



Ministry Update

April 2025



*Volunteers and Pupils
from Downpatrick
Primary School*



“For if you give, you will get! Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use to give—large or small—will be used to measure what is given back to you.”



Ballysillan PS Team

Luke 6:38 22:6, The Living Bible



Forth River PS Team

Three new teams have started in 2025!



Elmgrove PS



Mountnorris PS



Silverstream PS

Prayer



"Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you." Jeremiah 29:12 ESV

Weekly Zoom Prayer Meeting

We have a weekly prayer meeting via Zoom, from 10.00am for 30 minutes each Wednesday. If you are interested and would like to receive the Zoom link, please contact Pat.

Prayer Mornings: Argyle Business Centre

Tuesday 6th May 10am to noon

Tuesday 3rd June 10am to noon

We have much to thank God for!

20+ New Volunteers

Over the past few months we have recruited over **20** new volunteers.

3 New Schools

We have recently started new Reading Teams in **3** new schools: Elmgrove, Silverstream & Mountnorris.

400 Pupils

Almost **400** Pupils from Blackmountain and Springhill Primary Schools were inspired to think about different careers in Feb and March of 2025.

9 Tennis Schools

EfL provides tennis coaching to **9** North Belfast Schools.

Meet the Trustees

Rev Colin Duncan (Chairman)

Colin is a retired Methodist Minister. Previously served twenty years in Ministry across Belfast, latter eight years in the Greater Shankill. Lives in Bangor with his wife Brenda.



Dr Lavinia Boyce BEM; PhD; MSSC; BSc (Hons); BA; CMCIPD; MCMI.

Graduate of Queen's University Belfast and the Open University, Lavinia was awarded the BEM in the 2017 New Year's Honours List for Services to the Community in NI. She was a Public Servant for 37 years. Involved in voluntary work for many years, comprising QUB Graduates Associations, Royal British Legion voluntary caseworker and information officer, Belfast City Hospital fundraiser, Governor at Andrews Memorial Primary School, Vice-chair and Chair of the Board of Governors of Bloomfield Collegiate School. Appointed to the Board of Stranmillis University College in July 2020. She joined Equipping for Life Board in April 2022.



Brother David Jardine (Founding Trustee)

Brother David Jardine is a Church of Ireland Clergyman and a member of the Society of St. Francis, a religious community in the Anglican Church. He has been involved in the Inter-denominational Divine Healing Ministries for many decades.



Mrs Suzi McLean



Suzi McLean has been the National Director of Youth for Christ Northern Ireland for the last 11 years. She is a qualified youth worker with over 25 years of experience of working with young people, especially those impacted by marginalisation and low educational attainment. She lives in Magheralin with her husband Paul, and their 3-year-old son Lorcan.

Tommy Stewart

Tommy has been active in leadership and consultancy within the private, public and voluntary sector for 35 years. He has a MA in Missional Leadership, a BA in Theology, and a BSc in Economics. Tommy has been an advisor for Equipping for Life for many years and also serves as a trustee and advisor at national and international level with Bible Society, Youth for Christ and Drop Inn Ministries.



Mrs Rachel Swift (Treasurer)

Rachel is the Treasurer of Equipping for Life and was appointed an EfL Trustee in September 2021. Rachel has been a Chartered Accountant since 2020 after spending 3 years training with a specialist charity accounts and audit firm. Since then, Rachel has worked in private equity and the public sector. Rachel also holds a BA(Hons) degree in Theology with Youth Ministry and gained several years of ministry experience before her career in finance.



Mrs Rosemary Wilson RGN; RM; RCNT; RNT; LL.B (Hons); LM (Medical Law) : BL. (Advisor to the Board of Trustees)

Rosemary worked in the Health Service for many years before studying Law and training as a Barrister. Latterly, she lectured in Health and Social Care as an Independent Legal Education Consultant. Rosemary serves as an Elder in Killead Presbyterian Church and has been a volunteer with EfL since 2022.



Inspire at Springhill and Blackmountain Primary Schools

As we welcomed in 2025 at Equipping For Life, we were excited about doors that God would open and the opportunities we would embrace to further Inspire the young pupils living in the Shankill Area of Belfast. On Tuesday 2 February we were welcomed by the Principal, Mrs Lynas, to Springhill Primary where Brother David Jardine and other EFL team members took part in what was to be a very special morning assembly. The following day during the Inspire Programme the P1-P7 pupils found out what it was like to be a doctor, architect, retail (SPAR), quantity surveyor, hairdresser, gym owner/world



kickboxing champion, curtain maker, business analyst, IT consultant, optician, chef, artist, community police officer, firefighter, pastor, youth worker, dancer and we were also delighted to have Impact Training, engineers, decorators and carpenters join us together with story tellers. The day concluded with Tim Young, local optician, and Mrs Lynas reflecting on their journeys from Springhill pupils to successful professionals. Then local celebrity chef, Stephen Jeffers, from Forestside Cookery School, took to the stage and for the next 40 minutes inspired both children and adults by sharing his life story whilst making the most delicious pancakes for his audience.



On Tuesday 18th March we were welcomed to Blackmountain Primary School by the Principal, Mrs Jill Black. As with Springhill before it, the welcome for our team, EFL volunteers and the Inspire Facilitators from both staff and pupils was incredible. At Blackmountain the children were inspired by the doctors, architects, florists, entrepreneur/DJ, community police, firefighters, journalist, university student, business analyst/coder, spar retail, physiotherapist, IT specialist, pastor, youth worker, storyteller, dancer and Impact Training. Every child P4-P7 had the opportunity to make a bouquet using beautiful flowers and P1-P3 found out the beauty and healing qualities of plants and wrapped up their own aloe vera plant to take home. Our Inspire Day at Blackmountain concluded, to the pupils' delight, with DJ James on the decks and Chris, aka Mr Salsa, taking to the floor with pupils, staff and volunteers strutting their stuff. Both DJ James and Chris were both inspirational examples of hard work and determination.

In the words of Mrs Black, Principal of Springhill Primary School

"I had several very special stand out moments watching our pupils' interaction with each other and with our visitors during the Inspire day that will stay with me. It was evident that the strong focus in the organisation of the day was all about investing in our pupils' futures by facilitating such opportunities and experiences. This is something my staff and I truly believe. What a positive experience and please pass on our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers"



**Karen Stevenson, Inspire
Coordinator**



EFL's Reading and Tennis Programmes— a Principal's View

Currie Primary School is located on the Limestone Road of North Belfast and a Team of EFL volunteers has been bringing the Reading programme to the school for over a year. In recent months, another EFL team has introduced the Tennis Programme to Currie. We asked Mrs Ashleigh Galway, Principal of Currie Primary School, her views on both programmes.

Why do you partner with Equipping for Life Team in Currie Primary School?

We have loved our partnership with Equipping for Life. The volunteers have quickly become a part of the team at Currie and we value the contribution they make! We also enjoy the relationship we have with the volunteers – they always arrive at school with a smile and give us an energy boost with their enthusiasm!

What are the main benefits of having the Reading Programme in your school?

Many of our children need a boost in confidence with their reading. They may not get the opportunity to read with someone at home and the partners not only boost their confidence but also demonstrate a love of reading which we hope will instil a lifetime of reading for pleasure. The 1-1 support is invaluable!



What are the main benefits of having the Tennis Programme in your school?

Many of our children do not have the opportunity for extra curricular activities outside of our own school programme. The tennis programme is introducing a sport through a professional coach to a large number of children, developing skills and potentially sowing the seeds for the future! We look forward to hearing where the children take these skills in the future!



What do the pupils think of the EFL Programmes?

We only have to visit the EFL rooms when the programmes are taking place to see what the children think! The children enjoy both the reading and tennis programmes and we have seen the children blossom!

And finally ... what is it like working in the EFL Office as a Volunteer?

I have been an administrative volunteer in the Equipping for Life Office since March 2019, combining this in the early days with tutoring in Springhill Primary School. From my previous role as Head of Admissions and Access at Queen's University, I knew that young people (particularly protestant males) in North Belfast were not fulfilling their full potential. Therefore, when looking for a new volunteering opportunity, after I retired, Brother David's EFL mission seemed just right.

The rapid expansion in the number of Schools, volunteers and the areas in which we are involved across NI means that the admin work required has greatly increased and I hope my support is helpful. The work is always varied including Access NI applications and compliance; maintaining

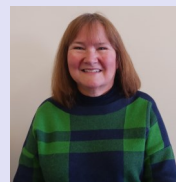
volunteer mentor records; assisting with all stages of the recruitment process; involvement in Volunteer and Team Leaders' lunches and Inspire Events to name but a few aspects. I'm told my organisation and attention to detail are key!

There is always something to keep me busy (three hours, two mornings a week can often extend to at least eight hours in total!). I get great satisfaction from this volunteering role. What makes it really special is the interaction with staff in the office (their incredible

dedication, sheer hard work plus friendliness and support to me) and also with the amazing Volunteers, the schools (staff and pupils) and the wider team at the Argyle Business Centre, where we are based.

In summary, such fun and a great volunteering experience which I enjoy so much!

Jennifer Dwyer,
Administrative
Volunteer



Interested in becoming a volunteer?

If you would like to find out more about volunteering for Equipping for Life, contact Pat Hutchinson:

07889572800



pat@equippingforlife.org.uk



Ways to Donate

Donate to our Stewardship

EFL has setup a special Stewardship which you can use to donate money to our charity, see the website link: <https://equippingforlife.org.uk/how-to-help/donate/>

Direct Bank Transfer

You can transfer funds directly to us via our bank account details below:

Sort Code: 95-06-79

Account Number: 00183695

Donate with JustGiving

We gratefully accept donations via our Just Giving page which can be accessed by clicking the website link.

Donate with a Cheque

Payable to 'Equipping for Life' and send to

Equipping for Life

9c Argyle Business Centre

39 North Howard Street

Belfast

BT13 2AP

If you want to donate cash please call Pat
07889572800.

Thank you.

Help Us Make a Difference

There are multiple ways you can choose to donate, such as: making a one off-donation, setting up a regular giving direct debit, organising a fundraising event in a church or community group you are involved with, leaving a gift in your will, donating in celebration. If you would like further details on how you can support us financially, please call Pat 07889572800.

One Off Donation



£10 would provide a simple gift with a bible verse to a class of P4 children at the end of a tennis course



£20 would provide 2 new bible resources to a team of Volunteer Mentors in a school



£50 would enable us to provide 125 children with bookmarks and memory verses



£5 per month could provide more than 1 hour of top quality tennis coaching to a class of P5 pupils



£10 per month would help to recruit and train some of the volunteers needed for a new partner school



£20 per month would pay for the resources needed to have follow-up Inspire events with 60 pupils.

Organise a Fundraising Event

Why not organise a coffee morning, book sale, fun sports event? If you would like to discuss your idea and to receive fundraising material contact Darrin 07587883057.