

**Christmas
Magazine 2025**



Lisburn Cathedral



Featured Stories

Christmas at the Cathedral
South Lisburn Community Church
Something fishy!
Youth



Lisburn Cathedral



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DEAN'S CHRISTMAS LETTER

The Miracle of Christmas - "It's for You!"

Just across the road from the front entrance to the Cathedral a Christmas shop has opened offering a wide range of ornaments, decorations and gifts to celebrate the festive season. This colourful and attractive shop is named the "Miracle on Market Square". This clever marketing of offering a 'miracle' in a shop will draw many customers to see and purchase some lovely items for Christmas.

Yet there is a greater miracle at the heart of Christmas:

"To us a child is born, to us a son is given." - Isaiah 9:6.

It is in those two little words "to us" that we see the heart of God. His heart is to lovingly give himself to bring us home and to redeem our lives through the most miraculous Christmas Gift ever.

This miraculous Christmas gift was announced by an Angel to Mary and Joseph and a great company of Angels appeared to the shepherds singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.' - Luke 2:14.

The shepherds responded immediately by setting out to discover this gift from God that is given "to us". They went to Bethlehem where they found the baby lying in a manger. In this tiny baby, wrapped up like a present in "swaddling clothes", they discovered God's miraculous gift to the world. The Bible says that even before the beginning of time, there was an unbreakable bond of love. There was a Father for ever loving his Son, and filling him with the Holy Spirit. - John 17:24, John 3:34. This picture of overflowing love then has been the very heart of God from the very beginning.

Christmas is about overflowing love.

Christmas is about celebration and thankfulness

Christmas is about giving (& receiving).

Christmas is about the miracle of a baby born for you, of a child given for you.

By sending his only son into the world, God miraculously intervened to offer his love and salvation to you and to all mankind that each person can know true forgiveness of their sins.

The gift of Christ has been given for you, like any gift you can receive and rejoice in it. When you receive Jesus then the miracle that took place in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago, becomes a miracle that takes place in your heart, the ever loving Father gives his Son for you and all who receive him are reborn as children of God - John 1:13

The Miracle of Christmas - it truly is for you! We wish you a happy Christmas filled with amazing love and joy.

Sam & Paula



MIRACLE IN BETHLEHAM CHRISTMAS THEMES

7th Dec. Miracle of Great Joy: Matt 2:1-12

14th Dec. Miracle of the Virgin Birth: Luke 1:26-38

21st Dec. 6 Lessons & Carols & Kidzone Christmas Celebration- Miracle of Nativity

21st Dec. 6pm Miracle of Christmas- John 1:1-14

24th Dec. 11pm Miracle in Bethlehem: Luke 2:1-20

25th Dec. 10.30 am Christingle: Miracle for the whole world.

28th Dec. Miracle of Grace & Truth: John 1:10-18



CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL

Thursday 11 December

**Cameo Christmas Communion and
Lunch**

**From 11.30pm, Lunch 1pm (Booking
required)**

Saturday 13 December

**'The Snowman' and a Christmas
singalong**

**Lisburn Community Orchestra
12pm & 3pm (Ticket Required)**

Sunday 14 December

**Lisburn Cathedral Youth
Christmas Ball**

6.30pm (Booking required)

Sunday 21 December

9.30am 6 Lessons & Carols

11am Family Nativity

**6pm 9 Lessons & Carols
followed by supper in the hall**

Christmas Eve

**Wednesday 24th December
Christmas Eve Communion Service
11pm**

Christmas Day

**Thursday 25th December
All Age Worship for Christmas Day
with Family Communion
10.30am**



CATHEDRAL HOME GROUPS



In January, homegroups will complete the Bible Course developed by the Bible Society. This has been an amazing resource for both personal and team growth.

Starting in February, homegroups will study the 24-7 prayer course created by Pete Greig. Leaders will receive training during the Spring to further enhance our prayer times together.

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

SOUTH LISBURN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hello from SLCC

September to November has been brilliant with the Community Harvest and All-in service as two of the stand out things we've been doing. Laura has been doing a fantastic job with Connect Youth and there has been a number of new faces at Drop-in on Wednesday which has been really encouraging. We have had mens and women's events and a good few of us headed into Lisburn for the Christmas lights switch on.

You can see more pictures of what we've been up to on our Facebook page and new Instagram page.

<https://www.facebook.com/SLCommunityChurch/>

TLG has started back up with 3 new coaches this year and it has been a real blessing to be able to support the school with this programme over the last few years.

We're really excited about Christmas and engaging with lots of the community and all the different events we have on which you can see. Everyone is welcome to all the things we're running.

Christmas is an amazing opportunity to tell the Good News of Jesus and as we seek to do that we appreciate all the prayer support we have from people in the Cathedral.

We wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Pete, Donna, Jayne and Steve.





South Lisburn
Community Church

YOU ARE INVITED TO

CHRISTMAS ALL IN

& IMPROMPTU NATIVITY

SUN 14 DECEMBER

FOOD | NATIVITY | MUSIC | QUIZ


LARGYMORE SCHOOL
AT 11:30 AM

****CHRISTMAS JUMPERS IF YOU HAVE THEM!****

 South Lisburn
Community Church

YOU'RE INVITED TO

CAROLS IN THE HIGHWAY




16

DEC 2025
AT 7:30 PM

JOIN US FOR A MIX OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND CHRISTMAS POP SONGS AS WE CELEBRATE TOGETHER. DON'T FORGET TO WEAR YOUR BEST CHRISTMAS JUMPER

HIGHWAY INN LISBURN

 South Lisburn
Community Church

Chit Chat Cafe Christmas Brunch



Wed 17th Dec
10.30am-12.30pm

Youth Centre Hillhall
Bacon & Sausage Bap, Tea, Coffee

 South Lisburn
Community Church

CHRISTMAS *Carols*

SUNDAY, 21ST DECEMBER
LARGYMORE SCHOOL 11.30AM
CAROLS, MULLED JUICE, TEA, COFFEE

 South Lisburn
Community Church

BIG THANK YOU!

Richard Thompson

In August Tony Clarke advised that he wished to step down from his role of looking after all aspects of Free Will Offering Envelopes. Now, to put this significant moment in context, we need to go right back to 1987, when Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev were signing treaties, the south of England had a really big storm, the stock market had an extra gloomy Monday and Tony was already on the Select Vestry. Continuing to serve, in 1993 he was Honorary Treasurer, a role he held for several years. Among his many activities I clearly recall his annual presentations, making sure at each annual Easter Vestry that we all understood what the accounts really meant.

Tony stepped down as Treasurer after a number of years, but he wasn't finished. Five, yes 5! treasurer's later, he was still quietly working away in the background, managing the FWO envelope supplies & distribution, weekly counting and Gift Aid claims. When I became treasurer, I didn't have to worry about any of this, it all just happened.



26/10/2025 09:30 Service

Presentation of gift to Tony Clarke

Rev. Lee Boal, Tony Clarke, Richard Thompson

In September, the books all up to date and records passed on, Tony finally retired from this role although, you'll still see him at the sound desk on a Sunday morning!! So, as we did in October at a 9:30 service, I want to again thank him for his tireless service and support to the parish over the past 40 years.

He will be greatly missed, and it will take several people to cover all aspects of what he was doing. Tony I hope you are enjoying much more relaxing Monday mornings!

Richard Thompson

Hon. Treasurer, Lisburn Cathedral



EQUIP

SUNDAY EVENING 6.30PM

STUDYING SCRIPTURE

18th January

Keith Gardiner

DEEPENING YOUR
PRAYER LIFE

15th February

Stephen McElhinney

ENGAGING CULTURE
WITH THE GOSPEL

**No Equip in March-
Confirmation Service on
15th March at 6pm**

19th April

Evangelical Alliance



FUEL: Men at Lisburn Cathedral 2026 programme

All men are warmly invited to join us for the next season of FUEL events in the Cathedral.

First up, is the **Curry Night on Tuesday 20 January** in the church hall. At our first curry night in January 2025, we had a great evening with fantastic food, an inspiring speaker in Billy Moore and plenty of chat. We would be delighted if you would join us at 7.30pm on Tuesday evening 20 January 2026 for curry and chat. We are really looking forward to hearing from our very own David Allister.

On **Tuesday evening 3 March 2026**, Ian Bingham, Head of Care NI (Christian Action Research and Education) will be joining us from 7.30-9pm in the McCammon Room. Last year, Ian's talk on Assisted Suicide was extremely well received and generated a lot of discussion. We are thrilled that Ian will be joining us again to discuss moral challenges our society is currently facing.

Please plan to attend and mark these dates in your diary

Blessings; *Simon Sellars, Davy Allister and Keith Gardiner*

MOTHERS' UNION

Christine Mitchell

CAMPAIGN AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

Lisburn Cathedral Mothers' Union were recently presented the Bronze Award for our contribution to the Rise Up Campaign.



Diocesan President Alison Skillen presenting Bronze Rise Up Certificates to Lisburn Cathedral Branch, and Craigs, Dunaghy & Killagan Branch.

This is Lisburn Cathedral's second year of working in support of Women's Aid Lisburn. We appealed to the Cathedral congregation for pyjamas, t-shirts and leggings, with a fantastic response similar to last year's appeal for towels and toiletries! Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Seaneen Rafferty, Asst Area Manager (Lisburn) came to give the Branch an update at our October meeting, and was delighted to receive the items we had collected.



She is pictured here with Mothers' Union member Sheila Hughes.

WORLDWIDE

The Cathedral Branch supports the MU Overseas Fund which works with other MU branches throughout the world providing a wide variety of mostly self-help projects including empowering women with literacy development and employability skills.

The Worldwide Wave of Prayer is a continuous prayer chain timetabled to pray together for MU Dioceses throughout the world in turn.

150TH ANNIVERSARY

2026 is the 150th anniversary of the Mothers' Union. Members of Lisburn Branch will attend the Anniversary Service in Christ Church Cathedral Dublin on Sunday 9th August, and some members of Lisburn and Derriaghy Area will attend the service at St Paul's Cathedral on Wednesday 10th June.

PROGRAMME

We have a varied programme, meeting regularly at 2.30pm on the first Monday afternoon of each month in the Minor Hall, also attending weekend and evening events at Area and Diocese, and last summer teaming up with Active Ladies for evening walks and coffee.

Mothers' UNION

PROGRAMME FIRST HALF OF 2026

THURSDAY 8TH JANUARY 7.30PM Island Centre Pantomime	MONDAY 4TH MAY 2.30PM AGM
MONDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2.30PM Air Ambulance Presentation	MAY/JUNE TUESDAYS 7PM MU/Active Ladies
MONDAY 2ND MARCH 2.30pm Hospital Patient Packs	MONDAY 1ST JUNE 1PM Summer Outing
MONDAY 30TH MARCH 2.30PM Holy Communion Service	SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST 150th Service & Lunch Dublin
SUNDAY 26TH APRIL 3.15PM Festival Service St Anne's	For further information please contact Christine Mitchell on 07740320399 or at christinemitchell399@gmail.com

CAMEO

Michael & Evelyn McCune

Our Autumn/ Winter programme resumed after the Summer break with a presentation by Open Doors. This organisation supports the persecuted church. The talk was very informative, thought provoking and indeed challenging as we heard about the various ways in which Christians suffer for their faith worldwide.

On the 16th October Eva Baxter, in full costume, took on the character of Susanna Wesley and shared her life story with us. As most of you know Susanna Wesley was known as the "Mother of Methodism" as she was the mother of John and Charles Wesley, the founders of the Methodist movement.



On the same day we celebrated a very special birthday with Adeline Toase - a very faithful member of Cameo.



Other events to date included a presentation by the Rev. Pete Meenagh on Pioneer Ministry in South Lisburn Community Church and some table-top games which everyone really enjoyed.

As part of the Harvest celebrations, Cameo had a soup lunch followed by apple pie and tea and coffee. Always a very popular event !



Pete



Games

As the year draws to a close, we are looking forward to our annual Communion and Christmas Dinner on December 11th, followed by some festive fun.

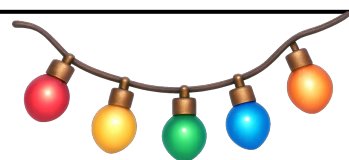
Cameo starts up again on Thursday January 8th 2026 at 2-30pm.

New members are always welcome to come along and enjoy the company and craic!

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

KIDZONE

Andrea Beckett, Katy Gaston, Sarah Sellars, Vivienne Thompson



Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts... do you know the books of the New Testament in order? We've learnt a fun song to help us remember them. You might have heard us yeeee-haaaaaw-ing as we sing it each week!

This term we have been following the same series as our Home Groups, getting to grips with some of the big Bible themes and how all the stories we read there point us to Jesus who loves us so much.

Join us at the All Age Service on Sunday 21 December to find out more!

Prayer points:

- Thank God for all those who have joined us at KidZone this term. The children are kind, funny, creative & so keen to learn. We are grateful for the opportunity to share God's love with every one of them, and we always look forward to learning from them!
- Please pray that our KidZoners would know Jesus for themselves and experience the peace he brings.
- Thank God for fun times with the crèche family this term, we love welcoming them in to play games with us.
- Please pray for the safety of the children each week.
- Thank God for the volunteers who serve faithfully in our KidZone team. We are grateful for every leader & parent helper.

KidZone will take a break over the holidays.



The first KidZone of 2026 will be on 11 January, kicking off the new year with an Epiphany party.

LISBURN CATHEDRAL YOUTH

Laura Kilpatrick

Lisburn Cathedral Youth (LCY) have had a great start to the term! In Sunday Night Youth (SNY), we have been doing a series on "Who We Are." We looked at who we are as human beings, made in the image of God, and who we are as teenagers following Jesus in our own context. We even came up with a new acronym! WWJDIYW - What Would Jesus Do In Your World? We also thought about how LCY can do what the Lord requires of us in Micah 6:8 - "To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." We have explored how we do justice in our everyday and as a youth group, how we love mercy in how we show forgiveness to others and ourselves, and how we show humility and walk with our Creator everyday. SNY also involves lots of fun games, discussion, prayer activities, and of course tuckshop!



Chris from Abaana also came to share with us this term about the work of the charity and to give us an update on Derrick. Derrick has been sponsored by the young people of Lisburn Cathedral since 2014. He first entered the sponsorship programme as a boy who had been living on the streets of Kampala and he was rescued off the streets and brought into Abaana's New Life Homes in Uganda. He is now 21 years of age and will be finishing his school year in Senior 5 at the end of November and will commence his final year in Secondary School in 2026 - undertaking his A-levels in October/November next year.

His sponsorship has helped to ensure that he has received payment of all his school fees, his uniform, all scholastic materials, and any basic health care needs. It was great to have Chris along to share this update on Derrick with our current young people at Lisburn Cathedral and we plan to continue to sponsor and support him until he has finished his schooling.



Derrick

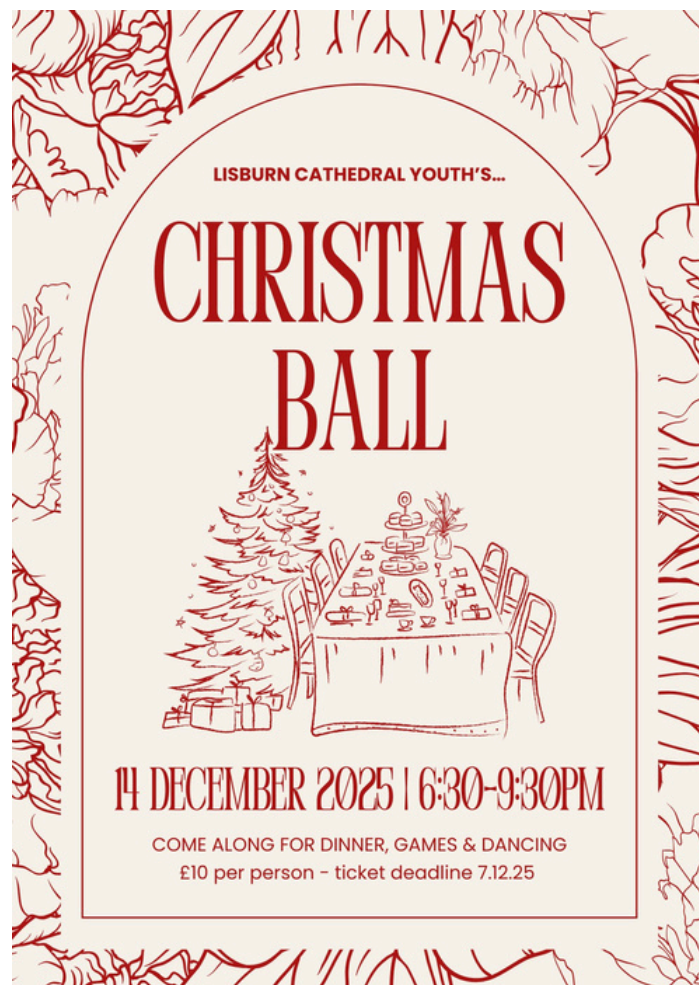
Bible Class also continues to meet weekly during our 11am service. This has been led by Peter Gaston and myself this term. We have been following the Bible Society's youth series, "Six Beats One Story," which is a creative devotional taking us through the whole Bible story.

We also did a short book study on the book of Philippians. This is not only a great space to learn about Scripture, but is a space we can have fun, ask questions, pray for our needs, and enjoy some nice hot chocolate!

We also started our Year 13+ Small Group, which meets every other Sunday after SNY. This term we started the "Practicing the Way" series. This series explores how we take being a disciple of Jesus seriously. Each session, we discuss spiritual formation and take on a new spiritual practice to help us make space to encounter God. It has been so great spending time with these young people at the end of school and starting university!

To conclude our term, we will be having our annual Christmas Ball! This is on Sunday 14th December from 6:30-9:30pm in the church hall and the dress code is your idea of "Dressy!" The event includes a delicious dinner, lots of Christmas games, and some dancing! The cost for a ticket is £10 and the deadline to purchase a ticket is Sunday 7th December.

This is a great opportunity for young people to invite friends, get all dressed up, and have a great end-of-year celebration together!



A huge thank you to all the people who have helped with the planning, set-up, and running of this event. It will be a special evening for our young people!

SNY returns Sunday 4th January! If you have any questions or you know of a young person who would like to be involved, please contact me by email at youth@lisburncathedral.org.

Merry Christmas everyone and see you in the New Year!



CONNECT YOUTH

Laura Kilpatrick

This term at Connect Youth we have been meeting every other Friday for a range of fun events! We had a "Big Quiz Night," which involved lots of difficult questions, a music round, and even taste tests! One Friday, we went to Lisburn Cathedral to use the space for dodgeball, ping pong, pool, and other fun games. And we also went to the Leisureplex to play football! In December, we have our "Pizza & Peelers" night, where the police visit our young people to chat to them about staying safe and to help break down the barriers between young people and the police service. We also will have our Christmas trip to the Escape Rooms in Lisburn to conclude our year!

Our Drop-In every Wednesday afternoon has been very busy, with lots of young people calling in after school to play table tennis, Uno, and have some toast & Nutella! After Drop-In, we have a Year 11+ group who meet to discuss big questions about life, faith and God. This has been a great time of getting to know the young people in the area and check in with them weekly.

Next term, Connect Youth returns on Friday 9th January 7-8:30pm & Drop-In returns on Wednesday 14th January 3-4:45pm!

If you're interested in being involved with volunteering with any of our youth activities, we are always in need of volunteers! You can contact me by email at youth@lisburncathedral.org.



**Big
Quiz
Night**



LEST WE FORGET 2025

Alison Fairley on behalf of Lisburn Cathedral Nimble Fingers Craft Group



7th - 9th November 2025

It was decided to have a scaled down version of the poppy display this year, which would just include the outdoor and indoor poppy installations and the audio/ visual personal war stories. All the hard work was done last year making the installations and it was still a way to remember and be thankful for the sacrifices that were made by so many. Our aim was to get people into the church building and to engage with them.

We are very grateful to Angela, in the office, who worked hard to advertise and promote the display.

On Friday 7th we worked along with Jill in the coffee shop. There was a buzz of excitement as we opened the doors. It was an honour to welcome The Deputy First Minister, Emma Little Pengelly and The American Consul General, James Appletree. He was intrigued by poppies, as it is something that is not celebrated in his country. He wrote "It is an amazing display".

On Saturday 8th we had an increased flow of visitors including a couple from Wales. There was a service at the cenotaph in the morning and many people came in after that. It was lovely to take time with people and listen to their personal stories and memories of the war, many said they had not been in a church for quite a while.

On Sunday 9th we had the honour again to welcome our Lagan Valley MP, Sorcha Eastwood. She has to claim the prize for being the best dressed, in her beautiful poppy dress. It was a joy to see everyone who visited.

On display this year was the new booklet, 'Lest We Forget 2024' written by those famous authors, Margaret F, Margaret Q, Tracey C, and Alison F. It tells the story of how we put together the poppy exhibition last year, including how we planned and constructed the installations. The people who kindly lent us their own personal memorabilia, but also all the war time stories of our congregation. A copy will be available to view in the History Room. If you would like more information about the book, this will follow in 2026.

Our Thanks go to:

Dean Sam Wright, Rev. Lee Boal, The Select Vestry, Angela Montgomery, Davy Lamont, The Sound and Visuals team. All those who kindly volunteered to help in anyway, we couldn't have done it without you!



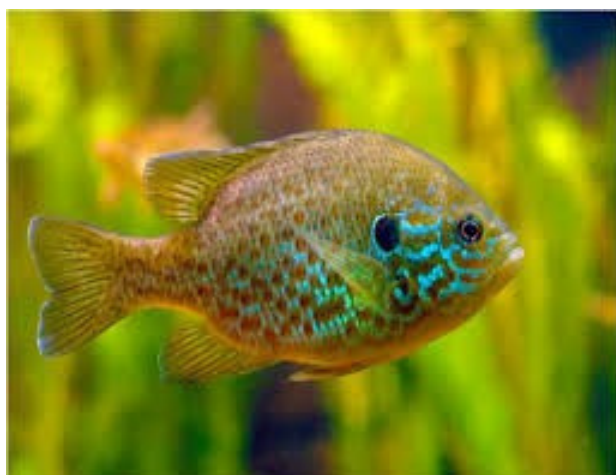
THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON!

Andrew Cummings

Sometimes when we look over bible passages that we have read many times, something leaps out to us that we have never really thought about before- and yet it was there all the time.

We probably have never thought too much about the role of fish in scripture, yet they have been there hiding all along- we have them in Genesis on the fifth day of creation when God created 'every living thing with which the water teems and moves about in it'; we have Jonah being swallowed by the great fish; we have Peter, Andrew, James and John working as fishermen; Nathaniel and Philip were fishing when Jesus appeared to them after his resurrection; we have the miracles of the miraculous catch and the fish and loaves; and we even have the occasion when Jesus is challenged to pay the temple tax, and instructs Peter to throw out his line to catch a fish which contained a four drachma coin within it!

Jesus made a meal containing fish, and the symbol of the early church was a fish - the ICTHUS symbolising Jesus Christ, God's Son, Saviour.



For me my encounters with fish first occurred when I was ten years old and I was taken fishing and caught a sunfish as pictured. Having viewed a featureless body of water, I suddenly became aware that there was the most beautiful treasure hidden below its surface and I had never given it a thought. This started a lifelong fascination with fish- both fishing for them and aquarium fishkeeping. My poor long-suffering wife has had put up with multiple fish tanks, fish décor and fishing trips.

Fish are the forgotten creatures in our ecosystems, because they are invisible below the water, and the only people who really pay any interest to them are the anglers, aquarists and commercial fisherman. Over the last few years, we have become increasingly aware of the tragedy of Lough Neagh. We may have heard that this year the eel population has collapsed, and no commercial eel fishing has taken place.

However, the severe threat to the Dolloghan (pictured on the next page) (a species unique to Lough Neagh

- a type of lake trout which lives in the lough and spawns in the rivers) and also Pollan (a type of freshwater herring only found in Lough Neagh and four other loughs) is never mentioned. Pollution and introduced species such as roach and zebra mussels all play their part. The migratory Atlantic salmon is now listed as endangered, having lost 50-80% of its population between 2010 and 2025.



Dollaghan

Globally, thousands of freshwater species are under threat with species disappearing at five times the rate of land-based creatures. Pollution, logging, climate change and invasive species all contribute, particularly in the Amazon region, Indonesia/Papua New Guinea and throughout Asia. To view a fraction of the vast variety of species available in the tropical fishkeeping hobby, pop into the 2 shops in Lisburn – one at Dobbies, and one

opposite Habitat Restore, and have a look at the beauty and colours of the fish such as the Bosemani rainbowfish, pictured below, which I keep.



We have been blessed by the beauty of God's workmanship and creation – fish are truly God's hidden jewels. When I look at the fish in my tanks, or when I catch a trout when I'm fishing, I still marvel at the mesmerising elegance, and wide variety, of these incredible creatures and thank the Lord for the marvellous wonders of His creation. It still delights me years later, as much as it did when I was ten!

26th Feb 2026
Beechlawn Hotel Dunmurry

**Quiz
Night**
by Bryn Lister

Max 6 people per team
Spot prizes

Doors open 7:00 Quiz Starts 7:45

Tickets £8:00 per person are available via Church Suite and from the Cathedral office.

CAP

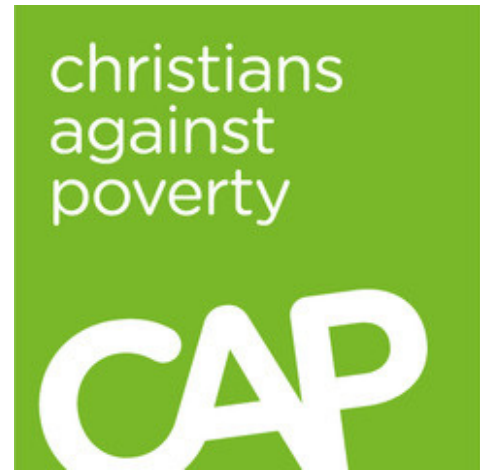
Paul Bailie

At a time of the year when we are celebrating the birth of Jesus, it is disturbing to learn that the number of people with problem debt has doubled over the last 2 years.

As Christians Against Poverty (CAP) stated in October:- 'We have just released our new Picture of Poverty report. It shockingly reveals that nearly 1 in 5 adults are in problem debt, which is almost twice as many as two years ago..... Poverty is deepening; in the last five years, inflation has risen by 35%, and even more for essentials The shocking truth is that we are seeing more people in deeper poverty and vulnerability than ever before. However, in the face of this, we stand firm and declare, "Poverty steals, but only Jesus truly restores." That is why we need to be speaking in our churches about what is happening in our communities and the vital role our church based movement has in bringing Jesus' love to those who need it most.'

The answer as always is Jesus who says in John 10 v 10 'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy, I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.'

So what does CAP say this full life should look like? 'It isn't necessarily about material wealth. A full life is having the ability to provide sufficiently for ourselves and our families. It's being able to participate fully in society. It's being part of a supportive community and feel valued. It's knowing who we are and our true worth as a child of God, and building a life that reflects this.'



This year we have helped 27 new clients (some will be debt free in a few months, some will take years but some won't make it)

One said to a team member "I've heard people say talking to strangers can be easy but I'll be honest with you I feel like I've known you all my life and you don't judge."

I, like other Debt Centre managers met with the local MP and along with CAP reports and influence added to the recent Welfare Reform debate in the House of Commons.

Alan our Money Coach ran successful courses with other agencies, churches and local schools to teach people how to budget and avoid falling into debt. So the work of our team of 2 debt coaches and 9 befrienders continues to help people discover living life to the full whilst demonstrating Jesus' love to them.



YEAR END FUN AND GAMES

Richard Thompson

As the Christmas season approaches, mince pies & Christmas cake call to us (or at least me) and we all wonder why coffee is so expensive, the Treasurer's thoughts turn as you might guess to the Financial year end (December) and gathering up accounts records from the various groups, but this year there are two new developments to add to my Christmas fun;

1) The renewal and distribution of the FWO envelopes

2) How we might use Church Suite to track and manage donations and reporting on them. I'll share more details about this in the new year, after the accounts are completed.

In the meantime, as we approach 2026, I would ask if you can consider three key items:

Envelopes - If you use weekly envelopes, please consider moving to standing order. If you already use online banking, this is easy to set-up, completely under your control and contributes greatly to the ease of the weekly administration that is required to collect, count, lodge and track donations.

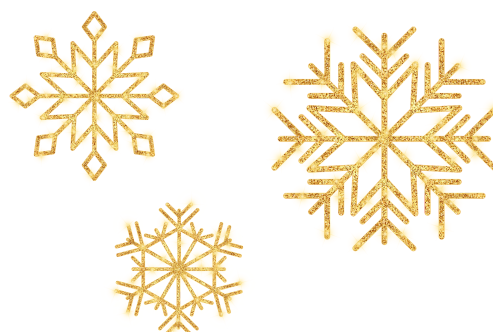
Gift Aid - If you are a UK taxpayer and are donating to the church, please consider Gift Aiding your donations, if you do not do so already - you only need to complete the form once - and it is now available via Church Suite as well as on paper.

Donations - please consider reviewing your giving in 2026. Costs continue to rise and 85% of our funding comes directly from the money collected from you - our parishioners, so every donation makes a difference.

If you have queries on any of this, please get in touch with me.

Richard Thompson

Hon. Treasurer, Lisburn Cathedral
treasurer@lisburncathedral.org



ALPHA

Lee Boal

We are so excited to announce Alpha for 2026! This year in order to make it more accessible we are running a 6 week version. It will take place in Cafe Sonas (Market Square). As always we would encourage you to prayerfully think about who you can invite in your life, that doesn't know Jesus but maybe has questions about faith. Sign up will be live in January. In the meantime if you're thinking about coming along or inviting someone, you can let Lee know.

Alpha 2026

Thursday Nights | 7:30-8.45 | Cafe Sonas

FEB 5th	Is There More To Life Than This?
FEB 12th	Who Is Jesus?
FEB 19th	Why Did Jesus Die?
FEB 26th	How Can I Have Faith?
MARCH 5th	Why And How Do I Pray?
MARCH 12th	Why And How Should I Read The Bible?
MARCH 21st	Saturday Away Day: Who Is The Holy Spirit?



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

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

Wedding

2nd December

Zoe and Dane Allen

OFFICE HOURS

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

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

The office will be closed from Tuesday 23rd December and will reopen on 6th January 2026.

Dean Sam Wright will be on leave from Friday 2nd January until Friday 9th January (inclusive)



Lisburn Cathedral

CONTACTS

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Pioneer Evangelist

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