



finder

Jesus said,  
"I am the  
way..."

A publication of *Bailiesmills* Reformed Presbyterian Church

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# AND THE OUTLOOK FOR FUTUROLOGY IS...?

**THERE is**, believe it or not, a discipline called "Futurology". It's the study of "possible, probable and preferable futures and the worldviews that underlie them." It's one manifestation of the common desire to know and manipulate the future. The dark side of this desire is expressed by astrology and other occult practices. Much more mundane is the daydreaming to which many of us are addicted: if only we could predict the future accurately and then prepare to take maximum advantage of it!

More often than not the best we can do is to use induction. Induction looks at past trends and projects them forward. If conditions are stable, this can

be a fruitful way of making provision for the future. So, for example, if my job is secure and I am in good health, then taking out a mortgage to buy a house seems like a reasonable course of action – I should be able to keep up the payments.

## **What the turkey didn't know**

The trouble with this is that conditions can and do change suddenly, as the turkey discovered on Christmas Eve. Everything was going well for the festive bird: corn was supplied day after day, and it was putting on weight. Thinking inductively, the turkey reckoned it had a golden future. But on 24 December the future dealt the turkey an unforeseen wild card.

In a similar way, induction fails us when we lose our job, or our mobility in a road traffic accident, or our house in a fire, or a loved one to disease. But because we are aware of these possibilities we take out payment protection schemes, car insurance, and life policies. We lay down contingency plans for the things we cannot predict, but which we know are possibilities.

### **Death and taxes**

When the American constitution was established in 1788, it appeared to guarantee stability. But as Benjamin Franklin wryly observed, “Nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes”. Yet even Franklin’s observation is inductive. What if there were to be a sudden end to the system of “death and taxes”? Some people predict an end to taxes as the result of the collapse of civil society. But an end to death!? Surely not!

### **The abolition of death**

Actually, yes. The resurrection of Jesus Christ abolished death. He was raised by the power of God to a new quality of life – indestructible, powerful and glorious life. He cannot die again. Moreover, he is returning to this world. The day of his return will bring history to a sudden climax – unpredictable by any number of futurologists.

On that day there will be a general resurrection followed by a general judgement. All bets will be off; all plans and investments for the future of this world will prove to be ill-founded; but everyone who has longed for Christ’s coming will enter into a new world and an inheritance that will never fall into ruin, be corrupted by evil, or disappoint (see 1 Peter 1 verses 3-9).

This is the Christian hope – not a possible or a probable future, but a certain one, and infinitely preferable.



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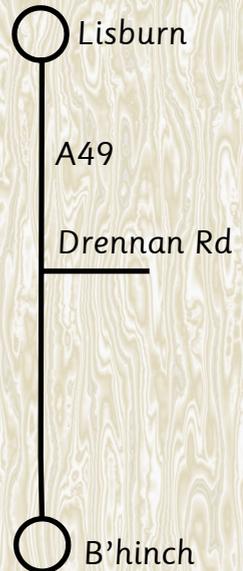
**Bailiesmills** Reformed Presbyterian Church. It aims to provide a Reformed Outlook on life.

The Reformed Outlook is a total view of life...it's a way of saying, "Jesus Christ is Lord!"

**Bailiesmills** is a Bible-based, confessional and evangelical congregation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland.

The church building is at 15 Drennan Road, Lisburn, BT27 6UT.

Drennan Road is on the A49, 4.0 miles from Lisburn, and 4.7 miles from Ballynahinch.

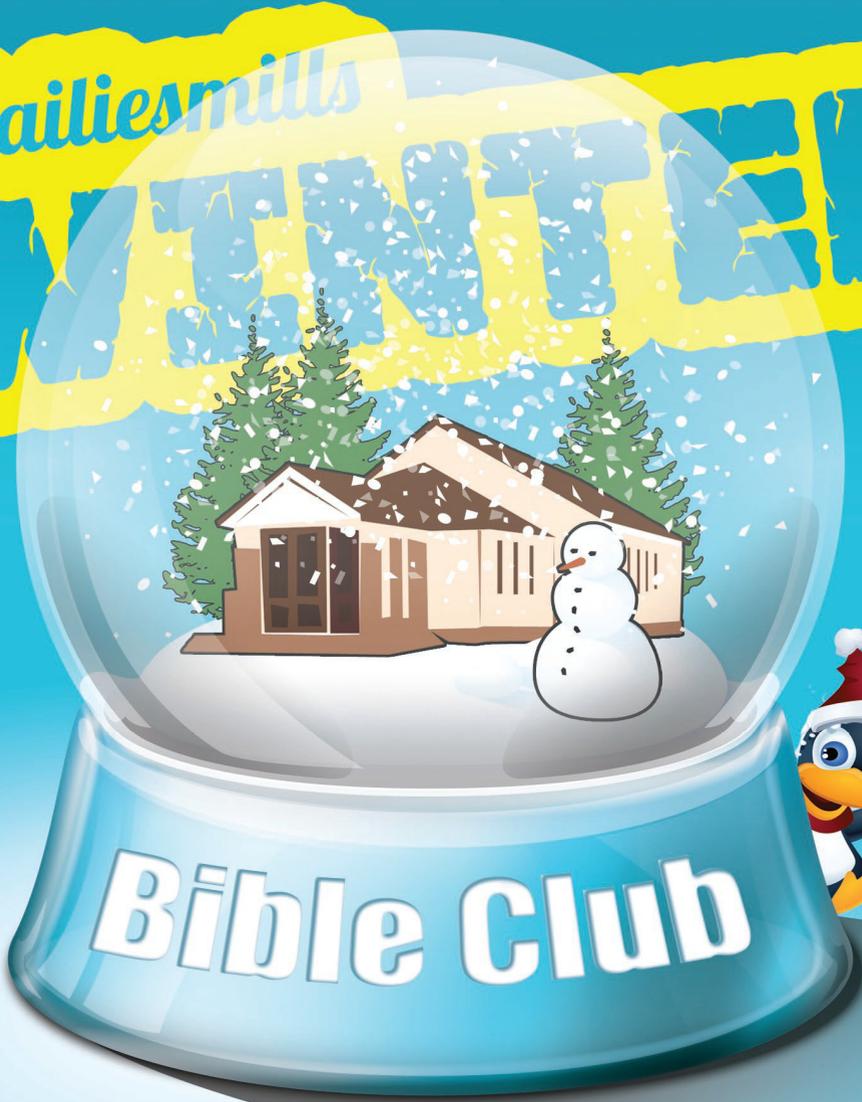


For more information contact our minister, John Watterson, on (028) 92639684, or check out the congregational website, [bailiesmills.rpc.org](http://bailiesmills.rpc.org).



*Bailiesmills*

**WINTER**



**Bible Club**



*Bailiesmills*

Reformed  
Presbyterian  
Church

*September-March*

Last Saturday  
of every month

**6:30-8:15pm**

**FOR KIDS AGED 4-11**

