



Lisburn Cathedral



Featured Stories

[Big Church Serve](#)

[Letter from Danielle](#)

[400th Anniversary Plans](#)

[South Lisburn
Community Church](#)



Lisburn Cathedral



CONTENTS

- P.2-3 Dean's Easter Letter**
- P.4-5 Big Church Serve**
- P.5 400th Anniversary Talks**
- P.6 Gala Dinner**
- P.7 Celebration weekend - 400th Anniversary**
- P.8 Letter from Danielle**
- P.9 Planned Hall Work**
- P.10-11 South Lisburn Community Church**
- P.11. Mothers' Union/Date for your diary**
- P. 12 Kidzone**
- P.13 Mettle**
- P.14 Abaana news**
- P.15. Cameo**
- P.16 Nimble Fingers/Coffee Room/ Home Groups**
- P.17 Looking after God's World/ Men's Fellowship**
- P.18 GEM**

DEAN'S EASTER LETTER

Dean Sam Wright

Our 400th Anniversary year has started at a strong pace -

The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison during the 400th Anniversary Launch Service shared his family connections with Lisburn and recalled with gratitude his month long placement in 1991 in the Cathedral with Canon John McCammon.

Bishop George encouraged us to stop for a moment to reflect on our history and to inspire the next generations to worship God. He said we are also to go out from the Cathedral to share the eternal truth, hope and salvation of the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

Congratulations to the nimble fingers group, who produced a wonderful knitted model of the Cathedral and surrounding buildings that was greatly admired.



Other important events include two days of prayer and an Anniversary Concert.

In early February we bade a fond farewell to Rev Danielle McCullagh who had served as our Curate & Vicar for five and a half years. The Service of Introduction as Chaplain to the Hub and the Church of the Resurrection at Queen's on 15th February marked the beginning of a new era for Danielle in her service for the Lord Jesus.



The five Mental Well-being workshops facilitated by John Campbell are now underway with a good uptake on the places.

The planning is well underway for the Big Church Serve 2023 "All through History", you will see further details on the next page. Please do sign up to volunteer in this exciting engagement with the community, as we share the good news of Jesus.

On the weekend of the Coronation of King Charles III, we will be having a celebration service and lunch to mark this historic moment. A Civic Celebration Service is also in the planning stage.

Further 400th Anniversary Events include:

19th May - Gala Dinner (Tickets are available online from 19th March).

9-11th June - Celebration Weekend and a Friends of Lisburn Cathedral Service.

These are events where our greatest desire is to share the life changing and historic truth of a Saviour who died for all mankind to come to him to receive hope, peace and new life through faith in Jesus Christ. Three days after Jesus was crucified he rose from the dead, the risen Lord Jesus then met with his disciples and taught them the wonderful and life changing truth from history, the law and the prophets about everything that had happened:

"This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Luke 24:46 - 49.

These words from Jesus inspired his disciples to go out and proclaim that, Christ is risen from the dead!

In everything that we do let us make it our greatest desire and our joy to tell others the story of Easter and to invite them to receive the hope of the living Lord Jesus for themselves.

Sam

BIG CHURCH SERVE

BIG CHURCH SERVE 2023: "ALL THROUGH HISTORY"

"All Through History" is our theme in our 400th Anniversary year of sharing the gospel in Lisburn.

We are getting under way with a Kid's Club on the green in Hillhall on Wednesday 5th April and it will also run on the following day when we get into full swing in BCS 2023.

A wide range of activities, worship times and events are happening this Easter:



Wednesday 5th April - 11am Kids Club

7.30pm Big Church Serve Praise & Prayer in the Cathedral

Thursday 6th April - South Lisburn

9.00am Coffee at Hillhall.
 9.30am Worship Time
 10.00am Team Time and Prep
 11.00am Kids Club, Practical Team, Door to Door Plants & Prayers, Chit Chat/Grace Cafe, Bouncy Castle.
 2pm-4pm Fun Day on the Hillhall Green

7.30pm Big Church Serve Passover and Worship in the Cathedral Hall

Friday 7th April - "ALL THROUGH HISTORY"

9.00am Coffee in Grace Cafe.
 9.30am Worship Time
 10.00am Team Time and Prep
 10.30am Grace Cafe. Business Blessing, Prayer on the Streets, Prayer Room
 12.30pm Walk of Witness & Worship - Laurence Bellew and Ukrainian Participation
 2.00pm All Through History Afternoon - Crafts, Family Easter Trail, Bibles Got Talent Event.

7.30pm GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP - The Rt Rev Andrew Forster (Bishop of Derry & Raphoe)
 Including Easter Gardens made by Families.

Saturday 8th April - "ALL THROUGH HISTORY"

9.00am Coffee in Grace Cafe.
 9.30am Worship Time
 10.00am Team Time and Prep
 11.00am God's Handiwork Puppet Theatre, Songs, Circus Skills, Story Telling, Crafts, Family Easter Trail, Bibles Got Talent Event. Grace Cafe. Business Blessing, Prayer on the Streets, Prayer Room
 1.00pm Community BBQ

Sunday 9th April at 11am Lisburn Cathedral

"ALL THROUGH HISTORY" ALL AGE EASTER CELEBRATION

PLEASE SIGN UP TO OUR BIG CHURCH SERVE TEAMS!

You will see we have a great number of ways in which we are sharing the Good News of Jesus through this "All Through History" Big Church Serve, we need your help with these many events in our City.

You may already have received a paper sign up form, if not then you can download a form on our website: lisburncathedral.org/downloads or speak to a staff member.

Please Pray for..

The truth and wonder of Jesus to shine through the many encounters, conversations and blessings at this "All Through History" Big Church Serve.

For those who come to have their lives transformed by Christ.

For our wonderful team members (we had over 80 people involved last year)

For our guest speakers, worship team and staff team as we teach, worship and make the "God of all History" real in our service for Christ this Easter.

For the sun to shine on us (we need good weather!)

400TH ANNIVERSARY- UPCOMING TALKS

Ken Gibson

A number of people have been asking about specific events in the Cathedral's past.

The 400th Committee have therefore decided to run a series of short (1 hour) talks on 5 Saturday mornings (10 am) on the topics that seems to interest people. The plan is as follows:-

22 April

From St Thomas to Christ Church Cathedral - how, when and why.

3 June

Cathedral and society over the years - the official and unofficial role the clergy and people had in the development and management of Lisburn.

17 June

Growing up in the Cathedral in the 40s and 50s - a panel discussion with 3 or 4 people who are born and bred Cathedral. There will be a light breakfast and we may require advance booking.

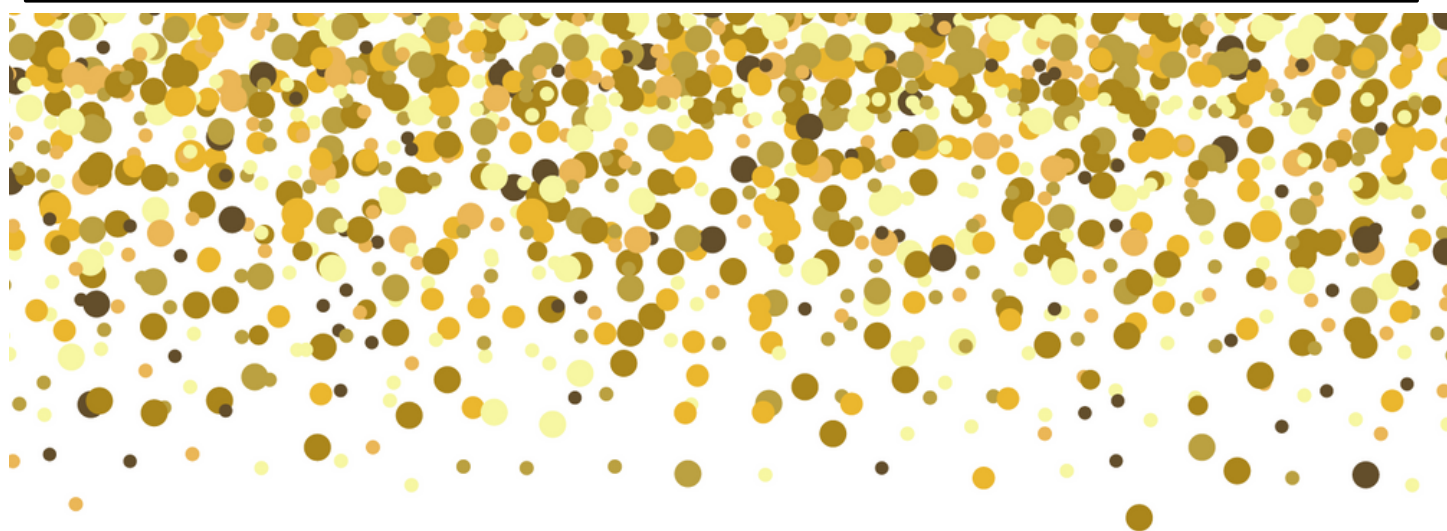
16 September

Conflicts local and international.

21 October

Lillian and the 1914 bomb at the west window.

Put the dates in your diary. If a number of friends or a family group ask, these sessions can be repeated on a suitable day or evening.



LISBURN CATHEDRAL'S 400TH ANNIVERSARY

GALA DINNER

FRIDAY 19TH MAY | 7PM

Edenmore Golf & Country Club

70 Drumnabreeze Road, Magheralin BT67 0RH

DRINKS RECEPTION

4 COURSE MEAL

DANCING TILL LATE

£40 PER PERSON

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON LISBURNCATHEDRAL.ORG
FROM 19TH MARCH 2023

DRESS CODE: SMART CASUAL



Lisburn Cathedral
400 YEARS OF WORSHIP
ON THE CATHEDRAL SITE IN 2023



Lisburn Cathedral
400 YEARS OF WORSHIP
ON THE CATHEDRAL SITE IN 2023

Celebration Weekend **Friday 9th June - Sunday 11th June**

The organisers are inviting as many people as they can who had a link with the Cathedral and have now moved away. Those links may have been through baptism, confirmation, wedding or indeed being part of the worshipping community.

As we may not be able to track everyone down, please pass this information on to anyone you know who was part of the Cathedral in the past.

The evening of Friday 9th June:

A family gourmet barbecue in Castle Gardens or in the case of inclement weather the Cathedral Hall.

Saturday 10 June

An afternoon tea in the Cathedral building. We hope to have some "time travellers" with us who will share something of life in Lisburn in the 1600's - how people lived, how they dressed, what they ate and the issues they faced.

Sunday 11 June | 3.30pm

A special Friends of Lisburn celebratory service in the afternoon. We hope that once again Bishop George will be with us for this highlight of our anniversary year.

Details of time, how to book and ticket prices will be publicised nearer the time. In the meantime put the dates in your diary and look out for more information.

LETTER FROM DANIELLE

It's difficult to adequately express the depth of my gratitude for the last five and a half years. Six years ago, during the curacy discernment process, the Lord made it abundantly clear to me that Lisburn Cathedral was the place he had in store for me to learn and to serve. For that, I will be forever thankful.

What a rollercoaster it has been. There have been so many highs, and a few challenges along the way. Many weddings, funerals, baptisms, 4 Big Church Serves, 1 global pandemic, who knows how many Sunday morning sermons, countless pastoral visits and cups of coffee. I have loved it all! To see God at work in the lives of so many people in Lisburn Cathedral, in many different situations and circumstances, in joy and in sorrow, and to get to be even a tiny part of it is, without doubt, the biggest privilege of my life. Thank you to each one of you who have allowed me to share in your life and your journey of faith. Through you my faith has grown and my relationship with Jesus has deepened.

Of all the highlights of my time at Lisburn Cathedral, having the opportunity to serve alongside Sam, is one I deeply value. I know that having such an encouraging and supportive training rector has given me the best possible foundation for this next chapter of my ministry. You have at the helm of Lisburn Cathedral, a wise, gentle, gracious, and godly leader and I commend him to your prayers in this next chapter of his ministry. Particularly in his search for a new curate.

Lisburn Cathedral is a very special place, not because it's a nice building or even just a community, but a family. I was reminded of that on Sunday 5th February. I cannot explain

how difficult my last Sunday was in many ways, but I found so much comfort in being surrounded by my church family. I was blown away by your kind and generous gifts. I found comfort in the many cards and hugs I received that day. I'm particularly thankful to Heather Gibson and her team who put together such a wonderful lunch afterwards. The effort they put in, right down to the tiny details didn't go unnoticed and I am grateful to have been part of such a loving and thoughtful church family.

Throughout the last five years, we as a Church have experienced the Lord's undeniable, extravagant goodness and guidance and I have no doubt that he will continue to bless and empower, guide, and provide for Lisburn Cathedral in the future. I will continue to pray for you, and I would deeply covet your prayers for this new chapter of ministry at The Hub, Belfast. Pray that the Lord would use the chaplaincy to reach many young lives at Queen's University and Stranmillis College.

This is not 'goodbye'; this is 'may God be with you'.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

With my love and gratitude.
Danielle



PLANNED HALL WORK

As we look to Easter and new beginnings, it is an opportune time to update you on the new plans for our church hall. The existing building was completed in 1885 following construction that started for the Sunday School in 1884. It has been used in many ways over the years, including a period of wartime service during WWII when the Sunday School was held in the Cathedral. There has been one major refit circa 1989 when the stage was removed and the McCammon Room and upstairs area were created.

Today the hall supports regular use by the Kidzone Sunday, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers, Community Orchestra, Weekly Work Team, Mums & Tots, Ladies Bible Study, Cameo, Kidzone Friday and Mettle, not to mention funerals, weddings, social events, Christmas Events and a number of other community activities.

With the constant usage, wear and tear is inevitable and while running repairs are a regular occurrence, several key structural parts of the hall have now reached a point where a major overhaul is needed:

- Windows and frames need replaced and updated to be more energy efficient.
- Brick work needs detailed attention to clear developing plant growth and ensure the weather integrity of the building is maintained.
- The energy efficiency of the building needs updated.
- Roof needs an overhaul to ensure it is fit for the next 50 years.
- Main hall floor needs attention.
- Interior and exterior wood work needs repaired or replaced in a number of locations.

The hall, while not listed, is in a conservation



area and adjacent to the Cathedral and Castle Gardens, both of which are of historical significance and as such all work must be sympathetic to the immediate environment.

The 2022-23 Select Vestry have reviewed the work needed and some options around alternatives and have instigated work to start planning to update the building in the Summer of 2024.

To do this our working budget is between £500,000 and £600,000. Options for more radical changes than those outlined above, were estimated to be in excess of three times this amount.

To keep our hall functioning in a state that reflects our ongoing support for all the users of the hall today we need your support. If you have spare time, and any knowledge in building, architecture, grant application or fundraising, we need your help. If you can afford to help financially, we need your help. We will be looking at grant possibilities, but we still need to raise most of the finance ourselves as there is no spare capacity in our normal operating funds to support this type of capital project.

If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Martin Lester, Richard Thompson or Simon Sellars, or e-mail treasurer@isburncathedral.org

Richard Thompson | 0758-457-2141

SOUTH LISBURN COMMUNITY CHURCH UPDATE

Rev Pete Meenagh



Hello everyone, as we head towards Spring and Easter time we are thankful for all God has done in the winter months at SLCC.

We have been so encouraged by our recent Alpha course, with 3 individuals choosing to follow Jesus and a few others recommitting to their faith journey.

We continue to work closely in the community with men's breakfasts, women's evenings, connect youth events, as well as our regular activities during the week.

We are thankful to be able to connect with many individuals throughout the week and journey with them in their lives. We couldn't do this without our church volunteers, to whom we are indebted to.

Please do use our prayer letter to hear more about what goes on at SLCC. You can find

one attached in the email or a hard copy can be found in the side entrance in church.

We are looking forward to have you join us during BCS on Thursday 6th April as we have our annual Easter Outreach. Please be encouraged that God uses the simple connections we have during these events if we are open to Him using us, as you can see from a quote of one our new church members who we first met at BCS 2022.

"As soon as I met Steve during the big Easter celebrations at the field, my life changed... Knowing Jesus in my heart and having the best community around me, I actually feel like I belong somewhere and I am accepted just the way that I am."

Yours in Christ,
Pete and Donna





South Lisburn
Community Church



Our first baptism at SLCC

Thomas, William and Alister
baptised 19th February 2023

A REGULAR WEEK AT SLCC

WEDNESDAYS:
CHIT CHAT CAFE - 10:30AM-12PM - YOUTH CENTRE
BIBLE STUDY- 7:30PM - ALTERNATE WEDNESDAYS

FRIDAYS:
PRAYER DAY- FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
CONNECT YOUTH - SEE FACEBOOK

SUNDAYS:
SUNDAY CLUB (P1-P7) 3:15PM-4:15PM - YOUTH CENTRE
SLCC CHURCH MEETING - 3PM-4PM - BLACK HALL

MOTHER'S UNION

**LISBURN CATHEDRAL
MOTHERS' UNION PROGRAMME**

March 2023 - June 2023

Monday 20th March @ 2.30pm -

Bring & Buy Sale

Monday 17th April @ 2.30pm -

To be arranged

Monday 15th May @ 2.30pm -

AGM. Cream Tea

Monday 19th June -

Outing: The Mill, Hillsborough



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!



Lisburn Cathedral
Saturday 29th April | 7.30pm

Concert of Chamber Music

Hayley Howe - Violin and Soprano

Drew Rowan - Flute

Scott Heron - Cello

Rodney Spence - Piano

Tickets in aid of Abaana - £10
(under 18s - £5.00)

For further details or to purchase tickets, please contact Hayley on hayleyhowe21@btinternet.com

KIDZONE

Andrea Johnston

We have been so busy in Kidzone these last few months.

Christmas 2022 saw us all enjoying lots of activities together. Our children's nativity performance was fantastic, in particular our 'Meaning of Christmas' written and performed entirely by senior zone...well done everyone, we all thoroughly enjoyed it!

For our Christmas Panto day when we were joined by Play It By Ear drama group, where we welcomed members from the whole community for a fun filled day with the Christmas story, crafts and food.

The new year saw us start a new topic on Sunday mornings 'Giants of Faith'. Each week we have been looking at a different character from the Bible who had huge faith in God and how God does the same things for us in our lives. We have enjoyed lots of crafts, acting, songs and very silly games. Our senior zone dig a little deeper each week into our story and I wish you could hear them... their strength and depth of faith is amazing.

On Friday evenings at Kidzone we have welcomed even more new members from our



local community. So many children come and have fun with us. The baking night was a particularly huge hit, a few future Mary Berry's among us!

The JL team and I also took a welcome night off from youth club to enjoy some team building together. We had a very competitive night at Prison Island, Belfast, which was so much fun!!! This group give up so much of their time to help me keep things running each week so this was a very much deserved treat!

Upcoming dates:

Kidzone Sunday/children's day

11 am Sunday 25th June.

Children's holiday Bible club

31st July - 4th August.

Children's holiday Bible club celebration

11 am Sunday 6th August.

Any questions about any of our children's services please get in touch at any time.

God Bless

Andrea (kidzone@lisburncathedral.org)



METTLE NEWS

Laura Kilpatrick

Mettle have had a great start to the year! In January, we started a new series called Ordinary People. This has been a series planned and led by our young people on Saturday nights. They have shared stories of ordinary people in the Bible, leading us in worship, small groups and prayer as we have explored these different Bible characters.

It has been amazing seeing how our young people have been growing in their faith and stepping out of their comfort zone to serve their peers in Mettle.



We have also taken part in an Ultimate Uno Tournament, the Lisburn Youth Service, the Crown Jesus 1 Way Event and a walk/hike with Engage Connor Diocese. It has been a busy start to 2023!

mettle
• LISBURN CATHEDRAL •

We also had Neville from Abaana sharing with us at our Mettle Motivation Service. This was a brilliant service as we got to hear an update from Derrick, who Mettle sponsors in Kampala, Uganda.



After this we ran a Bake Sale to raise money for Abaana, specifically helping the needs of the young person we sponsor. We raised an amazing £642! Thank you to everyone for their generosity in donating and baking for the event. Also a big thank you for clothing dropped off for the New Life Choir.

This Easter, we are hoping as many young people as possible get signed up to serve at Big Church Serve! This is a great way to get out into our community and share the amazing news of Jesus.

After Easter, we will have our Mettle Motivation Service on Sunday 23rd April and the following Sunday 30th April, we will be having a social fun day with the Connor Youth Forum. This will be a day trip to the north coast to link up with the young people from the Connor Diocese.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact me on mettle@lisburncathedral.org

ABAANA NEWS

Neville Jones

25 YEARS ON, GOD IS STILL CHANGING LIVES

(Colossians 3:17)

It's hard to believe that this year Abaana is celebrating its 25th birthday.

And it all stemmed from God placing a burden for children in Africa on the heart of a 19 year old, called Scott Baxter, the founder and CEO of Abaana. From those early days, God has faithfully continued to bless, encourage and provide resulting in £8m being spent on projects in Africa.

The first Abaana sponsor child was Catherine Nanfuka, who later travelled as an adult chaperone with the 2017 New Life Choir and made an emotional appearance at the Cathedral. Now today, through the amazing kindness and generosity of supporters, some 1900 children are currently receiving an education through sponsorship.

Work started in January this year on new school buildings for St. Mary's Primary at Kagoli in Eastern Uganda. This will be the 17th Abaana primary school. It is estimated that currently over 7,000 children are being educated in Abaana-built schools.

We thank God for the staff in Uganda who are currently working with 55 former street children, providing them with a safe, secure and loving environment in New Life Homes (NLH). The goal is to see them safely and happily resettled with their immediate or extended families. 26 of our former NLH boys have completed their education (secondary or third level or vocational) and are now living independently. What a change from living rough on the streets!



You are making a difference.

Quite literally, none of this would have been possible without the amazing support and continued kindness of people like you, the Cathedral Church family. Here are some of the ways the Cathedral has been making a difference through Abaana since 2014:

- o 40 children sponsored by the cathedral family and connections;
- o 2 volunteer teams to Uganda;
- o Hosted 2 New Life Choirs - 2017 & 2019;
- o Regular donations, fundraising, sponsorship directly by the Cathedral

(Since January 2014, in total this has amounted to £26,508.60! - How amazing is that?)

Changing lives

While it can be easy to focus on the numbers of children sponsored, the education cover provided, the number of new primary schools built, **the work that together we are involved in, is about so much more.**

It is about individual lives being changed. Children being given a new start and hope for a better future. Making a lasting difference in their lives now, today and for eternity.

Thank you so much for your faithfulness and for partnering with Abaana to make that difference, one child at a time.

CAMEO

Michael & Evelyn McCune

We had a great day on Thursday 16th December, starting with morning coffee and shortbread followed by a short communion service.

Then at 1 o'clock a full Christmas dinner was served to around sixty people, followed by a selection of desserts, tea, coffee and mints. The Howe family; Tim, Hayley, Nathan and Jamie entertained us with a lovely programme of Christmas music.

Many thanks to everyone involved for all their hard work in putting on such a big event.

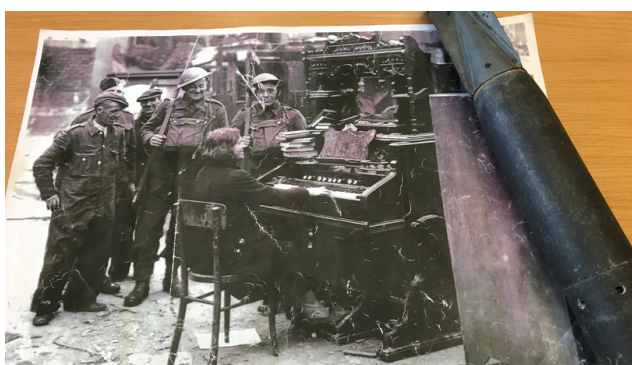


Howe Family

Cameo resumed again in January.

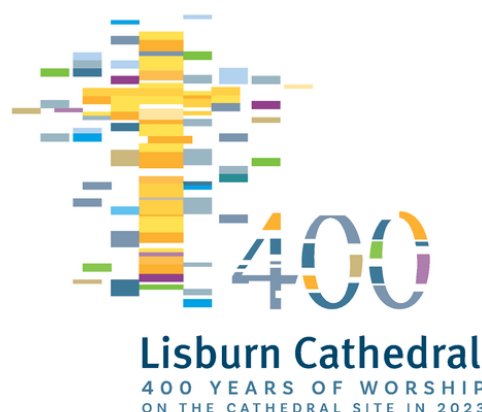
In terms of visiting speakers we have had Heather Flanigan speak on human trafficking in Northern Ireland, a very interesting and sobering subject.

Also, Michael Fryers from the NI War Memorial Museum gave a very interesting talk and slide presentation on the Belfast Blitz.



Belfast Blitz Presentation

And as part of the 400 year Anniversary Celebration Kenny Gibson gave an informative talk on the history of Lisburn Cathedral.



Sadly one of our long standing Cameo members, Marie Fenning passed away in early January. Marie will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Many thanks to a very hard working Cameo team for setting up, providing food, arranging lifts and for making everyone who comes along feel so welcome.

Cameo starts up again on April 20th.

If you wish to find out more about Cameo, please speak with Michael or Evelyn (07412421122)

NIMBLE FINGERS

Margaret Fullerton

After the excitement of the completion of the knitted buildings in time for the launch service in January, the members are taking a more leisurely crafting route. We are currently working on spring ideas and, with the hope of warmer weather, we will attempt some summer themed crafts.

The dates of our next meetings are 24th March, 21st April, 12th and 26th May, 9th and 23rd June.

We meet in the minor hall from 10am to 12 noon. If you would like to come along and see what we are up to, just drop in on one of the dates or contact me either in church or via the church office.

COFFEE ROOM

Help needed!



The coffee room is open on a Friday morning from 10am to 1pm and provides a warm and welcoming space for people to meet and enjoy a coffee with friends.

We have a small team of volunteers who serve in the coffee room but we really need more help. If you are free one Friday morning a month and would like to help, please contact Jill on 07850659823 or jillester01@gmail.com

No experience is needed, just a willingness to welcome people into the church building. Thank you



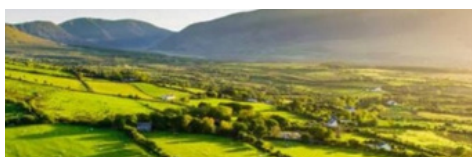
Home Groups

Meeting alternate Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings
(Wednesday morning and afternoon groups also available)

Theme until June – The prayers of Jesus



LOOKING AFTER GOD'S WORLD



The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it – Psalm 24. When we consider this verse, how might we act to protect, preserve and promote the well-being of both our planet and ourselves? We are all making lifestyle changes with these aims in mind and we would love to share these experiences within the Cathedral family.

Spring has sprung...the days grow longer and warmer. Critters are once again flitting and fluttering about. The natural world feels renewed with so much beautiful green and verdant colour. As nature is coming back to life, spring is just calling out for some exploration.

Did you know this is also God's start of the year, the first month of Aviv, mentioned in Exodus 12:1 and 13:4?

Perhaps you might consider starting a nature diary, noting the first bumble bee, the first bats at dusk, the first swallow or other first bird sightings. Who in the family can spot the most?

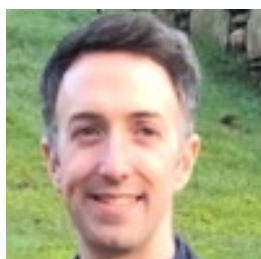
Do you remember the first lock-down when everyone noticed bird song again?

Spring is a crucial food time for garden birds and their chicks. Bird seed is no longer enough. They want the richest food available, carotenoid-rich caterpillars. So consider anything that encourages insects and particularly caterpillars. Perhaps limiting pesticide use or providing fresh clean water. It's not just birds that will use it, but bees will also call in for a drink. Healthy insect life makes healthy bird life.

If this article has sparked your interest and you'd like to know and hear more, please let our Church Wardens know, or speak with *Wendy McConnell, Ruth Gardiner or Blair Austin.*



Lisburn Cathedral Men's Fellowship Tuesdays 7.30 – 9pm | McCammon Room



Tuesday 2 May 2023

Michael Shaw

Associate Pastor, Strandtown Baptist.

Director, Centre for Christianity in Society

Former BBC journalist and Media Manager at Proctor and Gamble

Will be talking on **"Cultural Challenges"**



Tuesday 5 September 2023 **Revd Josh Hooker**

Theologian and Crosslinks Mission Partner

Seconded to Diocese of Down and Dromore

Joint Open Evening with Home Groups

Reading the Bible

Please mark these dates in your diary and join us for these talks and discussions

GEM

Julie Crawford

In GEM this year we have been focusing on the book *True Friendship* by Vaughan Roberts. I previously read this book about 8 years ago. It amazes me how you can read a book for a second or third time and get something totally different from it. I think this depends on what season of life we are currently in and our relationship with God.

I am a coffee person and love to get out for a coffee. I now class myself to be middle aged and as well as a few very close friends, I have a lot of people who I have met over the years and that I still like to stay in contact with or meet for coffee. This was beginning to become a problem a few years ago as I started to become riddled with guilt if I had not met up with these people or been in contact. At the time God pointed out to me that this was something I needed to address and quality is better than quantity (it is still a work in progress). Then the world shut down and we couldn't even meet with our family never mind our friends or acquaintances. Thank goodness I had plenty of coffee at home.

In chapter 2 of "True Friendship" Vaughan talks about how there is a difference between friending and friendship. In friending, more is always better, but in friendship it is quality not quantity that matters. (The same could be said about coffee.)

On our Facebook/Instagram profiles or in our address books, (does anybody apart from me actually still have an address book?) we might have loads of friends and everybody shares how they are living the best life ever, but, in a time of real need how many could you trust to



share your, grief, illness, concerns or joy with? We need a few true friends and we need to be true friends. Friends who are dependable, who will listen, who will be truthful and who will just be there when needed.

When I was a young lady of 15 (a few years ago) I remember sitting in my parents living room on my own one Monday evening and crying out to God for a good friend. A few months later God answered that prayer. 38 years later, with lots of ups and downs in both of our lives, she still remains that true friend I prayed for. Since then I have gained a few other true friends along the way.

If you don't feel you have a true friend I urge you from the bottom my heart to pray and ask God for one.

The Gift of Friendship

Friendship is a priceless gift,
that can not be bought or sold.

But its value is far greater
than a mountain made of gold.

For gold is cold and lifeless,
it can neither see or hear.

And in times of trouble
it is powerless to cheer.

It has no ears to listen,
no heart to understand.

It can not bring you comfort
or reach out a helping hand
So when you ask God for a gift,
be thankful if he sends

Not diamonds pearls or riches,
but the love of a real true friend.

Helen Steiner Rice

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

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

Not every hospital has a chaplain and therefore we are no longer automatically informed about admissions, so we would value your help in keeping us up to date with parishioners who are unwell.

After a few years of restrictions, we would be delighted to visit those in hospitals and nursing homes.

CONGRATULATIONS!



**50th Wedding Anniversary of
Jean And Pat McWilliams**

LISBURN CHURCHES COMMUNITY PICNIC

12.30pm Wallace Park
Sunday 13th August



FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

28th November | Mary McCormick

8th January | Marie Fenning

28th January | Brian Christie

9th February | Jean Hughes

Baptisms

19th February | Thomas, William and Alister
Blair (South Lisburn Community Church)

OFFICE

The office will close at **1pm on Thursday
6th April** and reopens at **9.30am on
Tuesday 18th April**

CONTACTS

Rector

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Sam's day off is Monday

Ordained Local Minister

*(Responsible for South Lisburn Community
Church)*

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Youth Worker

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