

First
Presbyterian
Church
ARMAGH



Monthly
Bulletin
June 2026

'Faith and Community in the Heart of the City'



Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practises steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord." (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

Monthly Reflection

Dear friends,

I wonder how good you are at waiting? Waiting doesn't come naturally to many of us and yet we spend much of our lives waiting in queues at traffic lights, in the doctor's surgery, waiting for the bus, train or for a flight at the airport. At the centre of the Christian faith is Abraham, called by God in Genesis 12:2-3:

*'I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you;
I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.*

*I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.'*

Abraham wasn't anyone particularly special and yet God chose him and called him to be the means through which He would bless the world but there was a major obstacle: Abraham and Sarah were childless. God made Abraham and Sarah wait for 25 years before Isaac was born.

Abraham is often considered our father in the faith, and his life and example has much to teach us. Four times God says to Abraham "I will..."

A Christian is someone who has been chosen and called by God to follow Jesus (John 15:16). When God called Abraham to go from Ur to Haran, he was asking him to leave his previous life behind and to obey him completely; to step out in faith and dependence upon God.

'By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.' (Hebrews 11:8)

Following Jesus means living by faith and not by sight; by resting in the promises of God and trusting God completely with all our tomorrows.

'But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength' (Isaiah 40:31).

Yours in Christ,
Thomas



Looking Back

May has seen several significant developments in the life of our congregation, including two new initiatives. We commenced our Men's Fellowship on Saturday 16th May with an excellent breakfast, thanks to our catering team, followed by an inspiring message from Rev Norman McAuley. On Sunday 31st May, we also launched a fundraising appeal, 'Built by Faith, Restored by You', as we prepare for an extensive project of exterior restoration work to the Church. Details were also announced of forthcoming fundraising events: a Harvest Breakfast and Craft Fayre (26th September), a Concert by Portadown Male Voice Choir and Barnstaple Ladies Choir (23rd October), and a Concert by the New Irish Arts Choir (24th April 2027). We welcomed Rev Dr Liz Hughes for a special service highlighting the life-changing work of Christian Aid, and Rev Kenneth Crowe led our worship on Pentecost Sunday. We were delighted to celebrate the Sacrament of Infant Baptism for Aaron McDowell, sharing this joyful moment with his family. Kingdom Kids continued their study of Saul, learning about leadership and obedience to God, with lively games and crafts bringing each Bible passage to life, and there was also time to check on their sunflowers and begin preparations for Children's Day. Although our Bible Study on the Apostles' Creed has now paused until September, we continue to meet fortnightly for a precious time of prayer together. Our Crochet Group enjoyed their final meeting of the season with a visit to the Navan Centre, while our weekly Walking Group with Tassagh resumed, taking full advantage of the brighter evenings to explore a variety of locations around our beautiful city.

Prayer Points

- ◆ Pray for the work of Kingdom Kids and Kingdom Youth as they prepare for Children's Day on Sunday 21st June.
- ◆ Pray for those living with serious and long-term health conditions that the Lord would grant healing and his peace to all who are unwell.
- ◆ The General Assembly meets from 9th to 12th June in Belfast. Pray for the new Moderator Rt Rev Dr Richard Kerr as he leads the Assembly and our denomination for the next year.
- ◆ Pray for a spiritual harvest in our two congregations as people commit their lives to Christ and reconnect to congregational life after a period of absence.
- ◆ Give thanks for our farming community and pray that the Lord would keep them safe in this busy season.

Services – 11.45am

Sunday 7th June

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Sunday 14th June

Very Rev Dr David Clarke

Sunday 21st June

Children's Day & Prizegiving

Singing on the Steps, 2.30pm

Sunday 28th June

Worship led by Praise Band

Meetings & Events

Tuesday 2nd June (weekly)

Joint Walking Group, 7pm

Thursday 11th June

Session Meeting, 7.30pm, Temple Lundie Room

Friday 12th June

Bowling Club Meal, 7.30pm,
Dante's Deli at the Palace

Saturday 20th June

Walking Treasure Hunt, 5.30pm &
Steak Barbecue, 7pm, Temple
Lundie Room. Catering by The
Flamin' Outback. Ticket options at
£35, £25 & £10. Please purchase
tickets by Sunday 14th June.

Sunday 21st June

Teddy Bears' Picnic, The Mall, 1pm

Summer Services

During July and August, morning
worship will begin at 11:30am. On
Sunday mornings we ask that the
church car park is kept clear for
disabled and blue badge holders.
Thank you.

Youth Ministry

Sunday 7th June

Kingdom Kids

Sunday 14th June

Kingdom Kids

Sunday 21st June

Children's Day & Prizegiving

Sunday 28th June

Junior Church

Prayer Meetings

Held in Temple Lundie Room unless stated.

Wednesday 10th June, 7.30pm

Wednesday 24th June, 7.30pm

Summer Opening

The Church will be open for
viewing and quiet reflection every
Thursday, Friday and Saturday
from 18th June through to Sunday
13th September. Exact timings will
be confirmed soon. Please sign the
sheet in the vestibule if you can
assist or speak to Don McDowell.

Rotas

Cleaning Team (preparing for)

Sunday 7th June

Led by Melanie Houston

Sunday 14th & 21st June

Led by Jennifer Somerville

Sunday 28th June

Led by Wilson Ballantine

Stewards

Godfrey Abbott, Wilson Ballentine
Brian Hamill, Heather Stevenson