

**First  
Presbyterian  
Church**  
**ARMAGH**



**Monthly  
Bulletin**  
**May 2026**

*'Faith and Community in the Heart of the City'*



*To all who are weary and need rest, to all who mourn and need comfort, to all who feel worthless and wonder if God cares. To all who fail and need strength, to all who sin and need a Saviour, to all who hunger and thirst for righteousness, and to whoever else will come. This church opens wide her doors and offers welcome and love, in the name of the risen Christ. You are most welcome.*

## Monthly Reflection

Dear friends,

Last summer I had the privilege to visit ***'The Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls'*** in Rome. It is historically considered the burial site of the Apostle Paul and on display inside the Basilica is a small chain, believed to have been used to incarcerate Paul during his imprisonment in Rome.

On Sunday morning we will commence our new sermon series on the Apostle Paul's epistle to the Philippians. It is a letter overflowing with joy and thankfulness, which seems surprising considering he wrote it whilst under lock and key.

Joy and peace is something everyone longs for; indeed, people spend their entire lives trying to obtain it in many different ways. Paul reminds us that true, deep and lasting peace can only be found in knowing Jesus Christ. It cannot be self-manufactured or found in anything temporary or fleeting in this world.

***'Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice!'*** (4:4)

Paul reminds us not to allow our present circumstances to dictate our joy and peace because life and circumstances can change so quickly, but the Lord remains faithful and his steadfast love endures forever.

Proclaiming Christ and Him crucified was Paul's mission, to point people to the Saviour of the world and the one who had changed his life on the Damascus Road.

***'For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.'*** (1:21)

It is my prayer that this new teaching series will lift our hearts and minds to our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of eternal life, joy and peace, and we will come to know and love Him even more. Please join us on Sunday mornings as we worship the Lord together.

Yours in Christ,

*Thomas*



## Looking Back

April began with a series of Midday Meditations during Holy Week, leading to our Good Friday Service with the Mall and Tassagh Presbyterian Churches, and culminating in a joyful celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday. Kathryn Richmond-Kerr, Karen Kerr and Dessie Moorcroft enriched our worship with their beautiful rendition of Christus Victor – Amen, and Julie Anne Stevenson added a brass flourish to the hymns. The joy of Easter continued in Kingdom Kids, where the children explored the Road to Emmaus story, began a new series on Saul, and planted sunflower seeds under the guidance of Ivor Stevenson. In Kingdom Youth, our young people enjoyed a great time of fun and learning with Ben and Callum. We were especially delighted to celebrate the wedding of Ellen Ballentine and James Askew on Thursday 9th April, and we wish them God's richest blessing as they begin their married life together. Congratulations to PW on their successful Coffee Morning on Saturday 18th April, which raised £1005.20 for funds. On the same day, the Choir also enjoyed a lovely time of food and fellowship at Dante's Deli at the Palace, a welcome chance to relax together after a busy and rewarding season of music. The month concluded with two special services: a wonderful Family Service, in which the children introduced a new song, God is Good, and an evening singing our Favourite Hymns, complete with some jelly and ice cream afterwards.

## Prayer Points

- ◆ Pray for our children and young people as they approach a very busy couple of months in School, College or University. Pray that the Lord would sustain them, their teachers and families.
- ◆ Pray for the work and witness of our congregation that people would sense a greater desire to gather for worship on the Lord's day, gather for prayer on Wednesday and pray that people would come to saving faith in Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Pray for our new **Men's Fellowship** as it meets for the first time on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May. Give thanks for our various organisations which meet throughout the week and pray that the Lord would richly bless our endeavours for him.
- ◆ Pray for the church universal, remembering especially the church in Nigeria which continues to experience intense persecution. Pray for pastors, elders and congregations as they seek to faithfully follow Christ.
- ◆ Continue to pray for peace to flourish across the Middle East and elsewhere and pray that the Lord will bring an end to the conflict, division and war.

## Services – 11.45am

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

New Series: 'Joy in the Gospel'

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

Christian Aid Service

Rev Dr Liz Hughes

Worship led by Praise Band

United Evening Service, 7pm,

St Mark's Parish Church

### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

Pentecost Sunday

Rev Kenneth Crowe

### **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May**

Trinity Sunday

Congregational Meeting, 12.45pm

## Meetings & Events

*Held in Temple Lundie Room unless stated.*

### **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May**

Committee Meeting, 7.30pm,  
College Street Halls

### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

Men's Fellowship – Breakfast,  
10am, Temple Lundie Room,  
speaker Rev Norman McAuley

### **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May**

Kirk Session Meeting, 7.30pm

## Annual Training

Rev Thomas Moore will be away from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May at mandatory PCI post ordination training in Church House, Belfast. In cases of pastoral emergency, please contact our Clerk of Session, Ian Kyle, on 07713636413.

## Youth Ministry

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

No provision

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

Kingdom Kids & Kingdom Youth

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

Kingdom Kids

### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

Kingdom Kids

### **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May**

Kingdom Kids & Kingdom Youth

## Prayer Meetings

*Held in Temple Lundie Room unless stated.*

### **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm**

### **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm**

## Practical Arrangements

At this time of year when our numbers typically decrease, we ask you to sit downstairs and fill from the **front and middle** of the church first. During July and August, the service will begin at 11.30am (Tassagh will meet at 10am). Thank you.

## Rotas

Cleaning Team (preparing for)

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> May**

Led by Norman Shilliday

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> May**

Led by Roberta Pollock

### **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May**

Led by Melanie Houston

## Stewards

James Boyd, James McCarragher,  
Eileen Reid, Alan Turtle