
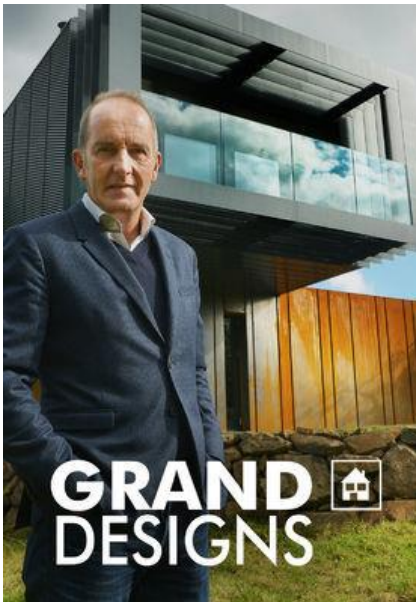




## Link Redevelopment Gift Day - Sunday 8th May

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## GRAND DESIGNS

Dear Friends,

'Grand Designs', or as it maybe should be called, "People With More Money Than Sense" is a long running Channel 4 TV programme. Each episode begins with presenter Kevin McCloud meeting a couple who share their grand design for their dream home. They would set out their plans, their timescale and their budget.

Despite a positive start you could be sure that nearly every week, normally after the first ad break, things would start to go wrong: for example planning permission would be turned

down, the project manager would quit, the windows which had to be manufactured in Germany had not arrived, bad weather would bring work to a standstill, the project was going way over budget. The home builders were often facing real pressure and the question was would they manage to keep going and see their grand design completed?

The final section of the programme normally sees Kevin McCloud return to purr over the finished house and where, more often than not, the proud home owners will say all the pain had been worth it to end up with what they now have.

In the Old Testament Nehemiah had motivated the people of Jerusalem to work with him in his 'Grand Design' – to see the ruined walls of Jerusalem rebuilt. It was far from straightforward - there were enemies and challenges confronting him at every turn. In chapter 4 the pressure is really getting to the builders.

“When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?”

Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, “What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!”

Nehemiah’s response as always was to entrust the matter to God in prayer – “Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the

face of the  
builders.”



The result was,  
“So we rebuilt  
the wall till all of  
it reached half  
its height, **for  
the people  
worked with all  
their heart.**”

However, trouble continued, and the pressure on the builders mounts from every direction.

“But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem’s walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “The strength of the labourers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.”

Also our enemies said, “Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work.”

Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, “Wherever you turn, they will attack us.”

Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work.”

Nehemiah and his people prayed and persevered through every difficulty and every challenge. It is just two chapters later that we read, **“So the wall was completed on the twenty fifth of Elul in fifty two days.”** (Nehemiah 6:15) God’s Grand Design for Jerusalem is achieved.



Our ‘Grand Design’ is now 8 months in. The New Link is really taking shape. As I write, the work on the roof is progressing rapidly.

There have been challenges and difficulties. We

began this project at a time when supply chain issues, as a result of Covid and Brexit, were already causing the price of construction materials to rise rapidly.

In the ensuing months we have seen rising inflation and higher interest rates and the costs of living are increasing in every area. As a result of the challenges of securing the necessary materials, our completion date has now slipped from early July to the end of August. We really hoped to have the New Link and Minor Hall in use for the beginning of a new session’s work and

witness in September but we are facing the likelihood that this may not now be possible.

However, this is not a time for gloom and pessimism, there is already more than enough of that in our world at the present time. We are God's people and we know that where God gives a vision and His people embrace that vision and work towards its realisation God is there to guide, equip and provide just as He did for His people in Nehemiah's Day.

We need to commit in prayer to God any remaining challenges and difficulties. We need to maintain the vision that God has given. We need to work with all our heart to make this vision a reality, and we need to keep giving generously.

**On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May we will have our third gift day towards the cost of the New Link.** Due to your generous giving, we have not as yet had to borrow any money from the bank and this has been so encouraging. But the Redevelopment Account is now severely depleted and so once again I am writing to ask you to give what you can.

I am aware that we are all facing rising costs in everyday expenditure and the church is facing this too. This may mean that some of us are not in a position to give as much but, as the Apostle Paul explains, it is the willingness to give according to what we have that is most important. As he writes to the Christian believers in the city of Corinth he encourages them to give generously to the Lord's work. He says to them, **"Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have."** (2 Corinthians 8:10-12)

May we do the same and may we see our Grand Design reach its completion.

Yours in His service,

*Michael Davidson*



## **The Link Redevelopment Gift Day Sunday 8th May 2022**

### **The Financial Challenge**

As we come to our Link Development Gift Day for 2022, we do so with the realisation that the financial environment we are living in is becoming increasingly challenging. We are all dealing with the impact of the challenges of the cost of living crisis with all of the challenges that brings. However, despite these challenges, our congregation has continued to be generous in our support of the many appeals for giving that have come our way over the last 18 months and we are conscious that we are coming to you again now seeking your generosity.

We have reached a stage where we are seeing the new Link building emerging and are beginning to get a sense of what the finished product will look like. Our contractors and professional advisors have worked hard to deal pragmatically with the challenges they have encountered, with the result that a close focus has been kept delivering the project within budget and as near the original project timescale as possible.

As a result of this and the ongoing generosity of our church family, we have reached this point in the project where all invoices have been paid and our Link Fund account has a credit balance of £35,000. To date, we have not needed to use the borrowing facility arranged with our bank but our current cost projections indicate that we are likely to begin to do so within the next 4 to 6 weeks. Whilst we are not in a position at the moment to advise what our final borrowing amount will be, we can say that it will be materially less than the amount we were looking at this time last year. We are asking for your

continued generous giving on our Gift Day so that we can continue in this direction using our own funds for as long as we are able to and so minimising the amount that we will need to borrow.

It has been immensely encouraging to see how folk right across our church family have embraced the vision for this project. The combination of regular monthly giving, our Gift Days and “one off” gifts have helped us reach where we are now. We ask you for your generous support again at our Gift Day on Sunday 8th May.

You can give in the following ways:

1. Return your Gift Day envelope to our Sunday service on 8<sup>th</sup> May
2. Deliver your Gift Day envelope to the usual addresses
3. By bank transfer to the Link Project Account, the details are:  
**Sort code - 950361    Account number - 61042858.**  
Please use your FWO number as a reference.

Let us continue to walk forwards in faith trusting that God’s work, done in God’s way never lacks God’s resource.

*Thank You*  
FOR  
**GIVING**  
...  
GENEROUSLY



# Link Progress update

We have now held the 8th site meeting, received and paid the invoices for approved certificate number 6. Currently the structural steel erection has been completed, also all the block work is now complete and the roof structure is well underway, the glazing has been measured and is currently under manufacture.

The builders have now updated their schedule and are currently planning to complete the project by the end of August.

The next site meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 10th May and we have also started holding some of the various technical meetings with our consultants, the builder, and his various specialist sub contractors.



The old kitchen dividing wall has been rebuilt and the kitchen supplier has been out to take their final measurements, we are currently intending to start the kitchen installation on 20th June. We have now got some quotes for the kitchen window replacement. The PVC repair company has been selected and

windows are now under manufacture; we plan to have the windows fitted before we get the kitchen installed. It has also been brought to our attention that the kitchen roof is not in good condition and is in urgent need of repairs, so Committee have approved that we go ahead and get the roof repairs carried out.



The finishes team has also been busy selecting floor finishes and colours. We also recognise that the new Link area needs to be correctly furnished so they have visited 1080 (Alpha) furnishings to look into potential colour and furniture options. Based on our discussion 1080 (Alpha) have provided a proposal to furnish the welcome area with suitable seating and tables, furnish the upstairs offices and provide some modern stacking chairs. Committee have agreed that we go ahead with the furnishing plans.



The kitchen team has now been engaging some different groups around the church to review the likely coffee dock requirements. It will need to be able to facilitate everything from small groups to Sunday morning after service coffee. It will need to be equipped with both mugs, disposable cups, a kettle, a hot water boiler, a fridge, a dishwasher and some type of filter coffee making facilities. Committee have agreed that we progress with our plans to equip the coffee dock.

We have asked Stephen Lowry, and he has agreed to work with us to provide limited access, for members of the congregation, to get into the site to see progress, after the morning service on our Gift Day.

Thanks to all for your continued support.  
Ivan



# Services for May

## Mornings

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

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

**Evening Services continue bi-weekly**

## 1<sup>st</sup> May

10:30am - *'Is History All Beastly?'* Daniel 7 - Michael Davidson

## 8<sup>th</sup> May

10:30am - *'The Day of Atonement Fulfilled'* Hebrews 9 & 10 - Charlie Hadjiev

6:30pm - *'The Cutting Issue'* Acts 15:1-21 - Michael Davidson

## 15<sup>th</sup> May

10:30am - *'Beasts, Angels & The End Times'* Daniel 8 – Michael Davidson

**Exodus Team Fundraiser**



## 22<sup>nd</sup> May

**10.30am Girls Brigade Affiliation Service**

**375<sup>th</sup> Company NI**

6.30pm – *'Letter Of The Law'* Acts 15:22-35 – Michael Davidson

## 29<sup>th</sup> May

10.30am – *'Daniel Was A Man Of Prayer ...'* Daniel 9 – Michael Davidson

**Communion**



**5<sup>th</sup> June**

10:30am - Queen's Platinum Jubilee  
Thanksgiving Service

**Watch online at [www.railwaystreet.org](http://www.railwaystreet.org)  
Telephone Line Service – 028 92448979**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **DEATH**

It is with sadness we record the death of Mrs Olive Montgomery on 7<sup>th</sup> April. The congregation extends their sympathy and prayers to the family at this time of loss.

**KIRK SESSION** business meeting on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May** at 7.30pm.



Sunday 22nd May

**GB Affiliation Service 10.30am**

Come and join us as we celebrate becoming an official Girls' Brigade Company- 375th NI. **All welcome.**

## **PRAYER FOCUS**

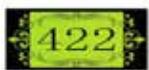
**Luke 11:1. "Lord, teach us to pray."**

This is our opportunity to come together for a time of corporate prayer. We all find prayer difficult at times. Sometimes we don't know where to begin!



At Prayer Focus we are given a list of prayer topics. Nobody is forced to pray aloud. Please prayerfully consider joining the prayer group!

**Prayer Focus will meet on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May from 8.00 – 9.00pm in No 31.**



cup of tea.

422 will again meet in T3, the conference centre at Vic Ryn. On **26<sup>th</sup> May** we will meet at 2 30pm for a talk, chat and a



**This year CHRISTIAN AID APPEAL WEEK runs from 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May.**

As usual our congregation, like many other churches, will be continuing to support this

annual and most worthy appeal through financial donations from our members. To this end special **Christian Aid envelopes will be available for you to pick up from the table in the vestibule from Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May.** They can then be returned, along with your contribution inside, by placing them on the offering plate in the vestibule on subsequent Sundays. Alternatively, they can be given or sent to Edith McConnell or Gordon Wallace. Note also that if you wish to have your contribution gift-aided you need to complete the details requested on the form which is included as part of the envelope.

**Elders please note:** If you know of any members in your district who are currently not attending church but who may wish to contribute to this appeal, you should take as many envelopes as you may require and deliver one to those persons.

With thanks in anticipation,

Roger (Agent for Christian Aid)



PW Advance Announcement for June.

All members of the congregation are invited to a **coffee morning on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30am** in the main hall. **Diane Cusick**, a PCI Global Mission Worker, who is supported by PW, will be speaking about her work in Zambia.

## **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 Jonathan 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, over two sessions, and being part of the team please contact Peter Blackman on:

 office@railwaystreet.org



## **1<sup>st</sup> Lisburn Boys' Brigade Report** **2021-2022**

For 112 years the 1<sup>st</sup> Lisburn Boys' Brigade Company has been meeting at Railway Street Presbyterian Church, Lisburn. A lot has changed from those initial days on the Company's inception until now.

We have 32 Anchor Boys, 27 Junior Section and 33 Company Section boys registered with us this year.

As restrictions eased around this time last year we were delighted to come together in person and meet outdoors at Wallace Park until June. After a summer break we were glad to get back into the Church Halls in September 2021. It was amazing to have Boys' Brigade operating within our own Church building again.

Due to the building work and the availability of leaders we had to make some changes. Our Cabin Boys group has been paused for now with the Anchor Boys welcoming P1 boys into their section.



Our Company Section is now meeting from 7:30pm to 9pm on Monday evenings instead of Tuesday evenings. While this sounds very simple and straightforward there was a lot of answered prayer to allow this to happen.

I am so grateful for every boy who turns up each week to make our Company what it is. I am also so thankful for the faithfulness of parents, grandparents and carers who bring their boys along each week.



We have an incredible team of Officers who sacrificially give up their time each week to lead these boys. With the changing culture in our world this is more important than ever, I want to thank each of them enormously for their commitment and consistency this year.







We do help with Anchor Boys (P1 to P4) from 6.30pm to 7.30pm each Tuesday night so if you feel you'd like to come along to help please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you (no previous experience is necessary!)

We have 7 boys who are in Upper 6<sup>th</sup> and are leaving the ranks this year. Josh, Paddy, Joel, Chris, Matthew, Daniel and Scott have been outstanding members of 1<sup>st</sup> Lisburn for many years and we wish them God's richest blessing for their futures.

We have 7 boys who have gained their Queen's Badge and 3 boys who have gained their President's Badge this year. A fantastic effort from all involved.

Each week when we meet we have great fun, enjoy games and activities and build relationships. We are also grounded in our mission to "Advance Christ's Kingdom among boys" in Lisburn and the surrounding areas.

The words of our great old hymn "Will your anchor hold" have helped us greatly in the past few years.

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul  
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll  
Fasten to The Rock, which cannot move  
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviours love*

We have had boys, Officers and parents go through personal loss and trials over recent times. I am so glad how our BB family and Church have responded through prayer and practical support.

We look forward to the day when we can all be inside Church again (and hopefully alongside our newly formed 375<sup>th</sup> Girls Brigade Company!) to sing these words and worship our King!

Thank you to our Chaplain, Joe and Adeline McKibben, the Elders and Committee and the members of Railway Street Presbyterian Church for your prayerful, practical and financial support. We value this greatly. Onwards.....

David Cleland, Captain, 1<sup>st</sup> Lisburn Boys' Brigade





### **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 us in this mission we are hosting a Fundraiser after church on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May**. Join us for soup and sandwiches when you can find out a bit more about the team, trip and the journey so far. We would love your support and hope to see you there.

**SCRIPTURE UNION E3 Quiz & Dessert Night on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 7-9pm** at the T3 Conference Centre @ House of VicRyn. All proceeds to the work of the E3 Antrim & Lisburn Schools' Project.



**On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 10:30am we will hold a special service of thanksgiving to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.**

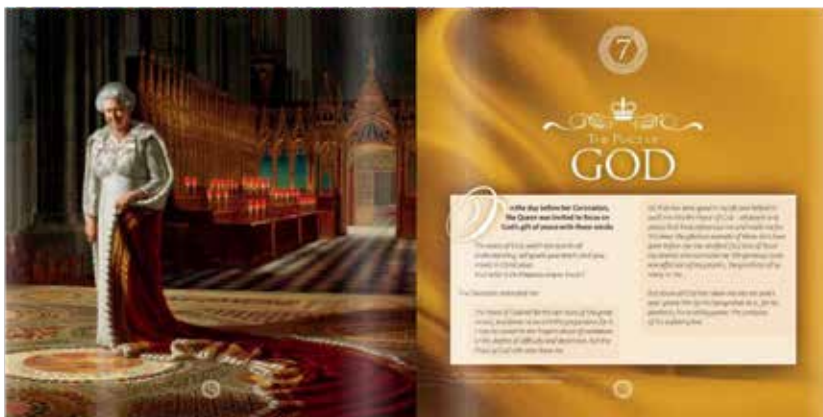
Alongside this HOPE UK has commissioned and produced a special book entitled– **'Our Faithful Queen.'**

Superbly produced and sensitively written, this 64-page gift book includes many rarely seen photographs from the Queen's early life through to the present day, as well as prayers from a book of devotions given to the Queen to use in the days leading up to her coronation. It provides a powerful witness to the Queen's enduring Christian faith.

This will be a wonderful memento of what will be a unique occasion and it is also a beautiful gift to give to someone else.

You can see this book in more detail here: [www.cpo.org.uk/our-faithful-queen](http://www.cpo.org.uk/our-faithful-queen)





Due to a special promotion we can offer this book at £1.50 instead of the RRP of £5.00. To order copies of this book contact the church office – 028 92602766. [office@railwaystreet.org](mailto:office@railwaystreet.org) or fill in the order form in the Meeting House on Sundays.

**Please note the last date for orders is 22<sup>nd</sup> May.**

## **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.



# PERCY'S

COFFEE



Those of you who regularly walk along the Lagan Twopath or visit Moira Demesne may already be familiar with Percy's Coffee.

In a new venture Percy's Coffee are opening an indoor venue right next door to us at 29 Raiway Street.

David Frazer the man behind Percy's Coffee is known to quite a number in Railway Street church having previously worked for Exodus and his daughter is a member of our new GB Company.

Percival officially opens on

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.**

Its opening hours will be:

**Monday: 8am-6pm**

**Tuesday - Friday 8am-9.30pm**

**Saturday: 9am-5pm**

David's hope is that this new space will help bring new life to this side of Lisburn and in a small way offer hope to those who come through its door. He is keen to partner with local churches in any way that he can. Let's give him every support and encouragement as he opens this new local business.



**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

**422**

4th Thursday of every month

**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