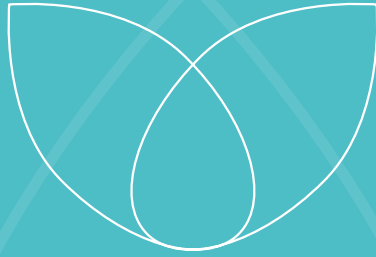




WINTER 2023



DIOCESE OF DOWN & DROMORE

Church Planting News

Keith writes...



Dear Friends,

How is God working in your church?

This was a key question at Enabling Conversations with church plant leaders in November. It was inspiring to hear stories of how God is working in these new churches as they grow in reach, depth, breadth and giving. Reaching out through Encounter Evenings, social action and summer kids' clubs as well as Alpha and Christianity Explored courses. Individuals growing in depth of faith through discipleship small groups, Immerse Bible studies, men's and women's groups, discipleship huddles and WhatsApp daily devotionals. Growing in breadth as more attend worship services as well as children's and youth ministries such that capacity is being reached at some venues. QR codes have made giving easier and enhanced generosity in several church plants. Church planting enables the presence of God to be experienced in less reached communities in Down and Dromore.

'But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession and through us spreads in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing him' 2 Cor 2 v 14-15

This newsletter focuses on how church plants are seeking to achieve two aims of Bishop David's 10-year vision <https://bit.ly/3zPmBGx> – to be places of spiritual growth and communities which raise up new leaders. As well as being points of entry on a journey of faith, church plants enable people to grow in faith. In addition to Sunday services, most church plants have commenced small groups which focus on discipleship and building loving communities. Small groups connect people to others in a church and keep them connected.



Raising up new leaders is important in any church but vital in a church plant as new leaders enable expansion of a new church's reach by leading small groups, establishing new ministries and reducing the leader's administrative burden. Individuals grow in faith through training and experiencing fresh challenges. Raising new leaders helps a church cope with the unavoidable turnover in leadership as individuals transition to a new life season or need a break from service.

We are very thankful to God for his gifts of leaders and money that enable us to undertake the church planting work that he has called us to. In the last financial quarter, we received £1k from the Church of Ireland Orphans and Children Society, £2.6k from Church of Ireland Mind Matters/Benefact Trust, £4.6k from parishes in Down and Dromore, £4k at the Diocesan Bible Week, £3.2k from regular donors and £11.9k from charities. Of this total, £11k has been raised towards the planned new outreach to asylum seekers and refugees. We pray for the Lord's guidance and provision for this new outreach.

Every blessing,

Keith Gardiner
Fundraising Officer for Church Growth



Joy of Generosity Matched Funding: New for 2023



A Northern Ireland Christian Charitable Trust has generously offered to add a 50% match to all new income we receive during 2023 from individuals or groups who partner with us financially in our church planting work.

This means that if you have never previously financially supported our Church Planting Fund, the Joy of Generosity Partnership will add a 50% match to your donation during 2023.

If we receive a new gift of £100 they will add £50 to your gift. If you Gift Aid your donation (eg £100 + £25 Gift Aid), then they will add £62.50 to your gift.

If you are an existing partner and you



increase your gift to the Church Planting Fund, they will add a 50% match to the increase in your gift. If a church or one of its organisations raises £4,000 for the Church Planting Fund, the Joy of Generosity Partnership will add a further £2,000.

To discuss the Joy of Generosity Partnership, please email: kgardiner@downdromorediocese.org

New leader for Killough Outreach

We're delighted to announce that Billy Fyffe has been appointed to lead the Killough Kids & Youth Outreach and officially joins the LAMP team. He takes up the post following Sarah Irwin's appointment as Family Outreach worker to St John's Lurgan.

Billy Says: "I am so excited to be leading the Killough Outreach. I have been involved in church ministry, specifically youth and children's ministry, for over fifteen years around the country. My heart is that children, young people and families will encounter the love and hope of Jesus in whatever we do through the outreach, and that we can build a Christ-centred community within the village



where everyone feels loved, valued and empowered. I want to thank Sarah and Colin for the hard work in building such great foundations for the ministry and I am excited for what God will do through the outreach in the future."

Dean of Down and Rector of LAMP, The Very Revd Henry Hull, said he was thrilled with Billy's appointment.

"Billy has been part of the LAMP team since August and is already building on the good work established by Sarah and Colin. He brings many gifts to this post, and we look forward to working even more closely together in the coming year."





Raising up leaders 'Everyone gets to play'



In Tullycarnet Church, we really believe that "everyone gets to play". Whilst we are thankful for the blessing of Church staff, we really do believe that it is God's intention that everyone has a part to play in ministry (1 Peter 2:9).

Since launching, we have been able to raise up some new worship leaders and each week new Christians help with the set-up and take-down of our Church. Over Christmas we involved a number of our congregation in leading door-to-door evangelism, giveaways at two Christmas fairs, and in hosting a Christmas lunch for those struggling in our community.

It is our dream and vision to see local people from Tullycarnet and Ardcarne leading within their local Church and bringing the transformation of God's Kingdom to their community.

Matthew Gault

Called to lead

I have known Revd Ross Munro since 2014 and some 5 years later he invited me to be part of the leadership team at a new church plant in the Titanic Quarter in East Belfast. I didn't know what to expect and was a bit apprehensive at first, but The Gathering, based in St. Martin's on the Lower Newtownards Road, has a strong biblical grounding and a great team.

Over the last 3+ years I have been disciplined in the ways of Jesus, who in the scriptures models leadership development with, 'I do you watch' followed by 'You do and I watch.' I've relished the opportunity to help in a wide number of roles in our church plant; AV during Sunday services; volunteering in Youth Church/Hang-outs; partnering in running Alpha; helping with weekly Bible study; taking part in Sunday services; taking part in a discipleship group (triplets) and most recently joining our Church Safeguarding Panel. I am



also a Director of The DOCK café where both Ross and our youth worker Andy have pastoral roles during the week.

I'm really excited about the future, as God continues to develop my leadership gifting in the place to which He has called me.

Phil King



Small groups are key Growing together in Dundrum

At St Donard's Community Church we want our church family to grow together in their love and knowledge of God and in the autumn of 2022, we launched 'Grow Groups'.

We tentatively asked for an expression of interest and soon found that it was not one group we needed but three, with the strong likelihood of a fourth being needed early this year. We have a range of people meeting together with some in their twenties, others in their nineties; some familiar with Bible study, others new to it; some who have lots to say and others not so much; some speak English while others are still learning the lingo! Regardless of the differences across and within the groups what we have found is that they have been perfect to connect people in deeper relationships with



GROW GROUPS
Bible Study - Chat - Friendship

one another, something that can't really happen on a Sunday morning alone, but most importantly our Grow Groups have allowed people to connect not only to one another but also to God as they have studied the Bible and prayed together each week.

Colin Morris

Building strong foundations in Killicomaine

Discipleship is a high priority for us in Killicomaine Community Church. Our formal discipleship programme takes place on Thursday evenings and is largely composed of people who have completed one of our Alpha Courses and come to faith.

Over the last three years we have covered courses such as: 'The Chosen', The Bible Society's 'Bible Course' and the book of Esther. However, this year the level of study, community and interaction has reached new heights as we have journeyed through the 18-week series, 'The Jesus Lifestyle' by Nicky Gumbel and the 'Prayer Course' by 24/7 Prayer. It's so heart-warming to watch

the Holy Spirit grow these new believers in their relationships with God.

The discipleship continues on Sundays where we are working our way through the Gospel of Luke. There is also more informal discipleship taking place in daily conversations and interactions, even with those who have not yet begun to follow Jesus.

Behind this work is the desire to see these individuals build really strong foundations in Jesus so that when life's storms come along, they will be able to stand.

Jim Fleming



Another chapter opens in Killough

Killough Outreach is starting to gain momentum with many children and young people attending our programme each week. We have been singing, dancing, playing games, exploring the Bible and looking at social issues such as anti-bullying and mental health. It is so encouraging to see such enthusiasm among the boys and girls. We want it to be good fun to hear the Good News.

We wrapped up last year with *Play It by Ear*, a fantastic drama pair from the Methodist Church, who put on their Christmas Nativity panto. The boys shared lots of laughs, silliness and the hope of Christmas and it was a night to remember. We were thrilled that over 80 people filled our small hall in Killough and heard the message of hope and joy that the Christmas story brings.



We plan to relaunch our youth club on Friday nights and are hopeful that we will be able to put on a few more community events for everyone. Please pray for more volunteers and resources and a pathway into local schools to deliver assemblies and workshops. Our hope is that the outreach in Killough will become a community within the village that will encounter and know the love of Christ.

Billy Fyffe

Down and Dromore Church Plants

Church Plant	Contact
Braniel Community Church	Revd 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: stdonardsundrum@gmail.com
The Gathering	Revd Ross Munro Email: ross@thegatheringbelfast.com
Tullycarnet Church	Mr Matthew Gault Email: tullycarnetchurch@icloud.com
West Winds Community Church	Revd Stephen Doherty Email: stephen.stmarks@btinternet.com

PRAY

As we enter a New Year, we invite you to join us in asking God to:

1. **Break down barriers**, enabling the gospel to be shared with the unreached.

2. **Grow his church**, both in numbers and in strength of faith.

3. **Give perseverance** to our leaders during the ups and downs of church planting.

DIOCESAN OUTREACH TO ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES



We are planning a new pioneering ministry to asylum seekers and refugees who are living within Down and Dromore.

To donate please use the QR code opposite.

To find out more please contact Keith Gardiner.
Email: kgardiner@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

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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.

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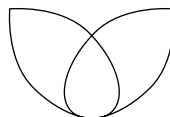
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Church of Ireland House
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