kipepeyo, just south of the capital Dar es Salaam. This was the perfect way to unwind after the three testing weeks we had just had. In closing, I'd like to thank everybody who kept me sane while out there by keeping in touch via e-mail etc. You know who you are!

Jonathan Davis

SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY

I am in my final year of university and have chosen to spend the first six months of the year studying at Singapore Management University. Singapore city is ultra modern and much more advanced than any European city! It is famous for its food, and it surely doesn't disappoint. I've found an excellent church with a congregation of about 30,000. God is certainly moving in this part of the world!"

Prayer points: Continued good health, and to meet more 20s Christians.

Hope all is well at home. Keep in touch.

Andrew McDougall

BEI - BUSINESS EDUCATION INITIATIVE

This academic year I will be studying in the United States of America – Neumann College, Aston, Pennsylvania. This on a scheme known as the Business Education Initiative.

It is run by the British Government to increase the awareness of business practice in those entering the Northern Ireland labour market. Preparation began back in November/December of last year, with an application process and interview. I was one of the 100 successful selected candidates, all chosen from Northern Ireland universities,

technical institutions etc. One of the requirements of the scheme/scholarship was to pass all of my second year exams at Queen's, and fortunately I passed them all.

All this has led to where I am now – Aston, Pennsylvania. I have completed the first two weeks of classes and am enjoying the experience very much so far; I have got to meet new people and make new friends, experience different cultures etc. Classes and the teaching methods are very different from at home, but as we were told to remember about everything at our training days, "It's not better or worse, just different." Everyone is very helpful and will accommodate you in any way possible.

I also hope to travel whilst here, so if you know of anywhere particularly nice, please let me know! I am sure I will be in contact with Matt throughout the year so, if you want to know anything, you can speak to him, or contact me directly at the following:

Address: Simon Watt, Box Number 887, Neumann College,
1 Neumann Drive, Aston, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19014-
1298
Tel: 610-361-2440 (room) 484-886-8010 (cell)
Email: swatty7@hotmail.com

Simon Watt

EMILY-ANNE RETURNS FROM SENEGAL

I have now been back for over a month from Africa where I was teaching the four Frésard Children, and have started Nursing here in Edinburgh.

Thank you all very much for your prayers and support during the time I was away! Some examples of how your prayers were answered are: health; safety in travel; Liz was there to help the Frésards with phonology – meant I had someone closer to my age whom I could share a house with; we got the second term of school finished while I was there and I got to visit Podor, the village where I spent my childhood years.

I also got the opportunity to visit the Karon Islands, attend a Karon culture weekend and make friends with local people, all of which taught me a lot about the culture and traditions there – very interesting! Please continue to pray for the Karon people and the work the Frésards are doing.

God blessed my time in Senegal and The Gambia very much and I am thankful for the many happy memories I have. Thank you once again!

Emily-Anne

NICE & EASY

An appointment's been made with the plumber
For a leakage that just cannot wait
And before I can put it on paper
I've completely forgotten the date.
There's a problem remembering details
And things I was told yesterday
But recalling the scenes of my childhood
I can go back a very long way.

I watch an old film on the telly
Though I know I have seen it before
And I have no idea of the story
(They don't make them like that any more)
I might fall asleep half way through it
And I won't have a clue how it ends
But they'll show it again in a fortnight or so
And I'll probably watch it again.

My husband and I might go shopping
And we part at the end of the street
Agreeing to rendezvous later
With the time and the place we should meet.
As we set off in different directions
Each going out separate ways
We just might forget the arrangements
And we won't see each other for days.

The youngsters might find us amusing
Our grandchildren certainly do
But we do understand their reactions
For once we had grandparents too.
We still have a good sense of humour
We oldies know how to have fun
Although we are drawing our pensions
It's not all downhill from now on.

We could fly away like the "snowbirds"
And go and relax in the sun
If it wasn't for all the upheaval
And having to leave everyone.
So we're just taking things nice and easy
There's no sense in rushing around
We'll just stop at home and watch telly
And wait till the summer comes round.