

FIRST LISBURN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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MINISTER'S LETTER

Ireland prides itself on a warm welcome. Or so they used to say. I'm not so sure. Maybe the welcome only stands if the person being welcomed is the same as you or me.

According to Jesus, entry to the Kingdom of Heaven and the kind of welcome we give are not unrelated. So, unless you are not only hungry and thirsty, a stranger with no clothes to mention, perhaps feeling ill, but also have been recently locked up, you will inevitably be welcoming somebody who is different to you. And hopefully you will be doing it in church. The quality of your welcome will dictate your place – or indeed your lack of one – in the Kingdom of God. Serious stuff!

Belfast has earned the dubious title of 'Hate Capital of Europe'. We are only eight miles down the motorway. It isn't far. A contributing factor to increased racism is the fear of erosion of Irish identities, particularly in Northern Ireland, and the economic threat felt particularly by those who are unemployed or in low paid work. The findings of a Government Report in 2000 for Northern Ireland underwrite a genuine emotional insularity. That particular report concluded that racism is twice as common as sectarianism and that anti-traveller prejudice features very highly. It also showed a hardening of attitude since 1995, for example a rise from one-third to one-half of people who would not welcome a Chinese person as a member of their family.

Emotional insularity makes welcoming difficult. In a twelve-month period First Lisburn 'welcomed' 37 new members. Well done! Only 43 per cent of them were coming directly from Presbyterian backgrounds. Just as Polish people are happy to live in Lisburn so long as it works for them and for as long as their neighbours get on with them, so people from diverse denominational backgrounds seem happy to join First Lisburn. Thankfully, they challenge how we 'feel'. I for one welcome it.

In 2005, PCI said farewell to 673 families. That's cheerio to more than 13 families a week across the denomination. That's a great big Irish *au revoir* to 4,172 people in total. We said bye bye to 1,357 communicants and *adieu* to 1,050 children who left our Sunday Schools for good – which is a firm *auf wiedersehen* to 88 kids a month. Ireland is losing its reputation. It doesn't do welcomes anymore. It's better at cold shoulders, bricks through windows and slogans daubed on gateposts. The church's reputation is shot as well. For 25 years PCI has been better at departures than arrivals.

So, well done FLPC! Every time you welcome, every time you smile, every time you reach over your pew and speak, every time you make a phone call, every time you bring somebody with you to worship, every time you stop and ask, and every time you include somebody else, you buck the trend and you make Ireland the Kingdom of God on earth. Well done! The Kingdom of God has got a blue notice board. I don't know about you, but I've always preferred 'Come you that are blessed' to 'Away from me, you that are under God's curse'.

John Brackenridge

90th Birthday Congratulations

to
Mrs Meta Boyd

who celebrated her 90th Birthday on Thursday 27 April.

With much love and affection, and very best wishes from all your friends in First Lisburn.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE GRADUATION

Congratulations to Marion, Margaret and Lyndsay on being awarded Certificates following successful completion of their courses in Christian Education at the Belfast Bible College.

Women's Study Fellowship - Three-year part-time Course

Marion Craig (2005)
Margaret Perry (2006)

Certificate in Pastoral Care – One Year part-time Course

Lindsay Parr (2006)

From your Editor...

As we approach the summer holiday season, we will hope to recharge our batteries following another busy year in the life of our congregation.

However, not everyone gets a rest! Once again, as Matt tells us, a very active summer is planned for leaders and young people preparing for and taking part in the Holiday Bible Club, and some will also be participating in outreach work. We will remember them all in our prayers.

In addition to news of our organisations and other activities within FLPC, you will find information on the forthcoming Alpha Course commencing on Sunday evenings in September and continuing through to January. A reply slip is included for the convenience of those interested in participating in this stimulating course.

At this time of year our thoughts are with everyone undertaking examinations both at school and other levels of education. We wish you all the best of luck.

I hope you all have a very pleasant summer, and we look forward to 'rounding it off' at the Barbecue and Fun Evening planned by the Sunday School at Ivy Hill on Saturday 2 September.

Mary McNeight

E-mail: wavelength@firstlisburn.org

LISBURN LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

Opening Hours	
Monday	9.00 am – 8.00 pm
Tuesday	9.00 am – 8.00 pm
Wednesday	12.00 noon – 10.00 pm
Thursday	9.00 am – 9.00 pm
Friday	9.00 am – 5.00 pm
Saturday	9.00 am – 5.00 pm

Please note the opening hours of the Lisburn Library in Linenhall Street.

You are advised **not to park** in the library parking spaces at the rear of the Church during Library opening hours as this is a clamping zone and your car could be clamped.

John Brackenridge

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

HOLIDAYS AND PASTORAL COVER

Rev. John Brackenridge

will be on holiday from: 14 – 28 July. Please contact Evelyn for all pastoral work during these dates.

(Remainder of leave to be arranged)

Miss Evelyn Whyte

will be on holiday from 24 June – 5 July and
24 August – 3 September

Matt Craig

will be on holiday from 14 July – 6 August and
30 August – 3 September

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

Sun 18 June	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sun 2 July	11.00 am	Morning Service and Infant Baptism led by Rev. J Brackenridge
Sun 9 July	11.00 am	Morning Service led by Rev. J Brackenridge
Sun 16 July	11.00 am	Morning Service led by Dr Bert Tosh
Sun 23 July	11.00 am	Morning Service led by Dr Bert Tosh
Sun 30 July	11.00 am	Morning Service led by Rev. J Brackenridge
Sun 6 August	11.00 am	Morning Service led by Miss E Whyte
Sun 13 August	11.00 am	To be arranged
Sun 20 August	11.00 am	Holiday Bible Club Service
Sun 27 August	11.00 am	Morning Service led by Rev. J Brackenridge

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES – JULY AND AUGUST

Time: 8.00 pm

July 2 <i>Preacher:</i> Railway Street Presbyterian Church	August 6 <i>Preacher:</i> Railway Street Presbyterian Church First Lisburn PC Miss Evelyn Whyte
July 9 <i>Preacher:</i> Seymour Street Methodist Church	August 13 <i>Preacher:</i> Seymour Street Methodist Church Lisburn Cathedral
July 16 <i>Preacher:</i> Seymour Street Methodist Church First Lisburn PC Dr Bert Tosh	August 20 <i>Preacher:</i> First Lisburn Presbyterian Church Railway Street Presbyterian Church
July 23 <i>Preacher:</i> First Lisburn Presbyterian Church Lisburn Cathedral	August 27 <i>Preacher:</i> Lisburn Cathedral Seymour Street Methodist Church
July 30 <i>Preacher:</i> Lisburn Cathedral Seymour Street Methodist Church	

CHURCH FLOWERS FOR JULY & AUGUST SERVICES ARE THE GIFT OF

2 July	Lila Reid
9 July	Vera McQuoid
16 July	Meta Boyd
23 July	Joyce Moran
30 July	Elizabeth Ramsay
6 August	Annabelle Poots
13 August	Doreen Burns
20 August	Tom Whyte
27 August	Mrs Thompson

Prayer Healing Ministry



The Prayer Healing Team has now been together for a year. As we look back over the year we have much to give God thanks and praise for. It is a privilege to pray with and for people and to see God answer prayer. The Church continues to be open twice a month and members of the team are available. It is an opportunity for you to take time aside and come into the quietness of the Church.

Members of the team are available at other times by arrangement.

Contact Evelyn on 9061 3410.

Following on from last year, the Church will be open for Prayer from **Monday 14 August – Friday 18 August, 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm and 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm** as part of the **Holiday Bible Club**.

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

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<u>7.30 pm – 9.00 pm</u>	<u>12 Noon – 2.00 pm</u>
14 June 2006	1 June 2006
19 July 2006	6 July 2006
16 August 2006	3 August 2006
20 September 2006	7 September 2006
18 October 2006	5 October 2006
<i>Jesus said, "Come to me all you who are burdened and heavy laden, and I will give you rest."</i>	
<i>Matthew 11:28</i>	

Evelyn Whyte

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB 14–18 AUGUST 2006



This year's Holiday Bible Club for children entering P1-P7 is called, 'Xpedition Force'. The Xplorers will join the Xpedition up the mountain for adventure and possible danger! We will follow Jesus on His journey to the Cross through the gospel of Matthew. The club will of course include all of the games, sports, crafts and other activities that you would expect at a First Lisburn HBC. The Club will run from 1.00 pm-4.00 pm each afternoon and will conclude with a barbecue on Friday evening. We will also be holding a special service on Sunday 20 August at 11.00 am in which all the Xplorers will take part. Come join us for our XPEDITION!!

Pre-registration forms will be available in the vestibule over the summer months but registration will also take place during the Club.

Xtreme Evening Event!

There will be an event every evening during the Holiday Bible Club from 7.30 pm-10.00 pm for young people of secondary school age (heading into Yr8 and above). This event will be 'rockin' and will be something that you will want to bring your friends to!

Both of the above events are of course free of charge and yes, invite others!

We are still looking for volunteers for the Club to be leaders or to help with catering. No experience is necessary (of course it is a bonus) for either, if you are willing we will use you! Regardless of whether or not you are available for the week of the Club, we are holding two 'prep' nights where we hope to assemble crafts, signs, posters, wall hangings, etc. We **NEED** as many people as possible to help with this even if you can only give us an hour of your time. No experience or skill is necessary, just show up, drink tea and be willing help. If you cannot make any of the 'prep' nights but are still willing to help in some way, please contact me as soon as possible. I am also looking for people to help in some light construction work for the Club, so please contact me if interested.

Important Dates

12 June 10.00 am - 2.00 pm	Training and final prep for HBC leaders
14 June 7.00 pm - 10.00 pm	HBC Prep night in FLPC
20 June 7.00 pm - 10.00 pm	HBC Prep night in FLPC
22 June 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm	Training night for ALL HBC leaders and helpers
14-18 August	- Holiday Bible Club
20 August	-11.00 am Special HBC celebration service Matt

SUNDAY SCHOOL BULLETIN

PCI Youth and Children's Project - Yes! Tak! Da!

This year we are supporting work with "street-children" in St Petersburg in Russia and refurbishment of the Vorzel campsite in the Ukraine. Some of you will have seen a video on the project in church on 28 May. When I first showed it in Sunday School I was moved by the plight of the "street-children" in St Petersburg. They lead very tragic lives and quickly become, in the words of the video, "like animals". Abandoned by their families, they often end up being exploited as child prostitutes before being discarded onto the street with literally nowhere to go. Thank God for Christian people like Olga, who offer these children hope of a better life and tell them about the love of Jesus. We want to support her work, so if you feel moved to help financially I would be very happy to pass on your donation to Church House.

There will also be an opportunity to contribute at our Fun Event on Saturday 2 September – details of the event are in this issue of *Wavelength*, so please do put the date in your diary. If you are wondering what the rather odd project title means, *Tak* is Ukrainian for Yes and *Da* is Russian for Yes - so the project aims to encourage the children to say Yes! Tak! Da! to Jesus!

Child Protection

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. In order to conform to the Child Protection Policy of the PCI and Kirk Session we are drawing up a Statement of Child Protection Practice. After lengthy discussions a draft statement has been agreed by Sunday School and Crèche staff. When approved by Session I intend to circulate it in the early autumn to parents for their comments. Following that I hope we will be able formally to adopt it as our code of practice.

Do you feel called to be a teacher or assistant?

During the spring the children looked again at the Old Testament story of how Samuel eventually realised that God was calling him – I can recall being impressed by this account myself many years ago in Sunday School. Today it still reminds me of the importance of listening carefully to what God may be saying and discerning where he may be leading us. So, if you feel moved in the direction of a leadership role in Sunday School, either as a teacher or an assistant, please do not hesitate to speak with me and we can discuss what is involved. Training will be provided for all new recruits!

John Davis
Sunday School Superintendent
Tel: 9260 2576 Email: jpdavis@onetel.com

ANNUAL REPORT

Towards the end of last year a decision was taken by Committee that giving to the various funds of the congregation would no longer be recorded against individual names in the Annual Report.

Since then there has been feedback suggesting that there is divided opinion on a change of this nature. As a result, Committee has discussed the subject again and decided that reporting against individual names will continue as in the past.

Over the years most, if not all, congregations have recorded against individual names. However, there is now a trend to discontinue this practice and, instead, to write to each member in January detailing how much each has contributed. This letter would of course act as a receipt for the money they contributed during the past year. I have no doubt this subject will come to the fore again and I would like to hear each of your views in this respect.

In the meantime, if you feel that your own donations should be anonymous, then please inform me and this will be done. Twenty eight of our members have for a number of years been doing so.

Jimmy Lynn, Hon. Treasurer

Receptacles for Used Stamps/Spectacles and Hearing Aids are provided underneath the table in the vestibule. Thank you.

First Lisburn Sunday School

would like to extend a very warm invitation to everyone

to

A Barbecue and Fun Evening

on

Saturday 2 September at Boomer's Barn
Ivy Hill, Lisburn

From 6.30 pm

Admission: £5 per Adult £15 per family

The barbecue is **not** just for the youth and their families. This barbecue is for the **whole congregation and friends**. We would like to see everyone, young, old and in between, all there enjoying the fellowship together as one big family. With our excellent chefs cooking, together with delicious homemade salads, this will be a great evening and no one will go home hungry. There will be music and entertainment all ending with a short epilogue and the release of our balloon race which is a spectacle well worth seeing.

Information and tickets for the events will be available from the table in the vestibule from Sunday 18 June right up to the event.

If you would like to come along and do not have transport, please speak to any of the Sunday School leaders or contact Sheila Hammonds (9266 0507) and we will get transport arranged.

All funds from this day will go to our Youth projects at home and abroad.

We do hope for a big response for this event to kick off a new season, so please plan to join us.

Sheila Hammonds

CROSS COMMUNITY GROUP

The year ended for us in mid May with a Residential Weekend at Drumalis Retreat and Conference Centre in Larne. What a beautiful setting this was in which to spend time together furthering our friendships and enjoying the peace of the countryside and seaside. A wonderful contrast to our busy city life!

Our Chairperson, Joan Parks, led and guided us in activities which informed and stimulated our minds. Some of these were 'ice breaker' games, a Table Quiz, 'party pieces' and, most memorably, a period of Bible Study. Sister Anna of Drumalis, having welcomed us warmly, gave us a thought-provoking introduction to the weekend. Each day ended with an Epilogue led by different members; however, some deferred their bedtime to continue the fun and chat!

Worship was attended in both Catholic and Presbyterian churches. The Rev. Gabrielle Ellis-Farquhar of Ballycarry Presbyterian Church, about seven miles from Larne, gave us a great welcome to her friendly congregation in the village of the same name. Gabrielle had been Assistant in Hillsborough some 12/14 years ago. While welcoming us, she reminded the congregation of the reference she had made on Easter Sunday to our Resurrection Window.

We returned to everyday life refreshed in mind and body and already looking forward to the next such occasion!

Our Committee meets on Thursday 15 June at 8.00 pm in the Boyd Room to plan next year's programme.

Joyce Moran, Secretary



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Our March meeting brought to a close another year of fellowship and the end of a long term of office as secretary for Mrs Anne Kain who was held in very high esteem, and we wish her well in her new home in Scotland.

Five members attended the Annual Rally in Church House on 4 May. The Assembly Hall was filled to capacity and members were treated to a most useful and informative update on the work of PWA. With the introduction of the new theme for next year, "Servants of the King", members were challenged to move out of comfort zones into areas of society, and at the same time, by word and compassion, encourage and build each other up. Altogether it was a most uplifting afternoon.

Our outing this year was to Killead Presbyterian Church Festival of Flowers on 20 May. Approximately 40 ladies had lunch in the beautiful new Church Hall and then viewed the wonderful floral arrangements entitled "Lord for the Years", celebrating 375 years of Faith in Killead. Our afternoon continued at Templepatrick Parish Church Hall with a viewing of paintings and an art and needlework exhibition staged by the United Parishes of Templepatrick and Donegore Ladies Fellowship. Afternoon tea was enjoyed by all.

Our catering skills are in demand again this year and we have four bookings for various groups whose requirements range from morning coffee to lunch and high tea. These events don't just happen; they require a great deal of organization and hard work, but they are also enjoyable and help to cement further the fellowship found in this Church group.

Olive Reid, Hon. Secretary

News of Emily-Anne Anderson...

Emily-Anne is still enjoying her time in West Africa. In May she had a chance to revisit Podor, the small town in northern Senegal where she grew up. She received a fantastic welcome from her old friends and neighbours (who had no advance warning that she was coming). She is now back in the Gambia where she is teaching the four children of Pascal and Janet Frésard. She is sharing accommodation with an American Girl, Liz, who is helping the Frésards with linguistics, until the end of June. The rainy season is just about to start, and as Douglas and Gunnell were speaking to her, lightning was lighting up the sky.

LISBURN DOWNTOWN CENTRE



Get Together Club – Volunteer Session Worker

Being a volunteer gives you the chance,
To get involved with music and dance,
Arts and crafts, cooking, games and tea,
The Get Together Club is where you could be.

Friday Club Drivers – Downtown Centre

Being a volunteer is very worthwhile,
Receive 40p for every travelled mile,
So if you have a few hours to spare,
Do something rewarding and show you care.

Downtown Office Administrator Volunteer

Come on you folk who can type at speed
You're just the people I really need
You will need to answer the telephone too
And be good at maths, now is this you?

Can you keep records that are clear and concise?
Or put papers away and not just find them by chance?
There are leaflets and letters and questionnaires too,
Referral forms, documents and a query or two.

People call in to the Centre each day
Lonely, despairing, we don't turn them away.
They come to us from all walks of life
Needing often just some friendly advice.

If you are free and have time to spare
Use your talents in the Master's Care.
Let us all work together in this great task
Doing the good things he will ask.

**For we are God's masterpiece – He has created us anew in Christ
Jesus so that we can do the good things He has planned for us to do.**

Ephesians 2:10

Quotable quotes

'People who really want to do something find a way, the others find an excuse'
'Often we make up our mind to do something and then we do nothing'

*For further information contact Margaret Bailie,
Lisburn Downtown Centre*

CHEER-YOU-UP CLUB

How time flies – we have now reached the end of our eleventh year!



Over the past year we have had some very interesting meetings with a variety of speakers. We have tried our hand at card-craft for both Christmas and Easter with very pleasing results. A musical afternoon and various quizzes were also part of our programme.

Last year we had an outing to the cinema in Comber and it was so popular our members decided they would like to go back again, which we did. We saw a lovely film called *Random Harvest* and everyone had a great day.

If you are a senior citizen and think you would like to join us, we will be really pleased to see you. ***Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 20 September at 2.00 pm in the Boyd Room.***

Our club is open to everyone, male and female. It is not exclusive to First Lisburn members and is also cross-community.

We are still in need of someone to play the piano; it usually only involves playing one hymn at each meeting.

We also need a couple of drivers! You do not need to commit to driving for every meeting – we could do with a few people just on standby.

Further information may be had from Evelyn: Tel. 9061 3410 or Helen: Tel. 9266 3285.

WIDER WORLD - 2006

We still have a few spare copies of this magazine. It contains lots of interesting items – in fact there is something for everyone. The cost is only £3.00 per year.

If you would like a copy, please contact Helen Lynn on 9266 3285.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL 2006



Yes – it's me again! I would like to express the thanks of my team and myself for the response you made to our earlier appeals. Your caring and help is really appreciated.

So many of you are working behind the scenes especially with the knitting of hats scarves etc. Our box in the vestibule seems to have donations of one kind or another every week and this is wonderful – thank you.

We had a small amount of money in hand which we have now spent on purchasing a quantity of goods from a wholesale catalogue. We really are starting to think seriously about this year's appeal.

Would you like to contribute any of the following items?

skipping ropes	toothbrushes	rubbers
small cars	toothpaste	pencil cases
small dolls	soap	notebooks
hair accessories	pens	colouring books
jewellery	pencils	harmonicas
soap	sharpeners	small toys

These can be left in our box. If you would like to read about how the shoebox appeal started, then please borrow the book entitled 'Love in a Box'. This is left on the table in the vestibule.

Thanks again to all who are interested and support the work of Samaritan's Purse.

Help will be required to cover shoeboxes – we plan to make a start on this towards the end of August.

Helen Lynn

Steve and Johnno

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 or Mobile No. 07775 853 511

Maintenance Joinery work carried out Tel: 9266 2264

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – 14-20 May

Christian Aid Week May 14-20 was a busy time, and **Ted and Hazel** are extremely grateful to the many First Lisburn members who participated in the 'door-to-door' collection and in the city centre Flag Day on Tuesday 16 May. The Flag Day total was £1,338.79 and the First Lisburn door-to-door collection raised £2,827.93, a 24 per cent increase over the 2005 collection.

Additional collectors for next year would be most welcome. Please contact Ted Parks on 9268 2376 (door-to-door) or Hazel McCall on 9260 1777 (street collection).

Bread and Cheese lunches have now finished for the summer.

Thank you to all volunteers and those who have supported us during the past session when we made a profit of £3,600.

Hazel McCall

FIRST LISBURN GIRLS' BRIGADE

Our 64th Annual Display took place in the Church Hall on 25 March 2006. We had a very successful evening and were pleased to have Miss Mary Kennedy with us as she was not well enough to attend last year.

There was a new Scripture Award in memory of Miss May Armstrong, our former Captain. May's brother, John, kindly presented the Company with a TV, VCR, DVD Combi for use in the Company. The Company presented a piano stool in May's memory, to be used in the Main Hall. The Display ended with the girls each giving their mothers a carnation as the next day was Mothering Sunday. The blooms were very kindly donated by Mr and Mrs Robert Davis, Waterloo Road. We concluded the evening with supper for family and friends.

Since then we have had a Hoe-Down to raise funds for Senior camp. It was good fun and many found a talent for square dancing they did not know existed, not to mention the stiff joints the next day!

The Company took part in the Mayor's Parade, which this year featured characters from Narnia. Before the big day the girls attended work shops to make parts of their costumes and to learn the various dances.

The Senior Section hope to attend a weekend camp at Castlewellan Castle at the end of June where it doesn't seem to matter about the weather, as they have all signed up for the water sports – so wet will be the order of the day.

Tracey, Nicola and Nadine, as I am sure you have heard, are heading for Romania in July. They have to raise £600 each and they are coffee making, car washing, fun running, as well as approaching any group or organisation who can offer sponsorship. Please help them in any way you can and remember them in your prayers.

Thank you to FLPC members, Trevor and Louise of Sure Clean, for their donations of sponges, washing liquid, chamois etc. for the GB car wash.

As you may have seen in *The Star*, Georgia Collins, one of the Juniors, has won the Northern Ireland heat of a Tesco's School Competition in which she won a computer for her school. Well done, Georgia!

The Company will re-commence at the beginning of September when we hope to see faces old and new. May we wish you all happy holidays, good gardening and sunny summer weather to refresh body and soul.

Maureen Killiner, Captain

FIRST LISBURN SCOUT GROUP

The Scout Group has had a very busy Spring Season with some very notable sporting achievements. Both the Cub Pack and the Scout Troop won the Inter District five-a-side Football Competitions - no mean feat given that these competitions are against 11 other Packs/Troops; however, the Cubs have gone on further and, through subsequent success at the Antrim County Competition, are off to Irvinestown on 10 June for the NI Finals. We wish them all the best. Our 'junior' sections, the Squirrels and Beavers, have been busy, as ever, with such activities as visits to the Fire Station, Wallace Park and the new Lisburn Library where they were given a guided tour and a story to finish. These sections will be finishing the year with a bang (literally!) when they are visited by the Party Professor who will be performing exciting experiments.