

March - April 2026

THE bulletin

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die’”

John 11:25-26

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The Cross in Four Words

I remember being told about an overheard exchange between a customer and a sales girl in a jeweller's shop. The woman was looking to buy a cross and the sales girl was heard to say, "Do you want the plain one or the one with the wee man on it?" This short encounter says quite a lot about the society we live in. Maybe it was the case that the salesgirl was embarrassed to talk about Jesus or it seems more likely she genuinely didn't know that



Photo by Jon Tyson on Unsplash

the figure on the cross was Jesus. In which case it demonstrates the level of ignorance among many today of even the basics of the gospel message.

The cross is at the centre of the Christian message. The preaching and ministry of the early Christians were dominated by one theme: "Christ crucified". But proclaiming "Christ crucified" in the first century sounded absurd. "Christ" means "anointed one" and refers to God's chosen Saviour King, promised long ago by his Old Testament prophets, and expected to arrive with irresistible power and glory. But "crucified" refers to the Roman punishment of criminals by crucifixion—designed to be the most hideously cruel and obscenely humiliating death imaginable. To proclaim "Christ

crucified” sounded ridiculous - like advertising “dry water”.

In fact, the apostle Paul himself describes this message as a “stumbling-block” (something disgusting) to those from his own Jewish background and “foolishness” (something insane) to those from other nations: **“Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”** (1 Corinthians 1 v 22-24)

The message of Christ crucified remains a stumbling-block and foolishness in the world around us today. For example, the brilliant but atheistic Oxford biologist, Richard Dawkins, writes about Jesus’ death in his bestselling book, *The God Delusion*, in these scornful terms: “I have described atonement, the central doctrine of Christianity, as vicious, sadomasochistic and repellent. We should also dismiss it as barking mad.” (page 253)

He hasn’t realised that the cross isn’t about God being horribly “sadomasochistic”—inviting pain because he likes it—but wonderfully self-sacrificial for others. He hasn’t realised that the cross is not revealing God as “barking mad” but as passionately loving.

Christ crucified will always be a stumbling-block and foolishness to many—perhaps offensive and ridiculous to some of our family, or pathetic and stupid to some of our friends. And yet Christ crucified is what they need to hear about more than anything else. Because Paul goes on to explain that God has deliberately chosen the crucifixion of Christ as the means of our salvation.

Even for those of us who are Christians sometimes we think we are so familiar with the cross that it loses its impact on us. We forget that Jesus’ death on the cross and his resurrection are the most

important events in human history and our lives. The cross is the fulfilment of God's salvation plan, promised from the dawn of time. It is central to the Bible, central to our faith, and central to the meaning and purpose of our lives.

During our Easter services from 1st-5th April we will look to sum up the victory of the cross in four words: **freedom, forgiveness, justice, and purpose.**

These are things we long for in our lives and in the world and the Good News is that the cross delivers them.

More details about our Easter Services can be found later in this bulletin. I would encourage you to make it a priority to come and join us and to invite others to come along. The message of the cross is the most important message that we can ever hear.

As the Apostle Paul says, **“Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved ... For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”** (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

Yours in His service
Michael Davidson



Photo by Anuja Tijl on Unsplash

Marriages

22nd December 2025:
Andrew Barron & Lauren
Ravey



Baptisms

4th January 2026: Martha
Elizabeth Sands, daughter of
Peter & Emily Sands



Bereavements

It is with sadness that we record the deaths of:

James Alexander (**Jim**) McKinley, died 26th November 2025

Sylvia Cochrane, died 29th December 2025

Myrtle Rogan, died 2nd January 2026

John Robinson, died 27th January 2026

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

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

SUNDAYS IN MARCH

The Word Made Flesh – Studies in John’s Gospel

1st March

10:30am PW Service – ‘God Ever Present’
Speaker: Rev Leslie Addis

6:30pm 1 Kings 19:1-9 ‘Running on Empty’ Michael Davidson

8th March

10:30am John 6:48-59 ‘Flesh & Blood’ Michael Davidson

15th March

10:30am John 7:1-13 ‘Before the Feast: Disbelief’
Michael Davidson

22nd March

10:30am John 7:14-24 ‘In the Midst of the Feast: Debate’
Michael Davidson

29th March

10:30am John 7:25-52 ‘The End of the Feast: Division’
Michael Davidson



Watch online at
www.railwaystreet.org



Telephone Line Service
028 9244 8979

EASTER SERVICES

Wednesday 1st April - 7.30pm 'The Cross in Four Words: Freedom'
Speaker: Alex Richardson

Thursday 2nd April - 7.30pm 'The Cross in Four Words:
Forgiveness' Speaker: Johnny Boyd

Friday 3rd April - 7.30pm 'The Cross in Four Words: Justice'
GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNION Speaker: Michael Davidson

Easter Sunday

6.30am Dawn Service at Wallace Park Bandstand (followed by
breakfast in The Link)

10:30am Easter Sunday Family Service 'The Cross in Four Words:
Purpose' Speaker: Michael Davidson

SUNDAYS IN APRIL

The Word Made Flesh – Studies in John's Gospel

12th April

10:30am John 8:1-11 'The Woman Caught in Adultery'
Peter Todd

19th April

10:30am John 8:12-30 'I Am the Light of the World'
Michael Davidson

26th April

10:30am John 8:31-47 'Father Abraham Had Many Sons'
Michael Davidson



Watch online at
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Sunday programme for children and youth

Here is what's coming up in our Sunday programme for children and youth. Please join us in praying that our children and young people would see Jesus in all of Scripture, be captivated by the beauty and grace of the Lord and grow in their desire to honour Him with their lives.

Date	Beginners	Kids	Junior Youth	Senior Youth
1/3/26	Feeding the Five Thousand John 6:1-15, 25-59		Judges 10:6-12:15	
8/3/26	Walking on Water John 6:16-24		Judges 13-15:20	
15/3/26	Blind belief John 9:1-41		Judges 16	
22/3/26	Life for Lazrus John 11:1-53		Judges 17:1-18:31	
29/3/26	The Triumpal Entry Luke 19:28-40		Judges 19:1-21:25	

EASTER HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

EVIDENCE

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

OPERATION: WHO IS JESUS?

UNCOVER THE TRUTH. DISCOVER THE I AM.

31ST MAR -
3RD APRIL 2026
10AM-12:30PM

RAILWAY STREET
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

FOR CHILDREN
P2 - P7

AGENTS,
ARE YOU READY TO CRACK THE CASE?

JOIN US FOR OPERATION: WHO IS JESUS? AND
EXAMINE THE EVIDENCE FOR YOURSELF.
PLAY GAMES, MAKE CRAFTS, AND HEAR TRUE
BIBLE STORIES AS YOU FOLLOW THE CLUES AND
UNCOVER THE I AM.

**SCAN HERE TO
REGISTER
YOUR CHILD**

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/a/Hv2M4emL5A>

For any questions or more information contact Hannah
hannah@railwaystreet.org
0767516472

Prayer Focus

Luke 11:1 “Lord, teach us to pray.”

Spring is on its way and already the spring flowers are showing their heads and there is a noticeable stretch in the evenings. God promised the seasons and we thank him for the way in which He provides for us.

We read in the Bible how Jesus taught his disciples to pray. We are invited to come to God, through Jesus, to bring our prayers to God.

We are so fortunate to have the freedom to meet together to pray and so this invitation is sent to everyone in our church family to join us.

We meet from 8-9 pm in the Upper Room on Monday 16th March and Monday 20th April

Bible Discovery

Bible Discovery meets in No 31. Coffee from 10.30am. Bible Study 10.45am.

Studies for March and April on Thursdays 5th and 19th March and 16th and 30th April

This is a group open to everyone, regardless of age or Christian commitment. If you are interested to discover more about the Bible, you will be most welcome.

Discipleship Groups

If you are not yet part of a Discipleship Group and would like to be, or would like some information, please speak to one of our Group Leaders Janet Ferguson, Diarmid Finnegan, Jean Murray and Alan Wall or to our Session Clerk, Stephen Johnston and they will be able to help you.

Mums' Bible Study for mums at any stage meets during school term time on Friday mornings 10am-11.30am in The Link.

For more information contact:
Hannah Craig 07875 161472



Belfast City Mission's Christmas Gift Appeal for Children and Teenagers 2025

It is a pleasure to report that, once again, there was an excellent response by our congregation to this annual appeal for gifts for needy young people. The contributions received were as follows:

- **Selection Boxes - 62**
- **Gift Cards/Vouchers from Toy Stores - 22**
- **Tins and Packets of Sweets - 26**
- **Monetary Donations, including Gift Aid - £1025**



On behalf of the Governing Body of the City Mission, I wish to express sincere gratitude and appreciation to those members of our congregation who contributed with generosity to this appeal. *Roger Thompson (Vice President and Treasurer)*

PW meetings 2026



Monday 23rd March at 8pm

Friendship House - Robert Dalzell

“A place for people to come and feel loved and to feel warm and welcome”.

Monday 27th April at 8pm

Dr Rebecca Stevenson - PCI's Public Affairs Officer

“Policy will not change a person's heart but the Gospel can and there is a challenge here for Church Leaders and Christians alike”.

Sunday 1st March - PW Service

Speaker Rev. Leslie Addis 'God ever present'

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ALL WELCOME

26th March - **“The Stranger in the City”**

Colin Dickson from the International Meeting Point

23rd April - **“Flying for Life”**

Robert Colvin from the Mission Aviation Fellowship

All meetings are held at 2.30 pm in the Minor Hall and followed by refreshments in the Link



BBNI Masterteam Final

The final of the BBNI Masterteam took part at Newport on Saturday 17th January.

After a tough and hard fought quiz the



winner were 1st Granhsaw. Our

own 1st Lisburn team were deserved runners up and so for the third year in a row they qualify for the UK final which will take place at Newport on Saturday 14th March. Very well done to Ross, Stephen Caleb and Jonathan.



Legacy Night - Monday 16th March at 7:15pm

Company Section & P7 boys along with their Dads

We will be partnering with the Exodus Legacy Team and hosting an evening at Railway Street.

Who's invited? - all Company Section and P7 boys along

with their dads, or a father figure - this can be a grandad, uncle, brother or cousin.

It will be an evening of conversation, challenge and competition. We will be thinking about what our lives are all about and who is running alongside us.



BB Awards Night

Saturday 11th April

4:30pm to 6:30pm



We plan to run our Awards Night on Saturday 11th April from 4.30pm - 6.30pm in our Church, Link and Minor Hall.

This will be a very similar evening to the one we held last year.

All boys and families are invited to attend.

Railway Street 5th Annual GB Display

Thursday 26th March 2026

6.30pm in the Main Hall

More information to follow to GB families. If any church member would like to attend, please contact Hilary Milligan (07899 896879) re tickets.



Finance update March 2026



The final Accounts for the 2025 year were presented to the Church Committee in mid-February and will be forwarded to the Charities Commission and for Independent Accountant's review in line with legislation. Overall, our finances are improving, but we continue to manage a small deficit in the main account whilst the property account is now in a much healthier position.

In Summary;

The Property account is in a healthier position after clearing all monies which were due to the contractor at the start of 2025. The year-end balance of £27,464 ensures repayments to the Loan can continue to be met whilst also allowing building and property running costs to be met from this fund.

Balance on the Loan account was £554,370 at the year end, with monthly repayments now just under £6,000 as the Bank Base Rate slowly reduces.

On the main No1 Account, Free Will Offering shows signs of growth particularly towards the end of the financial year (and into 2026), although inflationary pressures on our running costs and, in particular, energy costs, meant our expenditure was still £8,247 greater than our income for 2025. The overdraft facility remains in place although the year end bank balance was a mere £198 in the red when the books were closed off. Similarly to this time last year, I am forecasting a budget deficit for the incoming year of £10,000 on our main account and will obviously need careful monitoring in the incoming months.

Finally, on a positive note our contribution to United Appeal of £13,993 easily met the target of £12,975 and I would anticipate the 2026 target of £13,375 would again be surpassed.

Many Thanks
Gordon Wallace
RSPC Treasurer

29.01.2026



Behaving like Beckhams

For full article by Jo Trickey, Church Advocate, LICC visit <https://licc.org.uk/resources/behaving-like-beckhams/>

Scandalous family rifts seem to hit the news with uncomfortable regularity. Take last week's explosive revelation about the Beckham family, or Philip Yancey's recent disclosure of an eight-year affair. Both show how public image does not fully account for the broken reality of family life.

We know humans are fallible, so it shouldn't surprise us. Yet these sustained patterns of brokenness and deception often shock us when they come to light.

But here's what doesn't make headlines: the millions of ordinary couples choosing faithfulness. The quiet, daily decisions to honour commitments when no-one's watching.

In our churches, this looks like leadership teams that ask each other hard questions and walk hard roads with each other. Small groups where vulnerability isn't performed but practiced. Marriages where couples talk about their struggles before they become crises. Cultures where seeking help is a sign of wisdom, not weakness.

The Beckham drama will fade from the news cycle. Philip Yancey will be forgotten. Other scandals will replace them. We followers of Jesus will continue to seek to minister truth and love through the pastoral conversations, accountability relationships, marriage courses, honest friendships, love poured out in the face of failure. Not perfect communities, but truthful ones.

What's happening?

SUNDAYS AT RAILWAY STREET

MORNING SERVICE 10.30am (live streamed)

BEGINNERS - No. 31

KIDS - Upper Room

JUNIOR YOUTH - Minor Hall

EVENING SERVICE 6.30pm (1st Sunday of the month)

SENIOR YOUTH - Upper Room, 6.30pm-8.30pm

BOYS' BRIGADE (Sept to April)

Monday - Company Section 7.30pm-9pm

Tuesday - Anchor Boy Section 6.30pm-7.30pm &

Junior Section 7.15pm-8.30pm

GIRLS' BRIGADE (Sept to April)

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

Juniors, Seniors & Brigaders - 7.30pm-9pm

PRAYER FOCUS

3rd Monday of each month 8pm-9pm in the Upper Room

BIBLE DISCOVERY (Sept - April)

1st & 3rd Thursday each month at 10.45am - No.31

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS (Sept - June)

Tues & Wed fortnightly 8pm-9.30pm in various homes

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (Sept - June)

4th Monday of each month at 8pm - Minor Hall

422 (Sept - June)

4th Thursday of each month at 2.30pm - Minor Hall

THE LINK UP

Every Wednesday 10am-12noon in the Link