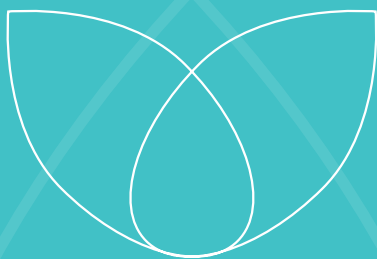




SPRING 2023



DIOCESE OF DOWN & DROMORE

Church Planting News



Keith writes...

Dear Friends,

"Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage -with great patience and careful instruction" 2 Timothy 4 v 2

Josh Hooker (Crosslinks Mission Partner) spoke on this verse at the April Pioneer Ministry Leaders Day to encourage leaders of our diocesan church plants and revitalisation initiatives as they follow God's call to bring his word to some of the neediest communities in our country. God's word, faithfully preached, brings life, transforms lives, strengthens believers and grows churches.

Our pioneers are called to imagine their broken communities as becoming whole, characterised by tolerance rather than prejudice and thriving instead of being despondent. Pioneers are called as ambassadors for Christ to establish local worshipping communities where there is no church or to help churches which have experienced decline to flourish. However, trust can take a long time to build and involves seeking to be part of the community as well as being a blessing within the community. It means trusting in God's sovereignty and showing God's love. It necessitates welcoming and relaxed meeting spaces that reflect the local context and worshipping God in a way that is accessible to those who are invited.

This newsletter is focused on worship within our church plants and how worship shapes these young Christian communities and helps individuals to grow spiritually and live faithfully for God in their homes, neighbourhoods and workplaces. Although these new churches may not all be blessed with elegant venues, sophisticated technology or musical brilliance, they seek to present the God of the Bible through worship in order to build a community of faith.



Keith Gardiner

Thank you to all our faithful supporters. In the first quarter of this year, we received £2.7k from regular supporters, £5.27k from diocesan churches, £13.9k as one-off donations, £4.85k from Black Santa and £47.5k from charities. Of this total, £5.9k has been raised towards the planned new outreach to asylum seekers and refugees.

Every blessing,

Keith Gardiner

Fundraising Officer for Church Growth

Please remember the Joy of Generosity Matched Funding initiative

This initiative, supported by two Northern Ireland Christian charities, adds 50% extra to all new or increased donations we receive towards church planting during 2023. For example:

- If we receive a new gift of £20, Joy of Generosity will add £10 to the gift;
- If a donor is able to Gift Aid their new donation (eg £20 + £5 Gift Aid), then Joy of Generosity will add £12.50 to the gift.
- If an existing supporter increases their gift, Joy of Generosity will add a 50% match to the increase in the gift.





'It really is a team effort'

Paul Hawkins lives in the Glen Estate in Newtownards and co-leads Glen Community Church which was planted out of St Mark's Newtownards in August 2014. Back then, the church met for Sunday worship in Londonderry Primary School at the entrance to the estate, but these days they meet in Glen Community Centre which is also the venue for other church-run activities.

Like many others we're navigating our way back to pre-Covid levels but our Sunday worship, although small in numbers, is passionate, authentic and deep rooted in Jesus. We have a very committed core of 25 people with around 10-15 on the fringe and it's all hands on deck before, during and after the service. One of the things I love most, is the real sense of togetherness as we believe we are not just a church to go to but a church family to belong to.

We don't have a worship band, but Bayley Doherty leads us, and we use Amazon Music tracks played through a speaker. The service has the elements of Church of Ireland worship including confession, prayers, Bible reading and teaching. Three out of four Sundays I preach and lead and once in the month Revd Stephen



Paul at work in the Lads Shed



Paul Hawkins

Doherty celebrates Holy Communion. We have tea and coffee together afterwards.

Volunteers do the readings and lead prayers, and other volunteers make tea, wash dishes, set up and take down chairs. Others set up the projector, speakers, microphone and clean up the space. It really is a team effort.

Also on a Sunday, we come together in the evening for a time of informal discussion-based Bible study. Again, numbers could be better, but those who attend have a real passion for growing deeper in their faith.

What we do on a Sunday is central to everything else we do during the week. There have been times of tension in the town and it's good to be able to gather to worship our God.

It's almost 15 years since I started praying that God would change people's lives in the estate the way that my own has been changed. Fast forward, and God is very much at work.

Please pray that: Glen Community Church would continue to be God's light in the community; God would transform this community; God would work powerfully in the lives of individuals in this church.

Paul Hawkins





Killicomaine – a unique expression

Our weekly 'worship' gathering takes place on Sunday evenings in Killicomaine Community Centre, however, it is like no other worship service within the diocese. We're not trying to be deliberately different, but we do have to work within our limitations.

Our church plant was birthed from consecutive Alpha Courses and the demand for a continuation of meeting together, studying the Bible and praying together. Our context is a working class, loyalist estate with high levels of unemployment, high numbers of people unable to work due to either physical and/or mental illness and a lack of educational and life opportunities.

Gatherings consist of a welcome, followed by announcements and then half an hour or so of 'karaoke' praise with YouTube



Killicomaine's Sunday gathering

videos. We have no musicians or worship leaders. We then split into smaller groups and pray for whatever expressed needs there may be for around 20 minutes. The final 45-50 minutes is for Bible study, where all are welcome to contribute and work out what the Holy Spirit may be speaking into their lives from God's Word.

Please pray for mature Christians, who are willing to 'die to self' to come and serve this beautiful community by getting involved in outreach, evangelism and in discipling young believers.

Jim Fleming

A glimpse of heaven

Over Lent we opened our doors on Tuesdays for a space to worship and pray. On one occasion a visitor from Portadown remarked that "This is a real thin space for heaven'. Worship is at the forefront of how we connect to heaven and our Father God, it's how we celebrate Jesus and welcome the Holy Spirit among us!

Each service at Braniel Community Church (BCC) is opened with worship and prayer as we seek God's face for ourselves, our church and our community. Worship brings us closer. It invites Him in and gives us a glimpse of heaven here on earth.

At BCC we are really blessed this year with three Pais interns who are willing to lead worship. However, they are due to return home in the summer, and this worship

role has not always been easy to fill. In the past we have had to rely on YouTube and leaders from other congregations when their diaries allow. BCC is a place where we are interested in the heart, not perfection and so it would be a great space for those looking to hone their worship leading skills and help us keep this beautiful thin space open towards heaven.

James Crockett



Blessed with our current leaders



Worship is part of our DNA

At Tullycarnet Church, we really value times of gathered worship in the community. As Eugene Peterson once said, "Worship is the strategy by which we interrupt our preoccupation with ourselves and attend to the presence of God."

Our Church Plant has been running since January 2022 and when it was much smaller, me and my wife were planning and leading most aspects of the worship. Now that some people have come to faith and engaged with our Church, we are training and releasing members to use their spiritual gifts and abilities across the whole of our worship service.

In terms of the format, we have a dedicated set-up team who prepare the room each week followed by a time of intercession. Our worship is quite informal with an opening prayer or Psalm, 3-4



Outdoor worship, Tullycarnet Church

songs, announcements, Bible readings and a sermon, ending with some closing songs and prayers. Prayer ministry has a huge value in our Church along with hospitality.

We believe that our worship is far more than sung worship, but we treasure times when we can gather in His presence to sing intimate songs to God. It's part of our DNA. Now we are raising up our own worship leaders who carry a heart and passion for leading people into God's presence.

Matthew Gault

Participation rather than consumption

In Moneyreagh Community Church we encourage everyone to get involved in our worship and each Sunday we have people reading, leading prayers and sung worship. If they are new to our church community, we encourage them to share who they are and a little of how God has brought them to MCC.

Our worship is framed by singing, prayer, scripture and liturgy and is geared towards participation rather than consumption. We have recently developed a generosity liturgy we use each Sunday. We have found this simple practice of asking people to pray together has helped to build a generous Church.

Once a month as part of our service, we have an open space for people to share



Worship in MCC

how God has been moving their lives. Also, during our monthly All-in (family) service we have a volunteer highlight where we celebrate, thank, and pray for someone who has been serving in the life of the church. We also do "this time tomorrow", where we invite someone in the Church community to share what they will be doing this time tomorrow, and then ask how we can pray for them in their daily life.

We believe that as we gather, each has a gift to offer to God, regardless of age or background.

Rory Blake-Knox



A thriving worshipping community

St Donard's Community Church first began to meet in September 2020. For those first 8 months we were in and out of our building between various lockdowns. It made planting a worshipping community difficult.

However, since Good Friday 2021 we have been able to meet unhindered every week and what a blessing it has been.

Sunday gatherings involve the whole church family from those who welcome, pour the tea, and sharpen the colouring pencils to those who sing, pray, read, and preach. For some, English is not their first language and so we produce a bilingual service sheet with everything in both English and Ukrainian. However, sometimes things can be unscripted as we hear good news stories and pray for one another as we hear about life's events.



At present we have no functional space to run a kid's ministry during church, so we try to include all ages throughout the service. Please pray that we can have a dedicated kid's space soon. Two years ago, we were using musicians from different churches but now we are thankful for a growing music team. We're planning to train up a new audio-visual team with the help of our partners in Drumbeg Parish.

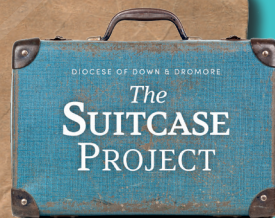
Colin Morris

The SUITCASE PROJECT

The SUITCASE PROJECT is a new Christian outreach which will have a hub in Belfast linking into churches in the diocese.

We will seek to welcome and support Asylum Seekers and Refugees and demonstrate God's love in such a way that people will want to find out about the Christian faith for themselves.

To donate please use the QR code:



PRAY



As we approach the summer, we invite you to join us in asking God to:

- **SUPPLY** the people, resources and space for creative worship in our church plants.
- **GROW** these worshipping congregations numerically and spiritually.
- **PROMPT** even more generous giving towards church planting in the diocese.



Church Plant	Contact
Braniel Community Church	Mr James Crockett Email: James.branielcc@gmail.com
Glen Community Church	Revd Stephen Doherty Email: stephen.stmarks@btinternet.com
Killicomaine Community Church	Revd Jim Fleming Email: jim@seagoe.co.uk
Killough Outreach to Children and Youth	Mr Billy Fyffe Email: billy@lampyc.co.uk
Moneyreagh Community Church	Revd Rory Blake-Knox Email: rory@moneyreaghchurch.com
St Donard's Community Church	Mr Colin Morris Email: stdonardsdundrum@gmail.com
The Gathering	Mr Ross Munro Email: ross@thegatheringbelfast.com
Tullycarnet	Mr Matthew Gault Email: tullycarnetchurch@icloud.com
West Winds Community Church	Revd Stephen Doherty Email: stephen.stmarks@btinternet.com

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

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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:

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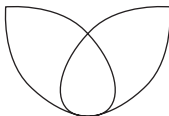
I will notify the Diocese of Down and Dromore if:

- 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

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