



*'We who are many are one body,
for we all partake of the one bread.'*

I Corinthians 10 : 17

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.” Philippians 2:3

Dear Friends,

Since returning from holidays in late August we have seen more normal life and witness gradually returning in RSPC. It has been an increasingly busy time with growing pastoral issues and increasing demands in my role as Moderator of the Dromore Presbytery, but it has also been a time with many encouragements and I find I am enjoying ministry very much at present.

We are seeing growing numbers attending public worship which are a mix of familiar faces and new faces. There has been the return of that buzz that I associate with Railway Street before public worship and there has been the attentive listening to God's Word. Many people seem to be enjoying our autumn series on 'Love Your Church'. There is ongoing generous giving to church accounts. Six new elders have taken their place in our Kirk Session. There is the recommencement of some of our weekday activities, including our Girls Brigade finally meeting in person, with encouraging numbers. The Link Redevelopment is proceeding apace and this week the roof came off what is now a stripped-out shell.

It has been an encouraging but tiring time. I, like many others, have been looking forward to the half term break to get some rest and refreshment before another busy spell from November to Christmas.

In our nation things remain challenging – Covid19 has not gone away although we are little by little learning to live with it. There are ongoing concerns about the ability of our Health Service to cope with another demanding winter. Negotiations around the very real difficulties posed by the Northern Ireland Protocol continue and there are the challenges of global supply chains being disrupted by the ongoing pandemic and the shortage of HGV drivers all across Europe.



Then on 15th October came the murder of MP Sir David Amess which shocked the nation. The MP who represented Southend West, was holding a constituency surgery at Belfairs Methodist Church in Eastwood Road North when he was fatally stabbed.

Sir David, 69, had been an MP since 1983 and was married with

five children. There have been many tributes paid to him.

What is most striking for me about Sir David was his complete lack of selfish ambition. Here was a genuine humble public servant. He has been described as being like a priest and pastor to his flock in Southend. In almost 40 years in Parliament, he never held ministerial office, and never expressed a desire to do so. He was most content being a back-bencher, listening to the needs and concerns of his constituents, and serving them as best he could, always with great humility, grace and humour. Those who worked for him have nothing but praise and profoundly moving admiration. He was unashamedly pro-life and pro-family in his views in days when such views are not popular.

One of his former staff described him this way, *“David Amess MP gave me my first proper job after university. Early on, I was absolutely terrified we had forgotten to tell him about an urgent call from David Cameron’s office. Couldn’t have bothered him less - ‘don’t worry about that, Edward’. I don’t think he ever returned it. That week his invitation to a local charity event in the constituency – the Leigh Duck race – went missing. Nothing was more important. We spent the entire afternoon turning the office upside down trying to find it. Another time I took a message from the Whips Office for him to call them. They said if David voted the right way on a piece of legislation, they would consider him for a ministerial role. When I told him, David just laughed (I don’t think he ever returned that call either). But when he heard someone he knew in the constituency was seriously ill, he would call everyone he could think of. I remember listening to him late into the evening on the phone to some of the most senior medics in the land- nagging, cajoling, pleading for them to intervene. Even when they were clearly fed up of him- and even when it was clearly a hopeless case – David never stopped trying. No votes to be had, no cameras in sight. I think that’s when I admired him the most. No MP could have been clearer about putting the needs of his constituents first – before party, ambition and everything else.”*

In this Sir David lived out what Paul was speaking about in Philippians 2, **“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests but also to the interests of others.”** (Philippians 2:3-4 NIV)

The blogger Archbishop Cranmer wrote this, *“David Amess was a very rare thing in politics: compassionate, humble, caring, unambitious, gracious, humorous, faithful and popular. And he was all this while being a pro-Life, Brexit-supporting Thatcherite. He loved his neighbour, and he loved them with both gentle words and good deeds. And he loved freedom and the joy of freedom, which he preached in the House of Commons and spread in his community as he waved and smiled and winked at everyone he saw. He was an authentic incarnation of a gospel vision, which he walked*

and talked every day, and to which he responded with imaginative freedom. In short, David Amess was a good witness for Christ."

David Amess showed the mindset of Jesus Christ. Without a doubt those years of public service free from personal ambition and dedicated to the needs of his constituents made a real difference to many people who lived in Southend. Westminster and particularly the constituency of Southend West are all the poorer for his death. We need many more public servants like Sir David in our parliament.

Yet there should not be anything particularly unique about this – it should be what we see in the life and work of every MP and it is the same attitude and the same mindset all followers of Jesus Christ are called to have. When we truly live in this way the name of Jesus Christ is honoured and the church of Jesus Christ grows. In 'Love Your Church' at the present time we are thinking about Caring and Serving. All believers are called to care and serve and in this we bear witness to the truly transforming power of the gospel. Jesus said, **"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."** (John 13:34-35)

Let's continue to read 'Love Your Church' together. Let's continue to think about these great marks of being a church member as we join together on Sundays. Let us each seek to apply the action steps set out and may we pray that the Lord of the church will continue to grow a community of faith in Railway Street that shows forth the mindset of Jesus Christ.

Yours in His service,
Michael Davidson



Services for November 2021

'Love Your Church'

7th November

10:30am - 'Love Your Church – Serving'

Michael Davidson

14th November – Remembrance Sunday

10:30am - 'Love your Church – Honouring'

Michael Davidson

21st November

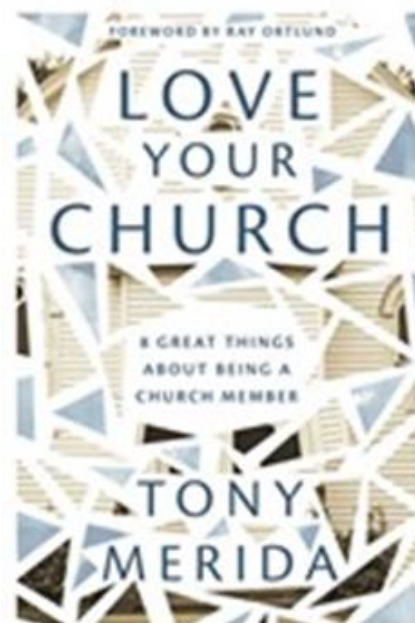
10:30am - 'Love Your Church – Witnessing'

Michael Davidson

28th November - Communion

10:30am – 'Love Your Church – Sending'

Michael Davidson



**Do please remember if you are planning to attend
to register by Friday evening at
attend.railwaystreet.org**

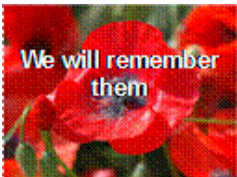
Watch online at www.railwaystreet.org

Telephone Line Service – 028 92448979

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HARVEST: Thank you to all those members who contributed financially to the Harvest decorations, to John Robinson for providing the flowers, to Elma Lindsay and her team who decorated the Meeting House and to those who distributed the flowers. The Simon Community in Lisburn were the grateful recipients of the fruit and vegetables. Thanks to everyone for making it a team effort.

KIRK SESSION MEETING: The next business meeting will be held on **Monday, 8th November at 7.30pm** in the church building.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

A retiring offering for the Earl Haig Fund will be taken on **Sunday 14th November**. If you wish to have your donation enhanced by Gift Aid please use the envelopes provided and enter your name and address or FWO number and your donation will be recorded.



PRAYER FOCUS

Monday 15th November from 8.00-9.00pm in No 31

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

After these past 18 months of lockdown when church life has been greatly restricted, we are thankful that things are beginning to open up once more.

Let us come together to pray, to give thanks for life beginning to get back to "normal" and to pray for God to guide us in the days ahead. There is so much to be covered.

So, we invite **YOU** to **COME, PRAY**



Again, we will meet in Lisburn City Church **on Thursday 25th November** from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. Three members of the congregation will talk about their experiences. Everyone will be made welcome.

BIBLE DISCOVERY GROUP will meet on **Thursdays 4th & 18th November** at 10.30am in No 31.



LADIES BIBLE STUDY will take place via zoom on **Thursdays 11th & 25th November** from 10.30-11.30am. Please speak to Heidi or Heather for the zoom link.



TAKING CARE REFRESHER TRAINING.
Wednesday 17th November
at 7:00pm in the Meeting House.

Attendance at this training should be considered mandatory for all youth leaders.

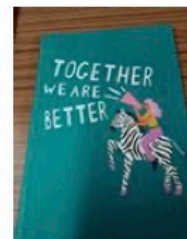
It has been some time since we have been able to have "in person" Child Protection Training and it is important that everyone is up to date. Would all those who will be attending please confirm this with Hannah Craig [REDACTED] or Sam Mitchell [REDACTED] by **Monday 8th November**. (Please note that this training will be conducted in compliance with PCI guidelines for church meetings).

PW will meet on **Monday 22nd November** at 8pm in the main hall.

"Christmas is Coming; Craft, Carols and Cake!"



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



WIDER WORLD

Next year it is intended that the magazine will return to its usual size, bringing you the normal range of good articles and PW news to enjoy.

Therefore, now is the time to renew your annual subscription which is £6 for four issues. This can be put in an envelope with your name and marked 'WIDER WORLD' and placed in a box on the table in the church vestibule.

It would be appreciated if you could do this by **Sunday 28th November**.

PRESBYTERIAN HERALD: it is planned for 10 issues of the Herald to be produced in 2022 with a subscription of £15. Anyone who does not already receive the Presbyterian Herald and would like to order it for 2022, please leave your name with Angela in the Church office.

BIBLE READING NOTES 2022

It is important at this time to keep connected to God and a really good way of doing this is by using Scripture Union Quarterly Reading Notes. A variety of notes are available including:

DAILY BREAD - daily Bible Reading guide that aims to help you hear from God as you read the Bible. If you've ever asked the question, 'What possible relevance can this have for me today?' Or 'What difference does this make to my life?' then read on...

ENCOUNTER WITH GOD - daily Bible Reading guide designed to look deeper at Bible passages to help you understand what God is saying to you and to his world today. Feature articles are also included.

Price: £18 (cash/cheque made payable to Faith Mission Bookshops), this is a special Church rate. If you wish to renew, cancel or start taking Bible Notes please let Ruth Nelson know.

To order, please place an envelope marked for the attention of RUTH NELSON on the offering plate at Church or post in the church office mailbox in the car park, indicating your choice of Bible Notes along with your Name, Address, Tel No and money by **Sunday 21st November 2021**.

For further information contact Ruth on 

HAMPERS APPEAL 2021



Last year Lisburn Foodbank put together 430 Christmas hampers and over 2000kg of food went to their partner organisations to support them making their own hampers.

They also distributed over 2000 pairs of pyjamas through their partner agencies and were able to issue 400 butcher vouchers for families. With so much uncertainty this year they are unsure what the need will be but they want to be prepared either way and we know God always provides.

To assist the Foodbank in making up the estimated 400 hampers they are asking that we have all our donations in by **Sunday 28th November.**

Railway Street is once again being asked to supply:

- tinned fruit,
- sweet boxes
- tinned ham (triangular tins)





CHRISTMAS GIFT SERVICE – SUNDAY 5th DECEMBER

Over the past number of years Congregations from across the Province have generously supported the Belfast City Mission's annual Christmas Appeal for children and teenagers in needy families. Last year it was decided to change the Appeal because of Covid so, instead of asking for toys, we opted for alternative gifts such as gift cards (to be used to purchase toys), monetary contributions and selection boxes. Although we were initially unsure if this would work, the response was truly amazing. We were able to help more children than ever before and the feedback from Churches and Missionaries was overwhelmingly positive. Therefore, we have decided to continue with the same approach for this year.

Our Gift suggestions (unwrapped please) in order of preference are:-

- Gift Cards (£5, £10, £15, £20) from Toy Stores eg., Smyths , Argos etc.
- Monetary donations (or by cheque/P.O made payable to Belfast City Mission)
- Selection Boxes

You are warmly invited to bring your gifts to the morning service on the above date but, depending on the Covid restrictions at that time, it may not be possible for children to bring their gifts forward during the service to place them at the Christmas tree. If this is the case, on arrival at the church, the gifts should be put into one of the large boxes located in the vestibule.

The staff of the City Mission expresses sincere thanks and appreciation to you in anticipation for your help in supporting this year's Appeal for needy young people.



Link Summary Update

We have now had our second monthly Link progress meeting. The site set up, and the Link soft strip out are now complete. The Architects, Engineers and Builders have been meeting together to discuss the best methodology to temporarily prop up the structure, which needs to be retained, as they progress with the required demolition work, which has now started with the removal of the Link roof. We plan to continue to keep you updated with photos of this work as it progresses.

The builders have now provided their work schedule and the contract has been completed and signed.

The kitchen team has been busy looking at kitchen requirements and potential suppliers. These options and estimates were presented and discussed at the October committee meeting. The committee approved that 20-Twenty kitchens be selected as our kitchen supplier.

We are very grateful to all who have helped and supported our efforts in various ways, and to the congregation for their ongoing financial support for this project.

Ivan Woods



END OF YEAR FINANCIAL MATTERS

We are very grateful for the continued generous giving by our Church family during 2021. As we come to the end of the year this is a reminder that to be included in the 2021 Annual Financial Report,

**Contributions to FWO, United Appeal, Link/Property Accounts
and all other funds should be forwarded to church by
SUNDAY 2nd JANUARY 2022.**

N.B. *Any donations received after this date will be included in the year 2022 Report.*

- Members can contribute via the FWO packs
- Direct Debit via your bank to funds
- Annual contributions by cheque to funds

Railway Street Presbyterian Church - bank details are:

Danske Bank, 62-66 Bow Street Lisburn. BT28 1YS

Free Will Offering :

Church No 1 Account - 95 03 61 - 91026178

United Appeal/Sundry Collections :

Church No 1 Account - 95 03 61 - 91026178

Link Refurbishment & Property :

Church No 6 Account - 95 03 61 - 61042858

We are aware many members are still unable to come to worship in person and contributions can be forwarded to:

Church Treasurer - *Mr Stephen R Johnston*

FWO/Gift Aid Secretary - *Miss Edith V McConnell*

If you have any questions in relation to giving to our church, please contact either our Treasurer or FWO/Gift Aid Secretary.

If you are the treasurer of one of our organisations, can you please ensure that your accounts for 2021 are submitted to our Treasurer by 20 January 2022 at the latest to ensure that the draft Church Accounts are ready for our external auditors by the end of January 2022.

Stephen R. Johnston

Church Hon. Treasurer

Edith V. McConnell

FWO/Gift Aid Secretary



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.