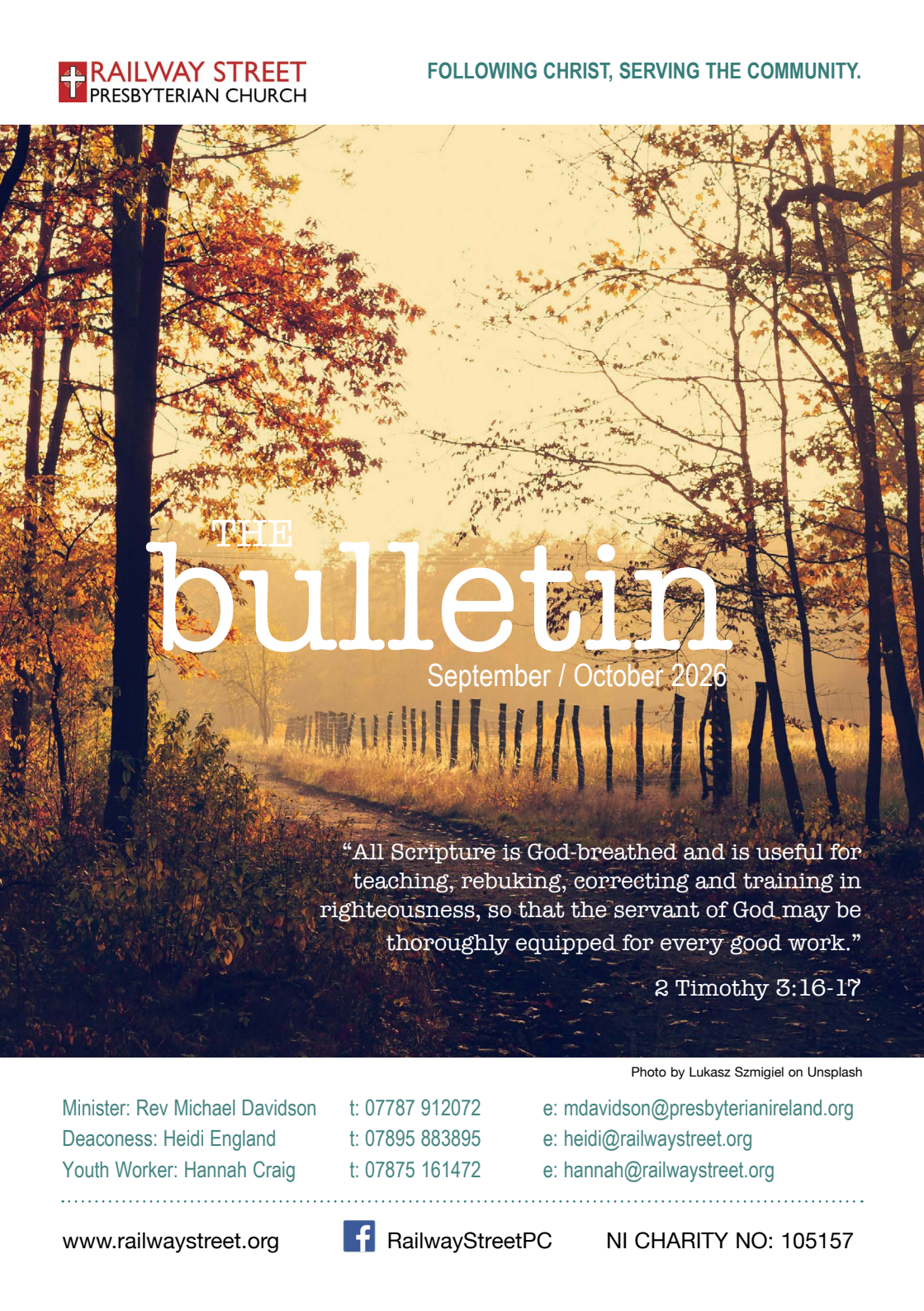




THE bulletin

September / October 2026

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Photo by Lukasz Szmigiel on Unsplash

Minister: Rev Michael Davidson

Deaconess: Heidi England

Youth Worker: Hannah Craig

t: 07787 912072

t: 07895 883895

t: 07875 161472

e: mdavidson@presbyterianireland.org

e: heidi@railwaystreet.org

e: hannah@railwaystreet.org

Back to Porridge

Dear friends,

As I wrote my letter for the July and August Bulletin I asked the question, "Could it be that we will enjoy a good summer?"

Now as I write this towards the end of August we know the answer. This has turned out to

be an exceptional summer weatherwise in Northern Ireland with July and August filled with many dry, warm and sunny days.

On 29th July as a family we enjoyed an incredibly happy day at Joanna and Peter's wedding.

A huge thank you from the Manse Family is extended to all in the RSPC family who contributed in whatever way to that very happy occasion.



That includes all those who took part in the wedding service especially our Praise Band under the very capable leadership of Alan Wall. You guys were superb and many guests commented favourably on the quality of the music and the great singing.

Of course no one would have heard or seen the service if it hadn't been for the unseen work of the members of our sound and vision team down at the back. Thanks to you also.

To Joe and Adeline who, as always, saw to it that our building was spotless both before the wedding day and for the Sunday following.



Photo by Derek Lynn on Unsplash

To the members of our GB - both the girls in the honour guard and those who served the refreshments in the hall.

A huge thank you to those who then cleared the hall the next day.

We also thank all of you who gave so many beautiful and generous gifts to Joanna and Peter to help set them up in their new life together as husband and wife. They, and we, were blown away by your generosity and love. And it was great to have so many of you share with us in the service and the celebrations at the Millbrook Lodge Hotel.

Above all I give thanks to God for the sense of His presence particularly in the marriage service and for the joy-filled reception and party. There was even the incredibly rare (and brief) sight of the minister of Railway Street on the dancefloor!

Following the wedding it was lovely to have two weeks away primarily in the Kingdom of Mourne to rest and relax and recover with more excellent weather.

Now as I write this we are back home, the weather has returned to more normal conditions - plenty of cloud and what has been some much needed rain.

For many of us it also means ‘back to porridge,’ a phrase commonly used in Ireland and Scotland to signify the transition from a period of holidays back to normal everyday life and work. Normal routine begins to re-establish itself as we approach the end of August as teachers return to school followed by pupils and students in the coming days and weeks.



Photo by Mari Helin on Unsplash

As holidays end and routine recommences we see our building on Sundays begin to fill once again and we enter into a new season of worship, work and witness in Railway Street church family.

Sometimes it is hard to settle back into a normal pattern of work and life especially if we have been able to relax in places much more attractive than Lisburn. And yet we know holidays are the exception, not the norm. The truth is we need routine and focus to help us to be productive and find fulfilment in our God-given tasks of work and

service.

In Railway Street that work and service as always requires a large and committed team of servants in our church using their gifts to minister to others as we seek to see the Lord build His church in our community.

It also sees us move to a new Bible teaching series amongst a busy autumn programme on Sundays. Having spent the last couple of years focusing primarily on New Testament books, primarily Romans and John, we return to the Old Testament as we come to Ezra.

On the face of it Ezra does not seem terribly thrilling. Henry Ford famously said that “History is more or less bunk.” Many of you might be tempted to agree with him on first looking at the book of Ezra. Not only does the history seem very remote, an account of ‘old unhappy far off things,’ it also seems to lack the strong narrative drive of other Old Testament history books whether that be the exciting events of the Exodus under Moses, the conquest of Canaan under Joshua or the life of King David in 1 and 2 Samuel. In addition Ezra with its long lists of hard to pronounce Hebrew names at regular intervals certainly doesn’t help.

Yet this is a superficial view and if we make the effort we will experience the rewards and blessings that are to be found in this too often neglected part of God’s story in Scripture. We need to remind ourselves of what Paul wrote to Timothy, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Ezra is a vital and stimulating book in its revelations of God’s plans and purposes and the experiences of God’s people.

Both 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles ends with God’s judgement on his sinful people. In 587 BC the city of Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians and the walls were torn down and the temple and royal palace were destroyed and their treasures and people were carried into exile in Babylon.

Ezra begins the telling of God’s grace to his exiled people as they

experience the opportunity to return home in 538 BC after decades of exile in Babylon. It records the fortunes and struggles of those who returned to what remained a shattered and broken city. God's faithful people in Ezra's day in the 5th century BC found themselves as a small and a seemingly weak minority surrounded by many pagan neighbours.

The underlying theme of the providence of God in difficult and dark days is an encouragement to God's faithful people today as we too find ourselves as a minority surrounded by an overwhelmingly unbelieving society.

As we saw on one of our Summer City Breaks the believers of Berea provide us with the example of how we are meant to listen to God's Word being preached, "Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." (Acts 17:11)



Let us show that same eagerness as we prepare to hear God's Word.

- We show our eagerness to hear that word by our faithful attendance with God's people week by week
- We show it in praying that God will prepare our hearts and speak to us
- We show it by seeking to read the passage in advance and then having open Bibles in front of us during the preaching
- Finally we do the hard work of seeking to apply that Word to our own individual lives and situations.

When we do that then we will not fail to hear the Holy Spirit speaking to us and bringing restoration and revival in our lives, in our church and in our community.

Yours in His service,

Michael Davidson

SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

'Restoration & Revival' - Studies in the Book of Ezra

6th September

10:30am 'Summer City Breaks – Ephesus' Acts 19:1-22

Michael Davidson

7.00pm Praise & Worship Evening in 1st Lisburn Presbyterian Church

13th September

10:30am 'The Redeemed of the Lord Shall Return' Ezra 1

Michael Davidson

20th September

10:30am 'What's In A Name?' Ezra 2

Michael Davidson

27th September

10:30am 'Establishing the Right Priorities' Ezra 3:1-6

COMMUNION Michael Davidson

Sunday morning services are livestreamed at

www.railwaystreet.org

An edited service for those without internet access

is available by telephone line

Tel: 028 9244 8979



Watch online at
www.railwaystreet.org



Telephone Line Service
028 9244 8979

SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

'Restoration & Revival' - Studies in the Book of Ezra

4th October

10:30am Boys Brigade Enrolment Service

11th October

10:30am 'Give Thanks to the Lord' Psalm 104
Harvest Thanksgiving Michael Davidson

6.30pm Harvest Praise - united with Sloan Street Presbyterian
Venue: Railway Street Speaker: Alex Richardson
(Sloan Street) The music will be led by a united praise
group and orchestra

18th October

10:30am Girls Brigade Enrolment Service

6:30pm In the Link - 'There And Back Again'
- Summer Mission Reports

25th October

10:30am 'Living in the Day of Small Things' Ezra 3:7-13
Michael Davidson



Watch online at
www.railwaystreet.org



Telephone Line Service
028 9244 8979

Marriages

29th July 2026: Joanna Grace
Davidson & Peter Aaron Millen



Baptisms

Micah David William Neill - 23rd August 2026
Son of John & Alex Neill

Deaconess Holiday

Heidi will be on holiday from 31st August to 13th September
inclusive

Bible Discovery

Bible Discovery meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of
each month from 10.45am - 12noon in No 31, resuming on
Thursday 17 September.

Open to all who want to discover more from God's Word, this
term's studies will centre on the book of Ruth.

If you would like more information please speak to Heidi
England, Bertha Cowan or Heather Henry.

Prayer Focus

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

As we begin our new church year, we invite you to come along to our monthly Prayer Focus evenings.

Help us to draw close to God and to seek his leading in the year ahead.

Some folk are more comfortable praying quietly as others offer spoken prayers. Together we bring prayer and praise to God, our Father.

**Our next Prayer Focus evenings are on
Monday 21 September and Monday 19
October from 8pm to 9pm in the
Upper Room.**



FIRST LISBURN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

749 Market Square, Lisburn, BT28 1AG

SUNDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER, 7 PM

DOORS OPEN @ 6.15 PM

JOIN US FOR
AN EVENING OF

PRAISE & WORSHIP

With

SPECIAL GUESTS:



Deborah Alvarez



Daniel Alvarez

DAVID NAVI
ANDRESSA
REBEKAH GRAY
PABLO HENKEL
RAUDER
DAVID REYES
SMORE

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT MARIANN

PHONE: 07404439433 EMAIL: M.GILICZE@PRESBYTERIANIRELAND.ORG

PW Dates for your diary

Monday 28th September at 8.00pm

Melanie Bond 'Wearable Truth'

Melanie from Melanie Bond Boutique in Dromore talks about faith and fashion. She will also share her own faith journey.

Fashion, accessories and handmade jewellery from her boutique will be on display on the evening.



Monday 26th October at 8pm

'Friends in Action' – bringing water of life to thirsty people

Volunteers from Legacurry Presbyterian Church will share their recent experiences digging water wells in the Ivory Coast, West Africa.

Mercy Junction and Bethany Givan - Sat 10th Oct

Special Evening with Colin Elliott, Leigh Brown and Tim Boyle of the group **Mercy Junction** and guest soloist Bethany Givan.

Saturday 10th October at 7.30pm in Railway Street Presbyterian Church.

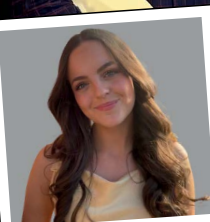
This event will be hosted by PW ladies and is **open to everyone**. A light supper will be served at the end of the performance.

All proceeds will go to PW mission projects.

MERCY JUNCTION



with Colin Elliott, Leigh Brown
and Tim Boyle



Guest soloist
Bethany Givan

SATURDAY
10 October
2026

Concert in Railway Street
Presbyterian Church, Lisburn
at 7.30pm
Light refreshments served

PROCEEDS IN AID OF PW MISSION PROJECTS

Girls' Brigade

GB meets every Thursday evening and girls aged 3-18 years old are invited to join our company. The GB programme is made up of 4 key elements - physical, spiritual, skills and education. These components make up our weekly programme and form part of our badgework. GB is lots of fun and provides girls with many opportunities to learn and try new things.

We love special visitors and outings and there are many key highlights in our GB year, culminating with our Annual GB Display before Easter each year.

This is our 6th year of GB. If you would like to join our leadership team or if you know of a girl who would be interested in joining our company, please contact Hilary Milligan (Captain) or one of the leaders below. We would love to see you!

Section times and officers-in-charge:

Tiny Tots (Age 3 - P1)	6-7pm	Rebecca Woods
Explorers (P2 - P4)	6-7pm	Jess Nelson
Juniors (P5 - P7)	7.30-9pm	Linda Davidson
Seniors & Brigaders (Years 8 -14)	7.30-9pm	Samantha Milligan



Our Motto:

Seek, Serve & Follow Christ

The Aim of the Girls' Brigade is to help girls to become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ and through Self-control, Reverence and a Sense of Responsibility to find True Enrichment of life.

RAILWAY STREET YOUTH

youth weekend away

18TH - 20TH SEPTEMBER 2026

CONTACT HANNAH FOR MORE DETAILS
HANNAH@RAILWAYSTREET.ORG
07875161472



BB NEWS

BB registration nights

Company Section	Monday 7th September: 7.30pm - 8.30pm
Anchor Boys	Tuesday 8th September: 6.45pm - 7.30pm
Junior Section	Tuesday 8th September: 7.15pm - 8pm

BB nights

Company Section - Monday 14th September
7:30pm - 9:15pm

Anchor Boys - Tuesday 15th September
6:30pm - 7:30pm

Junior Section - Tuesday 15th September
7:15pm - 8:30pm



All existing boys and new boys from P1 to Upper 6th are welcome.

BB Enrolment Service - Sunday 4th October

Guest is Rev Andrew Thompson, Minister of Elmwood Presbyterian Church and Boys' Brigade Belfast Chaplain.

We would also like to wish Company Section Officer Ben Nelson every blessing for his upcoming wedding to Sara Menown on Friday 4th September.

We also congratulate Company Section Officer Matthew Nelson on representing Ireland at the Hockey World Cup in Belgium in August.

422

ALL WELCOME

24th September - “Life to the Full”

Natalie Cairns from Stepping Stones

22nd October - “The Seafarer’s Lifeline”

Colin Jenkins from SCFS, Cork



422 is open to anyone who is free to come from 2.30pm to 4pm on the 4th Thursday of any month between September and June. The format is quite informal with a speaker bringing something of interest first, in the Minor Hall, and refreshments served in the Link afterwards.

Pickleball is back!

Pickleball will be starting again:
Wednesday 9th September
in the Main Church Hall
7-9pm for ages 18+



Whether you’ve played before or have never picked up a paddle, everyone is very welcome to come along, give it a try and enjoy some great fellowship and fun together.

Come along, bring a friend, have a go and enjoy the fellowship!

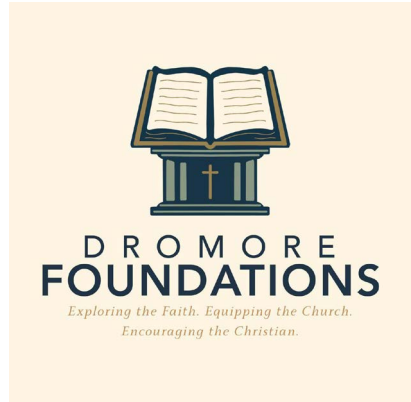
Contact: Aaron Curragh: 07988 605755
David Milligan: 07597 261409

Dromore Foundations

Dromore Foundations begins again in October and will meet monthly at 7.30pm at Maze Presbyterian Church until March 2027.

It was very encouraging to see so many of our church family attend these meetings last year and we look forward to as many as possible attending in the incoming year. Remember these meetings are for everyone connected with our church so if you have not managed to come along before why not do so this year.

Please note that this year Dromore Foundations will be on the second Monday of the month. We will re-arrange our Kirk Session and Congregational Committee meetings to allow members to attend.



BRINGING THE FIRE HOME

AN OPEN LETTER



Some of you are just coming off the back of a CSSM, an overseas mission team, a youth camp, or some other concentrated burst of gospel service. You've poured yourself out in games and crafts, late-night conversations and early-morning devos, talks and testimonies, laughter and prayer. You've been stretched, encouraged and maybe even surprised at how God has used you.

You've known the joy of being part of a group united around the gospel, every voice, every gift, every moment aimed at making Christ known. You've tasted something of what Acts 2 must have felt like, the fellowship, the momentum, the deep sense that God's hand was upon you.

And now, you're heading home. Back to your own church.

If you're anything like me after my own summers on teams, you'll feel a strange mixture of exhaustion and exhilaration. But soon enough, the adrenaline fades. The team WhatsApp grows quieter.

The schedule empties. Sunday in your local church feels smaller, slower and, if you're honest, a little ordinary.

Here's my heartfelt plea to you: don't let the fire go out.

The wildfire of the gospel isn't meant to be contained in a week of high-energy ministry during the summer. It's meant to be carried. What the Spirit ignites in a week of mission is fuel for a lifetime of discipleship, service and witness.

When you go back to your local church, you aren't stepping down from mission. You're stepping into the mission field God has entrusted to you for the other fifty-one weeks of the year. Your minister needs you. Your elders need you. Your church family needs you. And most of all, your local community, full of men and women and children heading for a lost eternity if they don't trust in Christ, needs you.

The Great Commission was never meant to be outsourced to a summer team. Jesus sends you (yes, you!) by His Spirit, into your community, your workplace, your sports team, your classroom. The people who most need to hear of Christ may be sitting along the pew from you, or stacking shelves beside you, or living three doors down from you.

It might not feel as exciting. That's ok. The local church moves at the pace of the ordinary means of grace, the regular preaching of the Word, the sacraments, prayer, fellowship, discipleship. But never, ever underestimate these things. After the fire and wind of Pentecost in Acts 2, where did the church land?

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."
(Acts 2:42)

These are the God-given channels through which Christ has promised to build, grow and sustain His church.



Your congregation might not have the best praise band or hundreds of kids running around. It might not have the energy of a beach mission or the drama of a campfire testimony night. But your local church is the place where gospel roots go deep. It's the place where faith is sustained over years and decades. It's the place where disciples are made and matured.

If you want to see the gospel wildfire spread, then tend the embers faithfully in your church family. Show up for Sunday worship. Serve in the kids' ministry. Volunteer for youth fellowship. Join the prayer meeting. Commit to your small group. Share your life and your faith with the people God has placed around you.

The same Spirit who gave you boldness on the stage at team is with you in the church hall on a wet Tuesday night. The same gospel you proclaimed to children in a holiday Bible club is the gospel your pew neighbour needs to hear again. The same Lord who worked through you on team is building His church through you now.

So don't wait for next summer to burn bright again. Stoke the flame today. Let the wildfire of love for Christ, passion for His gospel and commitment to His mission spread not just across beaches and camps, but into the homes, streets, classrooms and workplaces where God has placed you.

"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain."
(1 Corinthians 15:58)



This article was written by Craig Lynn who is minister of 1st Ards Presbyterian Church. It has been reprinted here with his permission.

Safeguarding Update

We encourage all members of our Church family to complete the survey relevant to them. If you have any questions please speak to our Session Clerk, Stephen Johnston.

Tell the
Independent Governance and Safeguarding Review

The INEQE Safeguarding Group is an independent company of safeguarding professionals.

We have been asked to carry out an independent safeguarding review to ensure the Presbyterian Church in Ireland is doing all they can to create an environment where everyone feels safe, valued and respected.

Listening to and learning from individuals involved in the life and work of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland is an important part of the Review.

ineqe
SAFEGUARDING GROUP

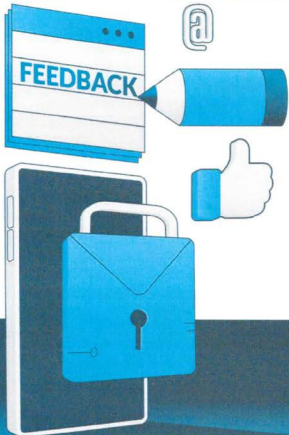
You can help us

If you have any information, concerns or worries about something that happened in or is related to the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, you can contact us via this webpage.

ineqe.com/presbyterian-church-in-ireland

Access the webpage by scanning the QR code





Tell us your views

Your participation is critically important and you can help by taking part in an anonymous and confidential survey.

We encourage you to be open and honest. We will only share information if what you tell us indicates a serious risk of harm.

ineqe.com/presbyterian-church-in-ireland
Closing date is **21st September 2026**

Don't forget - If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, it is important that you quickly get the right help. Call the police on 999 or if you are calling from the Republic of Ireland phone 112

NSPCC Helpline
☎ Helpline - 080 8800 5000
✉ Email - help@NSPCC.org.uk

ISPCC
☎ Support - 01 522 4300
✉ Email - parentingsupport@ispcc.ie

Childline UK
☎ Helpline - 0800 1111
📍 Web - childline.org.uk

Childline ROI
☎ Helpline - 1800 66 66 66
📍 Web - ispcc.ie/childline

Samaritans UK and ROI
☎ Call 116 123
Visit in person to your **local branch** during their opening hours.

Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding Training for Leaders in Youth Organisations has been arranged for **Wednesday 14th October** at 7.30pm.

The places for this training have been prebooked. There are only a few spaces remaining, Please speak to Sam Mitchell or Pamela McElhinney for more information.

Finance Update August 2026

Freewill Offering contributions continue to exceed prior year's levels as we enter the second half of the financial year with the possibility of a "break-even" position for the whole of 2026. This is very encouraging considering the challenging position a few years ago.

However energy costs remain high as inflation rates prevail at higher than anticipated levels; which in turn means that the interest rate we pay on our loan for the Link build has not reduced as much as was likely at the start of the year.

That said, the bi-annual Gift Days continue to generate sufficient funds to maintain the monthly repayments on the loan. The May 2026 total exceeded £30,000 with Gift Aid and along with regular giving means the property account remains in a healthy position.

Lastly, United Appeal remains on course to meet our Target of Honour for 2026 of £13,375 with £8,500 raised at the time of writing.

Many Thanks

Gordon Wallace
RSPC Treasurer



Congregational Committee Election

After being paused for the Summer months, the process for electing our new Congregational Committee restarts in September. On the first two Sundays (the 6th and 13th) qualified voting members will be able to submit their nomination of any qualified voting member.

These nominations must be submitted in writing to the Session Clerk and a form will be available in the Vestibule for this purpose. In order to submit a nomination, a qualified voter will need to complete the name of the person being nominated, confirm that their nominee has agreed to being nominated and will serve on Committee if elected, complete their name and address and then sign the form. A box will be available on the Vestibule table for submission of nominations. Any qualified voter who does not want their name to be considered for the Committee should advise the Session Clerk no later than 10pm on 13th September.

At its meeting on 14th September, Kirk Session will prepare a list of up to 20 qualified voters who have been duly nominated and have agreed to allow their name to go forward to the congregation. This list will be read to the congregation on 20th and 27th September. As the BB Enrolment will be on 4th October, the congregational meeting will be held on 11th October after morning worship. At this meeting, a poll of the qualified voters attending shall be taken by secret ballot in respect of each person on the list, who shall be deemed elected if two-thirds of those who vote are in favour of them. As this will be Harvest Sunday, the 20s and 30s Group have kindly agreed to provide a lunch in the Link and Minor Hall after the congregational meeting. This will allow the votes to be counted and the result announced to those present. The result will be announced the following Sunday and a suitable date will then be arranged for

the new Congregational Committee to have its first meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the election of our new Committee please speak to our Session Clerk, Stephen Johnston.

Discipleship Groups

Our Discipleship Groups begin again during the month of September. We have four different weeknight groups that are open to everyone in our church and meet fortnightly as follows:

- Tuesday - meets in Edith Douglas' home and is led by Janet Ferguson
- Tuesday - meets in Heather Henry's home and is led by Jean Murray
- Wednesday - meets in the Finnegan's home and is led by Diarmid Finnegan
- Wednesday - meets in the Wall's home and is led by Alan Wall

We also have the Mum's Bible Study group that meets at 10am on Fridays in the Link and is led by Hannah Craig. If you are free on a Friday morning you are very welcome to attend and bring your baby / toddler along too!

We would love to have as many of our Church family as part of a Discipleship Group as possible. If you are not yet part of a group and would like more information on what being a member of a group involves, or how to join a group, please speak to our Session Clerk, Stephen Johnston.

This year we are thinking about starting a group for University students living and studying at home. If you would like to be part of this group please speak to Hannah Craig.

What's happening?

SUNDAYS AT RAILWAY STREET

MORNING SERVICE 10.30am (live streamed)

BEGINNERS - No. 31

KIDS - Upper Room

JUNIOR YOUTH - The Board Room

EVENING SERVICE 6.30pm (As announced)

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

PICKLEBALL

Every Wednesday 7pm-9pm in the Main Hall