

# Girls' Brigade News

April 2025



informing...encouraging...equipping leaders

# In this Issue



Rooted in Christ GB Conference	3
Pause for Thought	4 - 7
GBNI Youth Conferences	8 - 9
GBNI Updates	10 - 11
Training Updates	12
Company News	13
2025 District AGM Details	14 - 21
Companies Go Wild at GB	22 - 23
Body Image Workshop	24
Leaders' Thank You Event	25
Queen's Award	26
Explorer Fun Days	27
Competition Results	
Choral Speaking	28 - 29
PE	30 - 34
Art	35 - 37
Scripture Course 2025 - 2026	38 - 40
Behind the Scenes at PE	41 - 43

Your Office Bearers are committed to staying connected with you. You are encouraged to contact them if you have any suggestions for improvement or ideas for future development in GBNI.

GBNI President:  
Isobel McKane  
[president@gbni.co.uk](mailto:president@gbni.co.uk)

GBNI Chairperson:  
Tracey Davies  
[chair@gbni.co.uk](mailto:chair@gbni.co.uk)

The Girls' Brigade  
Northern Ireland  
C2 Kilbegs Business Park  
Fergusons Way, Antrim  
BT41 4LZ

Tel: 028 9454 8054  
Email: [info@gbni.co.uk](mailto:info@gbni.co.uk)  
Web: [www.gbni.co.uk](http://www.gbni.co.uk)  
GBNI Shop:  
[www.gbni.co.uk/shop](http://www.gbni.co.uk/shop)

GIRLS' BRIGADE NORTHERN IRELAND

# ROOTED

*in Christ*

LEADERS' CONFERENCE

**SATURDAY | JUNE | 2025**  
**7TH**

10 am - 4 pm

**NEWTOWNABBEY METHODIST MISSION,  
NEWTOWNABBEY**

**PRAISE & SEMINARS &  
WORSHIP WORKSHOPS**  
**RESOURCES MARKETPLACE**



**TICKETS £5\***

includes all workshops,  
seminars and lunch

**MORE DETAILS AND BOOKING  
AVAILABLE SOON**

\* SUBSIDISED THANKS TO EA DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Pause for

## Thought

### New Beginnings. Embracing the Future with Hope

New beginnings. It's a phrase that we hear often, especially at the start of a new year, a new chapter, or a new season in life. But have you ever stopped to think about just how powerful these words are?

In a world where everything changes all the time, new beginnings hold a special place in our hearts. They come with a mix of excitement, hope, and sometimes, a little bit of fear. It's normal to feel all these emotions, especially when you're stepping into the unknown, but one thing is for sure - new beginnings always bring with them opportunities for growth, renewal, and fresh starts.

This year, I'm especially aware of the significance of new beginnings.

One of the most personal new beginnings for me is watching my daughter plan to get married. It feels surreal to think that this year, my daughter will start a

new chapter of her life, and my role as a mother is shifting in ways I never imagined. Watching her find love, build a future, and take on this exciting new season is one of the most emotional milestones I've experienced. As a mother, you imagine these moments, but when they arrive, it's a whole different feeling - a mix of pride, joy, and a little bittersweetness, knowing that things are changing.

Seeing her grow from a little girl to a strong, independent woman, and now stepping into a life of marriage, has been such a beautiful process. And while she's starting a new chapter, so are we as a family. It's a new beginning for everyone - and it's one filled with hope, new memories, and the potential for many new adventures.

I think about all the changes that will come with this new season of life, and I realise that embracing these changes is essential. Life moves forward, and while some of these transitions might feel uncertain or even difficult at times, I know that there's so much joy to be found in the midst of it.

And it's not just about big moments like weddings or milestones - every single day is

a new beginning. The truth is new beginnings aren't always about huge events. Sometimes, they come in the small, everyday moments - in our friendships, in our personal growth, and in our faith. Every new day is an opportunity to try again, to learn, to grow, and to step into something fresh.

As a Girls' Brigade Leader, I get to witness new beginnings in the lives of the girls I work with. Every week, I see girls take on new challenges, face their fears, and try things they've never done before. Some girls are just starting their journey with the Girls' Brigade, while others are taking on leadership roles for the first time. And each of these moments, no matter how big or small, is a new beginning for them. It's about discovering something new about themselves and embracing the future with courage.

What I've noticed is that new beginnings often come with a bit of nervousness. It's easy to feel uncertain or anxious about stepping into something new. Whether it's a new job, a new relationship, or a new season of life, there's always an element of the unknown. But here's the beautiful thing: God has a way of making the unknown less

scary. He promises to guide us, to hold our hands, and to lead us into places that are better than we could ever imagine. And when we choose to trust Him, those new beginnings become an exciting adventure instead of something to fear.

This reminds me of a verse that's been on my heart recently.

*"Because of the Lord's great love  
we are not consumed, for His  
compassions never fail. They are  
new every morning; great is Your  
faithfulness."*

Lamentations 3:22-23, NIV

This scripture is such a beautiful reminder that with each new day, God's mercy is new. His love never runs out, and His faithfulness is constant, no matter what we're facing. We might feel like we've had a tough day, a challenging week, or even



a rough year, but the truth is that God's compassion is renewed every single morning.

We don't have to carry the weight of yesterday's struggles into today. We get to start over, fresh and new, with His grace and love.

This is especially comforting when you think about the idea of change.

Change can be difficult, and sometimes, we can feel overwhelmed by all the 'new' that comes our way. But God's faithfulness doesn't depend on our circumstances. It's constant, steady, and unchanging. No matter where we are in life or how uncertain the future seems, we can trust that God is always with us, guiding us into the future He has planned.

I often think about how God uses these new beginnings to shape, mould, and make us more like Him. Every new step we take - whether it's a new role, a new responsibility, or a new season of life - is an opportunity for God to work in us in ways that we might not expect. The Bible is filled with examples of people who faced new beginnings, some willingly and some reluctantly. But in every case, God used

their new beginnings to fulfil His purposes for them.

For instance, think about the Israelites leaving Egypt. It was a huge, daunting new beginning for them. They were stepping into the unknown, unsure of what the future held. Yet, God was with them every step of the way. He led them through the wilderness, provided for them, and showed His faithfulness in ways they could never have imagined. Even when they faced challenges, God was doing something new in their hearts and in their community.

Similarly, think about the apostle Paul. His life was radically changed when he encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus. His conversion was the ultimate new beginning - one that completely transformed his life and the lives of countless others. Paul went from being a persecutor of Christians to becoming one of the most influential leaders of the early church. His story reminds us that no matter how impossible a new beginning may seem, God can use it for His glory and our good.

New beginnings can come in so many forms - some are joyful, some are hard, and some are a mix of both. But one thing is



certain: each new beginning has the potential to shape us into who God created us to be. It's an opportunity to grow, trust, and experience His love in a deeper way.

As I reflect on my own new beginnings this year, I'm reminded of how important it is to embrace them with open arms. Life is always moving forward, and while it's tempting to stay in our comfort zones, God often calls us to step out and embrace change. The best thing we can do is trust Him with the future, knowing that He holds it in His hands.

Whether you're about to embark on a major change like a new job, a move, or a wedding, like my daughter's, or whether you're simply stepping into a new season of life, remember that each new beginning is an opportunity to experience God's faithfulness in a fresh way.

You don't have to have everything figured out - God is with you, every step of the way. He will lead, guide, and fill you with His peace as you embrace the new things He's doing in your life.

So, as we look ahead to the rest of this year, let's embrace the

new beginnings that come our way.

Let's encourage one another to step forward with hope and excitement, knowing that God is always working, always faithful, and always doing something new.

Here's to new beginnings - in trusting God with our future, stepping into the unknown with faith, and seeing the beauty He brings in every season of life.



Ingrid Orr  
GBNI Trustee Board Member  
Captain 251st NI Glenwherry  
Presbyterian

# GBNI Youth





# Conferences



GBNI Youth Forum organised a series of three youth conferences in partnership with Made for More in January! Girls from across NI came together, to learn how we can look after ourselves; our own mental health and well-being, and how to care for those around us too.

Thanks especially to all the host companies for their hospitality and warm welcomes!

*Stay tuned to sign up to more similar events in 2025/26!*



## SAVE THE DATES

### Collection of Scripture Course and August Packs

This GB Session may be coming to a close, but the planning still continues for the 2025/26 GB Session. Pop a note in your diary now as the August Packs and Scripture Course Orders will be ready for collection from **Monday 11th August** at GBHQ. Our normal shop opening hours apply:

Mon-Thurs 9:30 am-5:00 pm,  
Fri 9:30 am-4:00 pm.

If you are unable to collect your pack, select 'Delivery' when placing your Scripture Course Order; your parcel will then be on its way to you by 11th August - please note, charges apply.



### GBNI Annual General Meeting

Is anyone in the mood for a BBQ? Come and join us at this year's GBNI AGM, taking place at GB Headquarters, Antrim on **Wednesday 27th August** at 6.30 pm.

Online booking is coming soon, keep an eye on our monthly eNews or social media pages for further details.

### Headquarters and Shop Closures

Please note the following dates that GBHQ and/or Shop will be closed in 2025:

- Easter Holiday  
18th - 22nd April
- Early May Bank Holiday  
5th May
- Late May Bank Holiday  
26th May
- GBNI Shop stocktake  
27th May - 2nd June
- July holidays  
14th - 15th July
- Summer Bank Holiday  
25th August

## ANNUAL RETURN DOCUMENTATION

We are delighted to report that the improvements made to the Annual Return process on the GBNI website have cut down a large number of follow-up emails and letters for outstanding documents that would have normally taken place in previous years. We would like to thank all our Company Admins who processed their Company Annual Returns and completed these areas before submission. We would also like to thank our Chaplains who have registered and completed their online Annual Partnership Form.

We have a small number of Chaplains still needing to complete their online form and GBHQ are making direct contact with them.

If Company Admins would like to check if their Chaplains have completed their Annual Return, simply log in, go to 'My Brigade', 'My Annual Returns' and your 2024 Return should be in green marked 'Chaplain Approved'.

If it is in amber marked 'Captain Approved' then please chat with your Chaplain to ask them to register an account, log in and

follow the same path as above but select edit and complete their form. If they are having login issues, check their login email address matches their leader profile in 'My Leaders'. Any queries, please contact GBHQ or email [info@gbni.co.uk](mailto:info@gbni.co.uk)

## MONTHLY eNEWS

At the end of each month, GBNI sends out an eNews highlighting key dates, deadlines and general useful information.

All Registered GB leaders and Chaplains are encouraged to sign up for our Monthly eNews. To sign up, simply log into the GBNI website and in 'My Leader Profile' you can select which eNews you would like to receive.

Which email newsletters would you like to receive?

- 
- ☒ General GB News & Events
  - ☒ Shop news & offers
  - ☒ Chaplain news

Did you know you can also update your personal contact information in this area and sign a one-time consent for your data to be shared with GBNI?

# Training

# Updates

## Leadership Training

Sub-Officer Company Experience booklets are now due to be sent in for marking. All trainees have been emailed with details of where to send their booklets, which will be returned either at your District AGM or via your GB company August pack. Certificates will also be sent out via the August packs.

Officer Company Experience booklets should be sent into GBHQ with the deadline of **30th April**. They will be marked and returned to them at the Officer Training days in May and June. The trainee Officers have one final face-to-face half-day training session to complete.

This can be completed on either

- **Friday 30th May** Ballynure Presbyterian 6.30 - 10.00 pm
- or
- **Saturday 21st June** in Moy Presbyterian 9.30 - 1.00 pm.

Booking for either date can be made via the online booking system in the Leaders' section of our website.

We are delighted to now be

able to offer online booking for both the Officer and Sub-Officer Leadership Training courses.

Applicants will still need the approval of their GB Captain and Chaplain before they are accepted onto any course. A detailed set of instructions on the new booking process has been sent directly to GB company Captains/ Correspondents.

The closing date for applications will also be moved to 30th September to allow any applicants who only request to join the training courses when they start the new 2025 / 26 GB year to have time to apply.

Those applicants who are approved before the end of July will receive their Company Experience booklets in their GB company August pack with the remaining booklets being posted out to GB Captains in August/ September 2025.

## NHS Nutrition Awareness Training

After the success of this training last year, we are pleased to be able to offer this again, free

of charge. The training will go through resources which the NHS has developed to deliver 10-minute sessions on food and health aimed at 11-18-year-olds. To use the resources you need to attend two sessions, lasting 2hrs, of online training, which will be running on the 1st and 8th May 7 - 9 pm. You need to be able to attend both nights to complete the course.

Booking for either date can be made via the online booking system in the Upcoming Events Calendar on our website (please ensure you login before booking). As places are limited, bookings are restricted to two leaders from each GB Company.

If you have any queries, please contact [martha@gbni.co.uk](mailto:martha@gbni.co.uk)

## Company

## News

We are so proud of the difference our GB girls can make for the better!

The Brigader section of 220th NI Castledawson Girls' Brigade took part in a 10k sponsored walk for The Children's Cancer Unit Charity on 2nd November, raising £6200.00!



Castledawson GB leaders said 'We are super proud of our girls in the Brigader section who took on this challenge and we all enjoyed the day. The walk was completed and the girls sang themselves along the way and all enjoyed a treat in Bob & Berts afterwards!'





2025

# District AGM

All GB leaders are invited to attend their District AGM which includes Chaplains, Captains, Officers, Sub-Officers, Associates, registered Reserve Officers and registered Past Members.

It is important, in the life of GBNI, that districts organise themselves appropriately and in a way that best meets the needs of their local companies.

Each district is governed by a District Executive, and they work best when the views of every company in the district are represented. This helps to keep companies informed and allows leaders to raise issues that are important to them. Districts arrange training for leaders, events and activities for young people, prayer times and provide support to local companies.

They also appoint people to represent the district on various GBNI Teams that feed district views into national activities and decision-making.

The next few pages contain some information on how the District Executive is formed and will highlight how you might be able to get involved at district level.

## Length of Service

We still have some cross-over between the 2012 and 2022 Regulations in regard to the length of service of post-holders, this is determined from when they started their term of office.

Post-holders appointed after August 2022 will operate under the GBNI Constitution 2022 regarding their term of office which states: *"The term of office for District Office Bearers and/or Team Representatives, which is, to only hold office for up to four years, followed by a break of one year before being nominated to any other office/team."*

Post-holders appointed before August 2022 will continue to follow the term of office as outlined in the GBNI Constitution 2012, which states: *"All Office Bearers and Team Representatives are eligible to hold office within their district for a three-year term. At the end of the three-year term, they can be re-nominated for a further three-year term, or nominated to serve in another role for a further period of three years. This must be followed by a break of one year before being nominated to any other office. Whilst the term of office is three years, Office Bearers may choose to serve for only one or two years."*



## CAPTAINS!

### What you need to do!

- Your District Secretary should inform you of the district's plan to host their AGM.
- Please inform your Chaplain, Officers, Sub-Officers and Associates in good time regarding the meeting details and encourage them to attend the AGM.
- All companies should appoint one leader to represent their company on the District Executive for the next GB Session. Ideally, the representative should be a **Commissioned Captain or Officer**. A Sub-Officer or Associate Leader may take on the role if no one else is available but are not permitted to take on any **Office Bearer/Team Rep** roles. You must notify your District Secretary of the name of your company representative prior to the meeting.
- Your District Secretary should inform you, before the meeting, of any upcoming role vacancies within the district. Please read through this guidance and share any opportunities with leaders within your company. Ask them to prayerfully consider this opportunity to use their skills to **serve GB further by filling the gap** within the district. Any nominations should be forwarded to your District Secretary before the meeting.
- Check with your Chaplain to see if they wish for their name to

remain on the Chaplain voting paper to serve on the District Executive and notify the District Secretary prior to the meeting so that they can update the voting paper appropriately.

### District

### Opportunities

We congratulate the commitment of our volunteers across all levels of the organisation. Your passion for the work of Girls' Brigade in **delivering effective youth ministry** is deeply appreciated.

If you are not currently serving at district or national level and meet the criteria, please prayerfully consider putting your name forward for one of the available key roles. Ask God to direct your path as you continue to step out in faith to serve Him. Your impact on this organisation does not have to stop at company level; you may have the right skills needed at district or national level to assist in the decision-making, bridge the gap in the lines of communication across all levels and develop ideas to further enhance Girls' Brigade for future generations to come.

This next section highlights the various opportunities available to serve at district and national level.

These key roles assist with the smooth running of the overall organisation and are a valuable support to all companies within the district.

## Office Bearers

Each year, the newly formed District Executive elects Office Bearers from among its members' to fill these roles: Chairperson, Chaplain, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, District Commissioner and Assistant District Commissioner.

Commitment is needed for the above roles as they each come with their own level of responsibility. Your District Secretary will have a copy of the Office Bearer Job Description that you can request if interested in a particular role. Alternatively, download CP Form 01-2022 GBNI Role Descriptions from 'My Resources' on the GBNI Website.

Please note that only eligible representatives sitting on the new District Executive can be considered for these roles.

Soon after the AGM, any outgoing Office Bearers should arrange a handover meeting with the incoming Office Bearers to ensure a smooth transition within their role.

## GBNI Teams

All GBNI Teams are responsible to the GBNI Board of Trustees, and each one has an important role to fulfil within the life of GBNI. Teams meet four to six times a year at GBHQ and/or online and have opportunities to serve at team events.

GBNI needs gifted, talented people who are willing to represent their district at team meetings and to serve and contribute to the various aspects of each team.

The purpose of each team is described overleaf.

Your district should elect one person to serve on each of the following GBNI Teams:

[Programme](#) • [Activities](#) • [PE](#) • [DofE](#)  
[Training](#) • [Spiritual](#) • [Queen's Award](#)

A number of the teams are currently underrepresented by several districts which means that districts are missing out on being a part of the decision-making and future planning of Girls' Brigade.

If you feel you, or an Officer / Sub-Officer in your company, have the necessary experience, skills, attributes and willingness to serve on a particular team, then please speak to your District Secretary before the meeting. They may ask you to complete a Team Service Form which is available to download from 'My Resources' on the GBNI website. Please note that Team Representatives are required to regularly attend District Executive meetings and provide a written summary report to the District Executive outlining all outcomes from their team meetings. They should seek members' views and report any responses back to the GBNI Team for further discussion.

There are also two places available for Youth Representatives to serve per GBNI Team which are currently vacant across most of the GBNI Teams. Please see the 'Youth Reps' section for more details.

## Brigade Council

The role of the Council looks at the bigger picture of GBNI, the overall vision and leadership of the organisation. They input into major strategic decisions, represent their districts at national level and provide a communication link between districts and the GBNI Board of Trustees.

The GBNI President, Vice-President, Chairperson, Chaplain and Board Representatives are appointed by Council representatives on behalf of the district. The Council entrusts policy formation and the general management of GBNI Ltd. to the GBNI Board of Trustees.

This is a key body within the GBNI structure, and your district should elect two Commissioned Officers and/or Chaplains to represent your district on the Council. They meet three times a year at GBHQ and are invited to attend a number of key events in the GBNI calendar.

Please note that Council Representatives are required to regularly attend District Executive meetings and provide a written

summary report to the District Executive outlining all the outcomes from Council meetings. They should seek members' views and report any responses back to the GBNI Brigade Council for further discussion.

Please discuss this with your leaders and inform your District Secretary before the meeting the names of those interested in representing the district at Brigade Council.

## Prayer Coordinator

The intention for this role is to share between the districts any prayer requests that may come into GBHQ, as well as coordinating prayer requests within individual districts. This would ideally be through a WhatsApp group or by email. The coordinator may be required to attend one meeting in GBHQ and plan a prayer gathering within the district should they wish to do so. GBHQ can help facilitate this. This role can be held by any Commissioned Officer, Chaplain or Reserve Officer who feels they have the gifts to fulfil this role and to encourage and support the companies within their district in prayer. Please pass the names of anyone interested in fulfilling this role onto your District Secretary prior to the meeting.

Please that this role has no maximum term of office like other roles.

## Youth Reps

Please share this  
with your young  
leaders.



Unfortunately, young women aged 18-25 are still vastly under-represented in our District Executives, GBNI Teams and our GBNI Youth Forum. We need as many young women as possible to take part in these areas so we can achieve effective youth-led decision-making at all levels within Girls' Brigade.

### District Youth Reps

Each district requires two young women aged 18-25 to represent girls and young women on their District Executive. If your district has more than two young people nominated for the Youth Representative positions, a vote is needed to elect the representatives.

### GBNI Teams Youth Reps

There are two Youth Representative positions reserved on each of the GBNI Teams. These can be filled by young women aged 18-25 from any district in GBNI. They can request which GBNI Team to serve on, according to their skills and interests. GBNI Teams meet four to six times a year at GBHQ and/or online with opportunities to serve at team events.

Serving on the District Executive or GBNI Teams requires commitment

and a good level of confidence and communication skills. We must have youth representation in these areas so that the views of our young people can be considered in key decision-making.

### GBNI Youth Forum

District and Team Youth Representatives make up the GBNI Youth Forum. This group is for young women aged 14 - 25 and meet several times a year to share what is happening in each of the teams and districts. There will also be time at these meetings for discussions on appropriate topics that may benefit young women in their spiritual journey. Plus, it is a great way to meet and make new GB friends. Find out more about the GBNI Youth Forum by visiting [www.gbni.uk/youth-forum](http://www.gbni.uk/youth-forum)

Check with your District Secretary for any Youth Representative vacancies. Discuss the different opportunities with potential young women in your company and encourage them to consider putting their names forward. Before the meeting, inform your District Secretary of anyone interested in serving as either a District Youth Representative or GBNI Team Youth Representative.





## Chaplains

Two company Chaplains are to be elected to serve on the District Executive. GBNI values the encouragement, support and pastoral care that our Chaplains bring to GB. We would like to encourage our Chaplains to serve on the District Executive to bring their experience and knowledge to assist GB in its Vision and Strategy.

Chaplains should prayerfully consider this opportunity and the positive contribution they could make to the work of Girls' Brigade. Any Chaplain who does not want their name to be included on the voting paper should inform their Captain before the meeting.

Please note a GB Chaplain may be an ordained minister, deaconess or other person appointed by the church with oversight of the church/mission.

Ideally, the appointed company Chaplains would hold the role of either District Chairperson or District Chaplain. Where this is not possible, these roles can be filled by others within the District Executive.

## Stewarding

Open to anyone aged 18+ who would be willing to attend and assist at two/three national or district events over the GB session.

Duties range from meeting and greeting, registration desk, serving refreshments to managing crowd flow.

Please pass the names of anyone interested in stewarding to your District Secretary before the meeting.

## Reserve Officers

Officers on the GBNI Reserve Officer Register for 2024/25 are welcome to attend the AGM, however, they are not eligible to vote on district decisions.

If willing, they can contribute to the work of the district either informally or by representing them as an Office Bearer or on a GBNI Team.

Reserve Officers may be co-opted onto the District Executive and may hold positions of office under the same conditions as all other post-holders.

## Past Members Association

Those registered as part of the Past Members' Association are welcome to attend the AGM, however, they are not eligible to vote on district decisions and cannot serve on the District Executive.

# Opportunities to serve in GBNI

Purpose of Teams in GBNI: To assist in the leadership of GBNI around an agreed Vision, Aim and Values and ensure the organisation fulfils its financial and legal responsibilities and promotes best practice.

TEAM	PURPOSE: TO...	WE NEED PEOPLE WHO ARE/ HAVE...
All Teams	<p>Assist in the leadership and running of GBNI.</p> <p>Ensure GBNI Strategy and plans are effectively implemented.</p> <p>Ensure GBNI provides high-quality services that meet the needs and expectations of all members'.</p> <p>Ensure that GBNI's resources are managed prudently and accountably.</p> <p>Ensure GBNI generates sufficient income to achieve its Aim and Objectives.</p> <p>Ensure that GBNI fulfils its responsibilities for the safety, health and welfare of volunteers, staff and visitors.</p> <p>Ensure there are good relationships between the GBNI Board, District Executives, staff and volunteers and other relevant agencies.</p> <p>Team members are required to report all outcomes from each team meeting to their District Executive. They should seek members' views and report any responses to their team for further discussion.</p>	<p>A desire to serve God.</p> <p>Passionate for the work of GBNI.</p> <p>Commitment to helping GBNI move forward.</p> <p>The ability to see the 'big picture'.</p> <p>The ability to work to deadlines.</p> <p>Gifts to encourage companies to recognise and embrace the Vision Statement.</p> <p>The ability to work as a team member and/or use own initiative.</p> <p>Excellent organisational and coordination skills.</p> <p>Good communication skills.</p> <p>The ability to make decisions on behalf of others and feedback information.</p> <p>Committed to attending the majority of their team's meetings.</p>
Brigade Council	<p>Vision and leadership.</p> <p>Plan and drive the Strategic Vision of GBNI.</p> <p>Input into the major strategic decisions.</p> <p>Meetings: Three times per year plus attend key events in the GBNI calendar.</p>	<p>Strategic thinker.</p> <p>Able to debate issues effectively.</p> <p>Able to make decisions that will further the Aim and Vision of GBNI.</p> <p>A broad experience of company life, district work etc.</p> <p>European/International focus.</p>
Spiritual	<p>Plan, prepare and deliver the annual Scripture Course.</p> <p>Develop the spiritual aspects of the Girls' Brigade calendar.</p> <p>Encourage companies to work towards our Vision Statement.</p> <p>Meeting: approx. four times per year.</p>	<p>Experience in preparing and teaching scripture material for children and teenagers.</p> <p>Passionate about spreading the Gospel, helping girls engage in the Bible and grow as a disciple.</p> <p>New, innovative, creative, relevant ideas to include in the programme e.g. prayer, dramas and music.</p>
Programme	<p>Plan, prepare and deliver the GBNI Programme, including the development of new badgework ideas.</p> <p>Equip companies with materials, helping them to achieve our Vision Statement.</p> <p>Review and revise the programme for each Section.</p> <p>Meetings: approx. four times per year.</p>	<p>Enthusiastic about developing badgework within Girls' Brigade.</p> <p>New, creative, relevant ideas to include within the GBNI Programme.</p>
Activities	<p>Oversee and manage a range of physical, educational and creative events which reach a wide range of girls within GB.</p> <p>Provide a programme of activities to enhance the all-round development of our members'.</p> <p>Look after competitions (other than PE), social events, sporting and creative activities.</p> <p>Develop new activities and partnerships with professional bodies.</p> <p>Meetings: approx. five times per year.</p>	<p>Skilled in any of the following areas: speech and drama, music (instrumental and vocal), sound recordings, arts and crafts, dance, sports etc.</p> <p>Event management experience.</p> <p>The ability to introduce a new skill that could potentially enhance our programme of activities.</p> <p>Able to steward at NI competitions and other events.</p> <p>Ideally, First Aid trained.</p>
PE	<p>Assess and manage dance, PE and fitness within GBNI.</p> <p>Plan and coordinate the annual PE competitions.</p> <p>Assist and support worksetters throughout the year.</p> <p>Meetings: approx. five times per year.</p>	<p>Be able to steward at the various PE competitions.</p> <p>Interested in encouraging and developing PE within Girls' Brigade.</p> <p>Practical dance experience.</p> <p>Be able to attend vetting as part of the worksetters process.</p> <p>Develop new worksetters.</p>
Duke of Ed. Award	<p>Run the Award in Girls' Brigade.</p> <p>Meetings: approx. four times per year.</p>	<p>Knowledge and experience of the Award.</p> <p>Experience in outdoor pursuits.</p>
Training	<p>Responsible for the programme of training offered to new and existing leaders in GB.</p> <p>Meetings: approx. four times per year.</p>	<p>Experience in assessing training needs.</p> <p>Experience in coordinating company/district training.</p>
Queen's Award	<p>Oversee and manage the Queen's Award Programme.</p> <p>To consider new and innovative ways to increase the impact of the Award.</p> <p>Assist with interview and presentation evenings.</p> <p>Meetings: approx. six times per year.</p>	<p>Knowledge and enthusiasm about developing the Award within Girls' Brigade.</p> <p>New, creative, relevant ideas to include within certain elements of the Award.</p> <p>Interview and assessment skills.</p>

## District AGM Dates and Venues

District Name	AGM Date	Venue	AGM Time
1 - Castlewood	7th May 2025	St Mary's Parish, Ballybeen	7:30 PM
2 - Shaftesbury	6th May 2025	Finaghy Methodist	7:30 PM
3 - Cavehill	14th May 2025	Shankill Methodist	7:30 PM
4 - Ards	14th May 2025	Carrowdore Presbyterian	7:30 PM
5 - Strangford and Mourne	29th April 2025	Clough Presbyterian	7:30 PM
6 - Lagan	13th May 2025	Trinity Methodist, Lisburn	7:00 PM
7 - Mid Ulster	6th May 2025	Redrock Presbyterian	7:30 PM
8 - Glenabbey	7th May 2025	Whitehouse Presbyterian	7:30 PM
9 - East Antrim	9th May 2025	Ballynure Presbyterian	7:00 PM
10 - North Antrim	8th May 2025	The Carrie Restaurant, Kells	7:00 PM
11 - North West	7th May 2025	Banagher Presbyterian	7:30 PM
12 - West Ulster	6th May 2025	Mountjoy Presbyterian	7:30 PM
13 - Riada	29th April 2025	Royal Court, Portrush	7:00 PM
14 - Bann	6th May 2025	Banbridge Methodist	7:30 PM
15 - Lough Neagh	1st May 2025	Randalstown OC Presbyterian	7:15 PM

## District Secretary Contact Details

District Name	Name	Telephone	Email Address
1 - Castlewood	Denyse Paul	07549 255925	annunciation@gbni.co.uk
2 - Shaftesbury	Jacqueline McKechnie	N/A	district2@gbni.co.uk
3 - Cavehill	Helen Weatherald	07543 634178	cavehilldistrictgb@hotmail.co.uk
4 - Ards	Louise Pyper	N/A	district4@gbni.co.uk
5 - Strangford and Mourne	Noelle Martin	07749 401491	gbdistrict5@gmail.com
6 - Lagan	Lesley Duckworth	07742 909580	district6@gbni.co.uk
7 - Mid Ulster	Jill McClelland	07710 588584	highstreet@gbni.co.uk
8 - Glenabbey	Karen Borghmans	07866 222838	goodshepherd@gbni.co.uk
9 - East Antrim	Nicola Wolfe	N/A	district9gbni@gmail.com
10 - North Antrim	Claire Calderwood	07817 297997	district10@gbni.co.uk
11 - North West	Ruth Thompson	N/A	glendermott@gbni.co.uk
12 - West Ulster	Christine Birney	07933 990147	district12@gbni.co.uk
13 - Riada	Irene Dorrans	07545 565470	district13@gbni.co.uk
14 - Bann	Sharon Moffett	07921 999948	ballydown@gbni.co.uk
15 - Lough Neagh	Ruth McNaul	07725 008761	dundrod@gbni.co.uk

When using the @gbni email addresses above, your email will be re-directed to your District Secretary's personal email account.



# GO WILD AT GB

Lots of GB companies completed Go Wild at GB this session. Check out some highlights shared with us below.

Juniors from **111th NI Newtownabbey Methodist Mission** had a great time painting rocks, getting messy and ensuring the birds in Newtownabbey were well fed by making some fab bird feeders.



The girls from **99th NI Priesthill Methodist GB** were kept busy learning more about the story of Creation, going on a bug hunt, taking a closer look at nature using microscopes and magnifying glasses, finding out about animals that hibernate, making clay hedgehogs, creating bird puppets and bird feeders!



Check out these fab bird feeders made by the Juniors from **236th NI Armoy Presbyterian GB**.

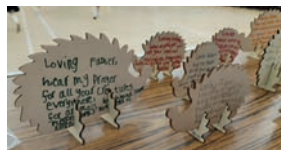


Everyone from 112th NI Edengrove Presbyterian worked together to create a fabulous wildlife zone and bug hotel, aptly named Bug-ingham Palace at the front of their church. Seniors painted an old doll's house, the Under 5s and Explorers made mini bug habitats, then the Juniors filled the gaps to make the hotel a palace!



The Juniors from 225th NI Ballywatt Presbyterian enjoyed looking out for wildlife at home and at GB. The girls also filled a bug hotel and presented it to the playgroup to have in their garden/outdoor play area.

The Explorers and Juniors from 200th NI St James's Presbyterian completed over 400 hours together in support of wildlife. WOW! The girls went on wildlife walks, learnt about hedgehogs, made bird feeders and a bug hotel, counted birds at home, completed learning quizzes, planted seeds to attract birds and insects and so much, much more !







## Body Image Workshop

In a world where we are constantly compared, contrasted and contoured, what does it mean to be made in God's image?

The body image workshop looked at how intricately we are made and challenged the view that society places on us as females to always be picture perfect.



Leaders were asked to think about when you look in the mirror, what do you think? And that nobody needs to tell you about our flaws. The workshop went on to challenge that mindset and look at what God says about our image. The workshop was delivered by Made for More, who provided not only an opportunity for leaders to learn about this topic, but resources that they could take away and use with their

**Leaders'**

**Thank  
You**

**Event**



**MORE  
INFORMATION  
COMING SOON**



GBNI Event subsidised by the EA Volunteer Development Fund



# Queen's Award

## Interviews

We are so thankful to all the volunteers who generously give of their time to conduct Queen's Award interview panels; it really is very much appreciated. We asked Lauren McKeary from 273rd NI Ballymoney Reformed Presbyterian to share her thoughts as a first time panellist.

### From the other side of the table!

"I successfully achieved my Queen's Award in 2021, something I am very proud of! Despite the challenges and obstacles that Covid-19 brought to completing the Award; I thoroughly enjoyed the two years, and all the assessments involved. It helped me to develop in so many ways, both personally and spiritually. The skills I have gained from each of the different sections of the Award have carried with me through my studies at university, full time employment and also my role as an Officer within my company.



Moving from achieving the Queen's Award, to sitting on one of the interview panels, was not something I ever thought I would have the opportunity to do. However, I am so glad to have been involved. Taking on the role of an interviewer allows you to see the Award from a different perspective, to encourage the girls to grow in their faith, continue developing their confidence, and embracing the new skills they have learnt. It was so lovely to hear all about the girls' involvement with the Award and how it has positively impacted their lives.

For me, this experience proves the important work of the Girls' Brigade. As it continues to inspire and empower future generations of Christian women, equipping them for their futures, whatever they choose to do."





# Explorer

# Fun Day



# BOOKINGS NOW OPEN!

Invite your little Explorers, ages 3 to 7, for an exciting day with full park access and a craft session—all for just £5 each. Don't forget to pack a lunch!

**ULSTER AMERICAN  
FOLK PARK OMAGH**  
**SATURDAY 26TH APRIL 2025**

[www.gbni.co.uk/omagh](http://www.gbni.co.uk/omagh)



**LEADERS  
LOGIN TO  
BOOK YOUR  
PLACES!**

**ULSTER FOLK  
MUSEUM CULTRA**  
**SATURDAY 24TH MAY 2025**

[www.gbni.co.uk/cultra](http://www.gbni.co.uk/cultra)

# Choral

# Speaking

## GBNI Explorer and Junior Choral Speaking Final

On Saturday 8th March 2025 at Knocknamuckley Parish, a total of six teams took part in the NI Final of Explorer Choral Speaking and five teams took part in the NI Final of Junior Choral Speaking.

All of the teams were excellent and a great day was had by all.

Congratulations to our winners:

### Explorers



1<sup>st</sup>

202nd NI Knocknamuckley Parish A



2<sup>nd</sup>

282nd NI Woodlands  
Presbyterian



3<sup>rd</sup>

106th NI Ballygowan  
Presbyterian A

## Juniors



**1<sup>st</sup>** 106th NI Ballygowan Presbyterian



**2<sup>nd</sup>** 8th NI Trinity  
Presbyterian Bangor



**3<sup>rd</sup>** 29th NI Cregagh  
Congregational

Many thanks to our Adjudicator, Dawn Wilson, and to the Activities Team for their help in organising the competition. Thanks also to 202nd NI Knocknamuckley Parish for hosting the NI Final and District 7 for their help too. Thanks also to all the leaders and parents who gave their support to the teams.

Finally, thank you to all of the girls who took part, at all levels, of the competition.



PE

# Results

GBNI was delighted to host the NI PE Finals in February 2025. The Finals took place at Parkhall Integrated College, Antrim on Saturday 1st February for Explorers and Brigaders and on Saturday 8th February for Juniors and Seniors.

On Friday 21st February, the Associate PE NI Finals were held at Trinity Methodist Church, Lisburn. It was fantastic to see so many girls taking part and having fun, along with many spectators also enjoying the competitions. GBNI would like to thank everyone who helped to make these events possible, and would also like to congratulate and thank each and every girl who took part in the PE Finals. It was evident that many hours of hard work and dedication had been put into every performance, not just by the girls, but also by their leaders and Parents/ Guardians who helped them get ready to put on such a fabulous performance.

Very well done to you all,  
you should be very proud of  
yourselves!

## Explorer Team



1<sup>st</sup>

142nd NI Kilmakee Presbyterian



2<sup>nd</sup>

28th NI First Bangor  
Presbyterian



3<sup>rd</sup>

106th NI Ballygowan  
Presbyterian A

## Brigader Solo



1<sup>st</sup>

21st NI Glengormley Methodist -  
Evie Wallace



2<sup>nd</sup>

38th NI Second Comber  
Presbyterian - Niamh Scates



3<sup>rd</sup>

8th NI Trinity Presbyterian Bangor -  
Lily Hamilton

## Brigader Team



1<sup>st</sup>

106th NI Ballygowan  
Presbyterian A



2<sup>nd</sup>

21st NI Glengormley  
Methodist



3<sup>rd</sup>

8th NI Trinity Presbyterian  
Bangor

## Junior Team



1<sup>st</sup>

115th NI First Comber Presbyterian

## Junior/Senior

## Solo Skipping



1<sup>st</sup>

52nd NI Whitehouse Presbyterian - Emily Redfern



2<sup>nd</sup>

21st NI Glengormley Methodist



2<sup>nd</sup>

21st NI Glengormley Methodist - Ruby McAuley



3<sup>rd</sup>

28th NI First Bangor Presbyterian



3<sup>rd</sup>

4th NI First Lisburn Presbyterian - Sarah Shepherd



## Junior/Senior Team



1<sup>st</sup>

62nd NI Hamilton Road  
Presbyterian



2<sup>nd</sup>

142nd NI Kilmakee  
Presbyterian



3<sup>rd</sup>

8th NI Trinity Presbyterian  
Bangor A

## Associate Solo



1<sup>st</sup>

8th NI Trinity Presbyterian  
Bangor - Rachel Perry



2<sup>nd</sup>

106th NI Ballygowan  
Presbyterian - Ellen James



3<sup>rd</sup>

160th NI St Pauls Parish  
Lisburn - Jade Lewis

## Associate Team



**1<sup>st</sup>** 160th NI St Pauls Parish Lisburn



**2<sup>nd</sup>** 106th NI Ballygowan Presbyterian A



**3<sup>rd</sup>** 106th NI Ballygowan Presbyterian B

Thank

You!

Thank you to everyone who supported the girls and leaders at all the GBNI competitions this year. We are particularly grateful to everyone who supported the GBNI ICGB Team with their fundraising at the NI Competition Finals.

It was great to partner with Habitat for Humanity to run our Art Competition this year for the Explorer and Junior sections. For the competition, the Explorers had a colouring competition and the Juniors had to design a poster encouraging people to shop/donate/volunteer at their nearest Habitat ReStore.

The standard of entries for both competitions was extremely high, and Habitat for Humanity had the difficult job of adjudicating the entries.

We had a total of 1148 entries for the Explorer competition and 659 for the Junior competition with five from each section being awarded a Top 5 place and 45 from each section being awarded Highly Commended.

Well done and thank you to everyone who took part.



112th NI Edengrove  
Presbyterian - Isla Hewitt  
McSparron



120th NI Annalong Presbyterian  
- Lily McConnell



# Explorers continued...

255th NI Tandragee  
Presbyterian - Caitlin Strain



304th NI Mosside Presbyterian -  
Emma Simpson



162nd NI Ballynure Presbyterian  
- Erika Murray



## Juniors Top 5



115th NI First Comber  
Presbyterian - Annie  
McMenamin





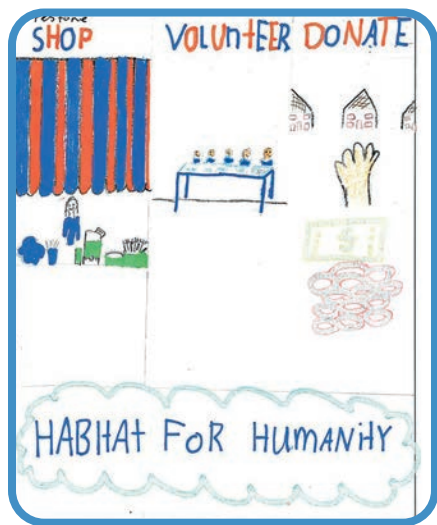
12th NI Magheragall  
Presbyterian - Orla Wellings



375th NI Railway Street  
Presbyterian - Hope Bryson



375th NI Railway Street  
Presbyterian - Freya Burrows



221st NI Magherafelt  
Presbyterian - Bella Watterson

# Meeting

## Jesus

### GBNI Scripture Course 2025-26

The greatest joy in Girls' Brigade is to share the love of God with young lives. This is the very heart of everything that we do. It's our mission, and it's a privilege.

When our girls come to their company nights they will expect to meet with their Officers, meet with their friends and enjoy the time they spend together. But they should also expect to meet with Jesus every time they put on the uniform.

That is the aim of this coming year's Scripture Course. *Meeting Jesus*.

Over the course of ten lessons, we will see the impact that Jesus had on those He met. Along the way we will learn about people like Nicodemus, Zaccheus, Thomas, The Samaritan Woman and others as well.

As always, these lessons are written in such a manner as to help companies deliver the Good News of Jesus in a clear and

interesting way so all our girls can *Meet Jesus* too.

The stories will include the following:

- Jesus and the Jewish leader.
- Jesus and the paralysed man.
- Jesus and the lepers.
- Jesus and the woman at the well.
- Jesus and the rich young man.
- Jesus and the generous woman.
- Jesus and the unpopular outcast.
- Jesus and the real criminals.
- Jesus and the doubting disciple.
- Jesus and the travellers.



# Scripture Course Order Form 2025/26

**DEADLINE: Monday 26th May 2025.** The Scripture Course is NOW available to order online via the GBNI Shop ([www.gbni.co.uk/shop](http://www.gbni.co.uk/shop)). Please order online as this will help us to process your order more efficiently. If this is not possible then please complete the form below and send to GBHQ prior to the deadline date.

Name:			
Company:		District:	
Email address:			
Tel. No:			

Product code	Item Description	Qty Required	Unit Price	Total £'s
800130	Under 5s Leader Magazine		£4.20	
800131	Under 5s Poster and Stickers		£0.80	
800132	Explorer Activity Book		£1.00	
800133	Junior Puzzle Book		£1.00	
800134	Explorer/Junior Teaching Notes <i>(This supports the, Explorer Activity Book and Junior Puzzle books)</i>		£6.00	
800135	Senior/Brigader Journal		£1.00	
800136	Senior/Brigader Teaching Notes		£4.40	
	COURIER SERVICE - <i>This is per company and is regardless of the size of your order. Your August Pack will be included, (please fill in your address overleaf)</i>		£7.50	
Please ensure you keep this cheque payment separate from any other payment to Girls' Brigade Northern Ireland. Cheques may be made payable to GBNI or GBNI Shop. Please note that orders cannot be processed without payment.				Total

**ORDERING:**

Unfortunately, with no exceptions, orders cannot be taken after the deadline of 26th May at 5pm. To avoid disappointment, please ensure your orders are with us on time. A small overstock is ordered and will be put online for sale from 15th September 2025. This overstock is limited and designed to facilitate companies who need a few extra copies for new members, but will not be able to facilitate full companies who have missed the deadline.

**Collection:**

The August Packs and Scripture Course will be ready for collection from Monday 11th August 2025 at GBHQ (opening hours Monday - Thursday 9.30 am - 5 pm, Friday 9.30 pm - 4 pm). If you are choosing the courier service your order will be dispatched from 11th August 2025.

*Please note: If your order is not collected by 30th September 2025, they will be sent by courier to you. You will be asked to forward payment of £7.50 before your order is despatched.*

**If you wish to have your material couriered to you then please fill in your address details below:**

Name:			
Billing address:		Shipping address: (if different from billing address)	
Postcode:		Postcode:	
Signed:		Date:	
Order received by:		Date order received:	



# Behind the Scenes

## at PE Finals

Arriving early to make sure  
to get a good seat, just like  
Grace and Beth!

Have you ever wondered what  
happens at the NI PE Finals?  
Here is a brief snapshot  
of the day!



Finding time to mark the  
floor and squeeze in some  
last minute practice and  
team bonding.





All teams coming together to pray before marching onto the floor to start the competition.



After performing, all teams and soloists will have their uniform marked.



Once all teams/soloists have performed and the marks for performance and uniform collated, the Adjudicator has the opportunity to congratulate all the girls and share her comments. Medals and certificates are awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. All teams/soloists taking part are also presented with their certificate.

There are so many people working behind the scenes. The Chair and Co-Chair, Sound Engineer, leaders manning the charity tea and coffee stands and Car Park Attendants. Not forgetting St John's Ambulance, who are always on standby - just in case!



After a busy day, there is just time for a quick selfie. Before clean-up begins and everyone heads home!



We hope this gives you an idea of what happens at the NI PE Finals. Maybe next year, we might see you there?

# Girls' Brigade NI

## Online Shop

### Opening Hours

Monday - Thursday 9.30 am - 5 pm

Friday 9.30 am - 4 pm

### Large Company Orders

Large display orders should be placed online at [gbni.co.uk/shop](http://gbni.co.uk/shop)

If your order is for collection, please use the 'Customer notes about order or safe place' box to indicate when you plan to collect your order.

Normal packing time during the busy months of March and April is three-five working days.

Please check with Customer Service that your order is ready for collection before travelling to GBHQ. Unfortunately, large orders cannot be placed in-store and collected on the same day.

### Size Sets

Size/colour sample sets are available in uniforms, hoodies, coloured polo shirts and showerproof jackets.

Sample sets will be available to book from Monday 2nd June, for the 2025/26 session.

Sample sets can be booked for up to one week. To book, please get in touch with the GBNI Shop. Please ensure sample sets are returned by the agreed date.

### Contact

Email: [customerservice@gbni.co.uk](mailto:customerservice@gbni.co.uk)

Tel: 028 9454 8054

[www.gbni.co.uk](http://www.gbni.co.uk)