



Ministry Update

March 2026

"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."

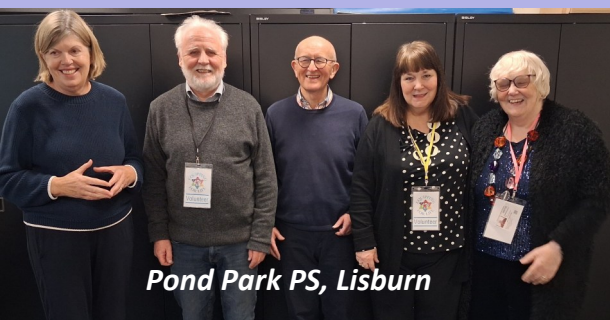
Luke 6:38 22:6, The Living Bible



Springhill PS, Greater Shankill



Currie PS, North Belfast



Pond Park PS, Lisburn



Downpatrick PS



Cregagh PS, East Belfast



Pupil at Wheatfield PS, North Belfast, enjoying Tennis Coaching



Two new teams started in the Autumn of 2025!

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

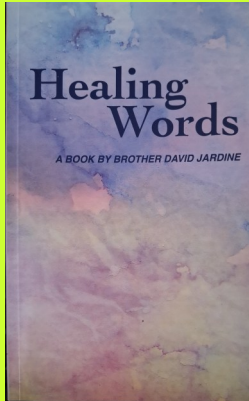


Olderfleet PS (Larne)



Carr's Glen PS (North Belfast)

Healing Words by Brother David Jardine



This is a book which will help people both to develop their life of prayer and to grow in their relationship with God. David Jardine has long held the view that a great need in the Church today is teaching on prayer by people who spend long periods with God in prayer. A quotation from John Wimber, founder of the Vineyard Movement, helps us to understand how important prayer is. He said that when he was converted in 1963 he found in Jesus a friend to whom he could talk about absolutely anything. In this book David

Jardine emphasises the importance of that personal relationship with Jesus and also deals with many other types of prayer, most of which you seldom hear sermons on - how to forgive, how to surrender burdens and anxieties to the Lord, listening to God, practising the presence of God, feeding Scripture into our minds, and many others. Overriding everything is a firm belief in the power of prayer, that through prayer even the most intractable situations can be transformed.

If you want to grow spiritually, and you want to learn new ways to help and heal people and situations, then Healing Words will be a good book for you.

Healing Words is available from Faith Mission book shops, priced £5.



**We have much to
thank God for!**

**190+ Volunteers in the Reading
Programme**

33 Partner Schools

**7 Inspire Days completed,
and 9 schools receiving
Tennis Coaching**

Weekly Zoom Prayer Meeting: We have a weekly prayer meeting via Zoom, from 10.00am for 30 minutes each Wednesday (Please contact Pat for the Zoom link.)

Prayer Mornings in the Argyle Business Centre 10am to noon: 16/02/26; 9/03/26; 11/05/26 & 22/06/26—everyone is welcome to join us for prayer for 10 minutes or 2 hours!

PRAYER

PUSH – PRAY UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS

Prayer is the foundation of Equipping for Life. All of our Volunteers pray daily for the children they mentor. The Teams mentoring in schools pray weekly for the school, Principal, teachers and staff in the schools and the area they mentor in.

Paul wrote, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6–7). **Worry about nothing; pray about everything.**

Everything? Yes, God wants us to talk with Him about everything. How often should we pray? The biblical answer is “**pray without ceasing**” (1 Thessalonians 5:17, ESV). We should keep a running conversation going with God all day long. We can pray under any and all circumstances. Prayer develops our relationship with God and demonstrates our trust and utter dependence upon Him.

Prayer is our way of communicating with God. We pray to praise God and thank Him and tell Him how much we love Him. We pray to enjoy His presence and tell Him what is going on in our lives. We pray to make requests and seek guidance and ask for wisdom. God loves this exchange with His children, just as we love the exchange we have with our children. Fellowship with God is the heart of prayer. Too often we lose sight of how simple prayer is really supposed to be. Whatever we are going through remember we have an amazing God who loves to draw near and answer our prayers.

PUSH – PRAY UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS

Reading in Mountnorris Primary School, Co. Armagh

Our partnership with Mountnorris Primary School in Co. Armagh started 12 months ago and it has gone from strength to strength in the last year. This is what the volunteers think of the work being done in Mountnorris Primary School.

The EFL partnership with Mountnorris primary school is a great way to boost children's literacy, confidence and share the love of God with each child through prayer and taking a genuine interest in their lives, while also strengthening community connections with the school.

Sharon Porter, Mountnorris Primary School Volunteer

What I enjoy most about volunteering is having a friendship with the children. I love to encourage them in their reading abilities. It is a privilege to pray with them, and for them, and give them special quality time. I always look forward to volunteering at the school.

Roberta Simms, Mountnorris Primary School Volunteer

I have really enjoyed working with the children through EFL and to see them grow in confidence with their reading and their conversation. They love the opening prayer that we do together and, if I forget, they always remind me. This is very encouraging as the children I have are unchurched. It is a great way to reach these young ones and they also like the bible stories and of course they love the games. I feel that these children are benefitting from this programme.

Edith Irvine, Mountnorris Primary School Volunteer

Thank you to Paul Toombs, Team Leader, and the volunteers for doing such a wonderful job in their first year at Mountnorris Primary School!



EFL's Tennis Programme—a Volunteer's perspective.



Volunteering with Equipping for Life (EFL) as a tennis helper in Belfast primary schools typically involves assisting professional coaches for about an hour each week during school hours. Volunteers work alongside trained coaches to deliver basic, fun tennis sessions using adapted equipment like sponge balls and shorter racquets. Sessions often begin with a group greeting, a simple prayer and may include simple drills, games to build hand-eye coordination, and playful challenges that suit young children's energy and attention spans.

Children taking part benefit both physically, mentally and socially. They are introduced to the fundamentals of tennis in an engaging way, which supports fitness, coordination, teamwork, and confidence. Teachers and staff often say how much pupils enjoy the sessions and how quickly they engage with both the Coach and the supportive volunteer helpers. These activities can help to break down barriers to sport and encourage children to be active and positive in school life. As a volunteer you get great feedback as you see them grow in confidence. The noise levels tell you how much they are enjoying it!

So, for volunteers, the experience is rewarding and uplifting. Helpers often comment on the joy of seeing children improve, laugh, and talk about their progress. Many feel they contribute positively to pupils' well-being while growing their own sense of purpose and community connection. That sense of shared enjoyment and service is highlighted as one of the most fulfilling aspects of volunteering. It would be great to have more volunteers for tennis coaching – don't be put off if you feel you would not be good enough at tennis. It is really all about being around the kids, encouraging them – the Coach does the tennis bit.



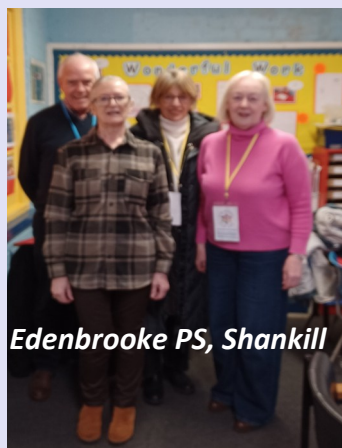
George Hewitt – Windsor Lawn Tennis, Padel Tennis and Squash Club.

If you would like to learn more about being a tennis volunteer please contact Darrin (07587883057)

Celebrating some of our Volunteer Teams around Northern Ireland



Wheatfield PS, North Belfast



Edenbrooke PS, Shankill



Moyle PS, Larne



Eden PS



*Abbots Cross PS,
Newtownabbey*



Abercorn PS, Banbridge



*Victoria Park PS,
East Belfast*



Malvern PS, Shankill

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

Your Help Will 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.

Regular Giving



£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.