

## FIRST LISBURN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## MINISTER'S LETTER

Visits to hospital, nursing home and from time to time a person's home, mean I get to meet people caring for a relative. It can be a relative with a disability, an older family member or perhaps a neighbour, or a child.

I am amazed at how much members of this Congregation 'care' and I am humbled by the quality and the quantity of caring that I see. This role as a carer is not something any of these people have applied for. Maybe it comes with marriage vows, commandments about obeying our parents, or vows to raise our children in Christian love. Whichever way it comes, it usually arrives unexpectedly, on tiptoe, at any time, in any form or even hot on the heels of another dilemma such as illness, accident or a follow on from surgery. We also have elderly carers who are in need of care.

The role comes without a manual. The skills are not hidden away in a section of the new Revised Curriculum for schools. You cannot 'log-on' and 'download' it.

No wonder caring brings fear, anxiety about the unknown, guilt, relief, total uncertainty and even resentment, anger and some confusion as the carer's social diary goes to the wall. One phone call or a quick coffee with an old friend can be the difference between feeling trapped and survival. And you can feel all this with a brand new baby. Could you possibly feel some of it as a dedicated youth leader?

Throw in losing your faith or watching your faith wobble as your Sunday routine gets messed with, and this begins to look like a right cheery Spring letter!

People say, 'John I'm one of the 'New 2 Caring' bunch'. Thus labelled, they have possibly entered a repetitive cycle in which, when they do pray, it is a 'Dear God, give me health and strength' offering. People also tell me about their lifelines, ranging from professionals, family, down to the person who arrives with a wee tin of shortbread. These things make a difference; the cuppa made with a cheery smile, chat of the world outside, or the offer of a nice meal with a good red wine some night next month to 'let you get your head showered'.

It all takes adjustment and change, something people in their 70s can cope with as well as some 16-year-olds in my experience. Caring will bring a new circle of friends including some lovely people in uniforms who do their jobs really well. It will mean new involvement, new relationships and new reactions. And some people will let you down while others say stupid things. But, you will learn things you didn't know about your own personality, you will discover role reversal and simple things, such as the significance of somebody you need to talk to once a week living far away. You will also have some serious positive feelings about yourself and will discover the personal reward of doing what Jesus did. You will find some tremendous expressions of love, enjoy the odd moments of success and revel in the satisfaction of being so utterly needed. You will - wait for it - even inspire admiration and be used as a model of showing others how to cope.

With any luck you will find space to move on with your own life and if you belong to a half decent church you may find somebody who asks, *'How then can we help?'*

The path to Jerusalem is not easy. Jesus chooses it. It was not thrust upon him. Choosing to love and to care, to give and to sacrifice, he put these qualities at the heart of love. Love remains at the very centre of our Faith. Love is hard work. Jesus went uphill to Jerusalem, to do what he did, so that love might be seen in action. He said, *'I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these.'* Easter works. I see it in action. I am inspired by what I see.

John Brackenridge

### **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.

## **First Lisburn Has Indeed Got Talent!**

Well, what a wonderful evening we had on Friday, 6 March as we were entertained to a Variety Show featuring the many and varied talents of FLPC members. All the acts were a closely guarded secret beforehand, so we weren't sure what to expect – but we weren't disappointed – amazed in some cases, yes, but certainly not disappointed!

We were treated to poetry, song, dance, music and comedy, all performed to a very high standard by individuals Trevor, Ian, Ben, and by various groups. We saw Session and Committee, PW, Bible Study Group, Sunday School, Light Programme, Cheer-You-Up Club, Blaze, GB and the Choir as we've never seen them before!

While space does not permit me to mention all the 'Stars' of the show individually, I must congratulate Keith Lunn who, with his special talent as compère and link man, kept the whole evening running smoothly while entertaining us at the same time. Perhaps we are kick starting his career!

This was one of the most successful and entertaining evenings we have had at First Lisburn and a huge 'thank you' is due to the Social and Recreational Team, who organised the event, particularly to Sheila Hammonds and Audrey Steele who worked so hard behind the scenes preparing for the show and helping with costumes, etc. The whole show was presented to such a high standard with the professional expertise of John Lunn in the lighting and sound departments, and a great stage crew.

Congratulations to everyone involved and to the 'artistes' who delighted us and made us laugh. There is no doubt, an occasion like this that brings us all together for a 'fun' evening can only be good for the fellowship within our church.

Mary McNeight

### **Doreen Burns, MBE**

Congratulations to Doreen Burns, on being awarded the MBE by Her Majesty The Queen for her contribution to the Northern Ireland Civil Service and the Community in Lisburn.

Doreen was presented with her Award by HRH The Prince of Wales at a ceremony in Buckingham Palace on Wednesday, 10 December, and invited Margaret Perry and two relatives to accompany her to The Palace to share in this very special occasion with her.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Church Office will be closed during Easter Week 13 – 17 April**

<b>Sun 15 March</b>	11.00 am	Morning Worship
<b>Sun 22 March</b>	11.00 am	Morning Worship - Mothering Sunday
	6.30 pm	Bible Ministry Rev. Craig Mawhinney on The Sermon on the Mount
<b>Sun 29 March</b>	11.00 am	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Bible Ministry Rev. Craig Mawhinney on The Sermon on the Mount
<b>Sun 5 April</b>	11.00 am	Palm Sunday Service
	3.30 pm	GB District Parade to First Lisburn
<b>6-10 April</b>	7.00 pm	Holy Week Services (details below)
<b>Fri 10 April</b>	12.30 pm	Good Friday March of Witness
<b>Sun 12 April</b>	7.00 am	Easter Dawn Service (details below)
	11.00 am	Easter Sunday Morning Worship No Evening Service
<b>Sun 19 April</b>	11.00 am	Street Reach Service
<b>Sat 25 April</b>	7.30 pm	GB Display
<b>Sun 26 April</b>	11.00 am	Formal Communion and Admission to The Lord's Table
<b>Sun 3 May</b>	11.00 am	Morning Worship
<b>Sun 10 May</b>	11.00 am	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Worship First Focus on Urban Promise
<b>Sun 24 May</b>	11.00 am` Time TBA	Morning Worship Swindon Male Voice Choir and Queen's Island Victoria Male Choir

### Holy Week Services

Mon Tues Wed		
6,7,8 April	7.00–7.30 pm	Upper Room
Thurs 9 April	7.00-7.45 pm	Holy Communion Service in Church (No Passover Meal)
Fri 10 April	7.00-7.30 pm	Service of Contemplation in Church

### Good Friday March – 10 April 2009

Leaving Jessop's corner at 12.30 pm, local Clergy from the City Centre Ministers' Fellowship will carry the cross to opposite FLPC where we have a 10-minute act of Easter worship. Please make a point of joining us as we celebrate the meaning of Easter at the heart of the City.

### The Church will be open on Good Friday from 12.30 pm–2 00 pm

Tea/coffee will be served in the church porch and quiet instrumental music will be played in the church giving the opportunity for quiet prayer and reflection. Members of the Prayer Healing Team will be available to listen and pray with those who would like personal prayer. Invitations will be given out in the City centre during and after the March of Witness and short Service. Assistance from anyone willing to help with the distribution of invitation leaflets would be very much appreciated.

Evelyn Whyte

### Easter Sunday Dawn Service with City Centre Churches will be held on Sunday, 12 April at 7.00 am.

The venue will be to the rear of Lisburn Cathedral. There will also be a light breakfast served afterwards in the Cathedral. We hope to see many of you for both.

### *Other dates to note...*

<b>16-18 April</b>	Street Reach Lisburn
<b>12-13 June</b>	Focusfest, Waterfront Hall, Belfast
<b>Sat 13 June</b>	FLPC Fun Day
<b>17-21 August</b>	Holiday Bible Club
<b>Sun 23 August</b>	Holiday Bible Club Service

### 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



**REV. CRAIG MAWHINNEY**

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

**CONTINUES  
HIS SERIES**

**ON**

**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

**SUNDAY EVENINGS**

**22, 29 MARCH 2009**

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

## Prayer Healing Ministry



Our prayers lay the track down on which God's power can come. Like a mighty locomotive, his power is irresistible, but it cannot reach us without rails. *Watchman Nee*

The church continues to be open for prayer twice a month and we would encourage you to take these opportunities to come in and have some "time out with God" in the quietness of the church.

Team members are always available to listen and pray for those who would like prayer for themselves or others.

### **THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR PRAYER ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

#### **WEDNESDAY**

**7.30 pm-9.00 pm**

18 March  
15 April  
20 May  
24 June (NB change of date)

#### **THURSDAY**

**12 noon-2.00 pm**

5 March  
2 April  
7 May  
4 June

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](mailto: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](mailto:office@firstlisburn.org)

## Seven Years of Prayer for The Revival of This Land

**Divine Healing Ministries feel 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](http://www.divinehealingministries.wordpress.com)

### ***Wider World***

Maureen would welcome new subscribers to *Wider World* and would encourage new church members and younger ladies in the congregation to become regular readers. At just £4.00 per year, this quarterly magazine appeals to everyone interested in the work of Presbyterian Women and Mission.

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

### ***Wider World Subscriptions for 2008***

Maureen would ask those who have not yet paid their *Wider World* subscription of £4.00 for 2008, to please do so as soon as possible.

Maureen Staniland



Dates To Note In Your Diary

### **CHRISTIAN AID – SATURDAY 21 MARCH 2009 10.00 am – 1.00 pm THE ANNUAL SUPPORTERS CONFERENCE**

The Annual Supporters Conference organised by the Belfast Office will be held in our church halls this year.

This event is open to all interested in the work of Christian Aid. As well as ideas for Christian Aid Week, we will be looking at how Christian Aid responds to emergencies.

Our keynote speaker will be **Christian Aid Emergencies Officer, Brian Martin**, who is originally from Lisburn and has worked in Burundi and Darfur, and currently leads our response to the Gaza emergency.

### **Christian Aid Week**

**10-16 May is Christian Aid Week**, and as ever we will be grateful for your help with the door-to-door and street collections. Please speak to Ted Parks (9268 2376) or Hazel McCall (9260 1777) if you can help. We especially need collectors for the Whitla Road, Oxford Avenue, Palmer Avenue, Lester Avenue area. Last year some £700,000 was raised in Northern Ireland during Christian Aid Week and that goes a very long way to changing lives and indeed saving lives.

### **Sunday 24 May**

#### **Swindon Male Voice Choir in concert with Queens Island Victoria Male Choir**

There will be an evening of music in the church featuring two choirs: Swindon Male Voice Choir and Queens Island Victoria Male Choir.

Tom Whyte is co-ordinating this concert and the proceeds will go to Christian Aid funds.

Keep an eye on the weekly bulletins for more information on the time of the concert, etc. nearer the time and plan to come and bring your friends.

Hazel McCall:

**NEWS FROM HILARY  
CO-ORDINATOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY**

**HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB  
17 – 21 AUGUST 2009**



**Holiday Bible Club this year will be happening from 17-21 August with a celebration/youth service on Sunday, 23 August.**

The children's programme, for all those from P1-P7, will be held from 1.00 pm-4.00 pm. The evening's programme for all those heading into Year 8+, will be taking place each evening from 7.30 pm.

Planning for the HBC is already underway, with the children's programme this year taken from Scripture Union. We will be getting ready to lift the curtain on the greatest show on earth – God's great plan for salvation!

Everyone from the most experienced actor or musician to the most stage-shy of leaders, can use **Showstoppers!** to uncover the good news of Jesus Christ with children. Every day, there's the chance to act, dance, sing and paint, as you explore the stories of creation, David and Goliath, Daniel in the lions' den, Jesus' birth, his crucifixion and resurrection.

If you would like to be involved in ANY aspect of this year's HBC please get in contact with me as soon as possible. No matter how young or how old you may feel, there will be some area in which you can help with the preparation, and the running of the HBC.

Hilary Ferguson

**CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING**

**THURSDAY, 19 MARCH – 7.00-9.00 PM – MAIN HALL**

Training will be taking place for **ALL** those involved in Leadership of: FLASH – Ignite – Blaze – Crèche – Sunday School – Holiday Bible Club, etc.

**This is very important (and compulsory) training for all leaders and helpers. Please make every effort to attend.**

First Lisburn Social and Recreational Team invites you to:

**A CONGREGATION WALK UP DIVIS MOUNTAIN  
ON SUNDAY 19 APRIL**

**Leaving church car park at 2.00 pm  
or meet at Divis car park at 2.20pm**

*There is a new centre opened where we will be able to stop for coffee on the way down, or for the very unfit on the way up. The path to the top is suitable for keen cyclists and for buggies. Dogs are allowed on or off the lead. The walk up will take approximately one hour.*

On a good day the mountains offer spectacular views across Northern Ireland. The Mourne Mountains, Strangford and Belfast Loughs, the Castlereagh and Holywood Hills and the Sperrins are all visible. So are the coasts of England, Scotland and the Isle of Man.

Access and car parking is free.

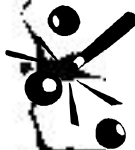
Please wear suitable footwear (tar path all the way to the top) and clothing for walking in the area - this is a mountain environment and weather conditions can change rapidly.

For more information contact Sheila on Tel 92660507 or  
[sheila@firstlisburn.org](mailto:sheila@firstlisburn.org)

**Bringing People Together**

First Lisburn Social and Recreational  
Team also invites you to:

**AMERICAN 9 BALL POOL NIGHT**  
**WEDNESDAY, 29 APRIL**  
**AT FRAMES SNOOKER CLUB**



**Royal Avenue, Belfast** (beside Belfast Telegraph)

**Leaving First Lisburn at 7.00 pm**  
**or at the Snooker Club for 7.30 pm**

**Return to car park approx 11.00 pm (latest)**  
**Cost £5.00 per person**

An evening aimed at the men of the congregation, although ladies are also welcome to take part. This will be a friendly competition for both keen pool/snooker players or anyone who fancies a try. The rules will be explained on the night and everyone will get a practice before the competition starts.

For more information or to sign up to go contact  
[sheila@firstlisburn.org](mailto:sheila@firstlisburn.org) or speak to Sheila Hammonds or  
Keith Lunn in the church porch.

Closing date for entries is Sunday, 26 April  
If we get enough bookings we can have exclusive use of this  
good club which has ten tables

**Bringing People Together**



[sheila@firstlisburn.org](mailto:sheila@firstlisburn.org)

## CYCLE MALAWI 2009

**It's hard to believe we are now into March – that means only another eight weeks until we set off for the heat of Malawi with 36 fellow cyclists to embark on Cycle Malawi 2009 – a daunting thought!**



Our schedule is progressing; however, due to the weather of recent weeks our road cycling is on a bit of a "catch up" but we have been persevering at the gym, with workouts ever increasing in their "challenge", and we are ready to step up the road cycling from here on in. So watch out, you never know where you may see us!!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have and still are contributing to our fundraising for Embangweni Hospital (the project EMMS we are supporting through the cycle). We were delighted to be able to send off a cheque for £7,000.00 to EMMS, thanks to your generosity and support in so many different ways.

During the five days we will be cycling in Malawi we will be averaging 95km daily on three days and 65km and 55km respectively on the other two days, so the challenge is great. But we are looking forward to all that this trip will hold.

Once again very many thanks for your support and interest and we look forward when we get back to sharing the experiences and challenges this Cycle will bring.

Evelyn and Marion

### ***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.*

# OPERATION MOBILISATION

## PRESENTS

# NEW LOGOS HOPE SHIP

## COMING TO BELFAST

### FROM

**29 APRIL TO 12 MAY 2009**

## WILL BERTH OPPOSITE THE ODYSSEY CENTRE

### Opening Hours

**Tuesday-Saturday – 10 am-10 pm**

**Sundays & Mondays – 2 pm-10pm**

**Admission Free**



## LARGEST FLOATING BOOK FAIR TO VISIT BELFAST

***Logos Hope*, the world's largest floating book fair, is making a first ever call at Belfast. Having undergone a complete multi-million pound renovation, the 12,000-ton former passenger vessel is now fulfilling a new role of bringing knowledge, help and hope to the people of the world.**

On board *Logos Hope* is a selection of 6,000 educational books that covers a range of subjects including science, sports, hobbies and religion. With children's titles, academic texts, dictionaries, atlases, Bibles and more, there is something for all the family to choose from. The vessel is overseen by the international Christian charity Operation Mobilisation (OM), meaning that the books on board are offered at affordable prices.

Located at Belfast's Pollock Dock, *Logos Hope* will be open every day from Wednesday, 29 April to Tuesday, 12 May 2009. Opening hours are Tuesday–Saturday 10.00 am to 10.00 pm and Sundays and Mondays from 2.00 pm to 10.00 pm. Admission is free for all visitors.

*Logos Hope* is staffed by an all-volunteer crew of 350 people – even the captain and officers receive no salary. All those serve on board as a practical expression of their Christian faith. The crew are also very international, representing over 40 different countries. Besides exploring the book fair, visitors to the ship will also have an opportunity to meet crew members, experience their diverse cultures and learn about the vision of bringing knowledge, help and hope.

While other vessels operated by GBA Ships, *Doulos* and *Logos II*, have both called at Belfast in recent years, this visit marks the first time *Logos Hope* has arrived in Northern Ireland. With a much larger selection of books on offer and an all-new Visitor Experience deck, stepping on board will be truly unforgettable!

**For more information please contact:**

Louria Schoeman, *Logos Hope* Belfast Project Co-ordinator

Mobile: 07966 258 634 Email: [louria.schoeman@gbaships.org](mailto:louria.schoeman@gbaships.org)

John McIlvenna Mobile: 07816 969 350 Email: [john.mcilvenna@uk.om.org](mailto:john.mcilvenna@uk.om.org)

## FROM LISBURN DOWNTOWN CENTRE

**If you can raed all tihs msesgae you wiil hvae proevn a ponit for me in rletaion to deylsxia and dsibility - u dnot hvae to hvae all wrods sepltpoporely, jsut frist and lsat lrettres in palce and the mnid wiil raed it for you.**



The work of Downtown, like so much else in life, has to change to keep in line with changes in community development, social needs and, more importantly, the people who we serve week by week. Failure to progress and develop for anyone or anything results in stagnancy and ultimately spells the end.

Downtown has been a source of reaching out with practical expressions of Christian love in varied ways.

Of late we have acquired a special needs volunteer who every Friday comes to help in the area of catering, being supervised in catering skills and food hygiene. It has become increasingly difficult to get placements for special needs with the economic climate as it is and many placements have been cut. Thank you to the Friday catering staff for their support and help with this area of the work; the placement has also extended to a Tuesday and Gillian will be making refreshments, toast and fruit for the Get Together Club, and helping with setting up – little steps to help her towards a level of independence. If you see Gillian, please make her feel welcome.

The introduction of parenting courses came to Downtown a few years ago. Over the years they developed and specialised to meet the needs of parents whose children were within the autistic spectrum, and also developed towards supporting those whose children have ADHD. The courses have been a success, and health professionals refer to them.

Downtown has received substantial funding for this in the incoming year, April 2009 onwards. The work has been recognised as valuable and parents have completed evaluations saying how they have been encouraged and helped through the last year. We also provide continued support by way of group work after the course as an option, and advice and help is offered in areas of difficulty for those who are facing situations which they are unsure how to handle.

If there is anyone you think may benefit from the courses, please take a leaflet from the display at the entrance hall and pass it on.

This year Downtown has also been successful in an application which links the Downtown community with a local pharmacy. For three groups of Downtown clients a pharmacist will be linked into a programme of support, and advice sessions on relative topics will be offered. This service has also been secured for Downtown's volunteers.

This year the South Eastern Trust developed three Family support panels in the three Trust areas, one of which is Lisburn. The panels will be operational from April and are there to receive referrals to help families who, because of difficult circumstances – perhaps illness, loss of partner through circumstances or bereavement, or other stressful circumstances – find their child or children are being affected. They don't know what to do and before social services need to become involved, this panel can put in place support, help and service provision that could make a real difference. Downtown has been recognised and accepted as one of the suitable providers.

As a panel member, referrals can come to myself. This is a confidential service and you can avail of it if you think it may help you.

Downtown Young Adults group is to have its first volunteer group leaders, and we would like to welcome David and Rachael Flynn. Please pray that God will bless and help them in this area of the work.

To help Pat Bell who is group leader for the Special Needs Get together group, we need one volunteer who can come every Tuesday. A male volunteer would be welcomed as we have male attenders. Just with this in mind, we could do with a few more male volunteers for a few of the groups. Please men, come forward and help us.

For further information on anything mentioned, contact me at [downtowncentre@msn.com](mailto:downtowncentre@msn.com) or at the telephone numbers provided in *Wavelength*.

Margaret Bailie



## Living for Jesus

A very good turnout of ladies gathered in the main hall for our Christmas party.

Margaret Rooney and Inez Price set the scene with nicely decorated tables, complete with candles, helium balloons and nibbles, and everyone received a glass of hot Christmas punch on arrival. Some suitable games had been organised and they were entered into with enthusiasm and enjoyed by everyone. The games were followed by a delicious supper, after which we enjoyed a mini 'lessons and carols' programme organised by Inez Price.

In January we welcomed the Rev. John Hanson and his wife, Rosemary, to our meeting. He was delighted to be back in First Lisburn and to see many familiar faces. He spoke of the family having spent eight good years in Blantyre, Malawi, before returning home to take up a position as minister of two small congregations in Co. Tyrone: Dromore and Drumquin.

In February we welcomed Mr Stephen Cowan to our meeting. Stephen is a missionary in Kenya and lives there with his wife Angelina and their three children. He has been overseas for twenty-four years and is very thankful that he can see the benefit of long-term missionary work. The family lives on a mission compound in Tuum which is a 17-hour drive north from Nairobi over very difficult terrain.

Stephen has an agricultural background so he spends a lot of his time teaching the local men how to do things for themselves and inspiring them to put skills into practice. The local people have sheep, produce honey and plant trees for firewood and this helps them to acquire the fees needed for secondary education for their children.

As one of our fundraising events this year the PW organised a sacred/secular concert held on Friday 27 February at 8.00 pm in First Lisburn Presbyterian Church, followed by a delicious supper in the Main Hall. A choir of approximately 45 people known as The Route Singers from North Antrim were welcomed to the church.

The ground floor of the church was well filled and the choir entertained the audience with many familiar songs in the secular part of the concert. At the interval a DVD on the work of Nightlight was shown. Nightlight is one of the projects helped by donations to the Birthday Box Fund this year.

The sacred part of the concert was truly amazing and left the audience in awe.

A collection was taken up and this amounted to approx. £1,800.00. After expenses the PW hope to have approximately £1,450.00 to send to Church House.

We are very indebted to all our members who worked so hard to produce the lovely supper and we thank them for that.

Most importantly, we wish to thank everyone who came to the concert in support of us and who enjoyed a really good evening.

Olive Reid  
Hon. Secretary

## LIGHT PROGRAMME

The following conversation took place recently at a First Lisburn member's dinner table:

Gran: "I will not be able to stay long this evening – it's the monthly meeting of the Light Programme."

Granddaughter: "What's the Light Programme?"

Mother: "Oh, that's Grannie's Youth Club."

Granddaughter: "Can I come?"

If you want to join us at Grannie's (and Granddad's) Youth Club, we meet on the first Monday of each month, very informally, in the Downtown Centre at 8.00 pm, or come to any of our wee danders, cinema or theatre visits.

Keep an eye on the notice board at the side door of the vestibule or contact me at (028) 9260 1013.

## CROSS COMMUNITY

In the early part of this year our Group received an invitation from President Mary McAleese to visit her at her residence, Aras an Uachtarain. Quickly the 50 seats on the complimentary coach were spoken for and we set off for Dublin on a dry, cool day in mid February. As the coach approached the historic building, which had once been the Vice-Regal Lodge, we gazed with anticipation and curiosity towards the large white house. Before we came to a standstill the double doors opened and two smartly uniformed aides de camp approached to greet us. This warm and welcoming attitude was to be the hallmark of our entire visit to the 'Aras' (as the residence is called locally!)

We entered the impressive white building through its grand portico of imposing columns. Inside, the décor and furnishings were elegant and bright. Busts of past presidents lined the entrance hall and their large portraits hung in the dining room.

Furnishings made in Ireland were juxtaposed with those from other countries and earlier centuries. We specially admired the large handmade Killybegs carpet in the main reception area. Here the President joined us and made a tour of the room shaking hands and speaking with each one of us. Just two minutes before President McAleese entered to greet us, our party had reached its full quota with the arrival of two familiar clerics, the Revs Brackenridge and McCaughan. A speedy car journey from Lisburn had ensured that we were not unchaperoned!

Our two chairpersons, Joan Parks and Catherine Seawright, were brought forward and the latter made a speech thanking President McAleese for her kind invitation and generous hospitality. She spoke of the associations we already have had with President McAleese who in 1997, when she was a Professor at Queen's University, was our guest speaker. Catherine mentioned the President's 2007 visit to Lisburn City Council when three of our members were invited to meet her and join her for lunch (together with about 200 others!). It was on this latter occasion that the phrase 'Hope Radiating Out' was gleaned from her speech to be our theme for the next year.

We gave the President a gift of the book *My Lagan Love* which touched a chord for her as her mother had been brought up a short distance from the source of the Lagan in Slieve Croob.

President McAleese congratulated us on the twenty years we had been in existence, noting that we had been faithful to the aims and objectives of our Group through difficult and challenging times. She emphasised that the basis of all inter community work was good neighbourliness. If one does not get on with one's neighbour, doesn't greet him, or look out for him, personal separation and loneliness plus a divided population are the result.

We enjoyed afternoon tea with the President after which an aide de camp led us on a tour of the public rooms of the house. He told us of the history of the building, described the tenures of past Presidents, and pointed out paintings and pieces of furniture with interesting stories. He had the intriguing, natural wit of a native Dubliner and succeeded in both informing and entertaining us! In the drawing room we were invited to provide a pianist for the grand piano. After some persuasion Tom Whyte, to our delight, sat down and played 'Danny Boy'. Another member, Rosemary Steele, followed with 'Amazing Grace'. This brought our memorable visit to an end.

We said our thanks and farewells to the staff and, as our coach moved off into the gathering dusk, we looked back to see two aides de camp standing at the entrance to Aras an Uachtarain and still waving goodbye

Joyce Moran

#### **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!

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL 2009**



You will see from the church announcement sheet that we are already thinking about this year's appeal. Members of our team and some of our congregation have started buying small items which are readily available in the shops at present.

Last year we found that towards the end of the appeal it was virtually impossible to buy items such as cars, dolls, mouth organs, yo-yos, balls, skipping ropes, crayons, notebooks, combs and hairbrushes; hence this year we are hoping to avoid shortages by buying early.

We endeavour to include items from each category listed by Samaritan's Purse, and to this end each box will have a hat, scarf and gloves, facecloth and soap, toothbrush and tooth paste, notebook, drawing paper, pens, pencils, rubber and sharpener, sweets (dated beyond March of the next year), a soft toy, ball, and as many other small toys suitable for each age, and whether boy or girl, that can be packed into the box. All items must be new.

We are extremely grateful to all the ladies who knit the hats, scarves and gloves during the year as this ensures that each child is catered for. Last year the ladies also knitted hand puppets, handbags, pencil cases and doll's clothes. We hope to be able to supply patterns of some of these items for anyone who is interested in helping us. If you have any spare wool which you do not need, we would appreciate it if you would be kind enough to donate it to us. Double knitting or aran is preferable but we will accept any type, colour or quantity.

You may be interested to know that, according to our reckoning, it takes £20-£25 to fill a box. If you multiply this by the number of boxes we send each year (last year we sent 501) you will see that First Lisburn is a very generous and caring congregation.

Please accept my sincere thanks for whatever part you play in this project. Without your help it would be impossible to achieve a successful result.

*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

# FOCUSFEST 2009

## **He Is Worthy - Everyday Expressions of Adoration**

**“We are called to worship Him every day, in all things...It’s more than just music and singing, it’s how we live”**

This is the theme and challenge of FocusFest 2009 which will be held in The Belfast Waterfront Hall on **Friday evening, 12 June and all day Saturday 13 June at a cost of £30.00.**

The key speaker this year will be Tricia McCary Rhodes from New Hope Church, San Diego, USA and the worship will be led by Sarahanne Wilmont, a local songwriter and worship leader.

Once again this year a group from First Lisburn will be going to FocusFest to join around three thousand women in what is always a very special weekend of growing in our faith and being challenged in it too, as well as a time of powerful worship together.

Tickets always sell out way before the event and even the waiting list closes well before it too – a testimony to the popularity of the weekend.

If you would like to be part of the group going to FocusFest this year, please let me know as soon as possible as we have a limited number of tickets booked, or if you would like any more information about the conference, please get in touch.

Marion Craig

### **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](mailto:ian@firstlisburn.org)

## **FLPC HIT TORONTO! - '09**

As some of you may know, a group of 10 young people and four leaders from FLPC will be heading to Toronto this July to volunteer with a group called Urban Promise working as one of their workgroups. Urban Promise is an organisation in Canada which a couple of our members have been involved with in the past. We will be helping at one of their summer camps, which will include planning and presenting a carnival on one of the afternoons, bringing the children on a trip, and spreading the Gospel through drama, stories and songs.

For over 11 years Urban Promise has responded to the most vulnerable times faced by urban children, these being the time after school and summer holidays when children and youth hang out on the street or go home to an empty apartment. They offer tutoring assistance, healthy snacks and recreation for children in four different Toronto neighbourhoods on a daily basis. Special events like talent shows, community hangout nights and several different trips to places like the Science Centre, museums, plays and sporting events, are also offered.

Urban Promise works in four communities across Toronto, namely Warden Woods, Rexdale, Alexander Park, and Jane and Finch. There are summer camps in each of these four areas, and our group will split between them. We will help to run day camps similar to our holiday bible club, with over 100 children attending each camp.

Some of you may be thinking that you'd love to be involved in something like this; one way you can be involved is through PRAYER! We would ask that you pray for the team and for the work that we're going to be doing. We've already seen the power of prayer even in the early stages of organising the trip, so please get involved through prayer.

Another way you can be involved is through supporting our fundraisers. For the next couple of months there will be quiz sheets in the vestibule along with a donations box; they will also be available from a member of the team. The sheets are priced at £1 and there are three prizes to be awarded.

We will also be holding a sale in the church hall on Saturday 4 April. So if you have anything at home that you've been meaning to get rid of, or any Christmas presents that you don't like but don't have the heart to ask for the receipt to exchange it, come down and hire a stall for just £5.00!

Or if you just want to come down and browse, feel free to do so.

We will also be having a table quiz after Easter, so look out for more information on the sale, the table quiz and other events in the next couple of months.

As a group we are very grateful for all the donations, support and prayer you have dedicated to this trip, and now all we can ask is that you keep it up!

Tanya Surgeon

### **ASHLEIGH REFLECTS ON LIFE AT CASTLEREAGH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Since starting at Castlereagh Presbyterian in September, I have been involved in a number of different programmes. I have joined the already strong leadership teams at the BB, Junior Youth Club, and Sunday School. I also took over the leadership of Youth Club and Youth Fellowship. I was told beforehand that numbers were 'quite low' at these, but I didn't realise just how low. Before the Christmas break, on Saturday nights at Youth Club we had a total of 15 on the books, with an average of four coming every week, and a maximum of eight. On Sunday nights at Youth Fellowship before Christmas attendance ranged between three and seven young people; however, one week there was only one!! This was obviously very different than the 25-30 young people I was used to at each of FLPC's three programmes, IGnite, Blaze and FLASH.

The main problem, however, was the lack of leaders at each programme, again something that I wasn't really used to. On Saturday there was myself and only one male volunteer, and on Sundays I was joined by one male and one female.

At Christmas I decided to try something new, so I joined the two programmes together on a Sunday evening, in a sort of 'IGNite styled' programme. This meant that after recruiting another female leader, we now had a good leadership team; it also brought the two groups of young people together. Each week we now have an average attendance of nine. While this is still low I have been encouraged by it and believe that we can build on it. We are now in a position where we have enough leaders to facilitate more young people, and so we can now advertise.

I am very excited by the possibilities of what we can do with this group. When I started I was immediately aware that there was nothing, other than the church service itself, for people around my age. Because of this I started a young adults Bible study group every other Monday night. This has been very successful with 12 or more coming each time. They consist of congregation members and their friends.

Plans for our Holiday Bible Club are at an early stage, but coming on well. It will be the first year to have an afternoon and evening programme at the Club, and so it is very exciting; I am looking forward to seeing what God will do with it. We are also getting an American team to assist with the week.

On Thursday and Friday lunch times I am currently working round the corner from church, in Lagan College. I run two mentoring groups for boys in Year 8 and Year 9. Where this is not directly related to my work at Castlereagh at the moment, I hope to use this link with the local school in the near future.

I have been fortunate to keep some involvement with FLPC too, through the football club and also through this summer's mission trip to Toronto.

Finally, I wish to thank everyone for all their support through my move. Every time I come back to visit I am always asked how it's going, and I appreciate it very much. A special thank you goes to John, Richard, Perry, and Matt for all that they've helped me with, both before and after moving to Castlereagh.

Although I am at Castlereagh for three years, I still consider FLPC to be my home church, and I am very blessed to do so.

Ashley Parks

***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. Please pop them in the box provided underneath the table in the vestibule. Thank you.

# A N S W E R S

## CYCLE MALAWI 2009

### FIRESIDE QUIZ

#### Theme: FISH

1	May come from the sun	Ray
2	Cash on delivery	Cod
3	A time and "?" for everything	Plaice
4	Sounds like it may be musical	Tuna
5	Add the first consonant to a quantity of paper	Bream
6	Is this a piece of the lady's jewellery	Herring
7	Shiver and shake – loose an 'S'	Hake
8	Usually tightly packed	Sardine
9	Caviar comes from this	Sturgeon
10	You will see the shape of this in the night sky	Starfish
11	Moves sideways	Crab
12	This may stab you	Swordfish
13	Bob the Builder's cat	Pilchard
14	Soft and wobbly and sometimes with a sting	Jellyfish
15	Long, thin and wriggly	Eel
16	Low or deep	Bass
17	Could this be in the abbey	Monkfish
18	To struggle with violent or awkward motion	Flounder
19	Small spiny-backed river fish	Stickleback
20	Dangerous to do this on thin ice	Skate
21	Jaws was one of these	Shark
22	People like to swim with these	Dolphin
23	Jonah was swallowed by this	Whale
24	Nickname for a Dad's Army character	Pike
25	This cocktail sounds rather fishy	Prawn

Thank you for taking part in this quiz.

The winners are:      1<sup>st</sup>      S Greer      Dromore  
                                  2<sup>nd</sup>      E Greer      Lisburn  
                                  3<sup>rd</sup>      G Kirkland      Moira

**TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED £477**

## CONGREGATIONAL RECORDS

### BAPTISMS

21 December 2008      AILIG DENNIS MACKEY, infant son of Paul and Nicola, Lurgashall, West Sussex

21 December 2008      SEB CONNOR & MATTHEW SCOTT McKNIGHT infant sons of Neal and Katherine, 22 Lombard Park, Lisburn

25 January 2009      SAMARA AMANDA WILLOUGHBY, infant daughter of Gary and Leigh-Ann, 80 Tirowen Drive, Lisburn

                                 SIENNA JENNIFER AND COHEN PATRICK children of Patrick Agnew and Dawn Dalzell-Agnew, 46 Hollyburn, Lisburn, BT28 2YL

8 March 2009      GEORGIE MARTHA ALICE HANNA infant daughter of Andrew and Jill 9 Glebe Avenue Moira, BT67 OTE

### IN MEMORIAM

11 December 2008      MR FREDDIE RICHARDSON late of 58 Wesley Street, Lisburn

4 February 2009      MISS MARY KENNEDY late of 10 Killowen Park, Lisburn

7 February 2009      MR GEORGE YOUNG late of 38 Magheralave Road, Lisburn

26 February 2009      MRS ELIZABETH SHAW, late of 16 Glenmore Park, Lisburn

4 March 2009      MR MAURICE WALKER, late of 3 Meadowvale, Lisburn

## CONGREGATIONAL RECORDS

### HOLY COMMUNION

22 February 2009

**On transfer**

HILARY FERGUSON  
from Carlisle Road PC, Londonderry

### NEW MEMBERS

WILLIAM AND HELEN  
HANNAH & SAM BROWN

12 Belmont Drive, Lisburn

CANDACE ATHANASION  
AND SOFIA

15 Brookvale Rise, Lisburn

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

TREVOR McWATTERS AND  
LOUISE CARMICHAEL

from 65 Bridge Street, Lisburn  
to 21 Aghnadarragh Road, Glenavy

JACQUELINE DOWLING

from 6 Mournview Park, Lisburn  
to 84 Hill Street, Lisburn

GEORGIA COLLINS

from 27 Ruskin Park, Lisburn  
to 10 Barbour Court, Lisburn

JOHN & GILLIAN MOFFETT

from 11 Rivergate Lane, Lisburn  
to 4 Penworth Green, Glenavy Road, Lisburn

### DISJOINED

MR & MRS DOUGLAS IRWIN

joining Ballywillan Presbyterian Church

*If you are aware of errors in any part of our Church records, e.g. wrong address etc., please notify the Treasurer, Jimmy Lynn. (Tel: 9266 3285)*

## SOME USEFUL CONTACTS

Clerk of Session	Perry Reid	9266 2922
Congregational Secretary	Alan McIlmoyle	9266 2823
Congregational Treasurer	Jimmy Lynn	9266 3285
New Members Ministry	Karin Finlay	9266 0888
Social & Recreational Ministry	Sheila Hammonds	9266 0507
New Developments Ministry	Cecil Kirkwood	9266 4046
Sunday School Superintendent	Prof. John Davis	9260 2576
League of Church Loyalty	Andrew Vient	9258 4003
Porch Duty Convenor	Bobby Watson	9266 5837
Sunday Duty Convenor	Morris Wilson	9267 8139
Bible Study & Prayer Gathering	Evelyn Whyte	9061 3410
Bible Fellowship	Douglas Anderson	9266 6193
'GO' Group	Richard McNeight	9267 6668
Cross Community Group	Joyce Moran	9267 8284
Church Friends/CYU Club	Helen Lynn	9266 3285
PW Secretary	Olive Reid	9266 2922
Christian Aid	Hazel McCall	9260 1777
Overseas Agent	Tom Kinkead	9266 5095
Catering Officer	Margaret McIlmoyle	9266 2823
Light Programme	David Gourley	9260 1013
Girls' Brigade Captain	Maureen Killiner	9268 3726
Scout Group Leader	Irene Richer	9267 0041
Designated Person for Child Protection	Maureen Killiner	9268 3726
IT Co-ordinator	Ian Robinson	www.firstlisburn.org
Church Flowers Organiser	Annabelle Poots, MBE	9267 5915
IGNite, and all enquiries for children and young people	Hilary Ferguson	(See Staff page)
Wavelength	Mary McNeight	9261 2451