

*Summer suns are glowing, over land and sea,
Happy light is flowing, bountiful and free.
Light of light, shine o'er us on our pilgrim way,
Still go on before us to the endless day.*

Minister:	Rev Michael Davidson	t: 02892 667010
Deaconess:	Heidi England	
Youth Worker:	Steven Woods	
Student Youth Wkr:	Shannen Smyth	
Church Office:	office@railwaystreet.org	t: 028 9260 2766



Little by little, the church, like the rest of society, is reopening and it is encouraging to see that. Anyone looking back over our RSPC's Facebook feed in recent days can see that, in addition to meeting together for Sunday worship, there are also plenty of other things happening and much of it is very encouraging.

Our young people are looking forward to 'Ganahome' youth activities from 21st-25th July and we are encouraged to have received £4000 of funding from the Education Authority towards that.

We have 13 young people signed up in two Exodus teams who will go to Dungannon and Donaghadee in early July to work with Youth for Christ.

We are seeing new faces (albeit masked!) coming out to RSPC on Sunday mornings. Some have already decided to join our church and others, we hope, after going around other churches, will do what some of you did and come back to Railway Street and join us. In addition we continue to see familiar faces returning after lockdown, particularly those who are now double jabbed.

I think there has been more of the normal 'buzz' about Railway Street again in recent weeks. Last Sunday morning it was lovely to see all those who stayed behind to support our Exodus Teams Fundraiser chatting together in the carpark while enjoying the sunshine. The Exodus Teams are grateful to everyone for their generosity, with over £1900 raised. This means they have already exceeded their target.

On Sunday night we finally got to see our six new elders ordained and installed. It is a real joy to have Adam, Alan, Charlie, Daniel, Diarmid and John as part of our Kirk Session. There was also £645 given towards the Students Bursary Fund which supports those who are training for ministry within PCI (which will shortly include our own Steven Woods). And again after that service many stayed around to talk together out at the front of our building.

In regards to the Link Redevelopment, we have witnessed once again the incredible generosity of God's people in Railway Street. By last Sunday (20th June) some £64,000 (before Gift Aid) had been contributed and we look forward to construction work beginning on 16th August with an 11 month timescale which will, God willing, see the handover of excellent new facilities next summer.

There has been so much to frighten and discourage people over the last 15 months, so it is good and important to be encouraged as we recognise all around us the evidence that God is good and God is at work. We saw recently in Judges 6 the repeat of God's promise to Moses and Joshua being made to the fearful and discouraged Gideon, "I will be with you." (Judges 6:16) I believe we are seeing evidence of the reality of that promise as God's people today – God is with us and He is seeking to do His work of building His church through us. In addition, in whatever difficult personal or family situations we are facing, we also have that promise, "I will be with you." As Dale Ralph Davis says, "Basically God has nothing else or more to offer you. You can go through a lot with that promise. It does not answer all your questions about details. It only provides the essential. Nothing about when or how or where or why. Only the what, or better, the Who. 'I will be with you' and that is enough."

As Charlie reminded us in Judges 5 - God is able to do great things, "when the people willingly offer themselves," (Judges 5:2) and we can add when people willingly offer what they have to the Lord's work. I believe God is with us and is blessing us and God is going to continue to lead and guide us in the coming days. We face big challenges – in terms of the cost of the Link Project, in terms of the number of individuals and families who have still not ventured back to public worship (to those we say, we miss you and want to see you back!) and in terms of the demographics of our congregation. But I am

convinced that God is at work and so as we face those challenges we do so with faith and confidence in the God who says, "I will be with you," and that makes all the difference.

So we continue to move forward in faith. We hope for a good summer and that the restrictions in our society and in our churches will continue to ease. I pray this summer you will be able to enjoy times of rest and refreshment and to get a change of scenery. I trust that if you are still in Lisburn you will continue to meet with us on Sundays and if you are away you can still join us via our live stream no matter where you are!

May we come back ready and refreshed to face together the challenges in front of us and willing to offer ourselves to the Lord's service. I believe as we do that we will see the indisputable evidence that God is with us.

Yours in His Service,

Michael Davidson



Link Development Update From Our Treasurer



In recent weeks two different announcements about our Link Development have resulted in sharp intakes of breath from the congregation gathered in our Meeting House. The first came with the announcement that the winning tender for the work was **£948,000**

and the second came with the news that our Gift Day offering was **£64,000**, before Gift Aid. At time of writing this offering has increased to **£65,250** and when Gift Aid is added will be around **£77,500**. We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our church family, especially in light of the challenges that the Covid pandemic has brought to families within our fellowship and to the life of our congregation collectively.

This means that since we began fundraising for this project we have raised just over **£310,000** in total and have spent **£97,000** on fees and preparatory work. We currently estimate that the cost of the project, including fees, will be in the order of **£1,060,000** with the result that we have raised almost **30%** of the total to date. This allowed us to engage in discussion with our bank and we are pleased to advise that they are prepared to lend us the amount we need to undertake the project, with negotiations on the structure and terms

of the loan due to be concluded before the end of June. This will allow construction work to begin onsite in mid-August with the contract work due to be concluded and the new Link handed over to us by early July 2022.

Our next step is to approach grant awarding bodies to see what assistance they can provide towards costs and if you are aware of any organisation that may be able to help us in this respect, please speak to our Treasurer. Some of our church family have enquired about the provision of interest free loans and if you feel you could help in this way, again please speak to our Treasurer.

We remain very grateful for the generous giving of our church family, whether by “one off” gifts or by regular monthly giving. The cost of this project remains a sizeable challenge but one we have stepped up to meet head on. Let’s continue to prove that God’s work, done in God’s way, never lacks God’s resources.

Thank You
FOR
GIVING
...
GENEROUSLY

STEVEN WOOD'S NEW CALLING



It was with great joy as a congregation that we learned back in April that Steven Woods, our Youth & Family Worker, had been accepted as a student for the ministry of PCI. This means that Steven will be beginning his studies at Union Theological College this September. Our joy and pride as a congregation at this news was only

matched by our sadness as we recognised this means Steven will be leaving his current role in RSPC this summer.

Since his appointment back in 2015 Steven has shown great enthusiasm, ability and vision in the work of overseeing our youth & children's work. He has also demonstrated great initiative and innovation. He has been hard working and also very easy to work with. He has placed great emphasis on discipleship through one to one mentoring and the nurturing of young leaders. He has also developed our schools' ministry and overseen the work of two student youth workers and one youth intern.

During the first lockdown especially, his ideas and IT skills were crucial in helping to maintain communication among our church family. Many of us really appreciated and looked forward to his 'Meet the Family' videos featuring interviews with different members of the congregation, asking them about their experience of lockdown and how God was using that to speak to people to both challenge and deepen their faith.

We have seen Steven continue to grow and mature in his spiritual life and we have also seen him become a very gifted communicator and preacher of God's Word. The only disappointment for some of us is that he stubbornly continues to be a Man Utd supporter!

During his time with us he has also become a husband to Rachel and a proud dad to Judah.

He is rightly held in very high regard by our children and young people, their parents, our youth leaders and right across the congregation.

We plan to acknowledge publicly Steven's ministry among us at the end of the summer. In the meantime we wish Steven, Rachel and Judah God's richest blessing as they set out on this exciting new path that God has called Steven to.

We are currently seeking to appoint a new Youth-Co-ordinator to build on the great work that Steven has done.

RSPC YOUTH NEWS

SHANNEN'S NEW APPOINTMENT



We are delighted to announce that Shannen Smyth has been appointed as Youth & Community Worker in Ballyloughan Presbyterian Church in Ballymena. Shannen initially joined our church family as our Youth Intern in September 2019 and has been with us for nearly two years. She has been a fantastic part of our staff team in Railway

Street. Shannen has been important to our girls' ministry over the last two years and has built great relationships with many girls in our congregation. She has also been brilliant at helping Steven run our Youth Church & Youth Fellowship ministries on Sundays. Despite restrictions making this an unpredictable and irregular period, Shannen has always been eager to carry out her ministry in Railway Street as best she could; she met online with the girls, created online resources for the youth and kept in contact with many of our church family. Shannen will be missed by the staff team and congregation of Railway Street, but she can be assured of our prayerful support and best wishes for her future with Ballyloughan.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES



As you will already know, government restrictions have meant that this year we were unable to do our usual youth camp to Ganaway... But, that doesn't mean we can't go to GanaHOME!

This summer, we have put together a local summer camp for our young people called GanaHOME. It will run from 21-2 July and will include a BBQ after the service on

Sunday 25th July for the whole church family! Each morning will have a 'Beacon Session' in the carpark of Brownlee Primary School, where we will have a Bible study and small groups. Then, each evening we will be running activities/trips, which will include Let's Go Hydro, a day-trip to Ganaway Activity Centre, Nerf Wars, Inflatables, etc.

We are excited about GanaHOME! Unfortunately, registration has closed and our spaces have been filled. If you missed out and would like to be put on a waiting list, please contact steven@railwaystreet.org ASAP.

As a church, we would appreciate your prayers for GanaHOME. It will be a great opportunity to connect with our young people again and offer them some fantastic memory-making moments after what was a difficult year for many. Pray that this program would breath new life and joy into our young people, would set us up for a great restart in September and would be an opportunity for all the young people to know the love and grace that God offers them through Jesus.

Railway Street Presbyterian Church, Lisburn

Youth & Children's Ministry Coordinator

(20 hrs per week)

We are looking for a Coordinator to develop and implement work among children and young people within our church and in the wider community. This post is initially for a 1 year period but may be extended.

Salary: £23,772 – £27,899 pro rata

For further information contact:
hello@railwaystreet.org



Services for July & August 2021

'The Good, The Bad And the Ugly' Studies in the Book of Judges

4th July

10:30am - Judges 8:1-21 - Michael Davidson

11th July

10:30am - Judges 8:22-35 - Michael Davidson

18th July

10:30am - Judges 9 - Michael Davidson

25th July

10:30am – 'Ganahome Family Service' - Steven Woods

'Stories of the Kingdom' – The Parables of Jesus

1st August

10:30am - Matthew 7:24-27 - 'The Wise & Foolish Builders'
Preacher - Stephen Johnston

8th August

10:30am - Luke 20:9-18 - 'The Parable of the Tenants'
Preacher - Philip Boyd (Assistant in Legacurry Presbyterian)

15th August

10:30am – Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-43 - 'The Parable of the Weeds'
Preacher - Diarmid Finnegan

22nd August

10:30am – Matthew 13:1-23 - 'The Parable of the Sower'
Preacher - Charlie Hadjiev

29th August

10:30am – Luke 16:1-15 - 'The Parable of the Shrewd Manager'
Preacher - Michael Davidson

Do please remember if you are planning to attend
it is vital that you remember to register at
attend.railwaystreet.org

Watch online at www.railwaystreet.org

Telephone Line Service – 028 92448979

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOCUS

Luke 11:1 “Lord, teach us to pray.”

Summer months tend to be quiet months in Railway Street as families retreat to holiday homes and caravans. No doubt this will be the same this year as we all come to terms with coronavirus and its effect on us.

Our province is in a very difficult place at present. Good, honest and clear leadership is needed to bring all our peoples together and to unite us so that the many problems which exist can be addressed with empathy, wisdom and common sense.

Our world is full of examples of poverty, hardship and aggression often leading to imprisonment, torture and death.

Every reason then why prayer is so important throughout the summer months. Let us come together to pray for our church, our country and our world.

Monday 19th July from 8.00-9.00pm

Monday 16th August from 8.00-9.00pm.

Details of venue will be confirmed nearer the time.



You are invited to visit The Glass House in Lisburn Square for afternoon tea (cost £5 payable on the day) from 3pm on **Thursday 29th July**. If you plan to come, please speak to Heather or Bertha.

KIRK SESSION: The next stated business meeting will be held on **Monday, 6th September** at 7.30pm. Details as to how we will meet will be decided nearer the time.

COLLECTING USED STAMPS

The Leprosy Mission NI is very grateful for all the stamps we have donated to their work over several years. From the autumn, however, they will no longer have an outlet for the sale of used stamps or old coins so please do not donate any more. Many thanks to all who have been contributing this way in the past.

RNID HEARING AID USER SUPPORT SERVICE

This service, previously available in Lisburn Library, has now re-opened in Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Ballymacoss Avenue on the 4th Wednesday of every month from 1.30pm-3.30pm. It is currently running as a drop-off service only, where hearing aids can be placed in an envelope marked with name and contact details and collected again when service is completed. Further information from hazel.wilson@rnid.org.uk 07342994453.

HOLIDAYS

Rev Davidson will be on holiday from 26th July until 23rd August.

Anyone requiring Pastoral Care should contact

Heidi England 07895883895 or Roger Thompson 07548970508

Heidi will be holiday from 23rd to 29th August.

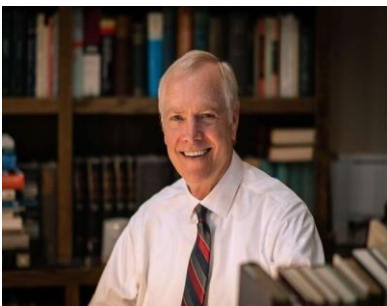


The Convention this year is online only.

ALL of the events each day will be on their [Youtube Channel](#) or can be accessed from their website - www.keswickatportstewart.org

EVENING CELEBRATIONS – 7:30PM

The whole world is entering into a massive rebuilding project following the experience of the coronavirus pandemic. Nothing has been left untouched by the impact of the pandemic: businesses, the travel industry, retail, hospitality, entertainment industry. As churches too, we will find ourselves rebuilding our life and witness together. The question is, however, what kind of churches will we rebuild? What ought to be our priorities as we rebuild? Ray Ortlund will help us as we explore the topic of 'Rebuilding Healthy Churches' at this year's Keswick at Portstewart.



Ray Ortlund is president of Renewal Ministries, and an Emeritus member of The Council of The Gospel Coalition. He founded Immanuel Church in Nashville, Tennessee, and now serves from Immanuel as Pastor to Pastors.



By Sam Allberry

Over the past year, we've become very accustomed to online church. Church on a screen hasn't been ideal, but here's the thing: at least there's still been weekly ministry for me to receive. For all its drawbacks and limitations, I've been taught, fed, encouraged, and inspired by the ministry of my church during Covid. However frustrating this season has been on so many fronts, I can't imagine how much worse it would have been without having at least this ministry available.

Here are some other things I've loved about it:

- I don't have to get out of my PJs
- I can pause the sermon for a bathroom break
- There's no trouble parking
- There are no awkward conversations

Yet for all this, if we are able to, we should make every effort to go back to church. There is much to be gained from being there in real time and being physically present.

1. There's work God can only do when we're present

The apostle Paul wrote to his Christian friends in Thessalonica,

'We pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face' (1 Thess. 3:10).

This is how much in-person, physical fellowship matters to Paul:

- He prays for it. Do we pray to be able to be with our fellow-believers? Paul did.
- He prays most earnestly. This is not a casual prayer request. He's not checking a box. This is heartfelt. It is almost desperation. It weighs heavily on him.
- He prays night and day. It's not something Paul has a designated slot for every Tuesday for five minutes. He is constantly praying round the clock for this. It's never far from his mind.

Paul had papyrus. He could write. That wasn't nothing. As we know, his writings are precious and life-changing. But for Paul this wasn't enough. He wanted to be with them. Ministry could be done in-person that couldn't be done remotely, even for an apostle. For him to have the opportunity to be with them, and to choose not to, would be unthinkable for him. It would be imbecilic.

2. There's more joy

Paul was not alone in his longing. John wrote to his Christian friends,

'Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete.' (2 John 12)

Paper and ink weren't that cheap. But this isn't why John was reluctant to use it. Face to face would beat paper and ink because of the joy it would bring. When we're apart from those God has bound us together with, a letter or email is better than nothing. A skype or Zoom meeting can be better than that. But nothing beats seeing someone physically face to face. John says it makes our joy complete — for all of us. It is an effort, sure. It is less convenient. But it'll do something for us that can't be done if we don't go.

Time apart is easier. It is also deeply, often imperceptively wearying. We were designed for physical time together with our church family. Without it a significant part of our Christian life atrophies and we gradually find ourselves depleted and debilitated without it. No one's Christian life is improved by opting out of this sort of fellowship.

3. There's more purpose

What's the opposite of not going to church?

Let the writer to the Hebrews answer:

'Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encourage one another' (Heb 10:25).

The opposite of not meeting together as church is encouraging one another. That is what happens when we gather together. It is how God has designed it to be when we're all around. We'll lack encouragement if we're not there.

And so will other people. It doesn't just say "be encouraged" as if the encouragement was simply something for us to each sit back and receive. We're to encourage one another. God has designed your physical presence to encourage other believers in their faith. If we choose to opt out, we miss encouragement and everyone else does too. That's how much you matter. There is a sacred purpose to being at church Sunday by Sunday: to make sure we find and receive ways of being encouraged, and to make sure we identify and take opportunities to encourage other people.

There are still going to be people who sadly can't come to church. For many of us lockdown was a novelty, if a wearying one. But for some it is what normal life has always been like. For the rest of us, though, as restrictions continue to ease, let's make sure that we are still eager to get back to church. Let's not be people who won't go to church because we're comfortable with online ministry. There's too much to miss out on.

This article first appeared on The Good Book Company Blog - www.thegoodbook.co.uk/blog

**SUNDAYS AT RAILWAY STREET
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

MORNING SERVICE @10.30am
to attend please register at:
www.railwaystreet.org
Service will be live streamed.

BACK TO SCHOOL

→ with God ←

2021



The Boat

+



The Breakfast

Downloadable resources for a church service
at the start of a new academic year.

suscotland.org.uk/bsg

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