

"Welcome one another"

Romans 15:7

"Bear one another's burdens"

Gal 6:2

"Care for one another"

1 Cor 12:25

"Comfort one another"

1 Thess 4:18

"Be kind to one another"

Eph 4:32

"Open your homes to one another"

1 Peter 4:9

"Serve one another"

Gal 5:13



‘Welcoming Like Jesus’

‘While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, ‘Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.’ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. ‘I am willing,’ he said. ‘Be clean!’ And immediately the leprosy left him. Then Jesus ordered him, ‘Don’t tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.’ Luke 5:12-14

Dear friends,

* In 1987 Princess Diana made headlines as she opened the UK’s first HIV/AIDS unit at London Middlesex Hospital. A photograph of the Royal



shaking a patient’s hand captures the moment when ill-informed attitudes towards the sickness were confronted. In not wearing any gloves, Diana overtly challenged the false notion that AIDS could be passed on by touch. With a simple gesture of kindness, she sought to change the culture around her by offering an example of grace and love.

When Jesus reached out to touch the leper, shockwaves must have been felt by everyone in the town. Although ‘leprosy’ could refer to

several types of skin disease, extreme cases were greatly feared for their harm and ability to be spread through physical contact. Those suffering had

to remain isolated and shout 'Unclean! Unclean!' in public to avoid contact with others.

It must have required great courage to approach Jesus. This man could have been punished for boldly entering a populated area. By falling with his face to the ground (a gesture fit for a royal or divine figure), he demonstrates great confidence in Jesus as the one whose presence is good news for the afflicted (Isaiah 61:1–2).

Though Jesus commands the man not to tell anyone, He answers the leper's faith-filled plea – 'if you are willing' – with a demonstration of the Spirit's power. Jesus affirms that, whether or not people hear about it, this is the purpose for which he came (Luke 4:18–19).

Whilst Jesus' healing addresses the man's external affliction, it also has the capacity to confront internal attitudes that may have been held towards the leper. Jesus sees no reason to be repulsed by the man's illness but leans in, to offer healing, both physically and socially.

Last month we were thinking about how the local church is the hope of the world. On Sunday 3rd October we will be thinking about being a welcoming church. A welcoming church not only preaches the gospel but also conveys the relational warmth of the gospel. We have been brought into this diverse family that bears Christ's name and we are called to honour His name by allowing His grace and mercy to transform the way we think about ourselves and everyone else.

Whether scattered or gathered, the church is the body of the same Messiah whose mission is to be good news to those suffering and lost in our world today. With simple gestures of kindness, we too can overtly challenge a culture of ignoring the needs of others based on ill-informed preconceptions. We can welcome people, like Jesus did, through practising grace centred hospitality. In ministering grace and love today, how might your simple acts of kindness be good news to those you encounter regularly?

Yours in His service

Michael Davidson

(*This letter is based directly on the LICC's Word for the Week written by Andrew Hutchinson)

The General Assembly – October 4-6th 2021

The governing body of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI), the General Assembly, will meet from Monday morning, 4 October, to Wednesday afternoon, 6 October, at Assembly Buildings in Belfast. Welcoming the news, Rev Trevor Gribben, Clerk of the General Assembly, described the autumn coming together of Presbyterians from across Ireland as ‘an exceptional meeting that reflects the exceptional times we are living through.’

Meeting for only three days, with the necessary Covid mitigations in place, will mean that only ‘full voting members’ of the General Assembly will be able to be present in person, thereby ensuring the necessary social distancing required at the city centre venue.



“There can be absolutely no doubt that the life and rhythm of our church, since the first lockdowns of March last year, along with other organisations, businesses and society as a whole, has witnessed extraordinary change that has required unprecedented adjustment as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, one of the casualties was our June 2020 General Assembly, which had to be cancelled,” Mr Gribben said.

The cancellation, the first time in PCI’s 180 year history, was agreed by ministers and elders meeting in a unique virtual Special Meeting of the General Assembly during April 2020. They also agreed that all necessary business of that year’s General Assembly be conducted through a special ‘2020 Standing Commission of the General Assembly’. Mr Gribben explained that the Standing Commission met via video conference last June to enable the Church’s work to continue.

This included the formal election and installation of Dr David Bruce as Moderator in a special livestreamed service of worship from the Assembly Hall in Belfast. With many hundreds watching online, there were just four people physically present. Over the following two days, and two further meetings, the Commission dealt with normal routine business, with only non-controversial, necessary, or time sensitive decisions being taken. All other business was remitted to a full General Assembly when it could meet.

“When April 2020’s Special Meeting voted to cancel that year’s General Assembly, I said at the time that, ‘unprecedented times often call for unprecedented responses to provide for a measure of certainty and continuity’. While some things had to be done differently by necessity, decisions were taken collectively, prayerfully and democratically in the best sense of Presbyterianism,” Mr Gribben said.

“In considering different options for the 2021 General Assembly, we have kept a constant eye on the changing situation across the island. The rollout of the vaccination programmes, the easing of restrictions and the general reopening up of society, have meant that we will be able to hold an in-person meeting, though shifting our normal June week to the first week in October.”

Mr Gribben continued, “I very much welcome the fact that we can meet again in General Assembly this autumn. It will be an exceptional meeting that reflects the exceptional times that we are living through. The safety and wellbeing of those attending will be paramount, so we will ensure that all the necessary Covid mitigations are in place and public health guidance is followed. For these reasons, our General Council has agreed significant and necessary changes to this year’s Assembly.”



Mr Gribben explained that the first significant change is that the General Council, with delegated authority from the General Assembly itself, after consulting widely, agreed that only full voting members would be able to be present in person. In the main, these will be PCI’s ministers in congregations, active retired ministers and a commissioned representative elder from each of the Church’s

532 congregations. To ensure appropriate social distancing, the floor of the Assembly

Hall, its large gallery, along with a few suitable overflow halls in Assembly Buildings, will be used.

Unfortunately this will mean that civic dignitaries and senior representatives from overseas and partner churches won't be in attendance this year, neither will those other PCI members who usually are invited to 'sit and deliberate'. While all sessions will be livestreamed, there will be no public access. The attendance of the media, however, will still be facilitated.

The second significant departure from normal practice is that the Assembly will open on Monday morning, instead of the traditional Monday evening, with a service of worship where Dr David Bruce will be formally confirmed as Moderator for an historic second term. Having given his address to the General Assembly, Dr Bruce will then chair it, with business scheduled across three days in ten sessions, closing on Wednesday afternoon. Follow proceedings at : www.presbyterianireland.org/Resources/General-Assembly/2021

Mr Gribben concluded by saying, "We will be announcing the key elements of the business nearer the General Assembly, but as October approaches we will continue to seek God's guidance in preparing for this year's Assembly, especially in the context of the easing of restrictions north and south, committing all to Him, who can do more than we can possibly imagine."

As in previous years, throughout the General Assembly there will be a live Twitter feed. You can follow proceedings via [@pciassembly](https://twitter.com/pciassembly) hashtag [#PCIGA21](https://twitter.com/PCIGA21).

Services for October 2021

'Love Your Church'

8 Great Things About Being A Church Member

3rd October

10:30am - 'Love Your Church 2: Welcoming'
Michael Davidson

10th October

10:30am - 'Love Your Church 3: Gathering'
Michael Davidson

17th October

10:30am - HARVEST FAMILY SERVICE

24th October

10:30am - 'Love Your Church 4: Caring'
Michael Davidson

31st October

10:30am - Stephen Johnston

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

Watch online at www.railwaystreet.org

Telephone Line Service – 028 92448979

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

It is with sadness we record the death of Mrs Helena Hand on 14th September. We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family at this sad time.

THANK YOU

Joe and the family circle of the late Myrtle Campbell wish to express their most sincere thanks to all those kind friends and church family who sympathised with them in their recent sad bereavement.

To all who sent cards, called at the house, or brought food and gifts, your support, love and prayers have been of immense comfort – **thank you.**

Sincerely, Heather & Ian Mulholland



HARVEST 2021. Our Harvest Service will take place on **Sunday 17th October.** Due to the restrictions and the Link Redevelopment we will be limiting decorations to the front of our Meeting House. If you can help in providing greenery or flowers please speak to Elma Lindsay. Thank you.

HARVEST OFFERING 2021

Although our Harvest Service this year will still be different as a result of the current Covid restrictions, we intend to continue our tradition of taking up a Harvest offering that will be divided equally between Tear Fund and Christian Aid. If you would like to contribute there are a couple of ways to do this:-

1. transfer your gift to the church bank account including the word "Harvest" in the reference
2. place your gift in an envelope marked "Harvest" and your FWO number and either place this in the offering plate or deliver to one of the usual letter boxes if this is easier.

We continue to appreciate the very generous giving of our church family towards the needs of those who need our help.



PRAYER FOCUS

Monday 18th October from 8.00-9.00pm in No.31

Luke 11:1. "Lord, teach us to pray."

Many of you will have obtained your own copy of Tony Merida's book "Love your church" and will have heard Michael preach on its contents.

How do we, as God's children, respond? Let us draw close to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by joining together to pray. We look forward to many of you responding to this invitation.



After a pleasant reunion of our members in September we hope to meet again on **Thursday 28th October**. Again we will meet in Lisburn City Church from 2.30 to 3.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

The **BIBLE DISCOVERY GROUP** will resume on **Thursday 7th October** meeting fortnightly from 10.30 to 11.30am in No 31.

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEE will meet in the Meeting House on **Monday 11th October at 8pm**.



PW will meet on **Monday 25th October** at 8pm in the main hall.

"Reflections on Lockdown through the lens of a camera and stepping forward in faith."

All ladies of the congregation are very welcome. The meeting will take place according to the guidelines in place at that time.



LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The Ladies Bible Study will take place via Zoom on **Thursday 14th and 28th October** from 10.30-11.30am. Heidi will lead the studies and all ladies are welcome. If you would like to receive the zoom link please speak to Heidi or Heather Henry.



Railway Street Presbyterian Girls' Brigade is ready to formally register girls of all ages on Thursday 7th October.

On this date, all girls must be accompanied by one adult

| Age | Section | Registration time on 7/10/21 | |
|---------------|-----------|--|--|
| 3 years to P1 | Tiny Tots | Register between 6 and 7pm. (You only need to come for 15-20 mins of this time.) | |
| P2, P3 and P4 | Explorers | | |
| P5, P6 and P7 | | Juniors | Register from 7.30pm and stay for volleyball until 8.30pm. (Adult can return to car after completing registration until pick-up time.) |
| Year 8 – 10 | | Seniors | |
| Year 11+ | | Brigaders | |

Dear Tiny Tots and Explorers,

We are really looking forward to meeting you. If you want to, you can come dressed in your princess dress for a special photograph on the 7th night but your own clothes are absolutely fine if you prefer.

Rebecca (Tiny Tots Leader) and Jess (Explorers Leader)



Dear Juniors, Seniors and Brigaders,

Please wear trainers for playing volleyball. Don't worry if you have never played volleyball before, we know you will have great fun.

Linda (Juniors Leader) and Sarah (Seniors Leader)





Notes for Parents re Thursday 7th October

We are SO excited to be finally starting our company in person after months of preparation. Thank you for supporting your girls with our online GB programme through Seesaw while covid restrictions prevented us from meeting face-to-face.

Girls and parents should enter by the main doors of the church hall and leave by the fire exit doors. Leaders will be at the door to greet you as you arrive. If you have girls in *both* timeslots, then come at a time that suits you. On Thursday nights, please use the car park at Smyth Patterson for drop offs and pick-ups and then use the footpath to accompany your girl to and from the church hall.

GB uniform: Sample sizes for all ages will be available and orders can be placed.

Registration fee: £15 per girl (or £25 per household where more than one girl is attending any section.)

In line with guidelines, girls aged 13+ and all adults must wear **face masks** indoors until more restrictions ease. Please encourage the girls to ask neighbours, friends and family members to join GB. **For any further information, contact** [**gb@railwaystreet.org**](mailto:gb@railwaystreet.org)

Link Redevelopment Update



All projects move through various phases, and the Link is no different. The builders have moved on site, so we now move on to the Project Execution, and the Project Monitoring and Control phases.

Initially we had a few technical items to address, and we were also impacted by an outbreak of COVID-19 at our builder's headquarters, so we have got off to a slower than expected start. A small builders' team has been working on site to prepare the builders compound and strip out the link area. Some initial meetings have taken place to discuss how the demolition work will be carried out. A meeting was also held to discuss what protection is required to the pipe work within the Organ loft and as a result of the meeting some work has now been carried out by our Organ specialist, so we will be without the use of the Organ for the next few months.

The project will now be managed and controlled by monthly on site progress meetings and the first of these was held on the 21st September. These meetings will include our Church Representatives, also the Architects' Representatives, (Knox and Markwell), the Builder's Representatives (Lowry Construction), the Structural Engineering Representatives (Taylor + Boyd), the Quantity Surveyor Representatives (VB Evans), the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Representatives (Simpson & Crawford) the Principal Design representatives (WH Stephens). As we work through the project a number of technical meetings will also be organised as required.

The builder has agreed that we will be periodically allowed access to take some photos of the work as it progresses and it is planned to share these with you, so that everyone can see how things are progressing.

We are grateful to a number of members of the congregation who have worked as part of small teams and supported us when we were working through identifying our needs, and finalising our requirements which enabled us to go out to tender. As we move forward we will again need to call on the expertise of all those people, and teams, and possibly some others as we move forward in this phase of the project.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support, but also remind everyone, that the Link and Minor hall areas, along with the Builder's compound, are now the responsibility of Lowry Construction and are out of bounds to everyone except, by agreement, to nominated members wearing the correct PPE (Personal protection equipment)

In respect to finance, monthly giving over the last 3 months has averaged £5,000 (including Gift Aid) with the total amount in the Link Fund standing at £263,500 at time of writing. On current projections this means that we are likely to be able to meet the project expenses due for 2021 from our own resources and not need to begin to use the loan provided by our bank until early 2022. We also continue to approach grant awarding bodies and although this is a slow process, initial conversations in this regard has been encouraging. We remain very grateful to members of the congregation for your ongoing financial support for the Link Project.

Ivan Woods & Stephen Johnston



Connecting With Culture

The Ryder and Solheim Cups: Golfing for God's Glory

For all you keen golfers out there disappointed at the result of this year's Ryder Cup here is some consolation. Some things can hide in plain sight. This month, the two great USA vs Europe golf tournaments are taking place.



In many ways, the Solheim and Ryder Cups are female and male equivalents.

Both have teams of 12 players, competing over three days.

Both take place every other year, normally neatly avoiding each other (though Covid

delays changed that this time around).

Both attract significant media coverage.

And both exist because of Christians who understood the godly importance of their work. However, you might not know the names behind the games.

Samuel Ryder was an entrepreneur. Working in a successful family gardening business, he noticed that most people couldn't afford to take up gardening.

So, he came up with the idea of selling seeds through mail order. This simple business idea became a global success.

Ryder believed his faith should influence his whole life. He pioneered paying sick pay to his employees, not wanting anyone to go penniless because they were too unwell to work. He also believed in living out the gospel in his community, supporting local charities and regularly opening his home for fundraising events.

His love of golf came later. His health was suffering, and his doctor advised him to relax more, so his church minister invited him onto the golf course! A few years later, he donated a gold cup for the first official match between teams representing Great Britain and America. So, in 1927, the Ryder Cup was born.

Karsten Solheim was an engineer for General Electric. Invited to play golf by some colleagues, he found putting too hard and designed a better putter. Ultimately, he formed PING Golf, and promoted his products by particularly supporting the women's game, which led him to give millions to good causes. As his son, who now runs the company, put it, 'how fortunate I am that the Lord blessed me and put me where I am, because I can glorify him and I love what I do. The business – I run it to glorify the Lord. It's that simple.'

As a keen golfer, I'm tempted to conclude that since both stories started with a simple invitation to a round of golf, we should go and do likewise!

But the real challenge, for all of us, is to take our faith into all our work, and into all our world, to use our resources for good, and to serve to the glory of the Lord. It's that simple.

Ken Benjamin

Director of Church Relationships, LICC



SUNDAYS AT RAILWAY STREET
10.30am

MORNING SERVICE
BEGINNERS CHURCH - MAIN HALL
KIDS CHURCH - No. 31
YOUTH CHURCH - Brownlee Room

to attend please register at:
www.railwaystreet.org
Service will be live streamed.

START DATE:

Girls' Brigade
Thursday 7th October

*Other organisations will recommence as the
loosening of Covid-19 restrictions allow.*