

May - June 2025

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.”

Matthew 11:28

Photo by Rob Wicks on Unsplash



bulletin

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The Lord Who Moves Hearts

I returned home last Sunday after a week's holiday following the long and busy term of church life from January to Easter. It is good to get away for those times of rest and refreshment but it also good to come home again. However



once you are home you immediately start to notice the tasks that need attended to especially in the garden at this time of year. In particular the grass has grown so rapidly that 'Honey' our cocker spaniel is in danger of getting lost in it. Cutting the grass will be my task this evening. Yesterday Linda spent the morning cleaning the patio.

During my time off I was reading the Old Testament book of Ezra. It tells the story of God's people going home after 70 years of exile in Babylon. In it we see the actions of the sovereign God doing what He had promised to do once His judgement had passed – to restore his people to their home in Jerusalem. This involved God doing what Ezra chapter 1 describes twice as the LORD moving people's hearts.

The first heart He moved was the heart of Cyrus the king of the Persian Empire, which had done to Babylon what Babylon had done to Jerusalem. Cyrus was no believer in the God of Israel but the LORD moved his heart so that God's purposes for the restoration of His people would be achieved and so we read, 'In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfil the word of

the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing:

“This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: “‘The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them. And in any locality where survivors may now be living, the people are to provide them with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem.’”

The exiles were given both a royal blessing and the practical provision to return home to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple of the LORD which the Babylonians had destroyed.

Having moved the heart of the king God then moved the hearts of His people – “Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites—everyone whose heart God had moved—prepared to go up and build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem.”

For most of them Babylon was the only home they had ever known. Many of them had been born there and they had prospered there. They had never seen Jerusalem – only heard the stories that their parents had told them. Those whose hearts were moved to return were making a costly sacrifice leaving a prosperous life in Babylon for an uncertain future in the ruins of Jerusalem.

God caused others who were not prepared to return home to give generously to support the work of those who were. “All their neighbours assisted them with articles of silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with valuable gifts, in addition to all the freewill offerings.”

There was generous and sacrificial giving to help see that the vision of rebuilding the temple would succeed. The book of Ezra shows how despite difficulties and opposition the temple was at last rebuilt.

Several years ago I believe the Lord moved the hearts of the church leadership in RSPC to redevelop the Link and renovate the Minor Hall. That vision was endorsed by a meeting of the congregation.



Then God also moved the hearts of many in RSPC to give generously and sacrificially, like the exiles in Ezra's day, to make that vision a reality. That generosity

has continued to be shown throughout the whole process so that we have now paid more than half of the total cost of the Link Project.

In November 2022 the new Link and renovated Minor Hall was officially reopened after a service of thanksgiving by the Moderator of the General Assembly.

Since then I believe the Lord has continued to bless this step of faith. Our new facilities are being used for ministry and mission by our organisations throughout the week but they are also being used by other groups within PCI and beyond. Most significantly they are also being used by an increasing number of community groups. The benefit of these new facilities has surpassed even my greatest expectations.

Now as we approach our next Gift Day on 18th May I am praying

that the Lord will once again move the hearts of His people to give generously to help us achieve the next milestone in paying for this project.

As Gordon Wallace, our treasurer, sets out elsewhere in this Bulletin one final bill remains

outstanding to the contractors in the sum of £30,000. In addition we need to continue to meet the monthly repayments on our bank loan. As such, we estimate that this Gift Day needs to raise at least £42,000 (including Gift Aid) to repay the contractor and maintain our loan repayments.

This is a large target but we can look back and see how God has been good and faithful and has provided through the generosity of His people. Now I once again ask that you please give what you can. I would especially invite those of contributing families who have not yet given to this project financially to join us. It is conceivable that there those who have not yet even seen the new facilities in person. If that is the case could I challenge and encourage you to do that and to see for yourself how they are helping people of all ages to follow Christ and enabling us to serve our community.

Details of how to give are given in the Treasurer's report. I hope that in the next edition of the bulletin I will once again be able to thank God for answered prayer through the generous giving of His people.

Yours in His service,
Michael Davidson



SERVICES IN MAY

Romans - a letter that makes sense of life

Evenings: Kingdom Come - Looking forward to Jesus' return

4th May

10:30am Romans 13:8-14 'Loving on the Level' - Charlie Hadjiev

6:30pm Luke 13:22-30 'Missing the Kingdom'
- Michael Davidson

11th May

10:30am Romans 14:1-12 'Unity & Diversity Part 1'
- Michael Davidson (Exodus Work Team Commissioning)

6:30pm Acts 1:1-11 'Proclaiming the Kingdom' - Michael Davidson

18th May

10:30am Luke 18:15-30 'Entry Into the Kingdom of God'
- Peter Todd

6:30pm Luke 19:1-27 'When the Kingdom Doesn't Come'
- Michael Davidson

25th May

10:30am Romans 14 :13-23 'Unity & Diversity Part 2'
(COMMUNION) - Michael Davidson

6:30pm Sunday Evening Praise



Watch online at
www.railwaystreet.org



Telephone Line Service
028 9244 8979

SERVICES IN JUNE

Romans - a letter that makes sense of life

Evenings: Kingdom Come - Looking forward to Jesus' return

1st June

10:30am Romans 15:1-13 'Seeking The Spirit of Unity '

- Michael Davidson

6:30pm Revelation 21:1-5 'When the Kingdom Comes'

- Michael Davidson

8th June

10:30am 10:30am YOUTH SUNDAY

6:30pm TBC

15th June

10:30am Romans 15:14-33 'The Continuing Mission'

- Michael Davidson

6:30pm TBC

22nd June

10:30am Romans 16:1-20 'The Recipients Revealed'

- Michael Davidson

6:30pm TBC

29th June

10:30am Romans 16:21-27 'To God be the Glory'

- Michael Davidson

6:30pm TBC (Communion)

Bereavements

It is with sadness that we record the deaths of:

Boyle, **Margaret** Kathleen, died 26th February 2025.

Wilson, **Eileen**, died 17th March 2025.

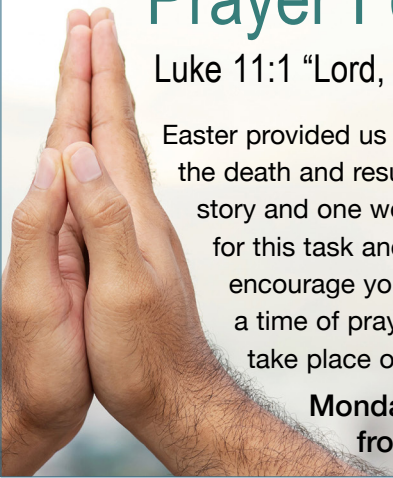
Gilmore, **Stanley** Winston, died 25th March, 2025.

Montgomery, **Mervyn** Henry, died 27th March, 2025.

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

Prayer Focus

Luke 11:1 “Lord, teach us to pray.”



Easter provided us with another opportunity to focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus. What a wonderful story and one worth sharing with others. To equip us for this task and to thank God for his provision we encourage you to set aside one hour each month for a time of prayer. Our next Prayer Focus evenings take place on:

**Monday 19th May & Monday 16th June
from 8.00-9.00pm in The Link**

Hospital Admissions

One of the pastoral tasks that our minister and deaconess undertake weekly is visiting those in hospital.

It used to be the case that a minister would be notified by a hospital chaplain when a member of their congregation was admitted to hospital. The patient's denomination would be recorded when they

were admitted and then the relevant denominational chaplain would receive the details and would be able to visit the individual and then notify their home minister.

However changes to the chaplaincy system in recent years, in particular the impact of GDPR regulations, now means this system no longer functions effectively.

It is now often the case that those being admitted to hospital are not asked about their religious affiliation and as a result they never even make it onto the chaplain's list. Even in cases where the patient ends up on the chaplain's list the chaplain can only notify the home minister with the patient's consent. Sometimes the patient asks the chaplain not to notify their minister because they only expect to be in hospital for a short time.

The end result is that most ministers now rarely hear from a hospital chaplain and so we are relying on the family to notify us when someone is admitted to hospital. It has become increasingly common for our minister to return home from visiting a particular hospital only to discover later that another member of RSPC was in the same hospital but he was unaware of this while he was there.

So we are asking that all members of RSPC would please do the following:

1. Notify Michael directly by phone call or text if **any** member of the family is being admitted to hospital. **Please do this even if you only expect them to be in hospital for a short time.** Please ensure that you let him know which hospital they are in and the ward number.
2. If you are admitted to hospital as an inpatient make sure that your denominational affiliation is included in your admittance details.
3. When the chaplain comes to visit please give them permission to let Michael know.

Michael and Heidi would very much appreciate your assistance in this to ensure that all our members receive appropriate pastoral care.



PW Annual Conference



"God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble"

Psalms 46 v1

Guest speaker - Sian Wyn Rees

Saturday 10th May 2025 in Assembly Buildings Belfast

Morning Session at 10.30am - 12.15pm

Afternoon Celebration at 2.00pm - 3.45pm

Praise led by Emma Smyth, Erin McBride and band

Coffee, chat and cake

Thursday 29th May 2025

at 6.30pm approx

at Vic Ryn

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



Photo by Thomas Bormans on Unsplash



THE LINK UP

WEDNESDAYS, 10AM - 12PM

Link Up every Wednesday morning 10am - 12 noon.

Drop in to the coffee dock for tea/coffee, biscuits and a chat.
Come on your own or with a friend. Everyone is warmly welcome.

Sunday Evening Praise

6.30pm on 25 May

Music led by piano, cello and flute.

Suggestions welcome for hymns/choruses to be included. Please let Janet know in advance - or bring ideas with you.

Everyone welcome.

‘Fuel the Mission’

On Sunday 11th May, after morning church service, Ella Cassidy, Emma McCleary and Alanah Houston are hosting tea/coffee and refreshments in the Link to raise money for their upcoming Exodus trips to Spain & Hungary in July.



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ALL WELCOME

May 22nd

**“The Sound of
Singing”**

Brownlee School Choir

June 26th

“Summer Special”

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



SENT

05-11 JULY 2025



Sam Alberry



Rick Hill



Chris Wright



Dai Hankey



YOU'RE INVITED TO A GB EXODUS FUNDRAISER



Friday 6th June



7-9pm



Railway Street Presbyterian Church
in the Link Area

LET'S EAT CAKE



Four girls from our GB company (Ella, Alanah, Emma and Penelope) are heading out to Spain and Hungary with the organisation Exodus. They will be spending 10 days taking Kids Clubs and doing practical work.

Finance update & Link Gift Day 18th May

We continue to be grateful for the FWO giving from all of our contributing families, whether part of our church for many years or having joined us recently; especially to those who have already increased their regular giving in recent months. The Bank Details for the Church, to enable you to set up Standing Orders for regular payments, are included at the end of this summary for your convenience.



As we approach our next Gift Day on the 18 May, one final bill remains outstanding to the contractors in the sum of £30,000 - which is more than the credit balance currently available in the property account - alongside the monthly repayment of £6,200 on the bank loan. As such, I estimate that the Gift Day this month will need to raise over £42,000 (including Gift Aid) to repay the contractor and maintain the loan repayments – for context the Gift Days in 2024 raised (with Gift Aid) around £26,000 last May and £29,000 in November. The contractor worked well with us throughout the build and it would be good to clear the final outstanding amount to them as soon as possible.

You can give to the Link “Gift Day” using the special envelopes that will be available. Please make any cheques payable to “Railway Street Presbyterian Church” and, if you are a tax payer, remember to include your name, address and FWO number so that the church can claim Gift Aid of 25% on your gift.

You can also give to the “Gift Day” by bank transfer to the Property Account.

Account Name: Railway Street Presbyterian Church

Sorting Code: 950361 Account Number: 61042858

Reference: Please use your FWO number
(if you don't know this use your name)

Giving to Free Will Offering and United Appeal is via the main Account

Account Name: Railway Street Presbyterian Church

Sorting Code: 950361 Account Number: 91026178

Reference: Please ref FWO or UA with your number and/or name

Overall, regular giving to the property account has seen a small uplift, so clearing the outstanding bill along with a reduction in interest rates, should help to reduce the loan on the overall build in a shorter timeframe.

Many Thanks

Gordon Wallace
RSPC Treasurer

Link Gift Day target

£42,000
(including Gift Aid)



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

SENIOR YOUTH - Upper Room, 6.30pm - 8pm

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 Link

BIBLE DISCOVERY (Sept - April)

1st & 3rd Thursday each month at 10.45am - Minor Hall

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS (Sept - June)

Tues & Wed bi-monthly 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