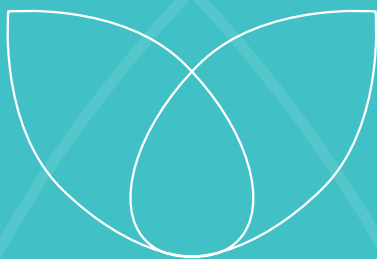




SPRING 2022



DIOCESE OF DOWN & DROMORE

Church Planting News

Keith writes...



Dear Friends,

One of the main reasons for the effectiveness of Jesus' earthly ministry was its grounding in compassion for those who were hurting, forgotten, or in need. He was troubled and moved in his spirit and often reached out to touch the marginalised in the communities he encountered. Jesus showed them the love of God, respecting them as individuals made in God's image and sought to build relationships with them.

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd (Matt. 9:36)

In church planting, sharing the good news of Jesus goes hand-in-hand with reaching out in compassion to the communities where God has placed us. Through practical action we can demonstrate God's love for those in need and make God's kingdom visible to people who have no engagement with the church and no understanding of the Christian message. Compassion ministries create opportunities to share Christ with broken-hearted people and touch the lives of those who would not otherwise have welcomed Christians or their message of hope.

This edition of Church Plant News highlights the work of our church plants in modelling God's compassion through Christians Against Poverty, food bank provision and mental health support within our communities as well as in their responses to the conflict in Ukraine.

Our monthly Ministry Leadership Days for leaders of church plants and pioneer ministries have continued at the T3 Conference Centre, Lisburn. Since January, we have been delighted to welcome back Mark Melliush, Assistant National Leader of New Wine UK in February, Stephen



Bloomfield, Danske Bank in March and Bishop Ken Good in April.

We are grateful for God's faithful provision in supporting the work of church planting. In the first four months of this year, church planting in Down and Dromore has received funding from the Church of Ireland Priorities Fund £29k, Church of Ireland Orphans and Children's Society £16k, Down and Dromore parishes £7k, Diocesan council £3.3k, Black Santa £1.5k and regular donors £3.6k in addition to £21k in one-off donations from individuals and £31k in grants from charities.

Over the summer, our church plants extend a warm welcome to you to join them for worship on a Sunday. We have our churches because of faithful people who have planted churches in previous generations. Encourage our church planters by standing shoulder-to-shoulder with them as they seek to connect and share the gospel with individuals in their communities as well as laying the foundation to reach future generations.

Every blessing,

Keith Gardiner
Fundraising Officer for Church Growth



SHOWING GOD'S COMPASSION...



Why Compassion Ministries?



"Christians Against Poverty (CAP) work with, help and support some of the most vulnerable in society. Alongside that wonderful practical support here in the Portadown area, we get to share the love of God and the wonderful Good News of Jesus."

Revd Jim Fleming,
Killicomaine Community Church



"At The Gathering we want to develop a Kingdom building strategy where the church meets the needs of the community God has called us to serve. As we do this, we have found simple and meaningful acts of kindness can, more often than not, pave the way to greater opportunities to build relationships and carve out those God conversations we all long to have."

Ross Munro, The Gathering Belfast



"We want to connect people in Jesus by being His church in and for Dundrum. As a church family that means sharing the greatest thing we have, the good news about Jesus; it means sharing what he has blessed us with to meet the needs of others and it means doing all of that with a Christlike kindness, grace and compassion."

Colin Morris,
St Donard's Community Church



"It was really early on in my journey of leading Braniel Community Church that it was clear that, not only was there a need in the area, but a hunger amongst our members to be able to fulfil those needs in some way. It's a privilege to be able to do something to help and bring some hope to those around us."

James Crockett,
Braniel Community Church



Action and Impact...



CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

Killicomaine's Revd Jim Fleming is currently CAP's Area Manager in Northern Ireland and a Debt Coach working in the Portadown area with the most vulnerable – those with mental health issues, addicts, people with learning disabilities, etc. "We offer really good practical tools; free help with unmanageable debt, courses to return to employment and how to live well on a low income. Through these ministries we have been able to build relationships into the community, bring much needed help, share Jesus and point people towards our regular gatherings and courses in Killicomaine. It can be slow and difficult work, requiring much patience and understanding. There are disappointments and difficulties but also much joy in seeing people 'repent and believe' and start to become followers of Jesus!"

FOOD POVERTY

Branial Community Church partners with Dundonald Foodbank as Foodbank Referral agents for the Branial Area and the church offers a collection point for that ministry. It's now headed up by Laura and David Beattie who live in the area. They say, "We enjoy helping with the Foodbank as it's a very practical way of showing God's love within our local community. As living expenses soar, the Foodbank is becoming a lifeline for an increasing number of people finding themselves in crisis. It's a privilege to be able to do something to help and bring some hope to those around us."

"**St Donard's Community Church** has a strong partnership with 'The Pantry', a local foodbank which serves the Castlewellan, Dundrum and Newcastle areas. In recent months, the need has

increased with more than 60 homes needing support each week. As a church, we act as a referral agency ensuring that those who need help most get the help they need. We also collect food items each week in church and several of our church family volunteer with sorting food packages and delivery throughout the area."

"**The Gathering** has been partnering with a local residents' group, Kingsmill bakery and the Ledley Hall in East Belfast to provide basic essentials for folks on the doorstep of the church. Every Tuesday, tables are left outside full of food products. The gates of the church are left open, and people are free to take what they need. This compassion ministry not only sees those struggling get support but has now blossomed into a community drop-in meeting twice a month. The kids of those parents using this service are now filtering into our youth club and Sunday ministries."



SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH

"In **Dundrum** we focused on caring for the mental health of young families during the lockdowns. We delivered various 'care packages' which helped families to divert attention away from the various stressors and instead to spend time together as a family, watching movies, telling stories, having dance parties as well as taking time to talk and think about God. Over time, as we have become more established in the community, we have found that people are beginning to reach out in times of crisis. One person found themselves with nowhere to sleep, except the back seat of their car. Another had their cooker fail on Christmas Eve. In this and other instances, those involved felt they could reach out to the church, seeking help and we were more than happy to do so through the generosity of our church family."

"**Branial Community Church** leadership took part in Mental Health First Aid Training during the first round of lockdowns. As a result, we have been able to help with pastoral visits to people in the area and to signpost those in

greatest need to professional help. It has been a real blessing to be able to pray for people in their homes, and to help people in immediate need to find that help and support."

RESPONSE TO THE UKRAINE CRISIS

The Gathering partnered with a Romanian charity in the Republic of Ireland, and through contacts in a Presbyterian church in Newtownabbey and churches in both Dublin and Moldova, supplies of toiletries, bedding and food were collected, sorted, boxed and transported to the refugees arriving at the border with Ukraine. Four lorry loads were collected and delivered.

"For me though," says Ross Munro, "the greatest encouragement in the whole process was that those doing the boxing and the organising of all the donations coming in from across the diocese were those same people whose lives have been impacted by our simple compassion ministry on the table each Tuesday. Those same folks coming to the church in need were now giving back and finding purpose within the Kingdom of God."



PRAY



Please pray for our church planters as they show compassion to the broken in our communities and share the gospel in Down and Dromore. Pray for:

- **Faithfulness** - that they would prioritise their relationship with Jesus.
- **Wisdom** - in the words that they choose and the decisions that they make.
- **Favour** - with public representatives, businesses and organisations.
- **Courage** - when faced with disappointment, obstacles and opposition.
- **Opportunities** - to build relationships and share their faith.
- **Encouragement** - by seeing God move in the lives of individuals and communities.

PARTNERING



We are looking for followers of Jesus to partner with us in supporting church planting in the Diocese of Down and Dromore.

- **Pray** for our church plants as they reach out to those who don't know Christ.
- **Give** to our Church Planting Fund through one-off donations or by standing order to provide regular support.
- **Visit** our church plants to encourage the leaders and members of these new Christian communities.

Open Days

Church Plant	Date	Time	Location	Contact
Braniel CC	Sunday 19 June	11.30am with lunch after the service	St Brigid's Hall, Lower Braniel Road, Belfast, BT5 7JQ	Mr James Crockett james.branielcc@gmail.com
Killicomaine CC	Sunday 21 August	7.00pm	Killicomaine Community Centre, 32 Festival Road, Portadown, Craigavon, BT63 5HE	Rev'd Jim Fleming jim@seagoe.co.uk
Moneyreagh Community Church	Sunday 26 June	11.00am	Moneyreagh Community Centre, 36A Church Road, Castlereagh, Moneyreagh, Belfast BT23 6BB	Rev'd Rory Blake-Knox rory@moneyreaghchurch.com
St Donard's Community Church	Sundays in July	10.30am	St Donard's Church 183 Main Street, Dundrum, BT33 0LY	Mr Colin Morris stdonardsdundrum@gmail.com
The Gathering	Sunday 26 June or Sunday 24 July	12-2pm	St Martin's Church, 88 Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 1GW	Mr Ross Munro ross@thegatheringbelfast.com
Tullycarnet	Sunday 28 August	11.30am	Tullycarnet Bowling Club, 26 Kingswood Road, Belfast, BT5 7EZ	Mr Matthew Gault tullycarnetchurch@icloud.com
Glen Community Church	Every Sunday	11.00am	Glen Community Centre, 33 Glenard Road, Newtownards BT23 4HS	Rev'd Stephen Doherty stephen.stmarks@btinternet.com
West Winds Community Church	Every Sunday	4.00pm	West Winds Community Centre, Dakota Avenue, Newtownards BT23 4QT	Rev'd Stephen Doherty stephen.stmarks@btinternet.com



I'M INTERESTED IN PLANTING OR PARTNERSHIP



CONTACT:

Andrew Brannigan
Diocesan Development Officer
andrew@downanddromore.org

Keith Gardiner
Fundraising Officer for Church Growth
generosity@downdromorediocese.org

Standing Order Form

To: (name and address of your bank)

.....

Sort Code: / / Account Number:

Account Name:

Please pay a regular gift of: ☐ £10 ☐ £25 ☐ £100 £ Other

to Down and Dromore Church Planting Fund each month. Please also state the amount in words:

.....

Please start on and from then on each month until further notice.

Signature: Date: / /

Your details

Title: (Mr/Mrs/Rev/Dr etc) Full name:

Address:

..... Postcode:

Email:

Phone:

By completing this form, you are giving us permission to process your personal information solely for the purposes of the Church Planting Fund. We will keep your data secure and retain it only for as long as is necessary.

Bank details for Down and Dromore Church Planting Fund:

AlB, University Road, Belfast, BT7 1ND

Sort Code: 93-80-92 Account No.: 17028762



Make your gift go further with Gift Aid

Declaration

I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and would like the Diocese of Down and Dromore (Church Planting Fund), to reclaim tax on my donation of £ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand that the Diocese of Down & Dromore will reclaim 25p on every £1 that I have given.

Title: (Mr/Mrs/Rev/Dr etc) Full name:

Address:

..... Postcode:

(Please insert Post Code as claim cannot be made without this)

Signature:

Date:

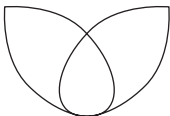
I will notify the Diocese of Down and Dromore if:

- I want to cancel this declaration;
- I change my name or home address;
- I no longer pay sufficient tax on my income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Please send your completed form to:

Mr Brian Lavery
Diocese of Down and Dromore
Church of Ireland House
61-67 Donegall Street
Belfast
BT1 2QH



DIOCESE OF DOWN & DROMORE

**Church
Planting Fund**

