



The Greeting

CONGREGATIONAL MAGAZINE OF MAY STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BELFAST

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A GOOD QUESTION

A few weeks ago I was chatting to a mum and her daughter in the car park of Belvoir Presbyterian Church, where I am the minister. The little girl was in P2. Pointing at the church, she asked me: "What goes on in that building?" What a brilliant question, especially from a six-year old! I thought for a moment and then replied: "In that building people learn who Jesus is and how to follow him." Other things go on inside our buildings, but first and foremost that is what churches should be - places where we learn who Jesus is and what it means to follow him. Yet it is so easy to lose sight of this and make other matters our priorities.

That was what was happening in 520BC in Jerusalem. In 539BC, God had brought his people back from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem. He had given them clear instructions as to what should be top of their 'to do' list - the reconstruction of a new Temple. However, nearly two decades down the line, the rebuilding of the Temple was still a work in progress. It was not that the people had been sitting on their hands doing nothing. They had been busy constructing homes for themselves

filled with the latest in interior design. They had lost sight of their priorities.

All this changed on 29 August 520BC, when Haggai used a New Moon festival to bring a message of challenge from God to his people. You can read the sermon in Haggai 1:1-11. (The best way to find the short book of Haggai - the second shortest book in the Old Testament - is to go to the end of the Old Testament and turn left.) Haggai challenges God's people to get their priorities right. They are to remember why God brought them back from exile - to reconstruct the Temple. Then they are to get on with it and not to get sidetracked from the real task in hand. They are to spend all their time, energy, money and creativity in building God's house and not their own houses.

He points out that things are not really going too well for them at present. The papers are full of stories of food shortages and the daily struggle to make ends meet. Standards of living are falling, and people's dreams of the good life are turning into nightmares. Haggai asks why this is happening and everything is coming apart at the seams. He then gives the people the answer

they do not want to hear. God has brought these difficulties crashing into the lives because he is not best pleased at the way they have forgotten their *raison d'être* for being back in their land. He challenges them to recalibrate their priorities. They were to get their eye back on the ball, put God's ways first and start reconstructing the Temple.

We should not be too hard on the people of Haggai's time because we do the same as churches. We lose sight of why we exist. We forget that our primary task is to help people see who Jesus is and what it means to follow him. We get our priorities lopsided. Jesus issues the same challenge to us as Haggai did. To people like us, who frequently become sidetracked from our true calling, he says "Repent and do the things you did at first" (Revelation 2:5) and "Seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness" (Matthew 6:33).

How did the story work out in Haggai's time? There was a happy ending as the people responded positively to God's challenge. How will it work out in our situation? That is up to us and whether or not we will refuse to allow ourselves to be sidetracked and respond positively to Jesus' challenge to fulfil our calling to be a place where people learn who Jesus is and what it means to follow him.

RODGER CROOKS
Vacancy Convenor

FEED THE SOUL

Still burning with the desire to share God's love through practical action, we continue to provide our food outreach for the homeless and vulnerable in the May Street lecture hall each Sunday from 12.30pm to 2.30pm.

We have a steady stream of visitors each week, some of whom we now consider to be our "regulars". Our original volunteer team of Damian, Barry, Gail & Stephen continues to serve steadfastly and has been boosted recently by the arrival of Cameron, Hazel & Garnet.

Thanks as always to the generosity of May Street Presbyterian Church for giving this outreach a home and for their ongoing support.

Having originally targeted the homeless, we remain surprised to find others on the streets of

Belfast city centre who are equally accepting of the offer of food, shelter and company.



Meet the team: Some of the volunteers who help week by week in the Feed the Soul project in the May Street lecture hall. From left are: Susan Mackay, Gail Barbour, Damian Smyth, Cameron Scott, Garnet Maguire and Barry Mearns. Feed the Soul operates in the May Street lecture hall from 12.30pm to 2.30pm each Sunday.

Isaiah 58 verses 9 and 10:

Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help. And He will say: "Here I am. If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger & malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry & satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday."

The essence of Feed the Soul remains the same - a simple meal, a warm welcome, the acceptance of a fellow human being.....all of which adds up to the practical demonstration of God's heart of unconditional love for all.

We would like to invite members and friends of the May Street congregation to join us in the lecture hall at 12.30pm on Sunday November 24, the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day. Please call in and join the volunteers and some of our regulars for a bite of lunch. Please give your names to May Street secretary Robin Morton in advance if you intend to attend. be say hello to thb for a light lunch on Sunday.

DAMIAN SMYTH

THE TUESDAY CIRCLE

The ladies of the Tuesday Circle are looking forward to another season of lively meetings



presents

Memories

20 Years of Song

Saturday 19th October 2013

May Street Presbyterian Church,
Belfast

7.30pm

**Tickets £10
(including refreshments)**

**available via
our website
www.grosvenor-ni.org**

Belfast based choir, Grosvenor, winners at Bangor International Choral Festival 2013, celebrate 20 years with an evening of their favourite choral music. The choir will debut arrangements by John Anderson, John Crothers, and Edward Craig, which have been specially commissioned for the choir's 20th anniversary.



THE CHOIR

together. We are planning our programme a little differently this year as in recent years we have had to cancel some meetings due to wintry weather. Some of our members, who have to travel from some distance away, get anxious about the journey home when low temperatures are forecast.

Traditionally, our meetings have finished in March, thereby missing out on the lovely spring and summer evenings. But this year our plans are to skip November, January and February and resume in March, thus enabling us to venture outdoors.

Our first outing was on September 24, and as is customary, we kicked off the season with a visit Dundonald Ice Bowl, not to ice skate, but to do a spot of bowling. We always have good fun and finish up with a welcome cup of tea and biscuits. I do not know whether much practice has been taking place since our last session but I shall have a full report next time round.

On October 22 the Rev Alastair Kennedy and his wife Anna-Mae have agreed to share with us their experiences of a recent visit to Peru.

We now skip to December when we hope to go out for a meal. The date and venue for this has still to be arranged.

The New Year begins for the Tuesday Circle on March 25 when Raymond Crooks, "The Singing Chef", will entertain us. Our April meeting has still to be arranged, but in May we are planning a boat trip, and then in June, we will round off our season with a visit to a garden centre.

In May we heard the sad news of the death of Corry Lyttle, the partner of our treasurer Kathleen Rea. Corry was well known to most of us as he attended many functions in May Street and we were all saddened by his sudden passing. We shared with Kathleen in her grief at the time but we still think of her loss and hope that the passing of time has eased the pain and wish to remind her that she is still in our thoughts and prayers.

The summer was sunny and warm so I hope all our members are fit and well and we look forward to getting together again and catching up on all their news.

ENA KIRKPATRICK
Secretary

Members of the choir took advantage of the beautiful summer weather and arranged their annual outing to the North Coast on Friday June 14. The morning got off to a relaxing start with coffee at Hillside Nursery in Newtownabbey. The chat was so good that we considered staying put for the rest of the day!



Coffee stop: *The May Street choir take a break at Hillside Nursery in Newtownabbey before heading to the north coast. From left are: Colin Johnston, Christine Hewitt, May Mercer, Kathleen Rea, Derek Gourley, Valerie Morton and Evelyn Gourley.*

However, we managed to drag ourselves away and headed up the M2 to Portballintrae and the Bay View Hotel, for further refreshments. Following this we took a lovely walk along the coast at White Rocks, enjoying the sound, sight and smell of the sea. The remainder of the afternoon was spent in Portrush and then Portstewart.

After all that fresh air, we had worked up an appetite and thoroughly enjoyed our evening meal at Cromore Halt, a firm favourite with the May Street choir. We arrived back home late in the evening and all agreed it had been a great day out. Our thanks to Kathleen Rea and Colin Johnston for acted as car drivers.

May Street took part in the European Heritage Open Day programme yet again this year. Our church was open to the public on Saturday September 14 and Sunday September 15. We were fortunate that on both days, recitals took place on our renowned Binns Organ, which of course will be celebrating its 100th birthday in 2014.

Thanks go to our Sunday organist Colin

Johnston, our Thursday organist Charles Maginnis and to Johnston Gray, the organist of Ballyholme Presbyterian Church, who also provided some lovely music. Johnston has a special affinity with our organ because it was at May Street that he learnt to play the organ as a boy of 13 in 1943. It was lovely to hear the sanctuary filled with such beautiful music and this proved to be a huge attraction for our many visitors. Many of them commented on how much they had enjoyed the music, and how it had made their visit to our church even more memorable.



Blooming marvellous: Choir member May Mercer waters the flowers on the May Street steps. Thanks are due to May for providing and looking after the floral display which so enhances the May Street frontage.

The May Street choir is currently planning its programme for the annual Harvest Service which will be on Sunday October 13. We look forward to your support.

VALERIE MORTON
Secretary

CHRISTMAS GIFT DAY

May Street's Christmas Gift Day will be on Sunday December 8. We hope that a representative of Thorndale Residential Home will

be on hand at our morning service to accept our gifts. These presents are very much appreciated by Thorndale, where up to 30 vulnerable and needy families avail of the services. I know that the members of the congregation will respond to this appeal with their usual wonderful generosity.

JENNIFER WILSON

GROSVENOR CHOIR CONCERT

May Street sanctuary will be coming alive to the sound of music on the evening of Saturday October 19 when the Grosvenor choir puts on a concert to celebrate its 40th anniversary. The award-winning Belfast choir was founded in 1993 by Edward Craig, who was at the time a pupil at the then Grosvenor High School. This mixed-voice ensemble, numbering approximately 40 singers and an average age of 30, are from a diverse range of backgrounds and primarily hail from the Greater Belfast, South Antrim and North Down areas. Their repertoire is extensive and covers all styles and genres of music, old and new and in a colourful variety of languages.



Bravo, bravissimo: Grosvenor Choir conductor Edward Craig and founder who will be in charge at the choir's 20th anniversary concert which takes place in May Street Church on Saturday October 19.

The choir is not only about the time spent rehearsing, performing, broadcasting or competing. It is also a great social network playing on the strengths of individuals as well as the group. They actively support local charities throughout the year at their performances and have a loyal group of supporters called the Friends of Grosvenor.

To celebrate their 20th anniversary they held a recital and dinner at Parliament Buildings, Stormont. They performed as part of the opening ceremony at the World Police and Fire Games in August, will take part in an exciting new music festival in Saintfield in October and were to be heard at PRONI in the Titanic Quarter as part of Belfast Culture night on Friday September 20. Please come along and join in our main celebration at the concert in May Street Presbyterian Church on Saturday October 19.

ALEX BELL
Grosvenor Choir secretary

Footnote: *And there's a family connection between choir secretary Alex Bell and May Street. She is the daughter of the late Rev Robin Bell, who was a brother of May Street elder Barry Bell.*

GENERATION GAME



Proud Moment: *Lifelong May Street member Winifred Conor pictured on July 28 with her nephew Richard Conor, her great-niece Cristina Marko and her husband Carlos and Carlitos, their 14-month-old baby. Miss Conor's great-great nephew, all of whom were on a short visit to Belfast. Miss Conor can trace her May Street roots back to 1890 when her grandfather, John Hazlet, became a member of the congregation. This means that six generations of the family have now been connected with May Street. Pic: Arthur Acheson*

CITY CENTRE CHAPLAIN

Urban Soul provided the venue and the catering for a lunchtime meeting organised by Belfast City Centre Management Company (BCCM) and Belfast Central Mission (BCM) on August 22. The occasion was a visit to Belfast by the Rev Andy Sewell, who is city centre retail chaplain in Bristol.

BCCM and BCM are linking up in an initiative designed to establish a city centre chaplaincy in Belfast. The idea is that a chaplain would be able to provide pastoral care to workers, shoppers and visitors to the city centre, and already a number of cities in Britain have chaplains.

Almost 40 guests were presented, including representatives of various denominations including the four main churches, along with city centre business owners and public sector personnel.

William McGivern, chairman of BCCM, welcomed everyone to the event and thanked Urban Soul for accommodating the group. He said the objective was to hear from Mr Sewell about his work and about how he operated in Bristol city centre.

Andrew Irvine, the Belfast City Centre Manager, said they were delighted that Mr Sewell had taken the time to come to Belfast and he said they hoped to be able to learn a lot from his experiences as retail chaplain in Bristol.

Mr Irvine apologised for the absence of the Rev Richard Johnston who had had to fly to Australia at short notice to visit his mother, who was gravely ill. He asked for prayers for Mr Johnston and the family circle.

Grace was said by Canon John Mann, the Dean of Belfast.

Mr Sewell, who worked as a police officer for 18 years before being ordained as a priest in the Church of England, said he devoted half his working week to his role as city centre chaplain. The rest of his time was devoted to the United Reformed Church in Weston-super-Mare where he is part-time minister. Mr Sewell was appointed by an independent charity called the Bristol City Centre Chaplaincy Trust, which includes representatives of the churches and the retail sector.

He said: "I am often asked what a retail chaplain is. I see one of my key responsibilities as being to serve the pastoral needs of those working in the retail sector. In other words, I offer a confidential, non-judgmental listening ear to anyone who needs someone to talk to.



Welcome to Urban Soul: Urban Soul Cafe manager Avril Gracey welcome the Rev Andy Sewell (left), the city centre retail chaplain in Bristol, and Andrew Irvine, chief executive of Belfast City Centre Management, on August 22.

"The important word here is 'listening' and I have been trained in effective listening skills. That means I listen and place no expectations on the speaker. I value whoever I am listening to because of who they are, whatever the subject and whatever their religion, gender, sexuality, life-style, age, occupation, position in the company or anything else."

Mr Sewell said he favoured the wearing of a clerical collar because it meant he was easily identifiable as he did his beat in the shops and shopping centres of Bristol, and did not have to introduce himself. He said that as a former policeman, he felt a uniform was important.

He said that at present, he was trying to establish a network of voluntary chaplains who would augment his efforts and extend the reach of the chaplaincy. He said he did not operate from a particular base, but acknowledged that this could have advantages.

Mr Sewell said he encountered a range of receptions – some shops, including the main Cabot Circus centre, embraced his work and regarded it as "invaluable", and in other shops he was given free access to the staff canteen, where he was able to engage with workers about various issues, from zero hours contracts to personal challenges. But some shops refused to co-operate with him, in which case he simply "shook the dust off his feet" and went elsewhere.

Mr Irvine said he felt that if a city centre chaplaincy developed in Belfast, it would only prosper if it was an inter-denominational ministry. He said the issue of a base also needed to be considered and said that Urban Soul could possibly play a role.



Getting the picture: David McAuley (left), chairman of the Urban Soul Community Interest Company chats with the Rev Andy Sewell from Bristol following his talk about his work as Bristol city centre retail chaplain.

David McAuley from Urban Soul told the guests that Urban Soul, as a cafe with a Christian ethos, would be delighted to provide a chaplain with a base, somewhere that he/she could chat with people about matters of spiritual concern or take time to pray quietly with people.

Chris Hewitt from May Street followed up by saying that the church had rooms which could be used for individual counselling or prayer, should the need arise. She said Urban Soul already played

host to Street Pastors, which used the premises as a base at weekends, and to Underground, a new style of Sunday evening church for young people. She acknowledged, however, that a chaplain might prefer to operate from a number of bases.

Mr Irvine stressed that the idea in Belfast was to have a chaplain who could access not just shops but offices as well, both public and private sector. He envisaged that a chaplain could play a useful role by linking in with existing Christian fellowships in offices.

After the meeting, a small group remained behind for a time of prayer led by David Morgan from the Christian Business Association for Men and Women (CBMC Belfast).

ROBIN MORTON

URBAN SOUL CAFE

After a busy summer season Urban Soul Cafe is gearing up for a number of additional bookings during the autumn. Already booked in are a hen party, an 18th birthday party and a conference. The key dates are:



Well done, Martin: Avril Gracey, the Urban Soul manager, congratulates cafe volunteer Martin Kate on passing his recent exams. Martin, who has been attending evening classes at Belfast Metropolitan College, received certificates from the University of Cambridge ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) examinations in Writing, Reading, Speaking and Listening, and Skills for Life.

October 12 – Lawyers Christian Fellowship conference.

October 16 – Middle East Reformed Partnership lunch.

October 19 – Afternoon tea for a hen party.

November 9 – Savoury supper for an 18th birthday party.

December 12 – Christmas meal for Dundonald Elim Church.

Cafe manager Avril Gracey invites anyone who would like to lend a hand at any of these events to get in touch with her at 9032-5554.

URBAN SOUL LIVE

Urban Soul Cafe was buzzing on the evening of Saturday September 7 when a fundraising concert was held. Some 60 people were in the audience and it proved to be an uplifting and memorable evening.



Voices of Hope: The choir of nurses from Ward 10 at Belfast City Hospital perform to much acclaim at the Urban Soul fundraising concert on September 7.

Topping the bill was the Voices of Hope Choir, made up of nurses from Ward 10 (haematology) at Belfast City Hospital, who were making their second appearance at Urban Soul. The choir was every bit as good as first time round in May, and they performed a lovely programme, featuring everything from The Lord's My Shepherd and I Dreamed a Dream to I will follow Him and Amazing Grace. We were delighted that Dr Robert Cuthbert, consultant haematologist at the City Hospital, who was responsible for setting up the choir, was present to lend his support.

Cheryl Weston from Newtownabbey, whose husband Johnny was looking after the sound, was next up. A talented singer, who leads worship



Good publicity: Thanks to the support of Belfast City Centre Management, an eye-catching Urban Soul banner now flies above busy May Street. This will help to raise our profile.

at Willowfield Parish Church, she sang Wade in the Water and Angel, accompanied by Stevie Johnston on guitar.

numbers – Beautiful Scandalous Night and I Call out to you, Lord. He explained that he sources his themes from the Book of Psalms.



Busy place: Urban Soul Live was the place to be seen on September 7.

Then we were treated to two numbers from Stevie's sister Melanie Johnston from Ballyclare, who accompanied herself on the keyboard. Melanie sang I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say and then My Song is Love Unknown.

Stevie then presented a couple of his own



Question time: Urban Soul volunteer Angela Martin answers a question from Urban Soul Live compere Paul Boyd, who is a presenter with U105.

The compere was U105 presenter Paul Boyd, who interspersed the performances with interviews with Avril Gracey and various Urban Soul volunteers including Angela Martin and Ruby Hutchinsin. But the star of the show was Urban

Soul volunteer Harry Bruce who gave a rendition of hip-hop style “beatboxing”, an amazing form of vocal percussion primarily involving the art of producing drum beats, rhythm and musical sounds using his mouth, lips, tongue, and voice. Harry used to go round various schools teaching pupils the “beatbox” technique. And to round the evening of, May Street clerk of session Arthur Acheson, gave a spontaneous demonstration of hip-hop dancing to Harry’s beat.

Many thanks are due to Avril for setting up the entire concert and to Paul Boyd for giving of his time not just to be compere but for rigging up the lights and speakers in advance of the concert.

Everyone agreed that it was a night which should be repeated, and already Saturday December 7 has been put in the diary. So don’t miss out on what promises to be another brilliant concert.

ROBIN MORTON

NEW HORIZON

During the summer I spent a week of my holidays up at the New Horizon conference. It was held in the University of Ulster in Coleraine and attracted all age groups. This year one of the speakers was Krish Kandiah, a lecturer in evangelism. I encourage you to read about him on Google as I was very impressed with his preaching and teaching. Krish, who is from Oxford, was basically sharing that in view of the times we are living in many are now doing church differently especially in order to reach out to as many young people as possible. This can be done through the likes of a drive-in church which I believe happens in the summer months up in Portstewart. One advantage of that approach is that you do not need a building, and people can come as go as they please.

Another method which many churches have started to do is a café church held in a city centre cafe. This creates an opportunity to invite shoppers and tourists to call in have a chat about Christianity and to find out what people believe and what they think about life and eternal matters. As already mentioned the world and culture is constantly changing and in order to reach folk today I believe you have to be willing to be flexible, and to adapt to change. It makes me think of Paul’s letter to Corinthians where he

became weak to win the weak with the intention of creating a golden opportunity to share Christ and the Gospel with others just where they are in their lives. Nothing is easy in life, just as Jesus did say, but with God all things are possible.

After prayerful consideration and reflection on what I heard at New Horizon, I have decided to have a three-week informal Bible study looking at: “Why believe the Bible?” and “How the old is revealed in the new”. The first meeting was at Cafe Nero in Great Victoria Street, Belfast, on the afternoon of Sunday September 22, and lasted one hour. The meetings were due to continue on Sunday September 29 and Sunday October 6, so please come along. All very informal, so come on down for a cuppa, a chat and fellowship. Bring a Bible if you have one – and bring lots of enthusiasm! Cafe Nero fronts onto Great Victoria Street at the entrance to Europa Bus and Train Centre.

I had a very good summer and love visiting the North Antrim coast and more recently Rathlin Island. I hope you also enjoyed the summer weather and encourage you all to keep up the good work in May Street with all the various ministries going on.

BRIAN GOURLEY

WORSHIP PROGRAMME

During the ongoing vacancy at May Street, the now familiar rotation of visiting preachers for Sunday services week by week has been established and is working well. Details are printed below. The Sunday morning service runs from 11am until 12 midday.

Dr Rodger Crooks, convenor of the vacancy, is continuing to handle the Thursday services, which resumed on September 5 and run each week from 1.05pm to 1.30pm. All welcome.

SUNDAY SERVICES (11AM)

OCTOBER

6th: Rev Lee Eagleson
13th: Rev Drew Abernethy
20th: Dr Harry Uprichard
27th: Dr Godfrey Brown

NOVEMBER

3rd: Rev Lee Eagleson
10th: Rev Drew Abernethy
17th: Dr Rodger Crooks
24th: Dr Godfrey Brown

DECEMBER

1st: Rev Lee Eagleson
8th: Rev Drew Abernethy
15th: Dr Harry Uprichard
22nd: Rev Alistair Kennedy
29th: Dr Rodger Crooks

SYMPATHY

Sympathy is expressed to May Street elder Clive Gilmour on the death on September 15 of his mother Kathleen, who was a resident at Towel House. Mrs Gilmour, who had formerly been a member of May Street, had moved to Knock Presbyterian Church, where a service of thanksgiving for her life was held on September 20. May Street was represented at the service.

HARVEST SERVICE:

May Street's annual harvest thanksgiving service will be held at 11am on Sunday October 13. The service will be conducted by the Rev Drew Abernethy.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Wreaths will be laid in May Street during the annual Remembrance Day service which this year takes place on Sunday November 10. The service will be conducted by the Rev Drew Abernethy.

EUROPEAN HERITAGE OPEN DAY

Historic May Street Church featured once again in the programme for European Heritage Open Day. The church was open on Saturday September 14 and Sunday September 15 and around 80 visitors signed the book on the Saturday, and 50 on the Sunday. A team of around 20 volunteers from May Street operated a rota, and were involved in showing visitors around and answering many questions.

We had some lovely feedback from members

of the public who visited our 1829-built church and enjoyed the organ music which was played. The comments ranged from "spectacular" to "magnificent organ" and from "very welcoming and most interesting" to "very nice to see the church from the inside" and "nice place, lovely people". Among those who came to look at the church were tourists from Australia, Austria, Slovakia, Italy, Madrid and Valencia in Spain, as well as Glasgow and Leicester. It was a great opportunity to raise May Street's profile so thanks again to all those who volunteered.



Musical moment: Johnston Gray, the organist from Ballyholme Presbyterian Church, who learnt to play the Binns organ in May Street as a boy of 13 in 1943, pictured at European Heritage Open Day with (from left) Christine Hewitt, Charles Maginnis, Colin Johnston, Kathleen Rea, Valerie Morton and May Mercer.

In particular, thanks to our three resident organists – Johnston Gray from Ballyholme, who learnt to play the organ at May Street in 1943, Thursday organist Charles Maginnis and our own May Street organist Colin Johnston. They played at different stages over the two days, to the delight of visitors and volunteers.

ROBIN MORTON

WORLD WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER

Saturday September 21 was a busy day for Urban Soul and May Street. Organisers of World Women's Day of Prayer services from throughout Northern Ireland converged on the church for their annual conference. In total, we played host to around 80 ladies for the meeting, which was held in the sanctuary.

Avril and her team served coffee/tea and scones on arrival and then provided more refreshments midway through the morning. There was lots of



Cutting the cake: Ruby Fannin from May Street cuts a date and nut cake made to an Egyptian recipe for the World Women's Day of Prayer event. The theme for next year will be the women of Egypt. With Ruby are (from left) Dorothy Molyneaux, Lyn Cassidy both from Crumlin branch, and Dorothy Ward from Antrim branch.



Down to business: Studying the programme for next year's World Women's Day of Prayer, which will focus on the women of Egypt are (from left) Eileen Rhodes from Worthing, a member of the national committee of WWDP, Mary Lambert, Richhill, and Marjorie Savage, Northern Ireland representative on the national committee. Pics: Valerie Morton



Praise time: Diane Petherick from Tearfund leads the singing by delegates at the Women's World Day of Prayer meeting in May Street Church on September 21.

favourable comment about May Street and a large number of the visitors took the opportunity to visit Urban Soul with a view to making bookings over the winter.

May Street was an appropriate venue because the first Women's World Day of Prayer service took place in our sanctuary 70 years ago. Thanks to all who helped make the occasion such a success.

CONGREGATIONAL SOCIAL



Grub's up: A total of 15 members of May Street partook of Sunday lunch after morning service on September 8. The venue was the recently opened Robinson & Cleaver restaurant at Donegall Square North. Pictured from left are: Valerie Condy, Jean McCrum, Alan McCrum, Christine Hewitt, Brian Gourley, Colin Johnston, Gordon Kirkpatrick and Ena Kirkpatrick. Pic: Robin Morton



Must do this again: Enjoying their meal at Robinson & Cleaver's Terrace Restaurant on September 8 are (from left) Evelyn Gourley, May Mercer, Kathleen Rea, Robin Morton, Barbara Pasco (niece of Winifred Conor), Valerie Morton and Winifred Conor. Pic: Valerie Condy

CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY

At its meeting on September 5 May Street Kirk Session adopted a child and vulnerable adults safeguarding policy, based on the Presbyterian Church's Child Protection Policy. Christine Hewitt has been appointed the designated person who will advise Session on matters concerning the welfare of children, young people, vulnerable adults, leaders and staff. A training course on safeguarding will be run which will be open to members of Session, committee and the congregation. May Street will also ask organisations which use its premises regularly to furnish Session with a copy of their own safeguarding policies.

COLLECTORS

- Oct:** Gordon Kirkpatrick, Brian Gourley, Valerie Condy, Clive Gilmour.
- Nov:** Kathleen Rea, Alan McCrum, Barry Bell, Robin Hewitt.
- Dec:** Kathleen Rea, Robin Morton, Jenny Wilson, Arthur Fannin.
- Jan:** Gordon Kirkpatrick, Brian Gourley, Valerie Condy, Clive Gilmour.

LAWYERS' CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Urban Soul is to be the setting for a conference being organised by the Lawyers' Christian Fellowship on Saturday October 12. The title of the event is Surviving and Thriving in the Law – Seeing God at work in your work. It is a day devoted to fellowship and encouragement with teaching from Mark Barrell and Ian Miller. The conference starts at 9.30am and runs through to 2pm. Further details from www/lcfnorthernirelandconference2013.eventbrite.co.uk

DEADLINE

The deadline for all contributions to the next issue of The Greeting is Sunday January 26.

MAY STREET WEBSITE

As reported in the last issue of The Greeting, the May Street website is being upgraded. The work is progressing and we hope to launch during the autumn. The website address is www.maystreetchurch.com. The May Street email is info@maystreetchurch.com

STREET PASTORS

Belfast Street Pastors, which uses Urban Soul Cafe in May Street as its operational base on Friday and Saturday nights, has teamed up with Diageo Northern Ireland in a new initiative. The Street Pastors are part of a UK wide Christian voluntary organisation that provides help and assistance for people at risk on a night out in Belfast. The new link-up is designed to support the charity's drive to recruit more volunteers and expand the scheme's presence at Belfast nightspots.



Team effort: Trevor Betts of Belfast Street Pastors teams up with Gemma Bell from Diageo Northern Ireland at the launch of a new link-up designed to help Street Pastors recruit more volunteers.

The inter-Church based scheme provides invaluable services to the local community by working on the streets of Belfast at night to care, listen and help people get home safe after a night out and ease the burden on the emergency services. Diageo is providing funding and resources to support the drive to recruit volunteers for Street Pastors, which works in partnership with

BELFAST STREET PASTORS

are Christians from different churches making a difference on the streets of Belfast on Friday & Saturday nights.

We help people get home safe, give out flip flops, pick up bottles, listen to people's stories, help those in distress, point people to further help plus much more... We don't preach, but often have opportunity to share and pray with those who want it.

Could you give 1 night a month plus undertake some great training? (6 Saturdays, 9:30 to 4 in Central Belfast – 14 & 28 Sept, 12 & 26 Oct, 9 & 23 Nov). We need volunteers and people to pray in the base. Contact us NOW to find out more, come out as an observer, and to enrol for the training...

For further information please contact us..



075 1623 0181

belfast@streetpastors.org.uk

belfast.streetpastors.org.uk

Belfast Street Pastors

CARING LISTENING HELPING

the PSNI, Belfast City Council and Belfast City Centre Management.

The organisation, which started 10 years ago in London, now has over 250 schemes in place and over 11,000 volunteers across the UK and Ireland. However, according to Andrew Irvine of Belfast Street Pastors, the local team is becoming increasingly stretched and is in vital need of new volunteers from churches to support the organisation's existing work and to expand.

Mr Irvine said: "Each Street Pastors initiative works in partnership with their local Council and Police. Belfast City Council and the PSNI have been both impressed and delighted by the calming effect brought by our Street Pastors. In the last 12 months we have provided over 1,400 volunteering hours on the streets on Friday and Saturday nights, removed nearly 5,000 discarded bottles and glasses, issued over 400 pairs of flip flops, helped to settle 68 potential arguments and provided a listening ear to thousands of revellers.

"Each Street Pastor receives 50 hours of training and is backed up by a national organisation with exemplary governance and management structures. We are warmly welcomed by the revellers in the city, we love what we do, and we have the blessings of seeing what a difference we make."

Gemma Bell, from Diageo Northern Ireland, said: "We are delighted to support the work of Street Pastors who give of their time to ensure that people who are enjoying a night out do so in a safe and secure environment."

If you are interested in getting involved with Belfast Street Pastors there are a number of training sessions taking place in Belfast from 9.30am-4.00pm on Saturdays October 12th and 26th, and November 9th & 23rd. For further information contact belfast@streetpastors.org.uk

Trevor Betts
Interim Co-Ordinator

COMMUNION

A communion service will take place in May Street on Sunday January 26.

COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of Kirk Session and Congregational Committee will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday November 19.

BEFORE YOU BUILD

You must build according to the pattern I will show you (Exodus 25:9 NLT)

Go to God for the plan. God told Moses: ‘You must build this tabernacle and its furnishings exactly according to the pattern I will show you.’ God knows what you will need in the future, you don’t. He prepared Noah a hundred years in advance of the flood. He prepared Joseph to feed Egypt seven years in advance of the famine. Without God’s guidance the best you’ll ever have are estimates, educated guesswork and projections. ‘To the Israelites at the foot of the mountain, the glory of the Lord appeared at the summit like a consuming fire. Then Moses disappeared into the cloud as he climbed higher up the mountain. He remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights’ (Exodus 24:17-18 NLT). Moses spent over a month waiting in God’s presence for direction. Why? Because what he was building had to meet the needs of God’s people for generations. So go to the place of prayer. Tell those around you, ‘I’m not coming back until I hear from God and get His plan!’ When God orders it, He pays for it. But when He doesn’t give the order, and you decide to do it anyway, you’re on your own! Why? Because you won’t have confidence to go to Him in your time of need. Unless you start right, you won’t finish right. You say, ‘But I’m nobody special. Why would God speak to someone like me?’ If God has called you, and He has, then you’re special. His promise is, ‘If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God... and it will be given to him’ (James 1:5 NIV).

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EVERYTHING MATTERS

Everything matters: the trivial act that hardly seems worthwhile.
The word that sends the stranger on his journey with a smile.
The tiny gift that gives such pleasure to a lonely heart.
The thought that helps an erring soul to play a nobler part

Everything matters: The little blunder and the big mistake.
The way you do your daily job; the trouble that you take.
In crucial things of life and in the small things too, you leave your mark for good or ill in all you say and do.

NO GOING BACK

The path of daily life is strewn with opportunities passed by,
With beauty trodden underfoot and flowers of friendship left to die.
Good intentions, lofty aims and high resolves that faded out.
In the dust of disappointment, fear, frustration, failure, doubt...
Oh, if we could only turn and go back just a mile of two.
To say the things we should have said, and do the things we meant to do.

WAIT BEFORE YOU WONDER

Wait before you wonder what tomorrow may unfold.
Wait before you worry as to what it’s going to hold.
Do not peer in fear along the road that lies ahead.
Many things may happen to prevent the thing you dread.
Do you really think that only evil things can be?
Do you not believe in God?
Then trust him utterly.
Live in hope and confidence,

By nothing be depressed,
Then you'll draw unto yourself the good things
and the best.

PLAN

You must have a plan and a purpose.
Though swiftly the years may depart.
You'll always have something to live for
If you have a dream in your heart.

FRESH AIR

The finest tonic in the world
The cheapest and the best,
Put the pills and drugs aside
And put this to the test.
Take a walk and fill your lungs
With air that's fresh and clean
Even in a city you can find a patch of green.

When you feel run down
And out of tune with everyone,
Get out in the open
In the rain or in the sun.
Breathe the air that blows from heaven
Deeply, thankfully,
It is nature's medicine.
It's wonderful. It's free.

LOVE LAUGHS AT DEATH

Love is enough. We do not ask to hear
The well loved voice, nor do we seek to see
The angel form. Sufficient for the heart
Faith, and the peace that heals its agony.
Love waits unchained through all the changing
years.
Fed by the streams of living memory.
Love laughs at death. For death is but a dream
From which we wake to immortality.

Poems Contributed by Elizabeth Doran



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