



Monthly Bulletin July & August 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,

During the summer, many will enjoy a well-deserved holiday, a break from daily routines to pause from the busyness and stress of life and to take stock halfway through another year. Throughout his public ministry, Jesus often withdrew to rest, to eat and to commune with his Father in heaven (Luke 5:16).

In Matthew 11, Jesus is praying to his Father, giving thanks that God reveals himself to those who acknowledge their spiritual need and come to God like a little child. Then He speaks some of the most precious words in all of Scripture:

‘Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light’. (Matthew 11:28-30 NIVUK)

Consider firstly, the **great invitation** of Christ: *‘Come, all who are weary and burdened.’* Jesus invites those who are tired, broken and burdened with the cares of this life to come to him for rest. His arms are open wide like the Father welcoming home the prodigal son. This invitation isn’t for a select few, but for multitudes who know their need of Christ and his grace.

Secondly, we see a **great promise**: *‘and I will give you rest.’* Life for many of us seems busier than ever and many are hungry for a slower pace of life. In a world that never pauses or sleeps, we can come to Jesus for rest. Here is true rest, comfort and peace in this life and the sure and certain hope for the next.

Thirdly we see a **great hope**: *‘for I am gentle and humble in heart.’* This is the only place in the Bible where we read of the Saviour’s heart, and it is gentle and humble. God’s grace for us knows no bounds because of our compassionate and gentle Saviour who invites all to come to him for eternal rest, in salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9).

‘Here is the key to true happiness; here is the secret of having a light heart. All turns and hinges on an acceptance of this offer of Christ.’ (J.C. Ryle)

Jesus said: *‘All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.’* (John 6:37)

I trust you know the comfort and peace of our Saviour this summer as we rest in his goodness and grace.

Yours in Christ,

Thomas

Looking Back

June has been a joyful and busy time, filled with worship, fellowship and outreach. The month began with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and we were pleased to welcome back the Very Rev Dr David Clarke to lead worship. Our annual Children's Day Service was a particular highlight, featuring the fabulous KK News Desk, through which Kingdom Kids shared the Bible stories they had explored, alongside readings, prayers and songs from both the Junior Choir and Girls' Ensemble before the presentation of prizes. It was a wonderful celebration of all that our children and leaders have achieved this year. After the service, we made the most of the beautiful weather with a Picnic on the Mall, followed by Singing on the Steps. Our Joint Walking Group with Tassagh continued to enjoy weekly outings, visiting the Palace Demesne, Navan Fort, the Glen at Glenanne, Gosford Forest Park and taking part in an Irish Presbyterian historical tour of Armagh led by Ivor Stevenson. Congratulations to Dawn McKinstry, Mark Semple, Marion Reaney and Dessie Moorcroft, who received trophies at the Bowling Club's Annual Dinner and Presentation Evening in Dante's Deli at the Palace. The church also began its summer opening programme, welcoming visitors every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Prayer Points

- ◆ Pray for the ongoing needs in our congregation; for those who are unwell, for those confined to nursing homes or bed, ask that the Lord would comfort, heal and sustain each one.
- ◆ Pray that God would continue to guide us as a congregation under a seven-year reviewable tenure. Give thanks for what the Lord has done among us and pray the Holy Spirit would move in many hearts and bring them to faith in Christ.
- ◆ Pray for our Kirk Session and Congregational Committee as they oversee the spiritual and temporal needs of our church. Pray that God would graciously show us His will and grant us His wisdom.
- ◆ Pray for our new Parent and Toddler group 'Praise and Play' as it meets during July and August. Pray that as the good seed of the gospel is sown in young lives, God will bring forth fruit for His glory.
- ◆ Pray for Venezuela following a series of devastating earthquakes. Pray for the thousands of bereaved families and those injured that the Lord would heal and restore them. Pray for aid agencies, first responders and rescue volunteers as they seek to bring immediate help following this natural disaster.

Services – 11.30am

Sunday 5th July

Sunday 12th July

Sunday 19th July

Rev Dr Liz Hughes

Sunday 26th July

Sunday 2nd August

Sunday 9th August

Very Rev Dr David Clarke

Sunday 16th August

Rev Dr Liz Hughes

Sunday 23rd August

Very Rev Dr David Clarke

Sunday 30th August

Rev Dr Liz Hughes

Praise & Play – 10.30am

Held in College Street Halls. A summer group for children and their carers (Babies to P7).

Friday 3rd, 10th & 17th July

Friday 7th & 14th August

Prayer Meetings – 7.30pm

Held in Temple Lundie Room.

Wednesday 8th & 22nd July

Wednesday 5th & 19th August

Meetings & Events

Tuesday 7th July (weekly)

Joint Walking Group, 7pm

Saturday 15th August

Brass Band Summer School Finale

Concert with Foden's Tutors, 3pm

Charles Wood Festival

Wednesday 19th August

Organ Workshop, 11am

Friday 21st August

Award Winners' Concert, 1pm

Saturday 22nd August

Northumbria Chamber Choir, 3pm

Holiday Leave

Thomas will be on holidays from 3rd - 31st August. In cases of pastoral emergency please contact our Clerk of Session Ian Kyle on 07713636413.

September Services

From Sunday 6th September, the morning service will commence at 11.45am. Please make every effort to join us **in person** for worship each Sunday; it is vital for the long-term sustainability of our congregation.

Open Garden

Ivor and Heather Stevenson's garden will be open as follows:

Friday 31st July, 10.30am-5.30pm

Saturday 1st August, 10.30am-5.30pm

Sunday 2nd August, 2.30pm-5.30pm

Donations in aid of Air Ambulance NI

Rotas

Cleaning Team (preparing for)

Sunday 5th July

Led by Wilson Ballentine

Sunday 12th & 19th July

Led by Karen Kerr

Sunday 26th July & 2nd August

Led by Lynda Coleman

Sunday 9th & 16th August

Led by David Harrison

Sunday 23rd & 30th August

Led by Sadie Somerville

Stewards (July)

Melanie Houston, Billy Monaghan

Raymond Sloane, Alwyn Whitford

Stewards (August)

Stanley Lockhart, Florence Megaw

Alan Turtle, Ivor Stevenson