Lisburn Cathedral Easter Magazine 2024



Featured Stories

Big Church Serve Abaana New Life Choir South Lisburn Update Big Sing





Lisburn Cathedral



CONTENTS

- P.2-3 Dean's Letter
- P.4. Seeds of Hope: Big Church Serve
- P.5 Easter Sunday/ Annual Easter Vestry
- P.6 Seeds of Hope events
- P.7 Abaana New Life Choir
- P.8 Mettle
- P.9 Kidzone/ Coffee Room
- P.10-11 South Lisburn Community Church
- P.11. Big Sing
- P.12 Cooking/Men's Fellowship
- P.13 Cameo
- P.14 Prayer Rhythms/ Home Group
- P.15. 20s & 30s/ Nimble Fingers
- P.16 Lizards and us/ Ladies Bible Group
- P.17-18 CAP
- P.18 Mothers' Union

DEAN'S LETTER

Dean Sam Wright

"Seeds of Hope" - Big Church Serve: 27th - 31st March 2024

The season of lent has been described as the time when we think back to those New Year's resolutions we have failed to keep and set ourselves more realistic goals in the weeks leading up to Easter. This is also the time when signs of new life can be seen in the world around us, as buds appear and the bulbs and seeds that we planted last year appear and burst into life. The season of new life has come, spring and Easter are about new life, and both began with seeds planted in dark places that then offer new life after the darkest of times. In John 12:23-25 Jesus told his disciples:

"The time has come for the Son of Man to receive glory. What I'm about to tell you is true. Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only one seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it. But anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it and have eternal life."

The seed must die in the darkness before it germinates and comes to life again. In this simple story Jesus tells us his story, that his life will fall like a seed that falls to the ground and dies. In his song "Love crucified arose" Michael Card wonderfully describes how in the darkness of his death new life for mankind is germinated by Jesus.

At last the time to love and die The dark appointed day That one forsaken moment when Your Father turned His face away

Love crucified arose The One who lived and died for me Was Satan's nail-pierced casualty Now He's breathing once again The seed of hope for everyone has been planted by the Fathers' only Son giving his life as a sin free sacrifice. It is this amazing grace filled love of Jesus that we will be sharing with others by sowing "Seeds of Hope" in all the activities we have planned for Hillhall & Lisburn City Centre.

Please read through them and we would love it if you would sign up to be one of those sowing seeds of hope during our Big Church Serve 2024. We as the church that believes Jesus changes everything are to share this hope through Christ with passion and a deep commitment to bringing new life to others.

Bishop Tom Wright says that "a missionshaped church, must have its mission shaped by hope; that the genuine Christian hope, rooted in Jesus' resurrection is the hope of God's renewal of all things, for his overcoming of corruption, decay, and death, for his filling of the whole cosmos, with his love and grace, his power and glory."

How amazing that is! Jesus doesn't just improve our lives a little, he germinates new life that bursts vibrantly into the world. In Christ "Love crucified arose" and his offer of new life is the true hope for our world.

Have a happy Easter, one that is filled with the new life of Christ.

Sam



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS IN LISBURN CATHEDRAL



TWINS!



Annabel and Elizabeth, our granddaughters

PAGE 04

SEEDS OF HOPE: BIG CHURCH SERVE 27th- 30th March 2024 DAILY PLANS

Wednesday 27th March

11am - 1pm Kids Club in Largymore Primary School

7:30pm "Seeds of Hope" Launch Worship and Prayer time in Lisburn Cathedral

Thursday 28th March

9am Breakfast

9.30am Big Church Serve Worship

11am – 1pm Kids Club in Largymore Primary School

10:30am Flowers and prayers, litter picking, practical work and painting.

1pm Community lunch and games

7:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship in Largymore Primary School



Friday 29th March

9am Breakfast

9.30am Big Church Serve Worship

10am Team Time & Prep

10.30am Business Blessing & Prayer on the streets

12:30pm Walk of Witness with Abaana New Life Choir in Lisburn City Centre.

1pm – 3pm Seeds of Hope activities in the Cathedral Hall.

1pm to 3pm Grace café in the Cathedral Hall.

7:30 pm, Good Friday concert with the Abaana New Life Choir (Ticketed)



Saturday 30th March

9am Breakfast

9.30am Big Church Serve Worship

9.45am Team Time & Prep

11am – 1pm Seeds of Hope Easter activities in Market Square: Sam Shaw & God's Handiwork Puppets, football cage, crafts, W5 fun and learning, Taylors ice cream for children and Face painting.

2pm Abaana New Life Choir Concert (Ticketed)

Easter Sunday

9.30am Easter Communion Service

11am "Seeds of Hope" Easter Celebration Service with Baptism and Communion

Sunday 14th April 10:30am

Joint Morning Worship Service followed by Election of NEW Select Vestry & "Seeds of Hope" Celebration Lunch

Please pray for Big Church Serve:

*That God will mightily use Big Church Serve to display his love and power across Lisburn.
*For people to encounter and experience God through our team.

*For safety, strength and energy for the team. *The truth and wonder of Jesus to shine through the many encounters, conversations and blessings as we seek to spread "Seeds of Hope" at Big Church Serve. *For those who come to have their lives transformed by Christ.

*For our wonderful team members *For our guest speakers, worship team and staff team as we teach, worship and make the God of Hope known in our service for Christ this Easter. *For the sun to shine on us (we need good weather!)



INTRODUCING THE THIRD ABAANA NEW LIFE CHOIR - WHO I AM TOUR

Jill Lester

This choir of 20 children hail from the beautiful country of Uganda, often referred to as the 'Pearl of Africa.'

They were selected through auditions from schools built by Abaana across Uganda. They serve as ambassadors for their friends and families back home, sharing their stories through song and dance.

This tour is called 'Who I Am' because we firmly believe that all of God's children, regardless of the colour of their skin, educational background, age, or position in society, hold equal value and are equally loved by God. Poverty not only deprives children of an education and a future, but can also strip individuals of their identity and selfworth.

We want everyone the choir encounters to know that you are loved and have worth!

Witnessing the choir's personal journey is inspiring. We are even more excited about the positive impact these children will bring back to Uganda. Through this experience, they aim to secure sponsorship for themselves and potentially 300-500 other children. This support will significantly change their lives, marking the start of their 'Who I Am' journey.

The choir will perform over 60 dates on the tour, and details of all the venues can be found at www.abaana.org.



The choir will be performing at Lisburn Cathedral on Friday 29th March at 7.30pm and Saturday 30th March at 2pm.

Tickets are available (first come first served), free of charge, from www.lisburncathedral.org.





METTLE

Reah Lee

Mettle has been going great in this new term, especially with the addition of Mettle Motivation services! We have been very blessed in those spaces and in fellowship with each other!

Things to look forward to are our Mettle Fundraiser in March to help raise money for the Church Hall. We will be doing a bake sale after Church on St Patrick's Day so make sure to come along and get some buns baked by our young people!

We are also looking forward to Big Church Serve and serving our community. Many of the young people are excited about getting



involved and helping in whatever ways they can so make sure you come alongside them, and we can all serve together!

Mettle is also looking forward to Summer Madness and Street Reach in the summer. Summer Madness is a Christian youth festival where young people gather, listen to teaching, enjoy worship, and camp together.

Street Reach is a residential outreach programme held in the North Coast and involves community outreach, both are such a blessing to be a part of so if your young person is interested or you would like to volunteer as a leader, please get in touch!



KIDZONE

Andrea Johnston

So far this year we have been super busy! God has blessed us with new members to both Kidzone Friday and Sunday!

Since the New Year, Kidzone Friday has been making us break a sweat in our weekly workout/dance sessions or cooking sessions, in amongst our normal weekly activities.

On Sundays we have enjoyed our time knowing, loving and praising our Lord with different sessions each week.

Looking forward; our Big Church Serve schedule promises to be so much fun for our Church and our whole community. We have a jam packed schedule planned...see the Big Church Serve page.

After Easter we hope to take Kidzone Friday outside like we did last year. Kidzone Sunday will be planning for **Children's Day on 23rd June** and dare I mention it...**Holiday Bible Club from 14th Aug!**

Soooo much to look forward to together!







Lisburn Cathedral Coffee Room

Friday 10am -1pm Tea, coffee, scones and cakes Meet friends Call in and join our friendly Friday community

SOUTH LISBURN COMMUNITY CHURCH UPDATE

Hello from everyone at SLCC!

The beginning of 2024 has brought change for us at SLCC. We have been so blessed that God has opened the door to a new venue for us. We are now meeting at Largymore Primary School at 11:30am.

This has been a great change for us, as it allows us to have our Sunday Club within the same building, making it safer and more inclusive for our kids and families.





We hope to continue to strengthen the connection with the school as we reach the community around and connected to the school. We continue with 'Transforming Lives for Good' in the school as well, supporting children with various support needs. Please keep the TLG team in your prayer – Anne, Pete, Donna and Jayne.

Steve has begun a men's outreach, which involves a lot of eating (and the occasional walk). We are delighted to have around 15 men who look to come along side each other and support those who may be otherwise isolated. Of course, the women couldn't sit by and let the men out, so Jayne has been organising walks for the women and for those who are game; a sea swim will be on the cards in April/May.

Our youth group continues to meet every other Friday evening – this group of young people are fantastic to work with and getting to know them is such a joy. As we introduce them to discussions about faith, keep Lauren in your prayers as she leads this ministry.





South Lisburn Community Church



Erin continues to lead and co ordinate our worship, and we thank Rachel, Blair and Beth for coming down to lead us in worship too. Erin has been running worship jam sessions to allow folk to explore playing worship songs in a relaxed environment. If you would like to get involved, do contact Erin.

As we look to Easter, we hope to make more connections with folk in the community around us. We know there are so many in need, physically, emotionally and spiritually. Keep praying that God would continue to open people's hearts to Him and that we would see His Kingdom come.

Here are a few of the normal weekly get togethers at SLCC. You would be so welcome along any time.

SLCC THIS TERM:

- Tuesday 7:30pm Youth Centre -Bible Study (Alternate weeks, opposite to home groups)
- Wednesday 10:30am-12pm Youth Centre - Chit Chat Cafe
- 1st Friday of the month Youth
 Centre Prayer Day (10am-7pm)
 and Prayer and Worship at 7pm
- **Sundays** at 11:30am SLCC at Largymore Primary School and Sunday Club.

We continue to thank you for all your support, we are so thankful for our Lisburn Cathedral family enabling and encouraging us in this ministry,

Every blessing, Pete, Donna, Steve & Tayne



BIG SING – Sunday 22nd September 2024

Contemporary Christian Music Training Afternoon at 2.30pm & Evening Praise Service at 7.00pm on Sunday 22nd September 2024. As Dean of Connor along with the Cathedral Chapter members we are thrilled to once again provide training in Contemporary Christian Music on a Sunday afternoon and evening Praise Service at Lisburn Cathedral.



The Facilitators for the training will be Stephen McLoughlin and Julie Harper, we will also be drawing on the skills and experience of others for the "Connor Big Sing 2024".

Booking forms will be available after Easter.

Simon Community Cooking (Bryn Lister)



(🔊 M E N 🗇

Firstly I'd like to give a big thank you to the small group of cooks who regularly give their time and cooking skills to provide meals for the local Lisburn Simon Community every Friday evening.

Our meals are greatly appreciated by the community. At the moment we each cook a meal for eight approximately once a month, however we would welcome more volunteers which would allow us to provide cover when others are maybe on holiday or unavailable for other reasons. If you feel you could help in this worthwhile and fulfilling service please contact Bryn Lister on 07546813582 for further info.

Lisburn Cathedral Men's Fellowship



Thursday 28 March 2024 daytime

Big Church Serve Men's Fellowship Work Party - Hillhall and Largymore

You are invited to sign up for a Men's Fellowship work party to improve the environment in Hillhall Youth Centre and Largymore Primary School. We will be building doors, painting, gardening, cleaning and dumping.

This is a great opportunity to demonstrate Christian love, serve the local community and be good stewards of God's creation. I am sure we will also have lots of laughs and chat, building new relationships and strengthening bonds within our church family.

Your willingness to help will be greatly appreciated and make a meaningful difference to the lives of children and staff in Largymore Primary School as well as to the users of Hillhall youth centre.

Please contact Simon (simon.sellars@gmail.com) or Keith (kr.gardiner@btinternet.com) to sign up

Tuesday 30 April 2024 | 7.30pm-9pm

McCammon Room, Lisburn Cathedral

In Conversation - Sam Shaw (God's Handiwork Puppets)

Please join us as we chat to Sam about life, faith, puppets and God's mission

CAMEO

Michael & Evelyn McCune

Our Cameo members had a great day on 14th December at our Christmas event, starting with morning coffee and shortbread. We then had a short communion service. At 1.00pm, a full Christmas dinner was served for sixty people, followed by a selection of desserts and tea and coffee. Hayley Howe and her friend Rodney entertained us with a lovely programme of Christmas music.

Many thanks to everyone involved for organising this event.







Cameo resumed again in January with the Rev.Chris Broddle speaking about The Apostle Paul in Rome. Chris very kindly brought ice-cream cones for everyonewhat a treat!

In February Karen Webb gave a very informative presentation on various aspects of her work for Church Army in North Belfast. At the end of the month we had Jo Toner come along to speak about Guide Dogs for the Blind. Another very interesting talk.

In March we are looking forward to hearing from the Rev. Stephen McElhinney about his work with S.A.M.S. - the Church in South America.

Our Winter/ Spring Programme concludes with Canon Will Murphy, whose talk is entitled "Ministry and me".

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

Cameo starts up again after Easter, on April 11th at 2.30 pm.

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

Programmes for the summer term will be available from the end of March.



PRAYER RHYTHMS Lee Boal

SUNDAY 17TH MARCH 7PM: CHURCH:

WORSHIP AND PRAYER: WORSHIP, TEACHING & PRAYER MINISTRY

We continue to be encouraged by how the people of Lisburn Cathedral have been responding to each of the prayer gatherings throughout the month.

We would encourage you if this is not something you have engaged with yet to consider connecting in, there are three different expressions of prayer, from praying together on Wednesday night, to having space to talk and listen to God during a prayer slot on our day of prayer to having a chance to receive prayer ministry and spend an extended time in worship during our worship and prayer nights.

We really believe prayer is foundational to all we do and is essential if we want to see a move of God in our Church and city and so we continue to pray that more and more will choose to engage with the prayer life of our Church in the coming months



Are you interested in <u>GROWING DEEPER THROUGH COMMUNITY</u>?

Why not join a Lisburn Cathedral Home Group? New members are welcome to join a group anytime during the year.

We meet fortnightly during term time and follow the Sermon Series.

Evening Groups meet Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Morning and Afternoon Groups meet on Wednesdays.

For further details contact Bill and Karen Welsh, Sam Wright or Lee Boal.





20S & 30S

Lee Boal

We have had a really encouraging season for our twenties and thirties ministry.

This takes place in two expressions. Firstly we meet every other week as a home group when our young adults gather to focus on discipleship. We spend time in fellowship, studying God's word, this term has been the book of Philippians through the discipleship explored resource and bring our time together to a close by praying for one another.



Secondly roughly every other month we gather for 20s & 30s outings which this year has included, laser tag and last month's bowling and desserts night.

If you are in this age group and would like to get involved please do get in touch with Lee and Beth, you would be so welcome and we would love to have you along with us to either home group or our next get together.

NIMBLE FINGERS

Margaret Fullerton

Nimble Fingers meets on 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month from September to June. We are a group of ladies (although men would be welcomed!) interested in a variety of crafts. Currently we are making small items that would be useful as gifts. The photo shows a small gift bag made by one of our members.



If you would like to join us, even just to see what we get up to, you would be made very welcome. We meet in the church hall on the



dates listed below from 10am to 12 noon and begin with tea/ coffee.

If you would like help with a knitting/crochet problem or wish to learn how to knit or crochet please contact me via the church office.

You might even have an inherited sewing machine or perhaps a new machine still in the box – you might never have used it – we can help you get started!

As you can see we are keen to develop your creative side - and the biscuits are good too!



LIZARDS AND US AS CHRISTIANS

Harry Clarke

This year, when I went to the Isle of Wight, we went to various Natural Trust reserves and landmarks. As it so happens, we were at its only windmill, in Bembridge. While my brother indulged themselves and sister in a production line of mud pies, I went with my Mum to a little corner area. There, we inspected the long grasses and bushes, observing the local fauna and flora most would usually cast a blind eye to. As it happened, my eyes fell to a particular spot on a tree, occupied by two common lizards. This interested me, as I had never seen lizards this close, and I was surprised they let me come within a metre.

I, myself have an RSPB membership to try and help cool creatures, but what if all of us as Christians were to chip in to help these animals? Christianity teaches that we should show kindness to every living being, so let us show kindness to the animals and do our part, even if it is just hanging up a bird feeder or helping a little beetle from being squashed.



Psalm 50:10-11 says "for every animal of the forest is mine and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine." With human intervention, we may be able to help numerous species that would be in danger from our everyday activities.

LADIES BIBLE GROUP

Amy Hall

Ladies Bible Group meet every 2 weeks in the Minor Hall on Tuesdays from 10.45 am – 12 noon.

If anyone would like to come along, you will be very welcome to join us.



CAP Paul Bailie

Ten years in Lisburn CAP

Below is a selection of responses from clients, taken from our monthly team meeting minutes.

30/10/2014 FIRST TEAM MEETING. Of the present 12 team members 7 were at this meeting!

ROCKY START In the early days to help publicise who we were we organised a BBQ in a local church AND the BBQ went missing and has never turned up - We invited a CAP speaker along to a church hall AND there was a bomb scare - We were about to give a presentation to the Lisburn and Castlereagh Council AND the computer with all our slides broke down!

2014 After leafletting a local estate one person picked up the leaflet and knew in her heart it was for her. She gave her life to the Lord during a visit of 2 team members and her debts, caused by the sudden death of her spouse have been paid off.

2016 On returning for a second visit to a lady who had cried during most of the first visit having handed us 18 inches of debt letters, I hardly recognised her. She was transformed having had the stress removed by CAP dealing with her debts and creditors.

January 2018 After 7 months 'R', a single mum, was able to manage on her own. This was after she had taken an overdose when her children had been removed, the fear of losing her home and mounting debts. She would have died had the police not found her unconscious. That Christmas her children were with her and her finances were under control.

christians against poverty

January 2019 'X's mother rang a team member to say that her son had taken his own life. The team member was shocked and spoke to the mother who thanked him for trying to help her son. Very very sad.

February 2019 'Thank you very much for your support throughout the process. I got my head down and worked hard with the plan CAP prepared for me. I have learnt valuable lessons that I can take with me going forward. Thanks again.'

Sept 2019 - **Sept 2020** We were unable to take new clients for about a year when CAP closed to reorganise and Covid struck.

February 2020 'A' collapsed (Doctor thought stress) and could have died. After working with CAP she said 'Thank you for all your prayers and all your help'. She has moved with our help to the North Coast to be nearer her family and is a joy to be with.

June 2020 Having paid off £24K in a year 'C' said, "Thank you....please keep doing what you do...you are a blessing and a big help....I really appreciate it...as you say Freedom and New life!

March 2021 'Three Hips and Hoorays. I am debt free, thank you so much.'

December 2021 After a client received financial help provided by supporting individuals and churches she said 'I didn't know such people existed'

CAP CONT'D

February 2022 After 10 months 'M' went debt free. Two team members had been in tears when she initially explained why she needed help.

March 2023 After the TV programme on 'loan sharks' who identified potential victims from people visiting food banks 'C' came to our house on a Friday evening and cried as she told us how she was being abused as she could not pay off her debts. The loan shark was not from the Lisburn area, but she is now debt free and has regained her life.

May 2023 After 5 years and repaying more than £50k 'C' and his family are debt free. He also overcame an addiction which caused his debt problem. **June 2023** A team member phoned several creditors and resolved 'J' debts accumulated after her husband died suddenly.

A recent YouGov polling report commissioned by CAP indicates 1/3 of adults (509,000 surveyed) have difficulty making payments – 12% don't know how to repay their debts – 1/4 say they would not be able to meet an unexpected expense.

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS UNMANAGEABLE DEBT CALL CAP at 0800 328 0006

Finally, many thanks to all the local Lisburn Churches and individuals who meet the needs of others so generously.

MOTHERS' UNION

Programme for 2024 Theme: TRANSFORMATION - NOW!

Monday 25 March | Holy Week Service Monday 15 April | Hospital Bags Monday 20 May | AGM & Quiz June Outing (details later) Monday 16 September (To be confirmed) Monday 21 October | Canon Will Murphy Monday 18 November | Christine's Career Monday 9 December | Christmas Film

Other events:

18 April – Area Coffee Evening, Magheragall Parish
21 April – Festival Service, St Anne's Cathedral
20 October – Area Service, Eglantine Parish



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

Funerals

7th December 2023 | Heidi Kidd 21st December 2023 | John Andrews 28th February | Gerald Graham

OFFICE

The office hours are 9.30am-1pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.







CONTACTS

Rector

Dean Sam Wright 11D Magheralave Road T: 9209 0260 / 07515775505 E: sam.wright@lisburncathedral.org Sam's day off is Monday

Curate

Rev. Lee Boal 82 Thornleigh Drive T: 07738174134 E: lee.boal@lisburncathedral.org *Lee's day off is Monday*

Ordained Local Minister (Responsible for South Lisburn Community Church) Rev Pete Meenagh T: 07812724244 E: pete@lisburncathedral.org

> Youth Worker Reah Lee T: 07478747784 E: mettle@lisburncathedral.org

Children's Worker Andrea Johnston T: 07725754654 E: kidzone@lisburncathedral.org

Hon Secretary Mrs Rachel McIlwrath E: rachelmcilwrath@gmail.com

Hon Treasurer Mr Richard Thompson T: 9266 7059 E: treasurer@lisburncathedral.org

Church Wardens Miss Grace Broddle T: 07856082492 E: gracebroddle@hotmail.co.uk Mr David Davidson T: 07522337665

E: dav.dav1946@gmail.com

Administrator Angela Montgomery T: 92602400 E:angela.montgomery@lisburncathedral.org