





*"Behold. I make all things new"*

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Dear Friends,

As I look out the window from the study in the Manse on 23rd March it is clear that spring has sprung! It is another beautiful morning. Spring marks a new beginning, it tells us winter is over, there is new life all around us and the days are growing longer. Spring lifts our mood and our spirits.

Yet we know that at the same time while it is currently peaceful and beautiful here, many other parts of our world are filled with chaos and conflict. In fact it seems that our world is simply staggering from one crisis to the next. As I am writing this it is exactly two years since the Prime Minister announced the first lockdown as the Covid-19 pandemic took hold and life as we knew it changed dramatically overnight. But even as we wrestled with Covid our mainstream media were filling the news with warnings of the next crisis - climate catastrophe. That then gave way to the cost of living crisis with inflation rising rapidly and then, on 24<sup>th</sup> February, Russia invaded Ukraine and so began the most serious conflict in Europe since the end of WW2. Chaos and conflict abound.

In the midst of all of this, I find myself amazed once again at just how relevant God's Word has been in the midst of all these crises. I had no idea when we set out on our studies in Daniel just how relevant and connected to current events Daniel would turn out to be. I had no idea back in December that Russia would invade Ukraine. I only had a strong sense that this was the right book to study next.

In recent weeks we have seen how God was still in control as in chapter 1 we find Daniel and his friends living as exiles in the land of Babylon. In chapter 2 we saw how God reveals His purposes. We have seen that the LORD is the one who, ***'changes times and seasons, he sets up kings and deposes them'*** (Daniel 2:21). In chapter 3 we saw how Nebuchadnezzar sought to compel everyone in his administration to worship the huge golden idol he had set up.

When Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to do it, out of their obedience to the one true God, they were cast into the fiery furnace. Through this we saw how God rescues. In chapter 4 we found Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon at the height of his power troubled by yet another disturbing dream. Through this dream, its meaning and its fulfilment, we see how the proud and arrogant Nebuchadnezzar is humbled and finally learns the lesson that God rules. ***‘The most high is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes.’*** (Daniel 4:17) All these messages have been strikingly applicable to the days in which we are living.

Alongside this, Charlie’s messages from Hebrews have been reinforcing the help and security that we find in Jesus Christ - the One who is our High Priest that we can approach to find help in our times of trouble and the One who is the sure and steadfast anchor for our souls in the midst of the storms raging all around us.

Is this all simply mere coincidence? Of course not – those who believe in a sovereign God know there is no such thing as coincidence. It proves the truth once again that God’s Word is living and active - it speaks to God’s people today as powerfully and as relevantly as it did for those who first heard it.

God’s Word teaches us the truth about ourselves and the fallen world we live in but it also teaches us the truth about who God is and the hope that He has given us through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And it is this that enables us to stand firm and not to give in to fear in unstable and fearful times.

That is why it is so vital for God’s people to meet together for public worship. In doing this we encourage one another to remain true to our faith and we hear God’s Word to us in our context today. **How often do we miss the important message that God wants to speak to us because we have neglected to gather with God’s people on the Lord’s Day?**

The uncomfortable reality we need to accept is that the times we are living through are not simply a temporary aberration which will eventually settle down and then everything will go back to ‘normal’. The truth is you and I are living in the last days. But don’t take my word for it, let us remind ourselves of what Jesus said, ***“You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There***

***will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains. Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.<sup>12</sup> Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold.***” (Matthew 24:6-8)

Doesn't that accurately describe the days in which we are living? Wars, nation rising against nation, famine and earthquakes, persecution and many turning away from the faith. But happily that is only half the story. There is hope, as Jesus goes on to say, ***“but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”*** (Matthew 24:13-4)

The end is coming, this present world is passing away but that ending will lead to a **New Beginning**. That new beginning dawned 2000 years ago at that empty tomb outside Jerusalem. That day everything changed. We want to explore that new beginning over this Easter, because in that new beginning that Jesus ushered in through his death and resurrection, we find our sure and certain hope. The present world is approaching its end but the events we are living through are, as Jesus said, the beginning of birth pains, birth pains lead ultimately to a new birth and a new life. God has, through Jesus, established a new beginning, a new kingdom that is currently growing subversively within the ruins of the world's kingdoms but it is a kingdom that will never come to an end. That unbreakable and unending kingdom has an embassy in our local community called Railway Street Presbyterian Church that we are privileged to belong to. So we do not panic, we do not give in to fear, we do not lose heart. We enjoy a deep confidence even as the chaos and the conflict rages, for God is God and he is in control and His kingdom will not pass away.

So let us understand, experience, live out and share the message of that **New Beginning** and the wonderful reality that, ***“if anyone is in Christ they are a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”*** (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Yours in His service,

Michael Davidson

## Services for April

Mornings

***'Strangers In A Strange Land' – Studies in Daniel – Michael Davidson***

***'A Great Salvation' - Studies In Hebrews – Charlie Hadjiev***

### Evening Services continue bi-weekly

**3<sup>rd</sup> April**

10:30am Hebrews 7 *'Understanding Melchizedek'* Charlie Hadjiev

6:30pm **'Where Faith Costs the Most' – Robin Magee, Open Doors**



**10<sup>th</sup> April**

10:30am Daniel 6 *'The Night the Lions Were Fasting'* - Michael Davidson

**17<sup>th</sup> April**

10:30am *'A New Beginning'* Easter Family Service – Michael Davidson

**24<sup>th</sup> April**

10:30am Hebrews 8 *'A Better Covenant'* – Charlie Hadjiev

6:30pm - Stephen Johnston

Watch online at [www.railwaystreet.org](http://www.railwaystreet.org)

Telephone Line Service – 028 92448979

## ***EASTER SERVICES 2022***



**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm**

'Understanding The Passover' - Ziggy Rogoff

JEWS FOR JESUS

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm**

Matthew 26:36-46 'The Sorrow & Anguish of Gethsemane'  
Marty Cowan

**Good Friday Communion Service 15<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm**

Mark 15:33-39 'The Old has Gone...' Michael Davidson



**Easter Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

10.30am Easter Family Service

2 Corinthians 5:11-21 'The New Has Come...' - Michael Davidson

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is with sadness we record the following deaths:

Mrs Gloria Brush on 25<sup>th</sup> February

Mr William Victor (Bill) McKee on 28<sup>th</sup> February

Mr Francis Samuel (Frank) Clarke on 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

The congregation extends their sympathy and prayers to all the families at this time of grief.



### **GIRLS BRIGADE PARENTS' EVENING**

**Thursday 7th April 2022**

at 6.15pm in the Main Lecture Hall

Seating capacity is limited so tickets (free of charge) will be allocated to the girls' families first.

Please contact Hilary Milligan on [REDACTED] text message is fine) if you would like your name added to the reserve list.

**DIARY DATE-** Affiliation of our new GB Company will take place on **Sunday 22nd May 2022** at 10.30am in our church building.

Everyone will be very welcome.



### **PRAYER FOCUS**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April** from 8.00 – 9.00pm in No 31.

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

The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. We too need to come to Jesus and ask him to teach us to pray, especially in these dark days as the events in Ukraine unfold.

Your presence would be greatly appreciated.

### **GOOD FRIDAY**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April** at 12.30pm Lisburn City Centre Ministers' Fellowship  
Lunch time Walk of Witness in the City Centre.



**LADIES' ZOOM BIBLE STUDY** on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April** at 10.30am. Anyone wishing to join speak with Heidi or Heather.



**PW Meeting Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April** at 8pm.

We will be looking at the story of Tabitha, the seamstress, from Acts 9 and Lisburn lady, Agnes Clarke will be telling her story of how she has raised thousands of pounds for local charities through designing and sewing fabric bags. Agnes's beautiful bags will be on sale at the meeting and all ladies in the congregation will be made most welcome.

The **CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING** for April has been rescheduled. It will meet on **Tuesday 26th April 2022 at 8pm.**

### **INTRODUCTION OF FIRE WARDENS AT RAILWAY STREET**

We are introducing at Railway Street a team of Fire Wardens. Wardens will be present during large meetings eg Sunday services.

The team will be given basic training by Fire Officer Johnathan McBurney. The training will involve directing people to safety in the event of any incidents and also the use of fire extinguishers and blankets.

If interested in taking basic training and being part of the team, over two sessions, please contact Peter Blackman on:



Again we head for T3, the conference centre at Vic Ryn on **Thursday 28th April** we meet at 2 30pm for a talk, chat and a cup of tea.

**BIBLE DISCOVERY GROUP** will meet on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April** at 10.30am in No 31.





**GANAWAY 2022** is happening!

**17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> July.**

Please see the church website for more information coming soon.



The Moderator has launched a Special Appeal towards the emergency relief effort to help people in **Ukraine** and those fleeing the conflict.

PCI is immediately releasing £60,000 (€72,035) to be distributed to: Christian Aid, Tearfund, Hungarian Reformed Church Aid. Please use the special envelopes provided. The current total for Ukraine stand at £1030.00

## Exodus Team Fundraiser- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May



This summer, 15 young people from Railway Street are heading to Sutor, Romania where we will partner with local churches. We will be delivering children's ministry, English lessons, visiting local residents and carrying out practical work.

To aid in this mission we are hosting a fundraiser after church on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May. We would love your support and hope to see you there where you can find out a bit more about the team, trip and journey so far.





## LINK - APRIL UPDATE

We have now held our 7th site progress meeting and paid our 5th certified invoice. Unfortunately due to various factors the builders have identified that we are now a month behind our initial plan. On the brighter side the observant among you will notice that the steelwork is now up and nearing completion. The brick and block work for the external walls and the toilet block are progressing well.



The wall between the hall and kitchen has been removed and rebuilt as a thinner section with a larger service hatch and our kitchen supplier will now be coming out to take their final measurements so we can then put the plans in place to get the new kitchen installed.

The kitchen team are now looking at the likely coffee dock use by organisations throughout the week and the potential equipment requirements. The finishes team have visited 1080 (Alpha) furnishings to look at potential furniture options and colours. Based on our discussion with 1080 they have now provided us with a furnishing proposal including a cost estimate. The team

continue to meet to further review and refine our finishes and furnishings requirements.

The Organ loft protection remains in place and you will be pleased to hear that after the demolition and piling work the area was inspected and no issues were found.

We continue to be very grateful for the generous support given by our church family to this project, especially given the more challenging economic environment we are now living in. The generous support provided means that we have not started to use the Bank loan as yet which, in turn, is helping to keep our financial costs under control.



We are planning to have a Gift Day for the Link Development on 8 May and more details will be provided in next month's Bulletin.

Ivan Woods / Stephen Johnson

## **Pray for Ukraine**

*This article first appeared on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February*



At 5am on Thursday, [Russia invaded Ukraine](#) on three separate fronts: in the north from Belarus, in the east from Donetsk, and in the south from Crimea.

The horrific scale of the force – around 150,000 troops – and the severity of the initial assault were shocking. As disorientated Ukrainians mobilised to defend their nation, Putin chillingly warned that any country coming to their aid would face consequences the like of which had never been seen before.

The West has promised [unprecedented sanctions](#), though Ukrainian appeals for financial support are increasingly giving way to pleas for military assistance.

Putin invaded on the invented pretence of liberating the country from genocide and neo-Nazism, positioning himself as some sort of justice-seeking saviour. But this is patent hypocrisy, supposedly 'saving' people through bloodshed and violence, purporting to keep peace whilst pursuing war.

It's similar to the *modus operandi* of the Roman empire, who oppressed people in the name of peace and order 2,000 years ago. Except this time, it's not down Roman roads, but Russian roads, that the war machines roll.

Yet, in a world of power and violence, Christ came not as the Messiah many expected. He overthrew Rome not by force, but by sacrificial love. In truly liberating the oppressed, the only blood this Messiah shed was his own, rebuking his disciples for trying to win by violence (Mark 8:29–33). Whatever road his followers take, cross-bearing is a precondition.

This wasn't, however, a martyr complex. Jesus came to defend the vulnerable and complete his mission, which justified defensive swords smuggled into the garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:38).

So, what might a Christlike response look like here?

It might look like the self-sacrifice required to put in place tough sanctions on Russia, even when measures hurt us as well. And, God help us, it may mean boots on the ground of a vulnerable nation to confront injustice. Whatever way we take, it will be [fuelled by prayer](#), as genuine peace is beyond what we can secure in our own strength.

So, [we pray](#) for the Prince of Peace to reign over this conflict. We pray against bloodshed, and for violence to quickly end. We pray for wise leaders, and peacemakers on every side. Lord, show us how to defend the vulnerable. And may comfort and compassion conquer fear and violence.

For we pray in the knowledge that, just as Rome fell within centuries of Christ's victory on the cross, the kingdom will always outlast the empire.

Matt Jolley  
Editor, Connecting with Culture



# BALMORAL SHOW 2022 11<sup>TH</sup>-14<sup>TH</sup> MAY

The Balmoral Show is back this May for the first time in three years!

The Dromore Presbytery have once again booked a stand in the Eikon Exhibition Hall as an opportunity to meet and engage with the tens of thousands of people who attend the show each day.

Previous years have seen large numbers of people from right across the community come to our stand. Presbyterians have commented that they are so encouraged to see our denomination doing something pro-active to support the rural community. The simple, Christian hospitality offered, with a seat to rest weary legs and a cup of tea, is greatly appreciated.

We have had many opportunities, through conversations and literature, to share the good news of Jesus with all ages, as well as pray with people in pastoral need. Through all of this fellowship between Jesus' followers right across our Presbytery has been deepened and enhanced.



Right now we are looking for volunteers from Railway Street to assist in manning the stand. We are looking for people who would feel comfortable "meeting and greeting" the public and who would be able, if opportunities arise, to share their faith in Jesus, pray with people if appropriate, and pass on suitable literature. This is done in 3 hour slots each day: **9am – 12 noon; 12 – 3pm & 3pm – 6pm.**

There is a free shuttle bus that runs from the back of Lisburn Train Station on North Circular Road and leaves you off right at the main entrance. Volunteers on the stand are usually able to secure a free pass and so before or after serving at the stand you are free to enjoy all the other attractions at the show.



**There will be a Night of Training and Prayer for those involved in Legacurry Presbyterian on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> of April from 7.30pm.**

If you would like more information or you would be willing to volunteer to help please speak to Michael Davidson.



### **KESWICK AT PORTSTEWART 2022**

After an absence of two years Keswick at Portstewart resumes this summer, from **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July.**

**The theme this year will be “RENEWAL”**

Each morning, Monday to Friday at 11am, David Scott ( Inshes Church, Inverness) will help us find renewal in the Lord through the book of Haggai. The evening sessions, Saturday to Friday at 7.30pm will be led by Martin Salter ( Grace Church, Bedford ) and Glen Scrivener (Speak Life )

If you plan to be in the area during these dates please drop in and share in Christian fellowship and learn from God’s word.

A special message to families with children. Keswick works closely with **Portstewart CSSM** so your children can enjoy this wonderful experience and grow in their faith.



*This poem was written in 2009, inspired by a harvest display on the PW window that year (See picture on front of the bulletin). The floral composition consisted of old tin cans and other discarded items carefully crafted into a beautiful floral display.*

## All Things New

Lord, You make all things new.  
You make spring out of winter.  
You make oak trees out of fallen acorns.  
You make dawn out of the darkness of night.  
And thank you, Lord, that You make saints out of sinners.

Some of us, like chipped teacups, feel we are no longer fit for purpose.  
But You can remake us for Your own purpose.  
Some of us, like used cans, feel we are rubbish and should be cast aside.  
But you can reclaim us and rebuild us.  
With Your cleansing and the support of one another as we each allow You to refill us,  
We can grow together into something beautiful for You.

Thank you, Lord, that You are the God of new things.  
Help us never to discard that which, when offered into Your hands, can become a thing of beauty, pleasing to You.

Amen.

**SUNDAYS AT RAILWAY STREET**  
**MORNING SERVICE 10.30AM**  
BEGINNERS CHURCH – NO 31  
KIDS CHURCH – MAIN HALL  
YOUTH CHURCH – Brownlee Room

*Service will be live streamed.*

**Evening Service – 6.30pm** (see services page for details)

**BOYS' BRIGADE**

Monday - Company Section 7.30-9:00pm

Tuesday - Anchor Boys – 6.30-7:30pm &

Junior Section – 7.00-8:15pm

**GIRLS' BRIGADE**

Thursdays

Tiny Tots & Explorers - 6:00-7:00pm

Juniors, Seniors & Brigaders - 7:30-9:00pm

**PRAYER FOCUS**

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month 8.00-9.00pm

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Fourth Monday of each month

Main Hall at 8:00pm

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Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2.30-4pm - Vic Ryn T3

**Bible Discovery Group**

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 10.30am

**LADIES ZOOM BIBLE STUDY**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month  
at 10.30am