



# THE bulletin

September / October 2025

“The grass withers and the flowers fall, but  
the word of our God endures forever.”

Isaiah 40:8

Minister: Rev Michael Davidson

Deaconess: Heidi England

Youth Worker: Hannah Craig

t: 07787 912072

t: 07895 883895

t: 07875 161472

e: [mdavidson@presbyterianireland.org](mailto:mdavidson@presbyterianireland.org)

e: [heidi@railwaystreet.org](mailto:heidi@railwaystreet.org)

e: [hannah@railwaystreet.org](mailto:hannah@railwaystreet.org)

# Regaining our Focus

Dear Friends,

Summer holidays are great and essential after a busy year whether at school or work or in church life. It is good to take a break from the normal routine and to enjoy time where your life is not dictated by your diary. I enjoyed time off in the Kingdom of Mourne

and also some days in the beautiful city of Krakow.



Photo by Paul Skorupskas on Unsplash



Photo by Tomasz Tomal on Unsplash

When on my summer holidays I especially enjoy that feeling when I get to the point where I struggle to remember what day it is. That is a sign you have truly relaxed and switched off.

But of course holidays are the exception rather than the norm and they pass all too quickly. There comes a point when we have to face that fact that we need to get back to normal patterns and activities. There is, I think, something a little mournful about the end of August especially as we notice the days starting to shorten once again and as children and teachers have to go back to school! But on the other hand it is good to get back to a more disciplined routine and a renewed focus on those things that are important.

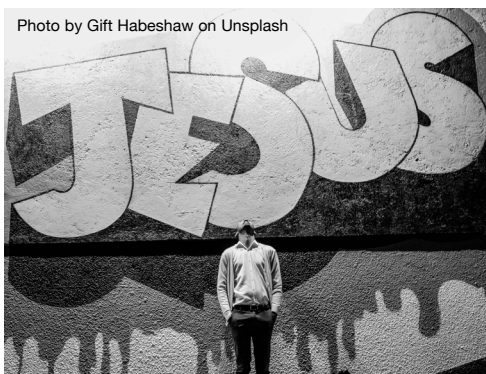
The same is true in terms of our walk of Christian discipleship. Sometimes it's like we take a holiday from our call to daily discipleship, we lose our focus or we get distracted by the things of this world and we take our eyes off Jesus. As a result sometimes we need to refocus our attention and time on those things that are of first importance. We need to fix our eyes on Jesus afresh.

The Christian disciples that the letter to Hebrews was written to were in danger of taking their eyes off Jesus as they were distracted by other things hence the call to them in Hebrews 12, *"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith."*

Let me remind you of our church purpose statement in Railway Street - it says, *'Following Christ, Serving the Community - In obedience to Christ, we will work together to see people coming to faith in Christ and growing in love for God and others.'*

This is our primary activity – following Jesus and seeking to make him known. Never forget that the greatest service we can do for our community is to introduce them to the person of Jesus Christ.

So we want our focus to be centred on Jesus this autumn. Now in many ways I believe that is already the case in Railway Street. Our worship and teaching is, I hope, always Christ centred. We also know that all the scriptures whether we are reading the Old Testament or the New are all about Jesus. But there is something special about getting back to the life and ministry of Jesus as we find it in the four Gospels. Several years ago we made our way through the whole of Mark's Gospel. This autumn we will turn to





John's Gospel as we follow a new teaching series – *'The Word Made Flesh – Encountering Jesus in John's Gospel.'*

In addition to this we intend to run a '**Christianity Explored Course**' later in the autumn. You can read more details about this on pages 8 and 9 in the bulletin. Earlier this year we had two Christianity Explored Courses in RSPC. We had one on Wednesday afternoons for those free during the day and we also used '**Vox**' - the youth version on Friday evenings. The forthcoming course will take place on a weekday evening in order to make it available to everyone.

*What can you do as we seek to fix our eyes on Jesus afresh?*

- Take time to read through John's Gospel in advance of our Sunday teaching series beginning on 7th September
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will help you to encounter Jesus in a fresh way on Sunday mornings
- Think about friends or family who don't yet know Jesus that you could invite and bring along to Christianity Explored
- Pray that God will draw people to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

May the name of Jesus be honoured and glorified as we step forward into a new session of worship, work and witness in His church.

Yours in His service,  
Michael Davidson

## Marriages

9th July 2025: Aaron David Milligan & Samantha Alison McGrath



8th August 2025: Ryan David Joseph Adair & Anna Elizabeth Curragh



## Bereavements

It is with sadness that we record the deaths of:

Kerr, Elizabeth Jean (**Betty**), died 13th July 2025.

McClelland, **Eileen**, died 15th July 2025.

Robinson, Florence **Mildred**, died 16th July, 2025.

Fraser, **Kathleen**, died 25th July, 2025.

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 SEPTEMBER

## Sunday morning teaching

'The Word Made Flesh' - Encounters with Jesus in John's Gospel

## Sunday evening teaching

1 Kings 16-21 'These are the Days of Elijah'

### 7th September

10:30am John 1:19-28 'Who are you?' Michael Davidson

6.30pm 1 Kings 16:29-17:6 'Staying Faithful in the Worst of Times' Michael Davidson

### 14th September

10:30am John 1:29-34 'The Lamb of God' Michael Davidson

### 21st September

10:30am John 1:35-52 'Fishermen Become Followers'  
Michael Davidson

6.30pm Sunday Evening Praise

### 28th September

10:30am John 2:1-11 'The First Sign'  
Communion Michael Davidson



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



Telephone Line Service  
028 9244 8979

# SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

## Sunday morning teaching

'The Word Made Flesh' - Encounters with Jesus in John's Gospel

## Sunday evening teaching

1 Kings 16-21 'These are the Days of Elijah'

### 5th October

10:30am Boys' Brigade Enrolment Service

6.30pm 1 Kings 17:7-24 'Daily Bread, Saving Grace'  
Michael Davidson

### 12th October

10:30am Harvest Thanksgiving Service Moore Casement

### 19th October

10:30am Girls' Brigade Enrolment Service

6.30pm 'There And Back Again' - Summer Mission Reports

### 26th October

10:30am John 2;12-25 'The Fight at the Feast'  
Michael Davidson



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



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CHRISTIANITY|EXPLORED

WHAT'S THE BEST NEWS  
YOU'VE EVER HEARD?

**WHAT'S THE BEST NEWS  
YOU'VE EVER HEARD?**

CHRISTIANITY|EXPLORED



## What is Christainity Explored?

As Christians we are convinced that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the best news we can ever hear. We're also convinced the best way to discover the good news about Jesus is by opening up the Bible together. The Christianity Explored course is deisgned to help people meet Jesus in the pages of the Bible.

### Who is it for?

The course is open to anyone. You may already be a Christian and you want to grow in your knowledge of Jesus. Maybe you have been attending church for years but would still not describe yourself as a Christian. Or perhaps you have started attending church in more recent times and you feel yourself drawn to Jesus and want to know more. Maybe you're a Christian and you would love to invite non Christian friends to come along and learn for themselves why you follow Jesus.

### What is involved?

Over seven sessions we read Mark's Gospel to find out more about the life of the person at the heart of the Christian faith – Jesus Christ.

The structure of each session is simple: a short Bible study in small groups, a video talk and a small group discussion based on the talk. This all happens in a relaxed and informal setting in The Link at RSPC.

There is no cost – the course and all the materials you need will be provided free.

### When will the course be taking place?

The plan is to hold the course on a **Wednesday evening at 7:30pm beginning on 15th October.**

**Details of how to register will be made available soon.**

# Prayer Focus

Luke 11:1 “Lord, teach us to pray.”

Have you noticed that the nights are getting darker? Have you noticed that our world is getting darker too? Jesus came to shine light into every community. He asks us to help in sharing his good news. We can start by joining together to pray. Take that first step as we begin a new church year. We invite you to come along to Prayer Focus.

**Monday 15 September &  
Monday 20 October  
from 8-9pm in The Link**



## Harvest Offering

Kirk Session has agreed that our Harvest Offering will be in support of the annual Presbyterian Church in Ireland World Development Appeal. This allows our church family to play our full part in contributing financially to the specific development project for each year agreed between our Church and approved partner agencies. Further information on this year's World Development Appeal will be available in coming weeks and we commend this to you for your generosity.



## Discipleship Groups

Our Discipleship Groups will begin for their new Session during September and group leaders will be in touch with members soon to share details of when their group will meet.

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.

## Bible Discovery

You are welcome to join us as we continue to discover together more of what the Bible is all about. We meet in the Minor Hall at 10.45am on alternate Thursday mornings.

Tea and coffee are available in The Link from 10.30am

Resumes: Thursday 18th September

October dates: 2nd October and 16th October

**Mum's Bible Study** for mums at any stage will begin again in September. We meet during school term time on Friday mornings 10am-11.30am in The Link.

For more information contact:  
Hannah Craig 07875 161472



## Presbyterian Women Opening Meeting



Monday 22nd September @ 8pm

Our theme for this year is 'GOD EVER PRESENT'

Our Guest Speaker will be **Ellen Hillen**, PW President 2024 – 2025. Ellen will share with us her experiences during her year as President and talk about the PW Special Projects.

Monday 27th October @ 8pm

**Abaana.** A representative from Abaana will talk on the subject 'Bringing hope to children in Africa living in poverty'.

**A date for your diary:**

**Saturday 8th November:** LINK breakfast at Edenmore Golf Club.

All ladies and friends are welcome at all our meetings.

## REQUEST FOR HELP

Our BB and GB leaders greatly value the service of the Parents' Room during their respective evenings. It would be great if a few more people would be willing to be added to the rota in the Link for BB and GB. You only need to be able to boil a kettle / dunk a teabag /put a teaspoon of coffee into a cup and make a glass of juice.

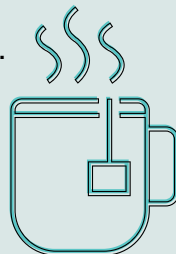
The boiler /coffee maker & dishwasher aren't used.

Tea /coffee /milk /sugar /juice are all provided.

**BB on Tuesday is 6.30-7.45pm**

**GB on Thursday is 6.00-7.00pm**

Please speak to Janet 07803 265517 for more information or if you would like to join the team.



# GOD'S WORLD: *Our responsibility?*



**Saturday 27 September**

10am-4pm

Assembly Buildings, Belfast

This conference, featuring theologian and author, Rev Dr Chris Wright, will explore the biblical story from creation to new creation, showing how our responsibility to God for the earth connects with proclaiming the gospel and loving our neighbour.

Breakout workshops will address such topics as eco-anxiety, sustainable food, and practical steps for churches and individuals. Together, we will explore how to live as co-rulers of God's world - our shared home - with wisdom, care, and faithfulness.

This is a conference for anyone interested in creation and our responsibility to it.

Members of PCI are encouraged to attend with others from their congregation.



## Finance update

You may recall from previous Finance updates that our No:1 Account has been under pressure as a result of the impact of both inflation and the increase in employer National Insurance Contributions. Unfortunately this has continued to be the case and, while we are very grateful for the increase in giving from many of our contributing families, our operating expenditure for this year is still forecast to be greater than our income. The Congregational Committee are considering options for increasing income from sources other than Free Will Offering and we will share the outcome of this work in due course.



That said, the suggested increase in giving of £4 per month per contributing family remains appropriate and if your family has not done so, and is able to, we would be grateful if you could help our church in this way.

We are very thankful to all who give to the work of our church by whatever means. We continue to see increase in the proportion of those who give by monthly standing order and find that this is especially helpful in managing our budget and cashflow. If you currently give by FWO envelope and could change your method of giving to standing order that would be very helpful, please speak to me or another member of the Finance team and we can arrange this. If giving by FWO envelope is the best way for you to give to our church then we are very grateful that you continue to do so.

As advised in the last Finance Update, all invoices relating to the Link project have now been paid. We are now concentrating on repaying the remaining balance on the Bank Loan, currently standing at almost £565,000. The recent reduction in the Bank Base Rate will help reduce the interest we pay on our outstanding debt. We will have our next Gift Day for the Link on 16 November 2025 and more details will be provided in the next Bulletin.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Gordon Wallace  
RSPC Treasurer



# GB NEWS

## Girls' Brigade

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

Contact Hilary Milligan (Captain) on 07899 896 879 or speak to any GB leader.

### Thursday 28th August

Registration evening and opportunity to order uniform items (in main hall)

#### 6-6.45pm

Tiny Tots & Explorers Princess Party - girls can come in their princess dresses. Fun and activities for the girls while parents complete registration forms

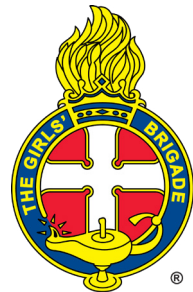
#### 7.15-8.15pm

Juniors, Seniors & Brigaders - fun, games and activities. No uniform required.

Thursday 4th September will be our first normal evening

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

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



# BB NEWS



Hi everyone,

We hope you've all had a great summer so far and looking forward to getting back to BB.

Our registration nights will take place on:

**Monday 8th September: 7.15pm - 8:15pm**

COMPANY SECTION

**Tuesday 9th September: 7.15pm - 8pm**

ANCHOR BOYS & JUNIOR SECTION

**FEES:** £40 per boy, or £75 for a family

Then we start back on:

**Monday 15th September: 7.30pm - 9.15pm**

COMPANY SECTION (High School age)

**Tuesday 16th September: 6.30pm - 7.30pm**

ANCHOR BOYS (P1 to P4)

**Tuesday 16th September: 7.15pm - 8.30pm**

JUNIOR SECTION (P5 to P7)



# BB NEWS



## Uniform

We have updated our logo on our t-shirts and jumpers and will be phasing in the new style over the next 2-3 years.

It's ok to continue to wear existing uniform if it still fits during the transition.

T-shirts can be ordered from:

[www.stashshop.co.uk/lisburnbb](http://www.stashshop.co.uk/lisburnbb)

(Please note - boys wear blue t-shirts and the children's sizes are a small fit so it's advised to go a size larger)

Jumpers - sizes will be available to check on registration nights and orders can be placed then.

## New Leader in Charge of Company Section

We're also delighted to let you know that Daniel Nelson has agreed to take become the Leader in Charge of Company Section.

Daniel has grown up through 1st Lisburn BB and Railway Street and has served faithfully for many years.

This is a very exciting new role and we wish Daniel all the best as he leads the team and the boys.

Thanks for your continued support.

Sure & Steadfast

# Pickleball

Wednesday Evenings

7-9pm



Photo by Brendan Sapp on Unsplash

**Starting Wed 10th September**

● **In the Lecture Hall** ● **Bats provided** ● **Over 16**

Contact: Aaron Curragh 07988 605755

# 422

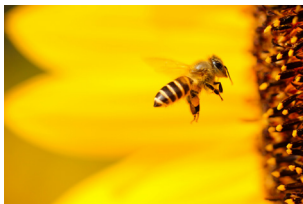
## ALL WELCOME



**Thursday 25th September**

### **“Romania Revisited”**

Members of our Exodus Work Team will recall some of their adventures from May 2025!



**Thursday 23rd October**

### **“The Buzz of Bees”**

Conservation worker, Scott Laidlow, will open up the amazing world of bees and their habitats.

422 is open to everyone and meets at 2.30pm on the fourth Thursday in the month in the Minor Hall, followed by refreshments in the Link.



## Sunday Evening Praise

**6.30pm on 21st September and  
16th November**

There will be two further Praise Evenings in 2025, both at 6.30pm in The Link.

These evenings are an informal opportunity for all who enjoy singing together using some familiar psalms, hymns and spiritual songs as we make melody in our hearts to the Lord (Ephesians 5:19)

Youth Weekend Away is happening 26th-28th Sept! This will be a special time for our young people to get away together at the start of this academic year to build friendships and grow in their walk with the Lord.

Please join us in praying for:

- Safe travel to Mullartown house
- A fun time together creating memories
- Deepening friendships
- Hearts ready to hear of Jesus: Prophet, Priest & King
- God to be honoured and glorified.

We're looking forward to how God will use this weekend in the lives of our young people!

Railway Street Presbyterian Church

## Youth Weekend Away

26 - 28 SEPTEMBER 2025  
MULLARTOWN HOUSE

SIGN UP HERE!



# 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-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