

FIRST LISBURN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

STAFF TEAM

MINISTER

REV. JOHN BRACKENRIDGE Tel: 028 9267 4871
Mobile: 0779 627 7431
Email: johnbrackenridge@btinternet.com

DEACONESS

EVELYN WHYTE Tel: 028 9061 3410
Mobile: 0796 291 7329
Email: evewhyte@tiscali.co.uk

CO-ORDINATOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

HILARY FERGUSON Mobile: 0773 632 4530
Email: hilary@firstlisburn.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

TOM WHYTE Tel: 028 9064 2447
Mobile: 0796 816 5839
Email: tom.whyte4@btinternet.com

ADMINISTRATOR

NATHALIE SCOTT Church Office Tel: 028 9266 0144
First Lisburn Office Email: office@firstlisburn.org

CHURCH OFFICER

HELEN WELLBELOVE Mobile: 0770 637 1065
Email: hwellbelove@yahoo.co.uk

DOWNTOWN CENTRE

MARGARET BAILIE Tel: 028 9267 2052
Mobile: 0778 317 3867
Email: downtowncentre@msn.com

CHURCH WEBSITE: www.firstlisburn.org

MINISTER'S LETTER

"Now is the winter of our discontent." Not the words of a Presbyterian on reading the latest letter from The Presbyterian Mutual Society. Not even the musings of local businesses in difficult times. In any case, we would need to insert 'spring', and remove 'winter', because unlike Gloucester's inference, the crisis is not near an end. The time of unhappiness is not past. With these words, *"Now is the winter of our discontent, made glorious summer by this sun of York"*, Shakespeare in 1594 speaks about King Richard. The opening words of the play lay the groundwork for the portrait of Richard as a discontented man who is unhappy in a world that hates him. His misery allows him to say that as he *"cannot prove a lover"* he is *"determined to be a villain"*. The brooding malevolence that Shakespeare has Richard personify, mirrors the playwright's view of the state of the English nation during the Wars of the Roses: *"Into this breathing world, scarce half made up, And that so lamely and unfashionable, That dogs bark at me as I halt by them."* I know a lot of Presbyterians who feel that even the dogs on the street are barking at them.

No culture, economy or church can survive without certain qualities. If stock markets are criticized because they need a measure of greed and fear, then it is also true that economies – and Church Mutual Societies – need confidence and hope as well. We cannot survive to do well without hope. Our present short supply of hope is deeply damaging.

The Greeks considered hope to be as dangerous as all the world's evils. So, when Pandora opened Pandora's Box, she let out all the evils except one: hope. But without hope to accompany all their troubles, humanity was filled with despair. Pandora needed to revisit her box and let out hope as well.

Job said, "Oh, that I might have my request, that God would grant what I hope for." He wondered when his good times would arrive.

The Apostle Paul sailed from Crete; he later wrote, "We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard... we finally gave up all hope of being rescued."

He survived. It is no wonder that his masterful exposition of love, reads, "For now there are faith, hope, and love." Hope is an important word to keep in his vocabulary – and yours and mine as well.

At present those who have invested with PMS understand all this. First Lisburn has some £243,000 invested with PMS. The PMS is a society run by Presbyterians, for Presbyterians and has done well for us all over the years – but we are caught up in a whirlwind of financial change. I express my sincere concern to those affected. I hope the Administrator will report in a few months and paint a picture that is not as bad as some fear. We will have to add patience to our hope. We will all have to wait and see.

John Brackenridge

"Whose Earth?" -Cut the Carbon WORLD DEVELOPMENT Appeal 2008

This is the third and concluding year of a series of appeals under the general title Whose Earth? The strap-line for the appeal this year is ***Cut the Carbon***. The heart of the appeal over the three-year period consists of drawing attention to the interface of authentic sustainable development and sound ecological stewardship.

The projects we will be highlighting this Advent and Christmas are in **Honduras (one Christian Aid, one Tearfund), the Philippines (Christian Aid) and Ethiopia (Tearfund)**.

Last year, PCI gave generously to the World Development Appeal; it was the best supported ever and PCI raised more than £730,000. This happened because of your crucial involvement in responding to the appeal — a huge thanks to you. Last year we were 'third' in the Dromore Presbytery and 'tenth' in all the congregations of PCI. Well done! Some congregations simply ignore this Appeal. But, **this is one of the things FLPC does really well.**

Let's not lose sight of this in 2008 (see below and check out www.presbyterianireland.org/worlddevelopment)

DROMORE PRESBYTERY

Anahilt	547.85
Ballinderry	311.72
Cargycreevy	300.00
Dromara - First -	-
Dromara -Second	438.00
Dromore - First	1,315.00
Banbridge Road	1,020.00
Drumbo	1,224.54
Drumlough	935.46
Hillhall	2,323.00
Hillsborough	14,061.68
Harmony Hill, Lambeg	9,100.00
Legacurry	4,482.50
Lisburn - First	7,337.00
St. Columbas	1,159.00
Railway Street	2,958.72
Sloan Street	276.00
Loughaghery	1,126.00
Magheragall	885.74
Maze -	-
Moira	1,017.00
Elmwood	1,870.83

Presbytery TOTAL £52,690.04

John Brackenridge

Promotion of Fostering

The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust is endeavouring to promote fostering. Foster carers for children of all ages are needed. Leaflets on fostering are in the vestibule, or you can contact the ***Recruitment & Assessment Fostering Team*** at Warren Children's Centre, Lisburn (028) 9260 7528 or (Free Phone 0500827558) if this is of interest to you or if you require some more information. It is considered to be in a child's best interests if they can be placed with local carers who can meet their needs and promote their cultural and community identity.

John Brackenridge

From your Editor...

Having lit the first Advent candle in Church last week, heralding the approach of Christmas, we look forward once more to celebrating the birth of Christ at our special Christmas Services and, hopefully, the weather will be kind for our UP Front Carols on Saturday, 20 December.

We welcome Hilary Ferguson, our new Co-ordinator of Youth Ministry and hope that she finds her time with FLPC fulfilling and richly blessed. We look forward to her reports in future editions of *Wavelength* on the youth initiatives under her direction.

Well, what a busy time! – I don't seem to have a minute – and that's before I've even thought about joining the throng in the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping! As the man says: "It's amazing how Christmas always seems to come when the shops are crowded!" It's also amazing how we all manage to meet the deadline. As for a Christmas tree – unlike JB, we are beyond tramping across a muddy field to choose an individual specimen – we get ours in the attic and it seems to fit the corner perfectly each year with no adjustment – one of the perks (or excuses) of growing older!

Perhaps the prayer for the hassled at this time?

*So far today God, I've done all right
I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper,
I haven't been grumpy, nasty or selfish.*

*But, in a few minutes I'm going to get out of bed
And from then on, I'm going to need a lot of your help.*

My very best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year.

Mary McNeight
wavelength@firstlisburn.org

Use of Projector – Instruction Manual

You may be interested to know that a short 4-page instruction leaflet has been created for organisations who wish to use the Projector. This can be downloaded from the "Organisations" section of the website and a printed-out copy will be provided in the projector case. It has instructions for physical set-up, how to connect XP and Vista laptops, and also instructions for PowerPoint slideshows. Ian Robinson hopes it comes in useful for someone. For further information please contact Ian Robinson ian@firstlisburn.org

FROM THE TREASURER

Are you a non contributor to church funds?

By the time you read this, you will already have read the annual letter telling you how much you have contributed to the various church funds. Many of you will react and bring your giving up to date before the accounts are closed the first week in January.

However, it's those 'members' (numbering around 80), who will continue to ignore the fact that the church does not exist on air and will continue to contribute absolutely nothing to church funds. What sort of thinking is this, expecting everyone else to carry you? I know of no other organisation that allows its so-called members to use the services offered and make no contribution to the costs involved.

Times are changing, however, and recently the fees for non contributors who wish to use the church have been substantially increased and others will shortly be so. Don't be surprised, therefore, and do not complain when you will be presented with one of these new charges.

Annual Report and Accounts

Would all who normally produce a report for inclusion in the Annual Report please ensure that it is with Nathalie by Friday 9 January. There is a lot of work involved in compiling this report and it would be appreciated if everyone would make an effort to have their report ready in time.

This year any reports received after the deadline will not be accepted for inclusion.

Jimmy Lynn

FLOWER LIST FOR 2009



If you would like to contribute flowers during 2009, please add your name to the list on the table in the vestibule.

Thank you
Annabelle Poots

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 7 December	11.00 am 6.30 pm	Morning Worship Worship First 'Florentin Clipa' Romanian Ministry
Sat 20 December	2.00-4.00 pm	UP FRONT Christmas Story in readings and song
Sun 14 December	11.00 am	Morning Worship
Mon 15 December	7.30 pm	Congregational Committee Meeting
Sun 21 December	11.00 am 5.30 pm	Children's Nativity Sacrament of Baptism and Carols and Lessons with Refreshments served afterwards
Thurs 25 December	10.00 am	Christmas Day Service
Sun 4 January	11.00 am	Formal Communion led by Rev. Dr Gordon Gray (no evening Service)

UP FRONT

Saturday 20 December 2.00 pm-4.00 pm

The Christmas story in readings and song from the Vestibule porch for the City to share. **ALL singers needed for this event**

Sunday School

For the information of new families joining First Lisburn, Sunday School takes place during Morning Service – children and youth up to Year 11 leave for Sunday School after the Children's address.

BIBLE MINISTRY 2009

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6.30pm – 8.00 pm

22 February Bible Ministry – Rev. Craig Mawhinney
1, 8 22, 29 March on The Sermon on the Mount

John Calvin Quincentenary

2009 sees the John Calvin Quincentenary, which is an international and interdenominational celebration of the work of John Calvin (Born 10 July 1509). The celebration combines history, spirituality and culture to recall the life of the reformer and help us see again the relevance of the Reformation story to the life and work of the church today.

First Lisburn will mark the Quincentenary with a series of special Sunday evening services in the autumn of 2009, led by the Rev. Dr Bert Tosh on the first Sunday evenings of September, October and November 2009 at 6.30 pm.

BIBLE MINISTRY SPRING 2009 SERMON ON THE MOUNT



The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) is probably the best known section of Jesus' teaching. It has been called His manifesto – Jesus' description of what He wishes His followers to be and to do.

John Stott has described it as "a description of what human life and human community look like when they come under the gracious rule of God." It holds a wealth of wisdom and direction for us as a 21st century, city-centre congregation, covering topics such as our character, influence, morality, inner life, ambitions, relationships and commitments. Jesus has something to say to everyone.

We are delighted that the Rev. Craig Mawhinney has agreed to help us hear what Jesus would say to us today. Craig is a gifted teacher who is a member of Ballycrochan Presbyterian in Bangor; he currently carries out his ministry as Training Director of PCI Youth and Children's Board. He lives in Bangor with his wife and three children; his interests include an extreme passion for Liverpool FC!

On Sundays 22 February, 1, 8, 22 and 29 March, Craig will be with us in the Upper Room from 6:30 to 8pm. As ever, there will be a chance for a chat over a cup of tea. You are all very welcome.

Richard McNeight

BIBLE MINISTRY



with

REV. CRAIG MAWHINNEY

**TRAINING DIRECTOR OF PCI YOUTH
AND CHILDREN'S BOARD**

ON

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

**SUNDAY EVENINGS
22 FEBRUARY
1, 8, 22, 29 MARCH 2009**

**FIRST LISBURN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
from 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm**

Prayer Healing Ministry



This year again we opened the church for the switching on of the Christmas lights and invited people to come in. Lots of tea, coffee, juice and biscuits were served; also, little cards telling the Christmas story with an invitation to our Services over Christmas were given out to people as they left the church. Thank you so much to all who came and helped in any way; without you all we could not have opened the church doors.

THE CHURCH CONTINUES TO BE OPEN FOR PRAYER TWICE A MONTH ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

**WEDNESDAY
7.30 pm-9.00 pm**

17 December 2008
21 January 2009
18 February 2009
18 March 2009
15 April 2009

**THURSDAY
12 noon-2.00 pm**

4 December 2008
8 January 2009
5 February 2009
5 March 2009
2 April 2009

Prayer Request cards available in church porch.

If you would like prayer for yourself or someone else, some members of the Prayer Healing Ministry Team will be available at the close of each Service in the Church.

If you have an urgent prayer request, email phone or text
evewhyte@tiscali.co.uk Text: 07962917329

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

For further information please contact:
Church Office on 028 9266 0144 or Email: office@firstlisburn.org

Seven Years of Prayer for The Revival of This Land

Divine Healing Ministries feels very much called by God to organize Seven Years of Prayer for the revival of this land.



It will be launched on Saturday, 20 June 2009 in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. At the moment they are trying to build up a group of intercessors from right across the churches. They will be asked to commit themselves for a year at a time to spend some time each day in prayer for revival.

If you feel that you would like to be one of the intercessors, please fill in one of the forms provided beside the prayer box in the church porch and put in prayer box.

For more information visit the website
www.divinehealingministries.wordpress.com

Lorna Lynn – Trainee Deaconess A Personal Profile

My name is Lorna Lynn and I am in my first year training to be a deaconess for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. I am here on placement in First Lisburn for ten weeks, shadowing Evelyn to find out how the role of a deaconess is lived out in a church setting. This is my first of two placements in my first year and I am looking forward to the many experiences and friendships this will bring.

During placement I also continue to attend Union Theological College full time. I have been married to Alistair for eighteen years and we have three children: Alexandra (16 – 17 in December – 'L' plates here we come'), Aaron (13) and Judith (6). We joined Newcastle Presbyterian Church after moving from Ballygowan to Newcastle thirteen years ago. Please pray for us as a family, we are all mainly students at this time, and that we may feel God's hand on our lives day by day.

I am looking forward to the many different experiences that First Lisburn will give me. Thank you for welcoming me into your Church family.

Lorna Lynn



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

Christian Aid can come to your aid!

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

The idea is that you buy a gift from the selection in your friend's name; they get a card to advise them of the purchase and the gift goes to help someone in a poor country.

A wide range of presents is available from £8 for a basketball to a £93 for a baby buffalo. Essential practical gifts include a disaster kit, community tap, etc., while others provide medical aid and educational assistance. There is also the opportunity to fund a 30-day stay in a clinic to help a child or children regain their health.

These gifts make wonderful presents for other occasions too.

Christmas cards Thinking ahead to Christmas: Christian Aid has a good selection of Christmas cards and these are available for sale at the Tuesday lunches.

Hazel McCall: Tel. 9260 1777

Computer Problems?

If you want a real value-for-money service, including software/hardware troubleshooting, PC/Laptop upgrades, home network installation, virus protection, and Internet solutions, call

Ian Robinson on 0787 1633766.

All Windows operating systems supported. No fix – no fee, no task too small, and no callout charges!

CYCLE MALAWI 2009

Our preparation for the cycle is progressing perhaps more noticeably in the fundraising – but the training fitness programme is well under way too!



In October we held a Line Dancing Evening as a fundraiser, the hall was transformed through a lot of creative design and had a true American look and feel to it, setting the scene for an evening of great fun, an evening to discover new steps and new talents and to dispel the thoughts of many who felt they had “two left feet”! As well as being an evening of good fun it was also an evening that raised £500.00 towards the Cycle.

Saturday, 15 November was the date for the PW Christmas Coffee Morning and they kindly allowed us to have a stall, with proceeds being divided between the ongoing support for Kosova and the Malawi Cycle. We would like to thank all who helped with setting up the stall and for using their vast array of skills and talents to make the variety of items we had to sell; there was so much hard work put in by so many and we were delighted to raise £250.00.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support in the above activities and in all the ongoing ways you are supporting this project; it is such an encouragement to us and so very, very much valued and appreciated.

We hope to run another fundraiser in April in the form of a meal and a little “detective” work – details to follow, we would also hope to be able to report a huge leap forward in our training preparation by this stage!!

THANK YOU.
Evelyn and Marion

Cycle Malawi 2009: Fireside Quiz

Copies of the quiz sheet are available in the Church porch at £1 per sheet, or if you would like to take some to sell, then please contact Helen Lynn (Tel: 9266 3285). Thank you for your support.

OPERATION MOBILISATION

PRESENTS

NEW LOGOS HOPE SHIP

COMING TO BELFAST

IN THE SPRING OF 2009

WILL BERTH BESIDE THE ODYSSEY CENTRE

Tom Kinhead

Malawi – *Treasure Box*

Youth and Children's Project 2008–2009

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland has long associations with Malawi, dating back to the work of the early missionaries. The words of Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also," inspired the title of this year's project *Treasure Box* and remind us that Jesus is our greatest treasure.

Our aim is to raise money to ensure that Sunday Schools in Livingstonia Synod have the resources they need. The project will develop and produce a comprehensive Sunday School curriculum to help lay the foundations of Christian faith for children and young people in Malawi. It will also provide training for Sunday School Teachers, Ministers and Elders. The project is the first of its kind for the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Malawi. As a Sunday School leader myself I understand the importance of a strong and accessible teaching and learning programme for both teachers and young people and so I hope that First Lisburn will be able to give its enthusiastic support to this very worthy cause.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world. About 80 per cent of its population of 14 million are Christian and 13 per cent Muslim. Around 76 per cent of the population live on less than £1 per day and more than 50 per cent live below the official poverty line.



Church of Central Africa Presbyterian

- ⇒ **Formed in 1924**
- ⇒ **First Presbyterian Missionaries, 1958**
- ⇒ **500 congregations**
- ⇒ **600,000 members**
- ⇒ **11 secondary schools**
- ⇒ **2 colleges**
- ⇒ **5 hospitals**
- ⇒ **Evangelism and Christian training**
- ⇒ **Development and relief work**

There is only one major road system running from north to south. The economy depends very much on agriculture which generates about 40 per cent of national income and almost 90 per cent of export earnings. About 90 per cent of the population live in rural areas. There is a rapidly growing problem of HIV/AIDS and this is contributing to social breakdown as parents die and children are left with no-one to care for them.

The flag of Malawi reflects its people, history and economy: three equal horizontal sections of black, red and green from top to bottom. Black representing the people; red, the martyrs who died in the struggle for independence; and green for agriculture. The red sun represents the dawn of a new era for freedom and hope. The church in Malawi is clearly facing many challenges, including provision of health care and education. The CCAP Synod of Livingstonia alone consists of almost 150 congregations with around 30,000 children and young people in Sunday Schools! Let's do what we can to support this work and promote the ministry amongst children and young people in Malawi.

John Davis
Sunday School Superintendent

Important date to keep free

Saturday 13 June 2009



First Lisburn Fun Afternoon and Congregation Barbecue

If you haven't yet been to this big event, please make a special effort to come along next year. We have a very special programme arranged for the afternoon for all our youth, parents and friends, and at the barbecue we have a very special "thank you" to say to our retiring Sunday School Superintendent after 25 years of service. We can cater for everyone; if you're fit you can help yourself to the lovely food, if you're not we will serve you at your table, so please make the effort to make this the best one yet!

EVERYONE Welcome.



THE SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL MINISTRY TEAM

The following events have been arranged for the forthcoming months; please put them in your diaries and try to come along to as many as possible. They will all be great fun and an opportunity for us as a congregation to get to know each other better in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. We are very aware that money is tight, what with the credit crunch etc., so we have tried to arrange a programme that will not hurt the pocket. Most of the events are free; however, a donation to cover the expense of the evening will be gratefully accepted on the night.

30 JAN Ten Pin Bowling at Dundonald

7.30 pm We welcome all to come along and knock down the pins. We will leave the church hall at 6.30 pm or meet at Dundonald for 7.15 pm. Transport at a nominal cost is available. Please book your place; list in the church porch.

6 MARCH First Lisburn's got Talent

7.30 pm An evening with varied acts performed by our very own groups from within our congregation. We invite all organisations and groups of church members to enter an item. We need a varied programme and we know with the talent in First Lisburn we are sure of a memorable evening. So get your thinking caps on and let us know what your talents are.

Entry forms are available in the church porch, or for more information speak to any of the Social & Recreational team:

**Sheila Hammonds, Audrey Steele, Richard Millen or
Keith Lunn**

Presbyterian
Women 

Presbyterian Women – Living for Jesus

On 7 October our Leader, Mrs Eleanor McFadzean, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of Presbyterian Women. PW incorporates the former Presbyterian Women's Association and the Young Wives Group. The theme for this year is "Now is the Time". Mrs Inez Price led the devotions from "Now is the time to obey".

Our speaker for the evening was Mrs Joan Bell, daughter of one of our members, Mrs Lila McLean. Joan holds a Sister's post in community midwifery based at Finaghy Health Centre and she gave us a very interesting insight into how reflexology can be incorporated into her work.

Our PW annual Service took place on Sunday 19 October with Mrs Alison McCaughan as our speaker. Alison is the wife of the Rev. Jim McCaughan, minister of First Dunboe congregation and daughter-in-law of the Rev. John McCaughan, senior minister of Legacurry congregation. Her address entitled "Now is the Time" was most inspiring. As the Bible says: "Today is the day of salvation and that means today. We need Christian women at the heart of our families, our churches, our communities, our workplaces and our country." We were very privileged to have Alison as our speaker and were delighted to have her join us for lunch in the Upper Room after the Service.

Our second meeting took place on 4 November when our Leader introduced Mr Tom Kinhead as our guest speaker. Tom is one of our elders in the church and well known to all of us. He spoke of his return visit to India to visit the school which he and his late wife Helen started for the Christian education of Dalit children. The caste system places all Hindus into one of four distinct classes. Outside of these four main groups are the Dalits. They are doomed to a life on the fringes of society, perceived by the majority as being less than human. The only way out of this class is to denounce Hinduism, and Christian missions are striving towards improving the lot of many Dalits.

It was lovely to watch Tom, on video, being welcomed to the school and chatting to many of the teachers and children there. He is certainly well thought of and much appreciated; how fortunate we are to have such a caring Christian gentleman in our midst.

Our Coffee morning and Christmas Fayre was held on Saturday, 15 November. We would like to thank all who supported us with contributions for our stalls and for coffee; those who came to buy and who enjoyed the coffee and tray bakes with us. Our sale was very successful and the final total raised was £1,103.00.

Congratulations to our PW 'Pink Ladies' team who came second in the 'Brains of First Lisburn' Quiz organized by the Social and Recreational Ministry Team on Friday, 21 November – great fun.

Olive Reid

Wider World

This is your last chance to become a new subscriber to *Wider World* for the year 2009.

So, if you do not already take *Wider World* and would like to become a subscriber during 2009, please speak to Maureen Staniland before Christmas. Tel: 9260 1258.

Maureen encourages new church members and younger ladies in the congregation to become regular readers – the magazine is issued quarterly at just £4.00 per year.

There is something for everyone among the many interesting articles on the work of Presbyterian Women and Mission.

***Wider World* Subscriptions for 2008**

Will those people who have not yet paid their *Wider World* subscription of £4.00 for 2008, please do as soon as possible. This will enable me to settle the account with the Church Treasurer.

Maureen Staniland

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL 2008



Once again we have had an extremely successful year. Our target was 500 boxes and we ended up with 501. This was not as many as the last couple of years but it is a good result as I know many people are finding the present financial situation hard to cope with. However, the children who receive a filled shoebox have **NOTHING** at all and will be overjoyed with their gift!!

Age	2-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 yrs
Boys	81	71	84
Girls	66	114	85

This year there were approximately 80 filled boxes received from the congregation with 20 of these from one person! We did receive lots of goods and money earlier on in the year, thus enabling us to buy a quantity of smaller items which are plentiful in the Spring and Summer but very hard to obtain nearer to Christmas. All this meant we were able to make an early start on the boxes. The money received later in the year was used to pay the transport costs of £1,250.00. We have a small amount left and are sending this on to Samaritan's Purse to buy water filters which will provide clean water for many people, thus improving their standard of living. Some 30,000 children die every year from illnesses caused by drinking dirty water.

It is great that so many members of our congregation help each year with this project. We had about 20 people, including one gentleman and two children, filling shoeboxes at the church and at least another 20 people working away behind the scenes doing shopping, knitting, sewing and making colouring books. We had a great selection of 'knits' – there were hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, teddies, dolls, handbags, pencil cases etc. – the variety was amazing. We also greatly appreciate the help we receive from people outside our own congregation.

I would like to say a big 'thank you' to all who helped with wrapping, filling, shopping, knitting, sewing, packing, checking, and to McCalls for once again kindly transporting our cartons to the depot in Bangor. Without all your help this project would not be possible.

This year our boxes are going to Belarus and should now be well on the way. I know the children will be delighted with them. Thank you for your continued generosity in making Christmas special for these children.

We hope to continue with this project again in 2009 and look forward to your support.

Jesus said "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14

Helen Lynn

CYU CLUB

A warm welcome is extended to all senior citizens to join us on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 2.00 pm in the Boyd Room. Our programme is varied.



Our Christmas meeting will start with lunch which will be served at 1.00 pm, followed by games and a Christmas Service.

Transport can be arranged if necessary.

Helen Lynn

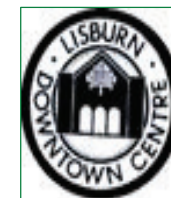
Steve and Johnno - Clearview Window Cleaners and Maintenance

Window cleaning, gardening, painting and decorating. Man and van for hire. No job too small. Tel. 9266 6343. Mobile No. 07775 853 511

Stamps for Save the Children

Save the Children are very grateful to receive all used stamps. So, with Christmas cards arriving, please save your stamps and pop them in the box provided underneath the table in the vestibule. Thank you.

Happy Christmas From Lisburn Downtown Centre



Downtown Volunteer Days Monday 26 and Thursday 29 January

Downtown volunteers are asked to keep a note in their diary for either Monday. 26 January or Thursday, 29 January.

On these dates I will be bringing you up to date with changes in legislation and programme changes which may to a greater or lesser degree affect your volunteering roles.

During the morning there will be an opportunity for group discussion around your volunteering responsibilities, and any comments, suggestions or information you may wish to supply will be most welcome.

It is important for you to attend; there are two dates offered, so that you can pick one that suits you best.

Your work with Downtown is greatly valued and at this season of the year when we are presented once again with the Christmas story and how God showed his love to us by sending Jesus, it is very apt to say 'thank you' for the love you all show to those who come into the centre through your service week by week.

Over the year I have noticed a rise in hurting, lonely people who come into the centre with a lot of issues. It is easy for them to be misunderstood, and indeed for them to misunderstand. With this in mind I was reminded of a story, a Christmas story, which I will leave with you:

Once upon a time, a man punished his five-year-old daughter for using up the family's only roll of expensive gold wrapping paper before Christmas.

Money was tight, so he became even more upset when on Christmas Eve he saw that the child had used the expensive gold paper to decorate a large shoebox she had put under the Christmas tree.

Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you Daddy!"

As he opened the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her. But when he opened the shoebox, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give someone a present there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered, "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full."

The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later. It is told that the father kept this little gold box by his bed for all the years of his life. Whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems, he would open the box, take out an imaginary kiss, and remember the love of this beautiful child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us as human beings have been given an invisible golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from God. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold. A small act of kindness may become a memory, a good memory that is revisited and comforts a hurting life.

Happy Christmas everyone.
Love Margaret Bailie

FIRST LISBURN GIRLS' BRIGADE

Once again we started the session with healthy numbers in all classes, and thanks to the Officers everyone is enjoying an interesting programme.

Nadine Anderson has completed Part One of the Duke of Edinburgh Leadership Course, which allows her to train girls in the Outward Bound section. In November Nadine and her family went to London where she was presented with her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award at Buckingham Palace.



Seniors and Brigaders have taken part in the District Unihoc Competition. Fortunately no broken bones, just tired legs.

The company was enrolled on Sunday, 16 November at Morning Service and it was lovely to have two new Officers on parade – Helen Conroy and Nadine Anderson.

This year we have two Sub-Officers in Training – Rachel Robinson and Kathryn Millen. Both are very enthusiastic and are helping each week with classes.

Now we are thinking about Christmas – parties, outings and an evening specially for our younger members when we will think about and enact the Christmas story. Hopefully Father Christmas will find time to come along.

So it only remains for me, on behalf of the Officers and girls, to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and hopefully a prosperous New Year.

Maureen Killiner, Captain

1ST LISBURN SCOUT GROUP



PROMISES, PROMISES, PROMISES was the theme this year for our Harvest Window and all the children and most of the leaders in the Group wrote their promises on a paper leaf which was hung from a bare branch of a tree and I have to say it looked very good. Most of the children's promises were to be good boys and tidy their rooms and do what Mummy asked them! And the leaders' promises were to cut down on carbohydrates and to eat sensibly!

However, on Sunday, 16 November we reaffirmed our Promises in Church and it is important to us as Squirrels, Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts and Leaders, to remember our Promise.

The Squirrel Promise

I promise to be a good squirrel and to love God.

The Beaver Promise

I promise to do my best, to be kind and helpful and to love God.

The Cub Scout Promise

I promise that I will do my best, to do my duty to God and to the Queen. To help other people and to keep the Cub Scout Law.

The Scout Promise

On my honour I promise that I will do my best, to do my duty to God and to the Queen. To help other people and to keep the Scout Law.

If we as a Group can keep these Promises we'll not go far wrong, so thank you for sending your children to the Scout Group.

Our Scout section requires members – boys/girls aged 10 yrs 6 mths to 14 years to commence in January 2009. Anyone interested, please contact me on Lisburn (028) 92 670041 and I promise they will enjoy themselves.

Finally, a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to all.

Irene Richer
Group Scout Leader

TIME FOR A BROWSE AT YOUR CHRISTMAS BOOKSTALL

I would encourage everyone to take a few moments to browse at the bookstall which is once again available at this time of year in the foyer. Please do have a look, as there are many interesting and exciting titles to suit all ages. As well as possibly buying a book for someone else, why not purchase one for yourself to help you in your walk with God? Topics covered are wide and varied and there is sure to be something to capture your interest.

Tom Kinkead

'POINTS FOR PRAYER' BOOKLET 2009

In this booklet there are two pages for each day of the month – one covering an aspect of the Church's mission at home, and one covering overseas. In it you will find a wealth of information about the mission of the Presbyterian Church at home and abroad. Those of you who already receive the booklet do not need to re-order and new readers are encouraged.

Please speak to Overseas Agent Tom Kinkead or telephone him at 9266 5095

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 £7.00.

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

2009 Mission Ireland Wall/Desk Calendar

It's the time of year again to order your Mission Ireland Calendar. There is a choice of two designs for 2009 – a wall calendar or a desk calendar – both are very attractive and cost £2.50 each.

The wall calendar has space for useful diary appointments, whilst the desk calendar remains in the postcard format. Sample calendars are on display in the Church porch; there is also a poster on the notice board.

Calendars can be ordered from Doreen Burns either at Church or by telephone (028) 9267 9965