

Lisburn Cathedral

vestry voice

**Issue 4
November 2008**



To be Church as God intended

Introduction

The Vestry Voice seeks to keep the congregation informed on the discussions and decisions made by the Select Vestry. This issue is the first since the summer during which time there have been 2 meetings.

Previous issues of Vestry Voice are available on the Cathedral Website (www.lisburncathedral.org).

The back of the Cathedral (inside) has been altered to allow for a family corner for use during Services and for a hospitality area which is being used between morning Services.

Proposed Work on Cathedral Building

The next phase of work on the Cathedral buildings has now been prioritized. The most urgent of these priorities is essential safety work on the Tower, Spire and Roof. It is intended to start this work in Spring 2010 to allow time for planning, grant applications and generation of the necessary funds. The current estimate for this next phase of restoration and repair work is £240,000.

Financial Position

As indicated in previous issues of Vestry Voice, regular income from Free Will Offerings has not increased over the last 3 years and has not been meeting the regular expenses of running the church. Income from investments has been helping to cover these costs.

It had been expected that the Rectory site could be redeveloped to provide a new Rectory and to release capital to cover the expenses of recent building work as well as part of the urgent work of the Tower and Spire. However, the Credit Crunch and the resulting downturn in the property market have meant that development of the Rectory site has been put on hold. This has resulted in a Bank overdraft which has been calculated to be about £110,000 by the end of December 2008.

Carrying this overdraft has caused the Vestry to request that every aspect of expenditure for 2009 be scrutinised. The Finance Committee has carried out a review of expenditure and come back to the Vestry with a series of recommendations. These

Important Staff News

From September, **Karen Webb** has started as part-time Children's Ministry Co-ordinator (7.5 hours per week). Karen continues to work with The Church Army 30 hours a week.

There is a new Year Out Team. **Gemma** and **Lee** completed their year with the Cathedral, we wish them well for the future and are delighted to see them from time to time. **Zara** is now teaching full-time, however she remains very committed to our Youth Ministry and we are very grateful for this.

David Alanis has arrived from Argentina to work with Fusion and in our Children's Ministry. **James Graham**, **Janine Dawson** and **David Parkinson** are all working with Fusion.

Harry and Audrey Beattie, after well over 20 years of faithful service, have decided to retire at the end of this month. We wish them well in their retirement. There will be an event to say farewell to Harry and Audrey on the 30th November.

Ken McGrath has been appointed as Rector of Kilkeel Parish and will be finishing with us at Christmas. An opportunity for the congregation to meet with **Ken, Annette, Charlotte and John** before their departure will be provided in December. Ken's institution will be on the 6th January 2009.

The Vestry have given permission for Sam to start the process of looking for a **new curate**. The earliest time a curate could begin ministry at the Cathedral would be June 2009.

Buildings Update

During the summer, the McCammon Room, the Computer Suite and the Minor Hall were redecorated and refurnished. This was organised and financed by Fusion and has greatly enhanced these rooms for all the groups who use them.

recommendations have been carefully considered and accepted unanimously.

In previous years, it has been the Cathedral's custom to give annual donations of at least 10% of the Cathedral's income to Mission. This year, to make a similar donation would mean giving away money which we currently don't have. Very reluctantly, the Select Vestry decided that this end of year donation to Missions would be suspended but for this year only.

While significant donations have already been given to Mission during 2008 from the Flower Festival and May Ball for example, the Select Vestry were keen that there was an additional opportunity to give to Mission and separate Mission Envelopes have been provided. All of the income from these envelopes will be given to the missionary groups that the Cathedral normally supports. In 2009, 10% of the Cathedral's income will be earmarked and set aside for Mission and there will not be a need to use special envelopes again.

What can you do?

- The Select Vestry would ask for your support and prayer as it seeks to get the balance right between achieving financial stability without interfering with the ongoing ministry in the Cathedral
- Prayerfully consider your giving. The approach of the New Year is an opportunity to consider increasing a standing order or weekly offering as some members of the congregation have already done.
- Please discuss the contents of this newsletter with members of the Select Vestry if you have questions or can think of ways that you can help