

July/August 2024

# THE bulletin



“He leads me beside  
still waters. He  
restores my soul”  
Psalms 23:2,3

Photo by Florian van Schreven on Unsplash

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# EXERCISE YOUR VOTE

Dear friends,

It will hardly have escaped your attention that there is a General Election happening soon. Maybe you cannot muster anything like the enthusiasm for this that my former colleague and current

presenter of BBC Radio Ulster Talkback Willam Crawley has. He is positively giddy with excitement! I suspect most of you, like me, are not.

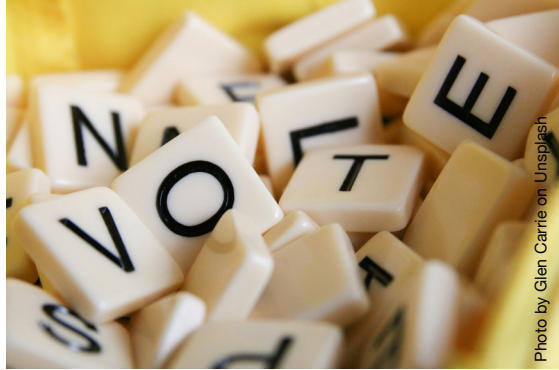


Photo by Glen Carrie on Unsplash

Every fresh election shows an increasing disengagement between the electorate and the political process in our nation. That should trouble us. The reality is as fictional US President Josiah Bartlett said in the West Wing – “Decisions are taken by those who turn up.” If we don’t turn up or turn out to vote then we cannot complain about the result and if Christians disengage with the democratic process then our nation ends up with the politicians we deserve.

Whilst it is certainly not my place to tell you how to vote I do want to encourage you to ensure that you play your part in the democratic process because that is part of our calling both as citizens and as Christians. We have a biblical mandate to continue to engage with politics by not only exercising our right to vote but using it in a considered and wise way. Yes politics in a broken world can be deeply discouraging at times, but I still believe that voting matters.

Let me share ten reasons why we should get out and vote. In sharing these I want to acknowledge CARE's excellent General Election resources for providing them. You can access their resources here: [Home - engaGE24 | A project of CARE.](#)

**1. Christians believe that mankind has been created to rule the earth and subdue it. Government is a means by which we steward God's creation.**

“God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.’” (Genesis 1:28)

**2. When Jesus was asked what the most important commandment was, he said to love God and to love your neighbour. Voting is one way we can work on behalf of those around us.**

“One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, ‘Of all the commandments, which is the most important?’

‘The most important one,’ answered Jesus, ‘is this: “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” The second is this: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” There is no commandment greater than these.’ (Mark 12:28–34)

**3. Even though we may feel like exiles in conflict with the world today, God wants his people to seek the peace and prosperity of our nation.**

“Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” (Jeremiah 29:7)

#### 4. Christians have a special calling to speak up on behalf of the voiceless and the most vulnerable.

‘Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. (Proverbs 31:8–9)

#### 5. We believe that God has revealed to us his good law which helps humans to flourish, and we want to see it reflected in the laws our governments pass.

‘The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul.  
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.  
The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.  
The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.  
The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring for ever.  
The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.  
They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;  
they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.  
(Psalm 19:7-10)

#### 6. God calls us to submit to the governing authorities who we elect through our votes.

‘Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended ... for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: if you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour. (Romans 13:1-7)

7. The Bible tells us about occasions where leaders have led their people astray; the politicians we elect will shape our nation, and can lead people closer to or away from God.

‘Those who guide this people mislead them, and those who are guided are led astray.’ (Isaiah 9:16)

8. Jesus says that we should steward the gifts which God gives us. Many people in history have not had the gift of a voice in a fair, democratic election like we do.

(The Parable of the Talents – Matthew 25:14-30)

9. God will hold us accountable for the actions we do not take, just as He will for those we do take. Not voting is not a neutral act: we are still influencing the outcome, just as if we do vote.

‘If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.’ (James 4:17)

10. The Bible shows us that we are to care for our political leaders and to pray for them, so that we might live a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is to be our aspiration for the politicians we elect.

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”  
(1 Timothy 2:1-2)



By the time we come to the next bulletin in September we will have a new government and let us remember our Christian responsibility does not end with exercising our vote. We must also commit to praying for our government and our politicians.

General Election aside I do hope that the summer also provides an opportunity for you and your loved ones to enjoy rest and refreshment.

Yours in His service,

Michael Davidson

## Pastoral Team Holidays

**Michael:**

**1st - 15th July**

**Sabbatical: 26th August  
- 30th September**

If you need the services of a minister while Michael is away please contact Stephen Johnston.

**Hannah:**

**12th - 30th August**

**Heidi:**

**5th - 23rd August**

Please remember that Heidi only works Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.



Photo by Heather McKean on Unsplash

## Bereavements

It is with sadness that we record the deaths of:

Mrs Mabel Callaghan died 6th May 2024

Mrs Irene Anderson died 21st May 2024

Mrs June Wightman died 1st June 2024

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

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.” Psalms 116:15

## Prayer Focus

Luke 11:1 “Lord, teach us to pray.”

Another school year comes to an end and we all look forward to many sunny days ahead! If you are at home on one or both days indicated below please think of joining the Prayer Focus prayer time. God’s work never ends, so let’s be part of it!

**Monday 15th July &  
Monday 19th August  
from 8.00-9.00pm  
in The Link**

# SERVICES FOR JULY

Stories of the Kingdom – The Parables of Jesus

## 7th July

10:30am 'The Parable of the Lost Sheep' Luke 15:1-7  
Peter Todd (Legacurry Presbyterian Church)

## 14th July

10:30am 'The Parable of the Sower' Mark 4:1-20  
Andrew Frazer (Assistant Minister, St Andrews  
Presbyterian Church Belfast)

## 21st July

10:30am 'The Parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl'  
Mathew 13:44-46 Michael Davidson

7:00pm Sunday Evening Praise in the Link

## 28th July

10:30am 'The Parable of the Net' Matthew 13:47-52  
Michael Davidson



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



Telephone Line Service  
028 9244 8979

# SERVICES FOR AUGUST

Stories of the Kingdom – The Parables of Jesus

## 4th August

10:30am 'The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard'  
Matthew 20:1-16 Michael Davidson

## 11th August

10:30am 'The Parable of the Two Sons' Matthew 21:28-32  
Michael Davidson

## 18th August

10:30am 'The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant'  
Matthew 18:23-35 Diarmid Finnegan

7:00pm Sunday Evening Praise in the Link

## 25th August

10:30am 'The Parable of the Tenants' Matthew 21:33-46  
Michael Davidson

## 1st September

10:30am Rev Leslie Addis

6:30pm Evening Services resume



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



Telephone Line Service  
028 9244 8979

## Sunday Evening Praise

Ephesians 5:19 encourages us to 'sing and make music from your heart to the Lord'. In doing so, we are told to use 'psalms, hymns and spiritual songs'.

Over the summer months, we will have two opportunities to do just that as we meet for

**Sunday Evening Praise**  
on **21 July and 18 August**  
at **7pm in The Link**

(Please note the time)

Tea and coffee will be served afterwards and friends are welcome.

Let's join together to 'worship the Lord with gladness' as we 'come before Him with joyful songs' (Psalm 100).



## PW First meeting of a new session

23rd September 2024 @ 8pm

Our theme for this year is 'ENTRUSTED'



Guest Speaker is Rosie Kennedy 'Trusting God with our plans'

All ladies of the congregation are very welcome to join us.

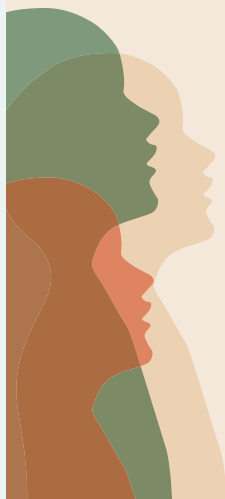
## A SPECIAL MEETING in addition to our normal Monday meeting

Monday 30th September 2024 @10:30 am in The Link

We are delighted to have a visit from Diane Cusick – Mission Worker in Zambia.

ALL MEMBERS of the congregation are welcome at this event.  
Coffee and scones will be served.

SAVE THE DATE



## THE POLICE MALE VOICE CHOIR

Concert in Railway Street  
Presbyterian Church, Lisburn

FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER 2024  
7:30PM

Proceeds in aid of PW Mission Projects  
and the Church Link Project

SUGGESTED DONATION: £15  
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS SERVED



G24.RAILWAYSTREET.ORG



Ganaway is happening from 13th - 18th July. We are excited to have 30 young people and 25 leaders heading away for 6 days of fun and hearing from God's Word. This year, we will be enjoying the book of Exodus with our speaker Jordan Jones (Assistant at Craigavon Presbyterian).

Please pray for:

- Jordan as he teaches from God's Word. Please pray that he speaks faithfully and clearly, and that God will use what he delivers to work in the hearts of the young people
- For the leaders to draw alongside young people well and have energy for the week
- The cooks as they work hard to prepare meals
- For the young people to have lots of fun and either come to know Jesus as their Saviour and Lord, or be built up in their faith with a renewed love for Jesus.

# Railway Street & Sloan Street Exodus Team



Andrew Johnston writes:

Team 31 will be travelling to Romania from 2nd-12th of July. For the first 3 days they will be at the Exodus Centre in Sutor. Here they will be involved in a launch where they will do Bush Camp (a poverty simulation) and undergo training to prepare them for placement. The team will then go to the village of Chet (pronounced Kates) to serve with the local Hungarian Reformed Church.

In the mornings they will be running a kids club for approximately 50 Roma children followed by either home visits with the elderly, practical work or running a program with the local youth. The team will also be involved in the service on Sunday morning leading praise, sharing testimonies and giving a short message.

The team would appreciate prayer for the following:

- That God would equip and strengthen them to share His gospel in the community in Chet
- That the team would travel safely and communicate effectively despite the language barrier
- That the team would embrace this opportunity and grow in their personal faith.

I'd also like to thank everyone for their generous donations that continue to make mission trips like this possible.





## Girls' Brigade

We are looking forward to seeing all our current members again, and to welcoming new members too!

### **Thursday 29th August**

Registration evening & opportunity to order uniform items

#### **6-7pm**

Tiny Tots & Explorers

Princess Party - girls can come in their princess dresses

Fun and activities for the girls while parents complete registration forms

#### **7.30-8.30pm**

Juniors, Seniors & Brigaders

Thursday 5th September will be our first normal evening

**6-7pm** Tiny Tots & Brigaders

**7.30-9pm** Juniors, Seniors & Brigaders



## Dr Charlie Hadjiev is one of our elders at Railway Street who also assists with preaching

He writes about his first year at his new job at St Padarn's Institute in Wales.

Last summer I took on a job at St Padarn's Institute, Cardiff as Director of their MA in Theology, Ministry and Mission. St Padarn's is the Anglican training college of the Church in Wales; their MA is part of Common Awards, validated by the University of Durham.



Tsveta and I visiting St Padarn's last year

Living in Northern Ireland whilst working in Wales has been a challenge both for me personally and for us as a family. On the other hand, I have really enjoyed my new job. The Church in Wales is a diverse institution with a strong commitment to mission and a desire to see the people of Wales re-engage with the Gospel. The staff team at the College are fantastic and the students on my MA course are all actively engaged in ministry and mission. Most of them are ordinands or priests in the Anglican Church but some are from other denominations and theological traditions.

Another exciting development: from last December, together with a colleague of mine who is a New Testament scholar, I started a new biblical studies podcast called Horizons of Scripture. The podcast is meant to serve as a resource to the wider church and is aimed at people who have an interest in the Bible and want to go into greater depth. It is available on all platforms (Apple podcasts, Spotify, Amazon etc.) as well as on the Youtube channel of St Padarn's Institute. We post new episodes monthly (although taking a short break over the summer) and if you want to listen to it and share it more widely with others, that would be fantastic.

Charlie Hadjiev

# KESWICK at PORTSTEWART 6th -12th July



KESWICK AT  
PORTSTEWART

# STRENGTH

IN WEAKNESS

6-12 JULY 2024

[keswickatportstewart.org](http://keswickatportstewart.org)



Simon Genoe



David Cassidy



John Risbridger

Join us this summer for seven days of Spirit-empowered teaching and worshipping together, as we seek to become more like God's Son and serve in God's mission.

Hearing God's Word | Becoming like God's Son  
Serving God's Mission

2024 Convention — Keswick at Portstewart

# NEW HORIZON at COLERAINE 3rd - 9th August

NH newhorizon

# EXTRA ORDINARY

TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY

03-09 AUGUST 2024



PETER J WILLIAMS  
Bible Teaching  
Monday to Friday  
at 10am



LAURA BELL  
Evening Celebrations  
at 7.30pm



JOHN GRAHAM  
Evening Celebrations  
at 7.30pm

The Event 2024 - New Horizon

# The Link Journey

Ivan Woods - Railway Street's Project Manager for the Link Redevelopment reports:

I'm sure that you will all be pleased to hear that we have now come to the end of the settling in period in the new Link and that all the snags identified have been addressed.

We held our final sign off meeting with Judith Hamilton on the 7th June.



This will now begin the process of the final completion paperwork which will trigger the final invoices and payments. Discussions indicate that this final invoice amount will be slightly under the original tender sum.

This is a marvellous result when we take into consideration all the challenges that we had to address and the additional work that the contractor undertook.

Our journey first began when a Link Development Team was set up in April 2016. Numerous discussions and meetings followed to define the requirements and establish the cost estimates. Initial plans were drawn up and given Congregational and Dromore Presbytery approval at the end of 2018.

In early 2019 the first Gift Day was held, also discussions were held with the bank to ensure that we had sufficient funds and loan provisions to proceed.

The planning application was prepared and submitted during June 2019.



This approval process took a year, as approval was only granted in June 2020. This approval was granted with conditions but it also came during Covid restrictions. In September 2020 as Covid restrictions started to lift a meeting was held with our

architect Judith Hamilton to discuss and plan the way forward.

During the period from October to December 2020 we identified within our congregation some talented individuals and established some small teams to deal with specific issues relating to the redevelopment such as audio/visual and IT requirements, decor and furnishings and kitchen design.

This was in order to ensure that we were planning a building for the future, that we could all be proud of, while still managing and maintaining control of the costs. Various engineering and consulting teams were also engaged during this period, as well as the drawing packages being prepared and agreed.

In early 2021 the Bill of Quantities was developed, also a list of suitable contractors was drawn up. By April 2021 we were in a position to go out to tender. The tenders were returned in May and the tender submitted by Lowry Construction, which was the lowest, was selected.

This was then discussed and approved at a Congregational Committee meeting at the end of May 2021.

During May and June a church team cleared out everything from the old Link with some interesting discussions about what needed to be stored or disposed of!

In August a Lowry's team with their equipment arrived on site. From August until the end of the year this team stripped out and demolished the old building. This was not an easy task, as heritage requirements contained within our planning approval meant that we had to prop up and retain an existing wall, further complicated by the poor ground conditions which were identified during the ground survey making it necessary to have piling carried out in the area prior to the foundations being laid.

As we entered 2022 things started to get exciting, as we started to see the steelwork and then the block work rising. Then the roof went up and the glass was installed. Finally the internal structure including the stairs and the lift were completed. Our grand new building was coming together along with a new kitchen, coffee dock and modern new furnishings.

After 14 site meetings and numerous engineering, technical and all sorts of meetings, site visits, conference and Zoom calls, the construction work was finally completed and the building was handed over to us on 19th October 2022.

It was at this point that as a congregation we began to use our lovely new premises and entered into a settling in period where we could identify and address any problems or concerns.

This was a complicated project with numerous challenges, involving a lot of people, but everyone worked together very well together to sort out and address problems as they arose.

I would like to thank everyone for their patience, help and support over this period as we worked through this project.



# What's happening?

## SUNDAYS AT RAILWAY STREET

MORNING SERVICE 10.30am

BEGINNERS CHURCH - No. 31

KIDS CHURCH - Upper Room

YOUTH CHURCH - Minor Hall

Service will be live streamed

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## BOYS' BRIGADE (Sept to April)

Monday - Company Section 7.30pm-9.00pm

Tuesday - Anchor Boy Section 6.30pm-7.30pm &  
Junior Section 7.00pm-8.15pm

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## GIRLS' BRIGADE (Sept to April)

Thursdays

Tiny Tots & Explorers - 6.00pm-7.00pm

Juniors, Seniors & Brigaders - 7.30pm-9.00pm

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## PRAYER FOCUS

3rd Monday of each month 8.00pm-9.00pm

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## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (Sept - June)

4th Monday of each month

Main Hall at 8.00pm

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## 422 (Sept - June)

4th Thursday of each month at 2.30pm

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## BIBLE DISCOVERY (Sept - April)

1st & 3rd Thursday of each month at 10.45am