



# Lisburn Cathedral



## Featured Stories

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Harvest Thanksgiving 2025  
God of Creation  
Hall Renovation Update  
South Lisburn Community Church



## Lisburn Cathedral



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## DEAN'S LETTER

**FAITH MEANS WE DEPEND ON GOD NOT ON OURSELVES!**

**"The essence of faith is being willing to depend on God rather than yourself. Every day acknowledge that you are weak but you are resting in his strength."**

**"Daily Strength - A Cancer Patient's Guide to Spiritual Survival"** was a tremendous help to me while I was receiving treatment for cancer. I experienced tiredness like never before and I had to apply that truth to my life, **"Faith is being willing to depend on God rather than myself."**

The words of Psalm 46 which went with this advice were equally powerful: **"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging."**



During the months of treatment when my physical strength was severely depleted I found strength and hope came from verses like these and from the prayers and support of countless numbers of people. I am very grateful to my extremely dedicated consultant and her team and to everyone who sent cards, texts, books, gifts, food, and most of all the great wave of prayer that has carried me and my family throughout this time.

Ongoing I will be assessed regularly by the Haematology nurses. However, my Consultant and Haematology team recently informed me that I am in remission and my **'results are better than expected.'**

God's Faithfulness is beyond words and the prayers prayed in Faith by God's people, and answered so powerfully, have reaffirmed my belief that true **'Faith requires me to be willing to depend on God rather than myself.'**

It is one of the best feelings ever to be told by medics, that my treatment has been so wonderfully successful and to know that God's healing is in no small part a fantastic answer to the prayers of so many people across this island and beyond.

**This is a season of thankfulness. I am so thankful to be in remission and thankful to the Lord Jesus for hearing the prayers of everyone who prayed for my healing. Thank you each and all for your prayers and kindness to me over the last number of months.**

A further scripture verse and thoughts that gave me strength was Matthew 23:10 - **"There is only one life leader... Christ!"** ('The Message') therefore we are to **"Combine a fighting spirit to live with a willingness to leave it all up to God!"**  
**Blessings in Christ to you all.**

*Sam*

# HARVEST THANKSGIVING

## COMMUNITY HARVEST SERVICE

**Friday 10th October | 7.30pm**

**Guest Speaker: Pete Meenagh**

## HARVEST SUNDAY

**Sunday 12th October | 9.30am & 11am**

**Guest Speaker: Mark McConnell**

## 31st OCTOBER - Hall Fundraiser

**Ceilidh in Church Hall, followed by supper**

**Doors open at 7pm, start time 7.15pm**

**Harvest Donation Envelopes will support our link with Yei Diocese. The Cathedral is looking at sending a team to South Sudan in the near future.**



Thank you sincerely for your congregation's continued support of our work over the last year. Like you, here at Lisburn Foodbank, we are now looking forward to the season of Harvest. Unfortunately, the number of people in our local community who require emergency food are still incredibly high.

During the last year, Lisburn Foodbank has provided emergency food parcels to 2,616 people who can't afford the essentials. At the same time, our donations have continued to fall - nearly 15% less than the previous year. We understand that more people than ever are struggling and those who previously gave are no longer able to do so. Your support is more vital than ever to ensure that we can continue to provide our services.







# EQUIP

SUNDAY EVENING 6.30PM

EVANGELISM

GIFT OF  
PROPHECY

19<sup>th</sup> October  
George Newell

16<sup>th</sup> November  
Glynis Matchett

## LISBURN CATHEDRAL CHOIR

The choir has been blessed with bigger numbers over the past couple of years, but unfortunately the men are all leaving, one emigrating to New Zealand and the others to pursue university courses.

If there are any men who can sing and would like to join us, Andrew and the ladies would be delighted to have your company. Choir practices are not frequent so don't let this put you off!



# MOTHERS' UNION

Christine Mitchell

## MOTHERS' UNION IS NOT JUST FOR MOTHERS!

Membership is open to anyone; men or women, married or single who support the Union's aims as follows:

- Maintain a worldwide Christian fellowship united in prayer and service
- Promote conditions favourable to stable family life and the protection of children
- Provide support to those facing family adversity

Global reach: Today, the Mothers' Union operates in 84 countries worldwide, with over 4 million members, making it one of the largest Christian women's organisations in the world.

Lisburn is part of 8 branches in the Lisburn & Derriaghy Area.

Currently Lisburn Branch is:

- Donating to the Overseas Fund
- Providing emergency wash bags
- Offering practical support to Women's Aid in our local community, and praying for them. The appeal this year is for t-shirts and leggings.
- Praying for members, their friends and families through the Diocese prayer group

Everyone is welcome to attend our events, with no obligation to join!



### PROGRAMME 2025

**MEETINGS ARE IN THE MINOR HALL AT 2.30PM ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

#### **MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

Collection of nightwear for women and children for donation to Women's Aid & Quiz

#### **SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 3PM**

Lisburn & Derriaghy Area Service  
Christ Church, Lisburn

#### **MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER**

Mental Health presentation organised by Billy Moore

#### **SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2PM**

Angels Among Us - Faith Art Exhibition  
Magheralin Parish Church

**If you'd like more information about Mothers' Union please speak to Christine or email [christinemitchell399@gmail.com](mailto:christinemitchell399@gmail.com)**



# FUEL

We're excited to invite you to FUEL, the new name for our Men's Fellowship. Why FUEL? Because we want to fuel friendships, fun and faith among men connected to our church and provide great opportunities to invite friends and family along.

Throughout the year we've planned a mix of social events, practical projects and thought-provoking talks as shown below.

We'd love to see you at FUEL

*David Allister, Lee Boal, Keith Gardiner and Simon Sellars*



Fuel Schedule 2025/2026	
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Ice hockey match at the SSE Arena - Father/Son trip
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Vic Ryn Breakfast Speaker: Spud Murphy (RUMBLE)
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 7pm	Curry Night Speaker & Testimony: Davy Allister
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 7.30pm-9pm	Speaker: Ian Bingham (CARE) McCammon Room
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Men's practical work party
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Open House with meal and worship in the Church Hall Speaker: David Glass - Artificial Intelligence
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Family walk, games and picnic Venue TBC

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## CATHEDRAL HOME GROUPS



Our study this term is a brand-new Bible Course developed by the Bible Society.

Why not join us for a tour through the entire Bible in just 8 sessions?

For more details please speak to Bill and Karen Welsh or Lee Boal

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## CRECHE

Victoria Churton

Our crèche takes place in the main church hall. Any babies or toddlers who are confidently on their feet are welcome to join us to play. Younger babies can come to join in the fun too with a parent or guardian. A baby mat and some soft toys are also available in the coffee room for parents to use.

We are joining with Kidzone this term to learn about the big story of the Bible through games, craft, stories and singing.

We are always on the lookout for more people to join our rota, to help our little ones learn and have fun. If you would like to help, please speak to Victoria Churton or Kathy Bell.

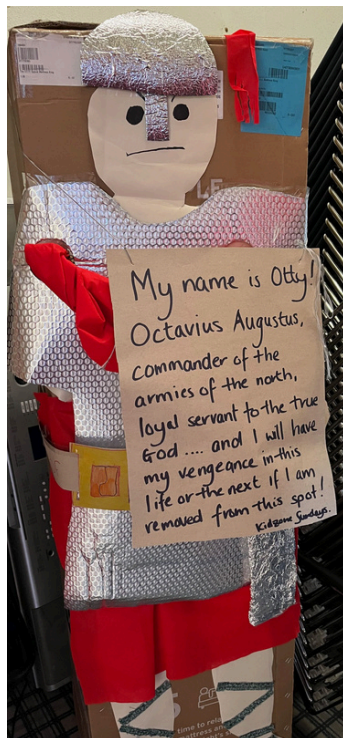




# KIDZONE

Andrea Beckett, Katy Gaston, Sarah Sellars, Vivienne Thompson

Did you meet Otty at the summer All Age Service? This Roman Centurion used his own kit to encourage us to learn about the Armour of God. So we kicked off Kidzone in September with a quick test of which pieces of armour we could remember from Ephesians 6:10-18. Would you believe, we named every single one with confidence. What an answer to prayer! It is wonderful to see our children growing in faith.



Thank you for continuing to pray for us. Please:

- give thanks for our volunteers and parents who keep Kidzone running;
- pray for safety in our activities each week;
- give thanks for the energy and enthusiasm of all our Kidzoners;
- pray that each of them will know God's love, and grow in their relationship with Him;
- give thanks that God is working out his plan in and through every Kidzoner.

This term we're getting to grips with the Sword of the Spirit. We're going on a journey through the Bible, meeting some characters, and finding out how God's promises to his people are fulfilled.

Why not come and see what we're up to? You're welcome to visit us on a Sunday morning - just speak to one of our team or sign up to the Kidzone rota on ChurchSuite. And please accept our invitation to the Linga Longa Lunch in November in the hall!

Finally, a special mention must go to our P7s who moved up to LCY and Bible Class over the summer. Amy-Rose, Charlie, Tara and Miriam - we miss you! Thank you for sharing your faith and for always getting stuck in with a joyful attitude.



## Kidzone DATES TO NOTE

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2025

26/10 HALF TERM, NO KIDZONE  
30/11 LINGA LONGA LUNCH  
21/12 ALL AGE NATIVITY  
28/12 NO KIDZONE



LINGA LONGA LUNCH IS THE NEW NAME FOR OUR  
PICNIC LUNCHES - BRING YOUR LUNCH WITH YOU  
TO CHURCH AND HAVE FUN HANGING OUT WITH  
OTHER FAMILIES AFTER KIDZONE



# LISBURN CATHEDRAL YOUTH

Laura Kilpatrick

Introducing... Lisburn Cathedral Youth (LCY)! We are back to a new school year and back with a new logo! It has been a great start to the term connecting with our volunteer team and beginning to meet our young people at Lisburn Cathedral.

Our year began with the Diocesan event, Connor Takes The Castle, in Castlewellan! We had 13 of our young people participate in the weekend, which involved a silent disco, archery, rock-climbing, Taskmaster, and lots of games! In our worship and teaching sessions, we learnt more about living "life to the full" in Christ by going through the Gospel of John. It was a great weekend, spending time together as a youth group and with other groups in Connor diocese.



As we look ahead to this coming term, we kicked off Sunday Night Youth (SNY) again on Sunday 28th September from 6:30-8pm in the McCammon Room. These nights will happen weekly and will feature games, snacks, small group discussions, bible teaching, and prayer. We also started our Year 13+ Small Group again on Sunday 28th September after SNY at 8pm in the McCammon Room. This small group is for sixth years and those in university to grow deeper in their faith together through bible study, discussion, and prayer. Bible Class is also back during our 11am services on Sundays! This is for young people in years 8-10.

At South Lisburn Community Church (SLCC), Connect Youth commenced on Friday 19th September. This will happen every other week from 7-9pm in the Youth Centre. Every Wednesday, from Wednesday 24th September, the Connect Youth drop-in is back! We will meet every Wednesday for tea, toasties, and bible study after school from 3:30-5pm.

I look forward to getting to know the amazing young people at Lisburn Cathedral and SLCC this term! If you have any questions, please contact me by email - [youth@lisburncathedral.org](mailto:youth@lisburncathedral.org)



# SOUTH SUDAN INFORMATION EVENING

Jill Lester

South Sudan is the world's youngest country. Formed in 2011 in a split from Sudan, the country has had a troubled beginning. Lisburn Cathedral has a long-standing partnership with the diocese of Yei in South Sudan and there have been several visits between the parishes over the years. A team from Lisburn Cathedral visited South Sudan in 2011 as they were celebrating their independence.

Since then, there have been several attempts to revisit the country but due to civil unrest and covid it has not been possible.

In April 2018, Sam led a team to visit the South Sudanese church in exile in Uganda and the Bishop of Yei, Bishop Levi and his wife visited Lisburn Cathedral in 2022.

Now however we would love to reconnect with the people in Yei. We hope to take a team out to South Sudan with CMSI in spring/summer 2026.

If you would be interested to find out more, we will be holding an information evening on **Wednesday 15th October at 7.30pm** in the coffee room (or in church if lots of people are interested!).

Please come along to find out how you can be involved, either on the team, or by supporting the team.

Harvest Donation Envelopes will support this link with South Sudan.



Lisburn Cathedral



**cmsireland**  
equipping the church in mission

## COFFEE ROOM

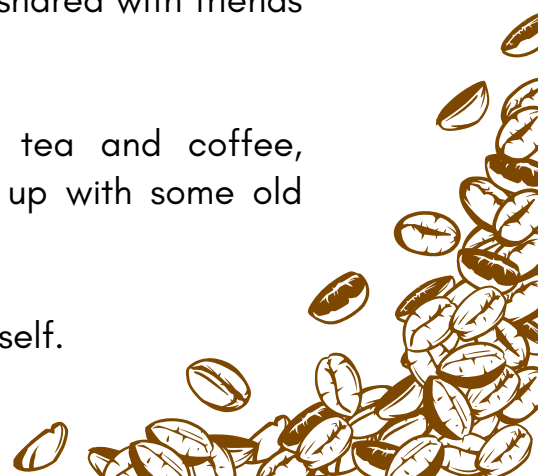
How do you like your coffee?

Americano, Latte, Capuchino or Flat White? Or maybe you are a tea drinker?

Whatever your preference we can all agree that it's best shared with friends and a good chat!

Friday mornings in the coffee room offers excellent tea and coffee, homemade scones and cakes, and a chance to catch up with some old friends – or meet new ones.

Call in on Fridays between 10am and 1pm and see for yourself.



# EUROPEAN HERITAGE OPEN DAY 2025

Ken Gibson

Every September the government promotes Heritage Open Days, a particular emphasis on history and heritage. In doing so it encourages people to visit a couple of hundred places across Northern Ireland, many of which are not normally open to the public.

The Cathedral has featured for many years in the publicity material and 2025 was no exception. So on Saturday 13th September we threw open our doors to the wider public from 10am to 4pm. We had around 70 visitors many of whom stayed for up to an hour.

So what did we do? Well this year we had a couple of apprentice tour guides as well as 2 old hands. Bryn Lister spent the day in the graveyard (good job the weather was kind) telling visitors the story of some of the key folk buried there. Bryn also told the story of how parishioner Henry Munroe was hanged at our gate in 1798.



Inside Tracey Carberry has become an expert on some of those whose memorials are in the Chancel.

Julian Netherton and Ken Gibson (the old hands) talked about the building, timelines and some of the interesting characters from our past. Jacqui Lister provided a warm welcome and some warm drinks and snacks to visitors.

The highlight was Alison Fairley who entered into the spirit of things by not only talking about the Barbour Window and telling the story of the suffragettes and the 1914 bomb at the window but by appearing in costume as the key conspirator in that action.



In the city centre Lisburn Orange Hall and St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church were also open. We had visitors from as far away as Magherafelt and it was great to meet Rev Clyde Irvine who had been a curate in the Cathedral from 1962 to 1965 along with his wife who had filled in as organist during part of their time in Lisburn. Many of those we spoke to had never been in the Cathedral, quite a number admitting to rarely being in any church. Ken has followed up with a couple of folk who had questions about family records and so on.



## PROPOSED TALKS

Ken Gibson

Some readers may recall that in 2023 as part of the 400th anniversary we held a series of history talks. These seem to have been well received and we have been asked on a number of occasions to think about some more.

So early in 2026 – dates and times will be firmed up nearer the time, a series of 3 new talks will be held, perhaps looking at a different angle and/or covering some new issues and including some emphasis on linen.

The titles are:-

1. Conundrums, characters and conflicts. This will look at some of the puzzles, some of which just do not make sense, some people we have not covered before and have made an impact locally or further afield and, in what was a male dominated society, some detail about some key women.



2. What about the folk we are close to every Sunday but never see – some of the 20 odd people buried under the floor and a few from the graveyard – who, where and why?

3. Multitasking – how did he cope – minister, friend of kings, writer, prisoner, pastor, preacher, bishop, expeller of clergy he did not agree with, educator, traveller and family man – a look at Jeremy Taylor.

## HALL FUNDRAISER

Kay McKnight has been busy making hand knitted dolls for our Hall Renovation Fund! They are beautifully made and there's lots of choice.

Kay has started to knit Santas, Snowmen and Elves for Christmas! These comfort dolls are for everyone; young and old.

£5 minimum suggested donation for each doll and proceeds go towards our Hall renovation.



The knitted dolls will be displayed in the coffee room at the back of the Cathedral or speak to Kay or Jill at church.

# CAMEO

Michael & Evelyn McCune

## Looking Back

This year our summer outing started with a lovely meal at The Wild Duck Inn Portglenone.

On our journey back we called at Gracehill where some people had a walk around the historic Moravian village. Our final stop was at Creative Gardens Galgorm for a potter about. Off course quite a few purchases were made !!

All in all we had a great day out.



Our next Cameo gathering was Afternoon Tea on the 31st July. This event was very well attended and it was a lovely opportunity to catch up with everyone again.



We were all very saddened by the passing of two of our Cameo members this year. Billy Andrews was one of the original members of Cameo and attended faithfully for many years. Billy passed away at the end of March. Tom Stevenson who had been a lifelong member of Lisburn Cathedral passed away at the beginning of June.

Those who knew Billy and Tom have nothing but the fondest memories of these two gentlemen.





## Looking Forward

Our Autumn / Winter programme is in full swing, leading up to our final event this year on Thursday 11th December, when we have our Communion Service and Cameo Christmas Dinner.

Please check out the programme for details of all our events. Programmes are available in the Coffee Room and side porch of the church. The starting date for Cameo in 2026 is Thursday 8th January at 2.30pm.

<b>Cameo Autumn/Winter Programme 2025</b>
<b>16th October @2.30pm - The life of Susanna Wesley. Dramatised by Eva Baxter</b>
<b>30th October @1pm (please note earlier start time) - Soup Lunch &amp; Quiz</b>
<b>13th November @2.30pm - Better Recycling. Talk by LCCC</b>
<b>27th November @2.30pm Meet the new Youth Worker, Interview with Laura Kilpatrick</b>
<b>11th December - Christmas Communion and Christmas Dinner (Details to follow)</b>

## MIND MATTERS

The Mind Matters programme starts again in the Cathedral from October. Please feel free to join the workshops or drop-in.

### Workshops (McCammon Room)

1. Helen Nelson: Life Coaching: Tuesday 28th October 2025 at 7.30pm
2. John Campbell: Dementia and what it means: Thursday 30th October at 7.30pm
3. Helen Nelson: Anxiety: Thursday 6th November at 7.30pm
4. John Campbell: Grief and Loneliness: Tuesday 11th November at 7.30pm

### Weekly Drop-in Sessions (Chapter Room for 4 weeks)

Beginning on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November

Helen will be in attendance on Tuesday after noon 12-3pm

John will be in attendance on Friday mornings 11am-1pm

These sessions will be open for 4 sessions per person

## SOUTH LISBURN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hello from everyone at SLCC!

As we start a new term we give thanks to God for all he's done over summer and we are excited for the next few months.

On a beautiful Sunday in June we went on a road trip to Ballygally beach where we had a really special time as we baptised mother and son Caroline and Robert who have recently come to faith. God is working powerfully in their lives.



During the summer we took the Connect Youth crew camping to Summer Madness. The guys who came along really enjoyed it and took further steps on their journey of faith.



Quite a few of our church went to New Wine in Sligo. Many going for the first time, the conference had a really big impact on those who went along and it helped shape a lot of their thinking around church and how to grow closer to the Lord.

In the month of July we changed to a more informal cafe style church "Chit Chat Church". Each Sunday it was packed and we had various people sharing from the Psalms. We finished the summer off with an All-in service and BBQ and giving prizes and journals to the Sunday Club kids. Natalie from Newry Centre of Mission came along to share a bit of her story and we were so excited to welcome and introduce Laura Kilpatrick to the church as the new youth worker.



Also during the summer our walking group "Stronger Together" met every Tuesday.



At the start of September we had our annual church day away to Murlough House, it's was an incredibly powerful time with Stephen McElhinney sharing about facing and overcoming our giants and David Henderson from Christ Church Kilkeel leading us in worship. For the first time this year we had kids work happening which allowed more people to come along.



**South Lisburn**  
Community Church

In church we have started a new teaching series called "Threaded - How the Old Testament points to Jesus."

Sunday Club has started back with some new kids coming along. In Bible Study we are going deeper into the teaching from Sunday in the Threaded series. There is genuinely a real enthusiasm to get into the word, which is so exciting.



We were so excited to start back into Connect Youth Fridays and Drop-in Wednesdays. We want to thank Lauren for her work as Youth Intern over the last number of years and for the connections she's made. Lauren is staying on as a youth leader which is brilliant. We are also so excited for the year ahead with Laura as Youth Worker.

The women's and men's groups have been out for breakfast and the women's day at the Cathedral. Both groups have a wide range of activities planned for the next year.

Transforming Lives For Good has continued to be a really great programme for Largymore School and for us. We have three new coaches onboard which is amazing. Many of our Connect Youth group are young people who we first connected with in TLG. Please pray for the kids we are

working with as many of them need a lot of support as they prepare for secondary school in September.

Community harvest will be on Friday 10th October and we will be putting together plans for Christmas.

As a church there's going to be a real focus on prayer this year as we look to see breakthroughs in many areas of ministry and in the lives of those in the area.

The building project in Hillhall is progressing well. We now have most of the funds required to build the centre which is such a blessing. We hope to hear back from the planning committee in October, all being well we will be able to progress the project.

Here are a few of the normal weekly get togethers at SLCC. You would be so welcome to pop in anytime.

**Tuesday 7:30pm** Youth Centre - Bible Study  
(Alternate weeks - opposite to home groups)

**Last Tuesday in the month -**

Prayer Night 7:30pm-8:30pm

**Wednesday 10:30am-12.30pm**

Youth Centre - Chit Chat Cafe

**1st Friday of the month -**

Youth Centre - Prayer Day (10am-4pm)

**Sundays at 11:30am -**

SLCC at Largymore Primary and Sunday Club.

We continue to be so thankful for all your support, and for our Lisburn Cathedral family enabling and encouraging us in this ministry.

*Pete, Donna, Jayne and Steve.*



# GOD OF CREATION

Stephen McLoughlin



In Genesis 9 God describes the rainbow as a sign of His eternal promise to Noah. That He will never again destroy the earth by flood, and as such the rainbow has become a symbol of God's love and faithfulness. We know a rainbow is a natural phenomenon, being formed as light shines through water, the light being bent and reflected leading to the colours of the rainbow. But God created the light and the water - so I guess the rainbow too!!

In Ezekiel 1:28 the prophet Ezekiel uses the image of a rainbow to describe the vision of the majesty and awe-inspiring nature of God's presence, and the brilliance that surrounded the heavenly throne. This rainbow image of God's throne is also used in Revelation 4:3 and an angel is described as having a rainbow on his head in Revelation 10:1. The rainbow image is clearly a stand out in God's creation.

Although we can humanly understand the creation of a rainbow, I think we would all agree that when God created the earth and said afterwards 'it was good' that was probably the understatement of all time!! While frolicking around the circumference of the Conor diocese last April in the Conor Big Run the team witnessed some of the most stunning views in our totally stunning country, taking in the east coast and particularly along with the north coast. I will never

forget the run from Balintoy into Bushmills taking in ocean from the hills, particularly made more beautiful by the rain and possibly the knowledge that day 2 was coming to an end!!

However much as I still smile when I look at these photos and relive the memory of this time, my biggest memory was more how God truly shone in the people involved and those we met as we run along. I remember a conversation with a lady who had a dog called Victor Victorious who we were able to share the reason for our journey (the lady, not the dog!), and the farmer Sid we met walking in the back roads before Portglenone and we had the privilege of praying with him for his ongoing cancer journey. And of course those that shared the journey and supported the endeavour - through each person I felt God's love.



God makes no mistakes and the epitome of His 'understatedly good' creation is us. You can share God to the person beside you and demonstrate His love as His ambassador to the world circles we live in.

We can show God in the way we say please and thank you, hold a door, look people in the eye as we speak, drive courteously and gracefully, respect those older as well as younger (and same age!) and probably Jesus said it best when He said 'love your neighbour as yourself'.

Creation is awe inspiring but so are you - sometimes we just need to realise our ability to encourage those around us, to actually do it, and be ready to share our faith in words as well as actions.

# UPDATE FROM THE TREASURER

## CHURCH HALL

Richard Thompson



Often, when in the midst of something, it can be hard to hold a wide perspective and step back and see your immediate situation as others may perceive it. As a firm reminder of this, I was recently asked if I could provide something of an overview as to why we're raising money for the hall.

Over 10 years ago, we undertook a massive programme of refurbishment in the church and rectory, giving us the facilities we have today. The hall on the other hand has not had any substantial work or changes to the hall areas, since the creation of the McCammon room in 1989.

Since then time has passed, I got my A-levels, found a job, got married, raised a couple of kids, was asked to serve as Treasurer and now, way too many years later, the hall is in need of a number of areas of work to secure the building from the elements, prevent water ingress in the roof, repair damp and rot, improve the look of the hall ceilings and generally secure the building to ensure it remains a functional

and pleasant space for the many, many groups and activities who regularly use it, alongside our seasonal and irregular events, from BBQ's, installations and celebrations to funeral teas, first aid courses and even somewhere to dry our tents after Summer Madness!

In 2023, the Vestry agreed to look at further refurbishment work to meet these demands and since then we have been gradually raising funds to support the refurbishment work on the Church Hall. The aim was set to save as we can, so we can afford to undertake this essential work, while not impacting on our day-to-day ministries and outreach work and this means that the progress is incremental.

As we build funds, it puts us in a stronger position to seek additional funding from grant bodies, that may offer to match what we have raised. In the last two years we have had grant funds from Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council towards the replacement of the windows, but other options for funds have been limited.

The rotten window frames were replaced in 2024, removing any risk of them falling apart, enhancing the look of the hall and improving the ventilation options and heat retention of the building.

The further work that is needed on the exterior, will not result in any radical changes to the building style, structure or

functionality, but will ensure it is fit to stand and remain wholly usable for the next few generations. This work includes:

- Brick work – all growing plants need to be extracted to prevent further damage and the brickwork needs repointed across the whole building.



- Sandstone blocks and edge stones need repaired or replaced. In a few cases this is cosmetic, but mostly these stones form the first line of defence against the weather, and once compromised, weather damage then increases exponentially.



- The area around the main door suffers from damp and this needs investigated and repaired.
- Drains and gutters need enhanced to better cope with the trees, leaves and volume of rain and wind the building is exposed to and the roof needs updated to better protect the building.
- Cosmetic enhancements – doors (internal and external), painting, false ceiling replacements.

The question has been asked, could we not knock it down and build a shiny new hall, with better offices, more storage and a new set of facilities. This has been considered, however the costs and obstacles to this are notable and include, but are not limited to:

Likely funds needed are estimated to be in excess of £1.5m, three times, what we plan to spend on the current work.

Access for substantial demolition and groundwork would need to be agreed and carried out with the co-operation of the council due to likely impacts on Castle Gardens and the need to use it to access any major building work. We have a great working relationship with the council, one we'd like to keep.

Working within the confines of a listed building (the church) and close proximity to the cemetery and the historic site of Castle Gardens, means any substantive excavation work would also increase the risk of



needing some archaeology to be carried out, further increasing costs and putting the project at risk.

The more substantive the work, the longer the time where facilities are not available for the many current groups who use them.

To put this in context, the hall is normally in use on a term time week at least 5 days a week and usually more than once per day on those occasions.

The story so far:

Year	Activity	Income (£000s)	Expenditure (£000s)	Hall Fund (£000s)
2023	Grant - LCCC	10		
	Donations and Fund Raising	4.7		
2024	Donations and Fund Raising	107.5		
	Windows Replacement		-38.1	
2025 YTD	Donations and Fund Raising	19.2		
	<b>Totals so far</b>	<b>141.4</b>	<b>-38.1</b>	<b>103.3</b>
	Funds to Raise (Original Target £500,000)			358.6

If you'd like to support the project, please consider pledging a regular amount to help with ongoing fund raising, support the events planned and invite friends.

We can use the opportunities the events give us to invite people from outside the parish and thereby help bring in additional funds from non-traditional sources and while also engaging with our wider communities.

Richard Thompson  
0758-457-2141  
Hon. Treasurer, Lisburn Cathedral

Fundraising Committee  
Bryn Lister, Hayley Howe, Kathy Bell, Davy Lamont, Jacqui Lister

## CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

We'll have over 20 crafters at the Christmas Craft Fair including hand made jewellery, pottery, art work, Christmas decorations, home baking, hair accessories, felted items, wood craft, books, painted glass, fabric animals, gifts, tote bags and The Really Useful stall! The ladies who make bags will be taking orders but only for delivery after Christmas.



# PASTORAL INFO

## New to Lisburn ?

Welcome to Lisburn Cathedral. It gives us great joy to welcome new people to worship. It is our desire to provide a caring worshipping community where through teaching and prayer we grow and mature as Christians who know Christ and learn to follow him as our personal Lord and Saviour.

## Registration

Then following prayerful consideration, if you decide the Lord is calling you to commit to worshipping regularly in the Cathedral, the registration forms will enable you become members of the church. These forms can also be filled out should you have moved house. We can only store information with the consent of those who are registered members and this information enables us to serve the needs of our members more effectively. Registration forms are available for download on our website, and printed copies are available in the porch of the Cathedral. If you need any assistance accessing these please contact our Administrator by phone or email.

## Weddings

Christian Marriage is the most important decision any couple can make together. All couples are asked to attend Church each week, attend the Marriage Preparation Course and uphold Christian standards as they prepare for their Marriage.

All dates should be checked with the Dean before booking with hotels as the staff and Cathedral may not be available for specific dates. A Wedding Information sheet will be provided to couples, which should be returned to the clergy, before a firm booking is taken.

## Baptism

What a joy it is to welcome the children of believing Christians into the fellowship of Lisburn Cathedral through baptism. The Clergy should be contacted to provide the parents with the 'Baptism at Lisburn Cathedral' leaflet. You can download this leaflet from our website: [lisburncathedral.org/family-celebrations](http://lisburncathedral.org/family-celebrations)

Once parents have read this information they may decide to bring their baby for baptism or thanksgiving service. Both parents should be regular attenders at Lisburn Cathedral and have the clear intention of bringing up their child in the fellowship of the Christian Church.

The purpose of our Children's Ministry in the Cathedral is for all children to have the opportunity to come to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

## Funerals

Please notify clergy or staff immediately upon serious illness or death of parishioners for support and guidance. The Clergy should always be consulted before any funeral plans or times are arranged.

## Hospital & Nursing Home admissions

We are no longer automatically informed about admissions by hospital chaplains, so we would value your help in keeping us up to date with parishioners who are unwell or in hospital.

When Clergy are informed of church members in hospitals and nursing homes they would be pleased to visit them.



## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Baptisms

Rosie Irwin | 25 May 2025

Leo Robertson-Jordan | 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Caroline & Robert Patterson | 29<sup>th</sup>  
June 2025 (SLCC)

Freddie Boyd | 6 July 2025

### Dedication

Florence Totten | 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025

Theo Gibson | 5<sup>th</sup> October 2025

### Funerals

Bertie Robinson | 23 April 2025

Margaret Pollock | 25 April 2025

Denise Parker | 12 May 2025

John Pollock | 5 June 2025

Tom Stevenson | 9 June 2025

Jeremy Newlin | 10 June 2025

David Reilly | 6 August 2025

## OFFICE HOURS

The Church office is open:  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday  
9.30am – 1.30pm



Lisburn Cathedral

## CONTACTS

### Rector

Dean Sam Wright

11D Magheralave Road

T: 07515775505

E: [sam.wright@lisburncathedral.org](mailto:sam.wright@lisburncathedral.org)

Sam's day off is Monday

### Curate

Rev. Lee Boal

82 Thornleigh Drive

T: 07738174134

E: [lee.boal@lisburncathedral.org](mailto:lee.boal@lisburncathedral.org)

Lee's day off is Monday

### Pioneer Evangelist

(*South Lisburn Community Church*)

Rev Pete Meenagh

T: 07812724244

E: [pete@lisburncathedral.org](mailto:pete@lisburncathedral.org)

### Hon Secretary

Mrs Rachel McIlwrath

E: [rachelmcilwrath@gmail.com](mailto:rachelmcilwrath@gmail.com)

### Hon Treasurer

Mr Richard Thompson

T: 9266 7059

E: [treasurer@lisburncathedral.org](mailto:treasurer@lisburncathedral.org)

### Church Wardens

Mrs Julie Harper

E: [julieannharper@btinternet.com](mailto:julieannharper@btinternet.com)

Mrs Jill Lester

E: [jilllester01@gmail.com](mailto:jilllester01@gmail.com)

### Administrator

Angela Montgomery

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E: [angela.montgomery@lisburncathedral.org](mailto:angela.montgomery@lisburncathedral.org)