



# The Greeting

CONGREGATIONAL MAGAZINE OF MAY STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BELFAST

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Minister Emeritus:

The Rev James Barnes, 3 Onslow Drive, Bangor BT19 7HQ Tel 9145-2461

Minister:

The Rev Keith Drury, 26 Castlehill Farm, Belfast BT5 7GU Tel 9079-9628

Pastoral Care:

The Rev Niall Bayly, 81 Dunluce Avenue, Belfast BT9 7AW Tel 9066-8732

Session Clerk :

Arthur Acheson, 56 Quarry Road, Belfast BT4 2NQ Tel 9076-0691

Secretary and Editor :

Robin Morton, 13 Sharman Gardens, Belfast BT9 5GE Tel 9066-0381

Treasurer :

Andrew Acheson, 22 Kirkliston Drive, Belfast, BT5 5NX Tel 9065-4114

Church Officer:

Debbie Lindores, 27 Woodvale Gardens, Belfast 13 Tel 9020-1733

## LEAVING OUR MARK

This summer while on holiday in Prague, we visited a very interesting graveyard. Not that I make graveyards my usual haunt for holiday highlights but Vysehrad cemetery was well worth travelling to see. It is exclusively reserved for the interment of artists and writers and is the resting place of the well known composer Dvorak.

What makes the place special is that each grave has been individually designed by some of the country's leading sculptors. The celebrity status afforded by a funeral to Vysehrad led, during communist years, to many political leaders seeking to be buried there - but each one was resisted unless they fulfilled the criteria of belong to the artistic elite within the country. Each grave seems to be as uniquely diverse as the person who once lived and whose life is now marked by it.

While so many of the stones were dramatic

with no expense spared, some even had vaulted ceilings with all kinds of coloured mosaic work, there was one grave which stood out for me. By its contemporary design it was clearly a more modern piece of work than some of the others and its more abstract styling only being a foot or so high, did not reach upwards like many of the others. No angels were present, there were no vaulted ceilings, no figures were carved and there



**Signed and sealed:** The signatures engraved on a gravestone at the cemetery which Keith and Deborah Drury visited during their holiday in the Czech Republic.



**Bohemian Rhapsody:** A view of Prague from the Charles Bridge. The city is noted for its stunning architecture.

was no dramatic use of colour.

Yet there was one unusual feature which brought me to pause in front of it. Signed on a piece of polished granite at the foot of the grave were the signatures of those who were buried. It was as though they were signing off on life as casually as an employee might sign out of work as I used to do when leaving Short Brothers after completing an overtime shift.

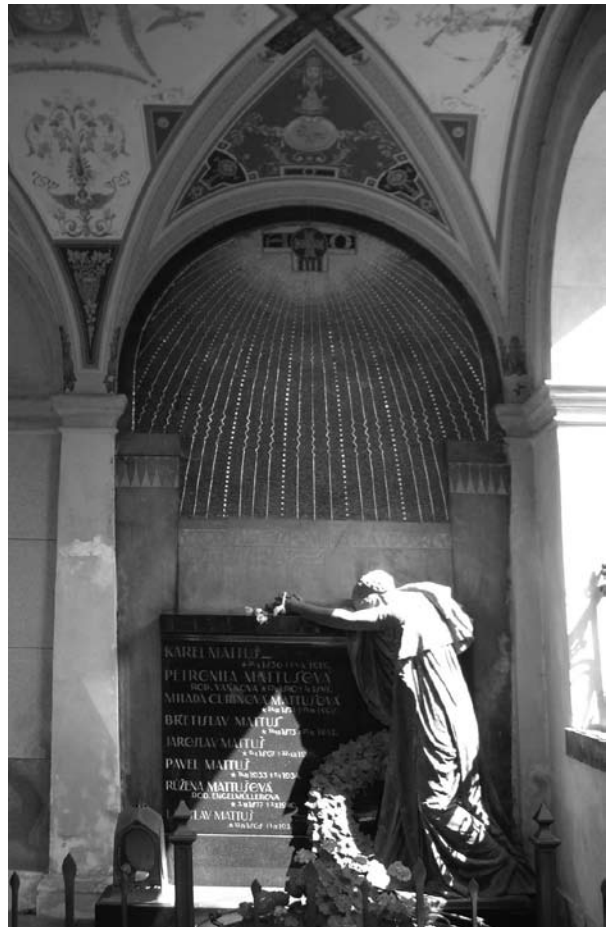
Dvorak's grave from 1904 had a great sculpted bust of him on top complete with flowing moustache and beard, it was as though you were coming face to face with the man himself. But, somehow, these two simple gold signatures seemed all the more personal, all the more a meeting with the unknown lives that were buried below. There is something deeply personal about a persons signature, perhaps as unique as the fingerprints that are wrapped around the writing instrument at the time.

At May Street we are seeking to leave a mark as well, the mark of our presence in Belfast city. We are seeking to change the city spiritually, socially, economically and culturally. It is a big vision, and

so it should be, for a small vision is never much to look at! People travel to see the Niagara Falls, but rarely do they travel to see the water flow over the rocks below Shaws Bridge - it is only a small vision and does not attract. More and more people are being attracted to what we are doing at May Street and that is being reflected in the activities we now seek to undertake.

First, as we seek to make our mark, we have designed a course which will be taught over five sessions on how to witness in the workplace although this translates into an effective help for any situation. The course will also help people understand our precise vision and how we seek to go about achieving it. In short they reflect our personality just like a signature.

We have also added a healing service to the line-up of services and ministries provided at May Street which we hope to run following the communion service on a Wednesday, simply offering people prayer if they wish to avail of it.



**Stylish tombstone:** One of the more ornate gravestones at the cemetery in Prague that Keith and Deborah Drury visited.

Perhaps the biggest change is the bold new move to start serving a range of hot foods at lunchtimes for those who want to make May Street their local place to eat as well as worship, or simply just to eat. This will mean some physical changes to the Urban Soul café area but will allow friends of May Street to bring their work colleagues along to lunch where we can hopefully build up relationships with them. We should be in a position to start serving a range of hot foods very soon although we are already serving sandwiches freshly made to order as well as delicious soup Monday to Thursday.

Also, a new website has gone live at [www.maystreetchurch.co.uk](http://www.maystreetchurch.co.uk), from which sermons can be downloaded in an ipod friendly way so that you can listen to them on the go. All information about services and those playing at Urban Soul on Thursday evenings can be found there.

Of course the real mark we want to leave is the mark of Christ. Imagine if Jesus had chiselled out his signature on a piece of granite all those years ago in Jerusalem or carved it in wood. We would all go to see it, people would run their fingers along the edges retracing the movements of his fingers with a great sense of awe.

In one sense it would be lovely, except that undoubtedly we would make it an idol and start pray or worshipping at the rock. However in another sense Jesus did much better. He sent his Holy Spirit into this world, his very personality. We who love Jesus are his signature in this world and it is our prayer that we at May Street may continually serve him so others can see Jesus in us.

KEITH DRURY

## THURSDAY SERVICE

The Thursday service is back - by popular demand. It was scheduled to recommence in mid to late September as would be normal but on the first Thursday of the month I arrived at May Street, totally unprepared, to find a congregation had already gathered there at 1.05pm, complete with organist.

Unplanned though it was, that became the first Thursday service and so it is now already ongoing. We encourage you to bring friends along from the office and enjoy the time of fellowship and chat over lunch either beforehand or afterwards. The

service runs, as usual, from 1.05pm to 1.30pm.

## WEB SITE

May Street now has an entirely new online site - the only thing that has remained the same is the address: [www.maystreetchurch.co.uk](http://www.maystreetchurch.co.uk). Check online for details of all our services and gigs and Urban Soul events.

## TUESDAY CIRCLE

The members of the Tuesday Circle are hoping to come up smelling of roses later this month at the first meeting of the winter season. Our speaker on September 25 will be Bob Brookes, a gardener.

On October 23 the focus will be on personal safety. Our speaker will be Gail Haddock, the crime prevention officer, from Musgrave Street PSNI station. Gail visited May Street in May to give some very valuable one-to-one advice to Chris Hewitt, our mission support executive and Debbie Lindores, our church officer, and we look forward to welcoming her back to the church. In the times in which we live, it behoves us all to pay heed to our personal security and to minimise risks where possible.

We will be up with the times in November when our subject will be recycling. We all know the damage that global warming is doing to our environment and we can all play a part in reducing the damage by recycling as much as possible. The slogan is think globally but act locally and that is something to which we should all aspire. Our speaker will be from the environmental department of Belfast City Council and yes, you will be able to ask what bit of rubbish goes into which bin.

The Tuesday Circle has continued its catering activities, providing a ham salad tea for a men's group from Ahoghill on June 9. Our visitors enjoyed their meal and also much appreciated a tour round the sanctuary and an update on the outreach work being carried on at May Street.

On the social front, congratulations to Paddy McCready and her husband Stanley on becoming grandparents once again. Their son John and his wife Jillian have had a boy, called Victor Joseph, a brother form Henry and Anna. And congratulations to Muriel and Sam Nelson whose grand-daughter Claire has been named as a member of the Northern

## URBAN SOUL ALBUM



**Great craic:** There's always a great buzz and good chat at Urban Soul.

**Select crowd:** Enjoying the chat at Urban Soul are (from left) May Street members Bertha Rowe, Alan McCrum and Jean McCrum, along with visitors Clare McKinlay from Cheshire and Maxime Bohec-Vicente from France.



**Service with a smile:** Catering supervisor Debbie Lindores serves up another order at Urban Soul.



**On Song:** Blue Jar, the resident band at May Street's Urban Soul, hit the high notes with their gypsy jazz at Urban Soul.

Ireland table tennis team for the Commonwealth Games. Recently, Claire was in China for a coaching tour.

ENA KIRKPATRICK

## COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Congregational Committee will be held at 7.30pm on Monday October 22, followed by a meeting of Kirk Session.

## URBAN SOUL

As regular attenders will know, Urban Soul kept its doors open on Thursday evenings throughout the summer, and it all worked out very well. We had good support and many of those attending sampled the specialist coffees and desserts which were on offer.

In the autumn we are holding a number of special evenings, with the first such event being an Irish evening on September 13. On offer was Irish stew and music from a traditional band, while the highlight was a performance by Irish dancers.

At lunchtime on September 20, the official opening of Urban Soul takes place, and we hope the event will be covered live on U105, the commercial radio station. So if you can't get along, you can tune in on the radio. The celebrations will continue in the evening with a special performance by our resident band, the gypsy jazz outfit Blue Jar.

Another date for your diary is Thursday October 18, when we are planning to have a Spanish night with a Moroccan chef cooking paella.

Urban Soul is open for lunch every day from Monday to Thursday (12pm-2pm) for soup, sandwiches, paninis and coffee so if you're in town, drop round. On Thursday evenings, Urban Soul jazz club runs from 5.30pm to 9.30pm on Thursday evenings and we serve speciality coffees, teas and desserts.

Debbie Lindores, our church officer, has now taken charge of the catering in Urban Soul and is backed up by a team of helpers. A new chilled food cabinet is being installed which will provide an attractive display, keep the food fresh and comply with hygiene requirements.

Our thanks to Caroline Teeling, head chef of Balloo House Hotel at Killinchy for her advice

and guidance on this matter. Thanks too, to our suppliers, Cuisine de France, for their assistance. And thanks to Adam Harbinson, our marketing executive, for the work he and his wife Pauline have put in to the Urban Soul project. All donations received for the food go towards the outreach work of Urban Soul. So if it's cordon bleu refreshments you're looking for, look no further.

## THE CHOIR

In August, the choir was delighted to receive a surprise request to sing an anthem!

It happen, when our minister, the Rev Keith Drury, was on holiday, and one of the visiting ministers the Rev Elwyn Jones from North Antrim.

Mr Jones was accompanied by his wife Mavis and she remembered that on her previous visit to May Street, the choir had sung "All in the April Evening". She enjoyed this so much that she asked us if we would sing another anthem for their second visit in August. Something like this is very encouraging for the choir, especially as we are few in number.

Accordingly, to the accompaniment of Robin Hewitt on the piano, we sang "Holy Holy Holy, Lord God Almighty" At the end of the service



**Birthday boy:** Belated congratulations to May Street member Cecil Johnston on the occasion of his 95th birthday, which he celebrated on July 20. Mr Johnston and his wife Sheila, parents of May Street organist Colin Johnston, are both residents at Strathearn Nursing Home in Belfast and we send them best wishes on behalf of the congregation.

Colin Johnston played “Land of My Fathers”, as a voluntary.

As his surname suggests Mr Jones came originally from Wales and both he and his wife greatly appreciated hearing the Welsh National Anthem resounding from the famous Binns organ in May Street.

Colin Johnston would be happy to receive requests from members of the congregation, for their favourite hymns to be included in Sunday morning service. So please, put your thinking cap on and don't disappoint Colin!

We are pleased to hear that Colin Johnston's father, Cecil, has been discharged after spending some time in the Ulster Hospital. He has returned to Strathern Court Nursing Home where his wife Sheila is also a resident.

Special praise items will be sung at the Harvest Service on Sunday October 14. We look forward to this service as it is one of the highlights of the church calendar.

VALERIE MORTON  
SECRETARY

## **MISSION AFRICA**

Mission Africa is the more digestible new title of what used to be known as the Qua Iboe Fellowship, which was set up in 1887. And as visiting minister the Rev Paul Bailie, the Belfast-based chief executive of Mission Africa explained during an address illustrated by a Powerpoint presentation at May Street on Sunday August 12, there is still plenty of work to be carried out.

Mission Africa is involved in supporting, encouraging and growing the indigenous church in Africa, primarily in Nigeria, where the organisation has set up three Bible colleges. It also supports two specialist leprosy hospitals, which receive government referrals. Different ministries help the church deal with the problem of AIDS. Unemployment in Nigeria is more than 65% and although the country has extensive oil, gas and mineral resources, the benefits are not well shared among the people.

Mission Africa's ministry is also focused on the neighbouring states of Chad and Burkina Faso. In Burkina Faso, Mission Africa started working with the Dagaari people in 1991 and now more than 10

churches have been established in the country.

Mission Africa can offer short and long-term opportunities to serve God, and has vacancies for doctors, nurses, youth workers, physiotherapists, Bible college lecturers, church planters, TEFL teachers, AIDS educators – indeed, anyone with a heart to serve God in Africa.

More details are available from Mission Africa at 14 Glencregagh Court, Belfast, BT6 0PA, Tel: 9040-2850 or email [info@missionafrica.org.uk](mailto:info@missionafrica.org.uk).

## **WELCOME ORGANISATION**

On Wednesday July 4 a group from May Street paid a visit to the Welcome Organisation, a charity which operates a drop-in centre at St Peter's Square North in the Falls Road area of Belfast. The aim of the day centre is to provide a safe warm and comfortable atmosphere for homeless people and although there is no overnight accommodation, three meals a day are provided for people suffering from various forms of addiction.

The centre, whose motto is “unconditional care for the vulnerable”, opens every day from 8am to 10pm, and provides showering facilities and a laundry room. Staff, many of whom are volunteers, provide help and advice on medical issues, doctors' appointments, housing, benefits problems and addiction counselling.

Joe McGuigan, who runs the organisation, said: “Our ultimate aim is to re-engage people who feel excluded from our society back into the community.”

With the advent of peace, the needs of the Welcome Organisation's client group have become more varied, partly because many foreign nationals who took advantage of the European Union enlargement are now coming to Northern Ireland, finding themselves unable to secure work or accommodation and ending up sleeping rough.

Another aspect of the Welcome Organisation's work is the daytime outreach, which is funded by the NI Housing Executive and the PSNI. This involves a team of workers going out to homeless and rough sleepers and seeking to intervene in situations in which friction is caused by street drinkers in the centre of Belfast. The team works in close partnership with city centre traders and the police.

A night time outreach also operates and has never missed a night since it started in March 2002. Its aim is to ensure that rough sleepers make it safely through the night. The outreach team brings soup, sandwiches and sleeping bags to those in need, and Mr McGuigan says it is about being a friendly face for someone who faces a difficult night on the street.

A link has now been established between May Street and the Welcome Organisation, and our outreach team which looks after the lunchtime opening of the sanctuary and Urban Soul has been invited to contract the Welcome Organisation should any difficult situations arise. We much appreciate this support.

ROBIN MORTON

## GEORGIAN CHRISTMAS

Plans are already in hand for the Georgian Christmas on May Street event, which this year will be taking place on Thursday December 6, from 5pm to 8pm. May Street will be going back in time to 1829, when the church opened, and we will be inviting the public to come along and turn the clock back in time with us.

Children from local primary schools will once again will singing carols from the church steps and we will have seasonal fare on offer. This year, Urban Soul will be part of the overall offering, and this will give us another string to our bow. The evening is designed to raise May Street's profile and to add a bit of a buzz to the city centre in the run-up to Christmas, but above all it provides an opportunity for members of the congregation to engage with the public and to invite people into our sanctuary.

## HISTORICAL MOMENT

The Presbyterian Historical Society has given notice of a meeting at Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church at 8pm on Thursday September 20. Prof Ian Hazlett from the University of Glasgow will be delivering a lecture on the theology of Dr William Steel Dickson (1744-1824), one of the leading lights in the United Irishmen movement.

## SPIC AND SPAN

Thanks to all who helped in the recent upgrade of the toilets in the lecture hall, which are now looking very posh indeed. At its meeting on September 3, committee approved expenditure on an external facelift of the lecture hall frontage, which will involve the installation of coloured lighting which provide uplighting for the pillars, enhancing the entrance way. And another improvement has been the replacement of the frosted glass windows at footpath level at Alfred Street with clear laminated glass, which without compromising our security, improves the natural light and enables passers-by to see what is going on – hopefully tempting a few of them to call in.

## MANSE MAKEOVER

Tiling work at the May Street Manse has now been completed, and the place is looking much more habitable. To complete the transformation, Keith and Deborah Drury have completed a landscaping of the garden.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

May Street was represented at a meeting on September 6 of the Clarence Court community outreach group by the Rev Keith Drury, clerk of session Arthur Acheson and mission support executive Chris Hewitt. Also involved were representatives of the Department of Regional Development, the Department of the Environment, the Housing Executive, the PSNI, St Malachy's Church and St Malachy's Primary School. A useful discussion took place with parking restrictions being one of the areas covered.

## COLLECTORS

**Sept:** Kathleen Rea, Gordon Kirkpatrick, Alan McCrum, Barry Bell, Robin Hewitt, Clive Gilmour.

**Oct:** Kathleen Rea, Gordon Kirkpatrick, Frank Boyd, Valerie Condy, Ed Hill, Geoff Hill.

**Nov:** Kathleen Rea, Gordon Kirkpatrick, Robin Morton, Jenny Wilson, Arthur Acheson, Arthur Fannin.

## CONFERENCE SEASON

May Street was one of three venues selected by the Centre for Contemporary Christianity for an international conference on reconciliation which took place in Belfast from September 10 to 12. Among the delegates were overseas visitors from various areas of the world which have suffered from conflict. They were visiting Northern Ireland to see if they could benefit from our experience, and included in the itinerary was a visit to the Assembly at Stormont, where they met representatives of the power-sharing administration.

May Street's role was to provide lunch each day, and this was served in Urban Soul, in our basement. The delegates were impressed not just by the food but by the relaxing ambience of the venue. The Rev Keith Drury, never one to miss an opportunity, also briefed the delegates on the outreach work which is being undertaken at May Street.

## HERITAGE DAY

Thanks to all who helped staff the church on Saturday September 8 when our doors were open once again as part of European Architectural Heritage weekend. May Street was one of a large number of public buildings which were open to the public and we were gratified to play host to around 100 visitors during the course of the day. They were interested to see behind the front doors



**Young at heart:** May Street elder Clive Gilmour (second from left) as you have never seen him before. Clive is a member of the Irish veteran squash team and took part earlier this year in the home internationals, which were held at the Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club in Dublin. Well done to Clive.

## DEADLINE

The deadline for all contributions to the next issue of the Greeting is Sunday  
November 25

of our church and we hope some may return on a future occasion. Once again, the event provided an opportunity to engage with the public and to explain to visitors the work that is being carried on in the city centre.

## CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

### Deaths

June 24: John Eccles, 10 Wynchurch Park, Belfast BT6 0JS.

*Blessed are those that die in the Lord*

### JOHN ECCLES

It is with regret we record the death of May Street member John Eccles, who collapsed and died at home as he prepared to go out to church on June 24. On behalf of the congregation, sympathy is extended to his wife Betty, sons John and Terry and their wives Mary and Rebecca, and also to his grandchildren, Jonathan, Henry, Joshua and Henry.

Mr Eccles had been baptised at May Street and was raised in the congregation. At his funeral service in the church the Rev Keith Drury told mourners that one of Mr Eccles' sons had told him that their father considered everyone he met as a "potential friend".

Mr Eccles worked in the linen industry, Shorts and in Harland & Wolff. In his free time, he enjoyed travelling, painting and photography.

## MINISTERS' PHOTOGRAPHS

Thanks to all those involved in the displaying in the choir room of a selection of historic photographs of May Street ministers and members, past and present. If you would like a trip down memory lane, please pop into the choir room next time you are in May Street and have a look.

## JUNGLE JAM

May Street's fame could be spread further thanks to a visit to the church by Michael, a Belfast man who operates an online video business from Bologna in Italy. He shot some video footage of the interior and exterior of our Georgian church building and will now feature these on his internet site, aimed at tourists. Check it out on the web at [www.junglejam.tv](http://www.junglejam.tv).

## TIME MATTERS

Best wishes to Eleanor Acheson, wife of our treasurer Andrew Acheson, and mum of Ben, who has embarked on a new business enterprise. She has established Time Matters, a lifestyle management and personal concierge company and is operating from offices in Holywood.

She said: "Our aim is to help people with whatever is on their 'to do' lists, whether it is finding a plumber or getting organised to move house or help with all that needs done around Christmas.

"We will source organise and manage whatever they need. I also do this for small companies helping them get organised in order to save them time and money. In addition to this, I am also organising Belfast's first Vintage Fashion Fair which takes place in November at the Ormeau Baths Gallery in Ormeau Avenue."

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CRECHE DATES

Here are the dates for children's creche and Sunday School this autumn. Julie Wilson supervises the Sunday School while Chris Hewitt looks after the creche. On other Sundays, the Parlour is available for the use of parents and their children.

### September

16: Sunday School with Julie  
30: Creche with Chris

### October

14: Sunday School with Julie  
28: Creche with Chris

### November

11: Sunday School with Julie  
25: Creche with Chris

### December

9: Sunday School with Julie  
23: Creche with Chris

## SUMMER VISITORS TO MAY STREET

It seems to have been a long cold summer with grey skies and rain and floods! But as you know we have kept the church doors open every day between 12 and 2 pm from Monday to Thursday both up in the sanctuary and down below in Urban Soul. And the sun has come into May Street Church with the tourists on a daily basis! We have had visitors from almost every country in Europe and the Baltics, from Scandinavia and the Far East, from Canada and America and also from the UK and the Republic of Ireland.



*Aerial view: St Andrew's School in Alexandria in Egypt.*



*Class act: Ailsa Blue from May Street (centre, second row from top), with her pupils at St Andrew's School in Alexandria in the 1940s. Gilbert Civardi, who recently visited May Street, unaware that Miss Blue had been a member of the congregation, is the little boy third from the right hand side of the second row from the front.*

## ECONOMIC FORUM

The tour groups mostly come in on the big cruise ships which dock at the port of Belfast (Belfast being the third most visited port in the UK) and also on trains and coaches coming up from Dublin. It is a great joy to show each person our wonderful Georgian church with the memorial stained glass windows and gleaming mahogany and brass (thanks to Debbie Lindores)! But best of all to speak of God's love in Jesus and to send them away with some little booklet even in their own language which they will be able to carry out with them and read on their way home.

Each visitor is special but some stand out in the memory, the couple from Canada whose grandparents had married and worshipped in May Street and for whom it was an emotional experience to sit in the gallery where the family used to sit listening to Dr Wylie Blue. And the German couple who were the only ones to come in and pray at the Tuesday lunchtime Prayer for the City. And the couple from New Mexico who wanted to just sit quietly in a beautiful spiritual place before they rushed on. And the minister from England who asked to pray a blessing over the church from the high pulpit.

And most memorable of all the day a group of Italian visitors came in with their tour guide Gilbert Civardi. As it turned out Kathleen Rea was in the sanctuary at exactly the same time and fell into conversation with him and discovered he had been at St Andrew's School in Alexandria where one of his teachers was Kathleen's late aunt, Ailsa Blue. What a lovely and amazing "Godincidence" and what a small world it really is! Gilbert has since returned with photos of the school and Kathleen has looked out photos to share with him the next time he comes to Ireland as he has promised to stay in touch.

So after all ... the sun did really shine in May Street this summer! I hope you are all encouraged that our mission to the city just grows and grows both upstairs in the Sanctuary and downstairs in Urban Soul. AND ONCE AGAIN A BIG THANKYOU FOR ALL YOUR LOVING SUPPORT AND EFFECTIVE PRAYERS. TOGETHER WITH GOD WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

CHRIS HEWITT

The next meeting of the May Street Economic Forum will take place in Urban Soul at 11am on Thursday September 27, and all members of May Street and other interested parties are invited to attend. Now that the Assembly is up and running, the focus is very much turning towards the issue of economic regeneration, and May Street wants to play its part in that process.

Among the issues that will be discussed are:

- Education.
- Sales talent and ability.
- Engendering an entrepreneurial spirit in the young, particularly the early teens.
- High Rise for Belfast or move Belfast's Hills?
- If Eurostar can reach London from Paris in two hours, when are we going to get high speed trains for the Belfast-Dublin line?
- Catching the wave of goodwill.

Raymond Sexton, our industrious and ingenious co-convenor, will again be setting the ball rolling but after that, the floor is open to everyone to chip in. Chatham House rules apply in order to make the discussion as free-flowing as possible. So come along and enjoy some stimulating conversation.

## URBAN UPDATE

Northern Ireland has emerged this summer as a tourist hotspot, as a glance at the open-top Citysightseeing Belfast bus tour any day will testify. The bus, which runs every 20 minutes, and visits 18 points of interest ranging from the murals to the shipyard, is crammed with passengers, most of them out-of-state visitors who are in Northern Ireland for the first time.

The upsurge in tourism has been a boon for the hotel sector, which is running to try to keep up. At present there are four large hotels under construction in Belfast, with the latest to be announced the £20m four star Fitzwilliam which is being built on a former car park site on Great Victoria Street, beside the Grand Opera House. The 130-bedroom hotel is expected to open in 2009 and will create more than 100 jobs.

Not to be left behind, the Europa Hotel has announced that it is set to embark on a £4m expansion after Christmas. This will involve the construction of 33 new executive rooms, which will bring total room numbers to 273. The investment was announced as Hastings Group, which runs the Europa, reported that the hotel had enjoyed all-time high occupancy rates in July and August. And for once, the rooms were filled with tourists and business people, not by television crews here to cover the latest rioting.

According to a survey by Belfast-based accountancy firm ASM Horwath, the uplift is being experienced by hotels across the province. Last year, hotels in Northern Ireland saw their profits rise by 19%, meaning that they are now on a par with those in Dublin.

Economy Minister Nigel Dodds, whose responsibilities include tourism, has welcomed the news. He said he was confident that through work between the Executive and tourism industry Northern Ireland would become “a world class destination”.

May Street is sharing in the uplift in terms of tourists visiting the church during the week and on Sundays. And the proximity of the Premier Travel Inn in Alfred Street to our attractive Georgian church means we are very much on the tourist trail.

ROBIN MORTON

## BE A PEACEMAKER

*‘BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS.’*  
MATTHEW 5:9

When you walk into a scene of conflict you have two options; you can be a troublemaker or a peacemaker; you can add to the stress or bring a solution. Zig Ziglar tells of a little guy who was confronted by three bullies, any one of whom could have flattened him. And clearly, that’s what they had in mind.

But the little guy was very bright. He backed away, drew a line in the dirt, backed up a few more steps, looked into the eyes of the biggest of the three and said: “Now, you just step across that line!” The big bully did. At that moment the little

guy grinned and said: “Good, now we’re both on the same side!”

Peacemakers look for common ground, and try to get everyone onto it. Their goal is to find a win-win situation. Barnabas, whose name means ‘Son of consolation,’ stood up for the newly converted Saul of Tarsus when he was ‘persona non grata’ to the leaders of the church in Jerusalem. And given Saul’s track record, who could blame them?

But Barnabas wasn’t looking at Saul’s troubled past, he was thinking about his potential. In essence he told the apostles, ‘If you can harness and direct this horse, you win the race.’ And he proved right. Saul the persecutor became Paul the apostle! But Barnabas had to put his credibility on the line.

Peacemaking means taking a risk on people, judging them by their best moments and qualities rather than their worst. Here’s the bottom line; peacemakers are big picture thinkers; they’re governed by grace, not petty opinion or temporary conditions. So, are you ready to be a peacemaker?

From The Word for Today, UCB.

## LIFESTYLE LIVING

A new training programme called City Lifestyle Living is being launched at May Street. This is the definitive guide on what exactly the Gospel is and how to effectively communicate it to work colleagues, neighbours and friends. It helps us understand what exactly it means to be a Christian, what God is about in this world and how to join with him in it.

A course full of surprises which will have you asking why didn’t I see that before? All packaged in a neat colourful contemporary style and designed to last five weeks discussed over lunch in Urban Soul around a table.

Register your interest early by email to [info@maystreetchurch.co.uk](mailto:info@maystreetchurch.co.uk) or speak to us about the course.

KEITH DRURY

## **SOMEBODY SAID THAT SOMEBODY SAID**

Somebody said that somebody said.  
Trouble was caused and suspicion fed.  
Somebody passed on an idle word.  
Someone repeated what someone had heard.

There has been many a broken heart.  
Many a friendship has come apart.  
Many relationships have been changed.  
Many a neighbour become estranged.

In many a home where peace once reigned  
Affection and loyalty have been strained,  
And many a life is incomplete  
All because someone was indiscreet.

Many a friendship has been wrecked -  
Through gossip unfounded and unchecked.  
Mischievous was made and a rumour spread.  
Somebody said that somebody said.

## **NINE TIMES OUT OF TEN.**

Nine times out of ten life seems to work out for the best.  
Nine times out often you find that if you let things rest,  
Providence will sort them out without your helping hand,  
Not perhaps exactly in the way that you had planned -  
But in a wiser way and from a broader point of view,  
So, do not try to force events or push your own plans through .....  
Cease to worry, trust and pray, though things look black as night,  
Nine times out of ten you'll find that everything comes right.

## **HAPPY THE HOME**

Happy the home that welcomes you, Lord Jesus,  
Truest of Friends, most honoured guest of aft;  
Where hearts and eyes are bright with joy to greet you,  
Your slightest wishes eager to fulfil.

Happy the home where man and wife together  
Are of one mind, believing in your love;  
Through love and pain, prosperity and hardship,  
Through good and evil days your care they prove.

Happy the home, O loving friend of children,  
Where they are given to you with hands of prayer,  
Where at your feet they early learn to listen  
To your own words, and thank you for your care.

Happy the home where work is done to please you,  
In tasks both great and small, that you may see  
Each family doing all as you would wish them  
As members of your household, glad and free.

Happy the home that knows your healing comfort,  
Where, unforgotten, every joy you share;  
Until each one, their work on earth completed,  
Comes to your Father's house to meet you there.

**Poems contributed by Elizabeth Doran**

## **PLEASE RECYCLE**

After you have read your copy of The Greeting, why not pass it on to a friend or member of the family rather than just tossing it into the bin? We have a limited print run but this is a good way to spread the word. And don't forget, you can download a copy of The Greeting from our website at [www.maystreetchurch.co.uk](http://www.maystreetchurch.co.uk) and also browse through back issues.

## **FLOWER FUND**

Why not celebrate a special occasion or remember a loved one by sponsoring the flowers at May Street on the nearest Sunday? For details, please contact Kathleen Rea.

