



Lisburn Cathedral

Vestry Voice

**Issue 3
May 2008**

To be Church as God intended

The Vestry Voice

This is a newsletter which seeks to improve communication concerning the work that the Select Vestry does on behalf of the Congregation.

What have you missed so far?

Issue 1 (January 2008) described how the Select Vestry was beginning to implement the Lisburn Cathedral Vision 2007-2015 as well as explaining how the Select Vestry is chosen and who the members were. Issue 2 (February 2008) described the Select Vestry Sub-Committees, outlined the tasks completed towards implementing Lisburn Cathedral Vision 2007-2015 and detailed some of the challenges ahead. Both Issue 1 and Issue 2 can be accessed on the Cathedral website (www.lisburncathedral.org)

The Annual Easter Vestry

A new Select Vestry was elected at the Annual Easter Vestry which was held on Tuesday 8th April 2008.

It is a pleasure to welcome Paul Bailie, Alison Fairley, Ken Gibson, Raymond McCullough and Elizabeth Spence to membership of the Select Vestry.

The Church owes a debt of gratitude to Trevor Jordan, David Allister, Bill Welsh, Alan Johnston and Arthur Canning for all the hard work that they have put in over the last year, or years in some cases, serving on the Select Vestry.

The work of the Select Vestry is continued outside of the Vestry meetings through the Glebe and Church Wardens, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary and through its sub-committees. At the recent Select Vestry meeting (Tuesday 20th May 2008), members were appointed to serve on the Glebes, Mission, Rectors and Fund-Raising Sub-Committees. The membership of the Finance Sub-Committee has been deferred until the next meeting when it is hoped that the position of Honorary Treasurer will be filled.

Visits to Willowfield Parish Church

Most of the members of the Select Vestry have visited Willowfield Parish Church in recent weeks. The Vestry members had the opportunity to participate in Sunday worship, have a leisurely chat with Church members over coffee at the rear of the Church and then were given a tour of the Church building, offices and the adjoining community/church centre (Micah Centre).

The aim of these visits was to see how a Church has renovated its historic buildings to be more welcoming and more flexible so enabling that Church to reach out to and be involved in the community in East Belfast.

The members of the Select Vestry felt the renovations that were carried out at Willowfield at the cost of £1.3 million have given that Church a bright, clean, friendly and modern look while retaining the best architectural features and the character of the original building.

These changes have made it possible to use the main Willowfield Church building for many events (group meetings, conferences, church organisations) during the week rather than just being used for Church Services on a Sunday.

Proposed Work on Cathedral Building

The Cathedral building has been surveyed and a list of building related work compiled including repair of stonework in the tower and spire, refurbishment of gutters and pipes, lightning protection, rewiring, installation of emergency lighting and fire alarm, repair of internal plasterwork, internal redecoration, sanding and sealing of floor, as well as provision of a new carpet and rear coffee facility.

Much of this work is not optional nor should it be delayed. It is essential to maintain the safety of Cathedral building. The internal redecoration and refurbishment is necessary to bring the facilities up to a high standard and make possible and encourage a more versatile use of the building.

The estimated cost of these building related works on the Cathedral building is £700,000. The Select Vestry knows it can secure grants to assist with the costs of this work but a large proportion of the cost will need to be met by the Cathedral.

The first step in this process has taken place; that is the carrying out of a digital survey of the entire building and a Steeplejacks' Survey of the Tower and Spire. The building and refurbishment work will take in the region of 9-12 months.

Financial Implications

Currently the regular income from Free Will Offerings is not meeting the regular expenses of running the Church and all its activities. Additional fund-raising events have been very helpful and the Select Vestry is very grateful to all those who have put in so much work over the last few months. However, even with the fund-raising events we have not been able to correct the deficit. A significant increase in giving will be necessary to enable the Church to bring the main Cathedral Building up to a safe structural standard and to provide a more attractive, flexible and welcoming interior.

What can you do?

- Please pray about this situation.
- Please seriously consider increasing your regular giving to the Cathedral
- Please discuss your thoughts with members of the Select Vestry
- Please do all you can so that we might increasingly become *Church as God Intended*.