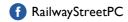


www.railwaystreet.org



September 2022



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Dear Friends,

"In March 2020 the tide suddenly went out on our church life, the freak storm of the pandemic crashed in. The impact of Lockdown left us with what felt like a barren shoreline where before had been a lively beach. For a long time, we felt our church life was confined to the harbour. We were unable to gather our crew members, set our sail and go out to sea to pursue our calling as fishers of men, women, boys, girls and young people.

Then as the tide of restrictions ebbed and flowed, we felt the hope in our hearts surge and fall. But in God's strength, the winds of His Spirit helped us ride out those difficult months.

Now the tide has turned. At first, we only perceived it from afar like a distant horizon. We could only begin to imagine what it would look like and feel like to see the water of life lapping up again around the ankles of the body of Christ.

Now we can feel the gentle breeze of a new season of church life blowing if we stand still in gratitude before our gracious Father, if we sit still to listen attentively at the feet of Christ, if we start to quicken our pace in step with the Spirit. Now is the time to be restoring, building again, to be gathering

together as God's living stones, to be revelling in what it is to be part of the people of God, to be digging fresh channels in which His new life can flow.

The tide has turned. Let us feel again the sun on our faces, catch the wind of the Spirit in this moment, face out to sea for we have lived landlocked long enough."

That is the dialogue from the PCI Video – 'The Turn of the Tide' which was shown in RSPC last Sunday. If you didn't see it you can watch it on our Facebook page or you can view it using this link: https://vimeo.com/738621050

This video ushered in a week of prayer across our denomination as we look forward to a new church year in September. It seems at last that the tide that has been out for a long time has turned and is beginning to lap up again on the shore of congregational possibilities.

This will be the first September in three years that we will be living without covid-related restrictions in our society and in our church life. The lifting of covid restrictions and the passing of the summer period, leave us contemplating what lies ahead, some of which will be a return to what we did before, some a reshaping of previous ministry, with some new activities under consideration.

In addition to the disruption of covid restrictions we have also lived with the unavoidable disruption caused by the demolition of the old Link and the building of the new Link beginning in August 2021.





But in a few weeks the builders' yard that has occupied half of our car park will be dismantled, the contractors will leave, and we will (d.v.) be left with wonderful new facilities that will greatly enhance our church's life and outreach.

This is an exciting time. We have waited a long time to reach this point. But happily, in God's will we are receiving these new facilities at a time when we will be able to use them fully.

Connected to this, the Kirk Session continue their process of putting together a new Mission Plan setting out where we believe God is calling us to go as a congregation over the next few years. That will set out the course we will be following as we seek to more effectively 'follow Christ and serve our community.' We hope that this will be ready to share with the congregation after half term.

While I am always slightly sad to see the end of the summer, one of the things I like about September is seeing our church building fill up again as members return home after the holidays. I do hope you will join us on this new journey as we seek to take advantage of the turning of the tide.

Yours In His service, Michael Davidson





Following Christ, Serving the Community

Services for September

4th September

10:30am - Back to School with God Rebekah Armstrong (Scripture Union Schools Worker)

11th September

10:30am - Daniel chapter 10 - 'Prepare for Battle'
Michael Davidson
6:30pm - Stephen Johnston

18th September

10:30am - Daniel chapter 11 - 'Wars & Rumours of Wars' Michael Davidson

25th September

10:30am - COMMUNION - Hebrews chapter 11 - 'The Life of Faith'
Charlie Hadjiev
6:30pm - 1 Timothy 1:1-11 - Michael Davidson

Watch online at www.railwaystreet.org

Telephone Line Service – 028 92448979

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

It is with sadness we record the deaths of Mr Alexander (Sandy) McCune on 15th July Mr David Thomas Patterson on 29th July Mr Thomas (Tom) John Scott on 30th July Mrs Mary Johnston on 1st August Miss Heather Rosemary Henderson on 7th August Mr William Stanley Patterson on 17th August.

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



BB is back! Registration nights

Company Section - Monday 5th September

from 7pm - 8:15pm

Anchor Boys and Junior Section - Tuesday 6th September

from 7pm - 8:15pm

Meeting Nights and Times

Company Section - Monday nights from 7:30pm - 9pm Junior Section - Tuesday nights 7:15pm - 8:30pm Anchor Boys - Tuesday nights 6:30pm - 7:30pm



PRAYER FOCUS

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

We thank God for the summer activities and the opportunity for rest and relaxation. Let us now come together to pray for guidance for this new church year. Let us seek God's will as we

look forward to the opening of our new Link facilities and the opportunities of reaching out to the local community. Please do join us for PRAYER FOCUS in No 31 on **Monday 19 September** from 8-9pm. We commit this time to God as we seek His will and follow His leading.





Registration for 2022-2023 in the church hall

Thursday 8th September

6 - 7pm Tiny Tots (aged 3 - P1)

Explorers (P2 - P4)

7.15 - 8pm Juniors (P5 - P7)

Seniors (Year 8-Year 10)

Brigaders (Year 11–Year 14)

Uniform samples can be tried and ordered on Thurs 8th Sept.

Please bring along any outgrown uniform items.

For further information, email gb@railwaystreet.org

After our Summer break, 422 hope to meet up again on **Thursday 22nd September at 2.30pm.** This will be our last meeting in T3 at
Vic-Ryn before moving back to our own Church premises. Daniel
Nelson will be our special guest and we will have time for a cup of tea and a chat.

Railway Street **PW** invites all ladies of the congregation to their opening meeting in the main hall on **Monday 26th September** 2022 at 8pm. The meeting is entitled "Food for Thought" — a brief look at what the Bible has to say about food and how we might use it to extend hospitality to others, with a few samples during the evening!

BIBLE DISCOVERY

Bible Discovery will restart on **Thursday 6 October** at 10.30am in No 31. These meetings will be on a fortnightly basis and open to everyone in the congregation. Details of what we hope to 'discover' will be available later in September but if you are interested to hear more, please speak to Heidi or Heather.



There will be a meeting of Helping Hands on **Thursday 6 October** at 2.30pm in No 31. Anyone interested is very welcome.



Link progress update

They say that a picture paints a thousand words, so hopefully with all the pictures that have been shown, either before Church each Sunday morning, or on the Church web page, you have all been kept up to date with progress.

The summer has not been without its challenges, as we have had to carry out some necessary work that we initially hadn't planned to do, but thankfully we have been able to offset the potential cost impacts of these, with better use of our assets by removing or reducing other activities that had initially been provisioned for in the contract. Our builder, and his sub-contractors, have also had to manage some challenges with parts supply and labour availability issues.



On the positive side, the scaffolding has now been taken down giving us all a better external view of the new link. The crane has been dismantled and removed. The kitchen, lift and external doors have all been installed; the hall has now been replastered and the first phase of electrical, plumbing and joinery have all largely been



completed. It is now hoped to complete the remaining work by the end of September or early October. The premises will then be handed over to us so we can install the new furniture and prepare to open and start to use our lovely new building.

At the beginning of the Summer, we began to draw on the loan facility provided by our Bank, and we are currently working on projections to determine what our overall borrowing amount will be. We are very grateful to you for your continued giving especially in these challenging financial times we are living in. Once the overall picture is clear we will share this with you but in the meantime, we appreciate your giving as this will mean that we minimise the amount we need to borrow.





Thank you to all for your continued support.



FOODSANK REFERRAL SYSTEM

We are so aware that the cost of living crisis is affecting more and more people and will continue to do so over the coming months.

We would encourage everyone to keep an eye on your friends, family, neighbours, work colleagues and anyone else within your life to ensure they are doing ok! We are here for anyone who may be struggling!

To access the foodbank a person needs to:

- Contact one of our referral agencies such as local community organisations, churches, council offices, housing officers, support workers or social workers. They will ask for some basic information in order to issue a food voucher.
- The person in need then can to bring their voucher to the foodbank during our opening hours and collect the food parcel.
- Our team will also speak with them to see if there is anything else that we can help with.

If you are a referral agency we would encourage you to use our online e-referral system to issue e-vouchers. This is a simple online system which you can access from anywhere, to issue an e-voucher.

If you are not yet registered as a referral agency and would like to be please get in touch with our office. 07756965868

If you are a current referral agency and you are not yet registered for our online e-referral system please get in touch with the office to register for this system.

Or if you have any new members of staff who would like to register for this system please email through their details. team@lisburnfoodbank.org

How to Support

- Leave a donation at our permanent collection point in Tesco or Sainsburys or in the baskets in Railway Street Presbyterian Church.
- Volunteering please pop us an email/phone call to hear about upcoming opportunities.
- Share our social media posts this helps to raise awareness.

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- UHT MILK
- TINNED SWEETCORN
- COFFEE
- NOODLES
- MICROWAVE RICE
- KIDS SNACKS
- MEN'S & WOMEN'S DEODRANTS
- TOOTHPASTE



Estimates say <u>6.2 million people</u> – one in three UK households – will be severely affected by fuel poverty this winter.

Given the potential impact on the physical and mental health of our communities, 'warm-banks' – heated spaces such community centres, church buildings, homes, or offices – have been suggested as places to defrost. But in times like this, there's a tendency to focus on the need alone. In Jesus' encounters with others – facing ever-present need – he offered something more transformative that saw beyond the immediate crisis. In his healings, we see both the relief of distress, and the offer of restoration into community (Luke 8:43-48, for example).

Now is no different; there's a need both for relief of suffering and deep connection. Might this looming catastrophe call for the creation of genuine relationships that spark transformation, too?

Issues like fuel poverty are likely here to stay, so instead of seeing them as short-term crises, sustainable, co-ordinated responses are required. Over the last few years, many have found resonance in approaches which focus not on people's deficits or needs, but on the strengths they can offer. This sort of <u>community development</u> honours the contribution of each person, fostering real connection in isolating times. It reminds us of the power we might hold, and the importance of seeing the potential in others. For example, many of those on the estate where I live have little relative

wealth, but set the bar as exemplary neighbours, in service to their community. When we define by need alone, we miss people's gifts. Though we all want to be problem-solvers, no-one likes feeling like a problem to be fixed. On our frontlines, in our homes and workplaces, how might we foster spaces of participation, allowing everyone to contribute? This might mean intentional involvement in civic and community spaces or friendship circles, looking to uncover gifts already present.

Where we're already part of community responses to poverty, we might choose to ask, 'where does the power lie?' In our humanity, each one of us is a complex blend of intertwined needs and gifts.

Building community means developing strong relationships and a shared vision to co-create a different kind of space. This approach is costly in terms of time and effort, but it often leads to richer relationships and transformation.

If we do this well, we show that our spaces are good for both givers and receivers. In doing so, we reflect the grace and truth that God offers everyone.

Corin Pilling
Sanctuary Mental Health Ministries, UK Director

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.

BOYS' BRIGADE - (Sept to April)
Monday - Company Section 7.30-9.00pm
Tuesday - Anchor Section 6.30-7.30pm &
Junior Section 7.00-8.15pm

GIRLS' BRIGADE (Sept to April)

Thursdays

Tiny Tots & Explorers - 6.00-7.00pm
Juniors, Seniors & Brigaders - 7.30-9.00pm

PRAYER FOCUS

3rd Monday of each Month 8.00-9.00pm

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (Sept - June)
Fourth Monday of each month
Main Hall at 8.00pm

422 (Sept - June) 4th Thursday of each month

BIBLE DISCOVERY GROUP
Commencing Thursday 6th October at 10.30am