



Monthly Bulletin September 2026

'Faith and Community in the Heart of the City'



*'Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth'. (Psalm 124:8 KJV)*

Monthly Reflection

To God's people in First Armagh,

On Sunday 6th September we will commence a new teaching series in the book of Nehemiah.

Nehemiah was an extraordinary servant of God, called to lead the people of God out of exile and back to Jerusalem. Nehemiah was a layman and led the rebuilding of the walls in Jerusalem which had been destroyed 141 years earlier by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon. Nehemiah came to Jerusalem about thirteen years after Ezra and, with the help of God, the walls were rebuilt in just 52 days despite significant opposition.

Nehemiah was a man of position, prayer and plans.

Firstly, Nehemiah was a man of **position**. He was '*cupbearer to the king*' (1:11), a highly esteemed position of trust in the court of King Artaxerxes. In today's equivalent he was 'chief of staff' to the King.

Secondly, he was a man of **prayer**. Upon hearing of the destruction of Jerusalem and its walls, Nehemiah '*wept, mourned and fasted for days*' (1:4) before turning to God in prayer. His prayer was a prayer of repentance and penitence, seeking God's grace and help for the Jewish exiles and the Holy City.

Thirdly, Nehemiah was a man with a **plan**. He was an extraordinary leader by any standard as we will consider over the coming weeks. Nehemiah faced an impossible task with faith, courage and complete dependence upon the Lord.

Earlier this year we launched our fundraising appeal '*Built by Faith, Restored by You*' as we seek to maintain and repair the stonework of our church building. First Armagh is unique among Irish Presbyterian meeting houses and, as custodians of such a beautiful edifice, built for the glory of God, we look to the Lord for his help and grace, just like Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the walls. Thank you for your rich and continuing generosity.

As we discover afresh the gospel in Nehemiah, let us remember the Lord God controls all of history; he is sovereign over all his creation, and may we testify with Nehemiah '*This work has been done with the help of our God.*' (6:16)

Yours in Christ,

Rev Thomas Moore

Looking Back

July and August may have been quieter months, but they were rich in fellowship and special moments. On Sunday 12th July, we were delighted to celebrate the Sacrament of Infant Baptism for Thomas McCarragher. A wonderful new initiative, 'Praise & Play', commenced on Friday mornings in the College Street Halls, bringing young families together for crafts, games and praise. Every fortnight we gathered for prayer, creating space to pause, be still and seek God together. The joint walking group with Tassagh continued to enjoy Tuesday evening walks, exploring Loughgall Country Park, Clare Glen, Seagahan Dam, Scarva Towpath and Blackwatertown River. We opened our doors to visitors through Summer Opening, while the Armagh Old Boys Brass Band Summer School, the Charles Wood Festival and the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition brought many musicians to our church.

Prayer Points

- ◆ Pray for all our organisations as they recommence after the summer break. Pray that God's people may grow in their faith whilst others will come to trust Christ for the first time.
- ◆ Pray for the special fundraising events taking place this autumn and winter in our church premises. As we reach out into our community, pray that we may shine brightly the good news of God's redeeming love in Christ.
- ◆ Pray for our local schools and colleges as they begin a new term. Give thanks for Christian teachers and leaders shaping our young people to be leaders of tomorrow.
- ◆ The summer witnessed devastating effects of climate change across southern parts of the UK and much of Europe. Pray that we may take seriously our vocation to be good stewards of God's creation (Genesis 2:15).
- ◆ Continue to pray for peace across the Middle East. As autumn approaches and the cost of winter fuel increases, pray that peace and political dialogue will prevail over hatred and division.

Youth Ministry

Kingdom Kids will resume on Sunday 6th September, and will meet every Sunday during our morning service. All children in Nursery and Primary School are very welcome. Please complete the online registration form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Tjb7cRSQ1j_MqiumvqCun4l0AEvoXeJJtRudvAmwizE/viewform

Kingdom Youth is for all young people in Years 8–10, and will meet on Sunday 6th and 20th September. Please complete the online registration form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1EGlw4CokJQAvfAxatZMasQPaCxFxBxH4-EkARJljs/viewform>

Services – 11.45am

Sunday 6th September

United Evening Service, 6.30pm,
Mall Presbyterian Church

Sunday 13th September

United Appeal, Rev Kenny Hanna

Sunday 20th September

Full Attendance Sunday
Singing on the Steps, 2.30pm

Sunday 27th September

Youth Leader Dedication Service
Worship led by Praise Band
Harvest Thanksgiving, 7pm,
Tassagh Presbyterian Church

Meetings & Events

Held in Temple Lundie Room unless stated.

Thursday 3rd September

Committee Meeting, 7.30pm,
College Street Halls

Sunday 6th September

Choir Practice, 10.30am, Church

Monday 7th September

Bowling Club, 7.30pm, College
Street Halls (Practice Resumes)

Tuesday 8th September

PW Meeting, 7.30pm, Jason
Nicholson (Children's Society)

Wednesday 9th September

Crochet & Chat, 10.30am
Kirk Session Training, 7.30pm

Tuesday 22nd September

Kirk Session Meeting, 7.30pm

Saturday 26th September

Big Breakfast & Craft Village, 8am –
12noon, College Street Halls

Tuesday 29th September

Parent Workshop – Improving Your
Child's Digital Wellbeing, 7.30pm

Study & Prayer

Held in Temple Lundie Room unless stated.

Wednesday 16th September

Prayer Meeting, 7.30pm

Wednesday 23rd September

Bible Study, 7.30pm, Tassagh
Presbyterian Church

Wednesday 30th September

Prayer Meeting, 7.30pm

Full Attendance Sunday

Sunday 20th September 2026 has
been designated a 'full attendance
Sunday.' The Kirk Session requests
that every family is represented at
morning worship at 11.45am.

New Member of Staff

The Kirk Session is pleased to
announce the appointment of Rev
Ivan Thompson as pastoral visitor in
First Armagh and Tassagh. Rev
Thompson will be serving alongside
Thomas in preaching and pastoral
visitation following his retirement
from Knappagh and Lislooney.

Car Park Arrangements

Parking spaces will be limited during
September and October as the car
park will be utilised for maintenance
work on both First Armagh and the
Gospel Hall.

Rotas

Cleaning Team (preparing for)

Sunday 6th & 13th September

Led by Norman Shilliday

Sunday 20th & 27th September

Led by Roberta Pollock

Stewards

Leslie Crowe, James McCarragher,
Jim Leeman, Heather McCrea