

# Home Evangelism



The Free Presbyterian Church is not only distinctly evangelical, but also intensely evangelistic. We take seriously the Saviour's Great Commission (Matthew 20: 19–20). Like the early church, in going to the world, we commence with home missions (Acts 1:8). The Presbytery's Scottish Commission and its Forward Movement Committee endeavour to pioneer new Free Presbyterian churches in Scotland, England, and Wales. In Ulster our churches constantly evangelize their neighbourhoods, while various special evangelistic ministries seek to deal with particular needs.

## England

The first Free Presbyterian congregation in Great Britain was established in Liverpool, a large and busy port city on the northwestern coast of the country. This church was previously known as the Protestant Reformers Church. It had a splendid history of uncompromising Protestant witness from its commencement in the early twentieth century. Although but a shadow of its former self, it was still strongly evangelical and separatist when it petitioned our



Rev. David Smith

Presbytery to be received as a member church in 1982. The Presbytery agreed and later that year Rev. Hillis Fleming was installed as its minister. He served there until his retirement in 2000, when Rev. David Smith took up the work.

Farther south on the eastern coast another church came into the Free Presbyterian family in 1985. In Oulton Broad, a small seaside town, a group of believers meeting as a Free Evangelical church was admitted into the

fellowship of the Free Presbyterian Church and shortly thereafter constituted a member church. Rev. David Park was the first ordained minister of the church and saw the work move forward in the salvation of souls and in a thriving children's work. Rev. Kyle Paisley succeeded Mr. Park and has maintained a faithful ministry for ten years, during which time a beautiful new church building has been opened.

In the little town of Tavistock in the southwestern part of the country, another Free Presbyterian extension work came into being in the late 1980s. Rev. David Smith ministered there for over eleven years and saw the congregation grow sufficiently to progress from being a mission extension to being a constituted congregation.

In London, the Free Presbyterian work is led by Rev. Gordon Ferguson, who moved there from Kilkeel after Rev. Wesley Irwin had served there as a licentiate minister. Mr. Ferguson's evangelistic activity regularly takes him into the densely populated borough of Walthamstow to visit homes and to speak at meetings and assemblies in residential homes and day schools. He conducts a monthly outreach service in Croydon in the greater London area and is a key contributor to Let the



Mr. Noel Shields

Bible Speak's radio ministry through Premier Radio.

Not far south of London, Mr. Noel Shields, formerly an evangelist with our churches in Ulster, has been labouring diligently in the town of Lewes. He is in

charge of an outreach that meets regularly in an historic building where the famed William Huntington exercised his ministry.

Bridlington is a well-known holiday resort and fishing centre on the eastern coast of England. There Rev. Hillis Fleming and Rev. Paul Fitton conducted a gospel campaign and



**Rev. Cairin Salt**

commenced a gospel witness which eventually became a constituted Free Presbyterian church. The Presbytery placed Mr. Fitton there as a licentiate minister, and he saw the work well established before moving to Ulster to

become the minister of Dungannon church. In June 2000, Rev. Cairin Salt was installed as the minister in Bridlington and has reported increased attendances, with a number of people receiving Christ as Saviour.

## Wales

In Wales, Rev. David McMillan leads the extension work in Burry Port and Bryn. Mr. McMillan is engaged in constant evangelism in the towns by means of visiting in homes, holding nursing home services, writing newspaper articles, conducting school assemblies, and occasionally recording radio



**Rev. David McMillan**

messages for a local station. In nearby Loughor, a centre of the 1904 Welsh Revival, Rev. Dynes Uprichard has been seeking to maintain a gospel witness in another extension work. Close to the city of Cardiff, in the village of Rhiwderin, Mr. Richard



**Mr. Richard Monteith**

Monteith, a Presbytery licentiate, carries on a pioneer ministry. The building in which he conducts the services each week will soon be available for purchase and we are making every effort to obtain possession of it, thereby

imparting a greater measure of stability to the fledgling extension work.

## Scotland

In Rutherglen, a heavily populated area of Glasgow, near to the location of the famous Cambuslang revival, a small band of Christians desired to be affiliated with the Free Church. In 1987, we commenced an extension ministry and a year later Rev. Stephen Hamilton moved from Ulster to pioneer the work He laboured there until 1998, the year in which the church was constituted. During his ministry the congregation grew and was able to purchase and renovate their present church building. Today the ministry in Rutherglen continues under the ministry of Rev. Wesley Irwin and the recently elected session.



**Rev. Wesley Irwin**

Additional congregations have been formed in Scotland. Gardenstown in the northeastern part of the country is the scene of Rev. Noel Hughes' ministry. This is a thriving church, and the congregation is set to purchase land to erect its own church building. Further south, in Dundee, where Robert Murray McCheyne exercised such a fruitful ministry, Mr. Gregory McCammon, a



**Rev. Noel Hughes**



**Mr. Gregory McCammon**

licentiate minister, is endeavouring to advance the Lord's cause, while in the southwestern seaport town of Stranraer another extension work has recently become affiliated with Presbytery.

## Ulster

In Northern Ireland a number of people are engaged in various specialized evangelistic efforts. Noel Stevenson and Joyce Walsh are children's evangelists. Albert McAuley, an elder in Ballymoney church, has for many years been a full-time visitation evangelist whose soul-winning ministry has greatly blessed the church. Everett Smyth leads two extension outreaches of the Martyrs Memorial Church, in Finaghy and in Sandy Row, where a new building was recently opened. Clifford Black is also a full-time evangelistic worker with Martyrs Memorial Church, while James McAllister, a graduate of the Whitefield College from our Coleraine church, spends two days each week visiting in the northwest of the province. Chris Killen, another Whitefield graduate and a member of our Lisburn church, is a full-time evangelist among young people who have fallen into drug addiction. Chris also carries on an important ministry in many schools as he presents a solidly Bible-based anti-drug message.



**Everett Smyth**



**James McAllister**

The Lord has opened many doors of opportunity to the Free Church. He has richly blessed our evangelistic efforts on the home front, and we rejoice in every church and extension work opened to His glory. However, there remains much land to be possessed and we must continue to be faithful in holding forth the word of life throughout the United Kingdom. ■



**Rev. Ken Elliott** is the minister of Bethany Free Presbyterian Church in Portadown, Northern Ireland, and is Chairman of the Forward Movement.