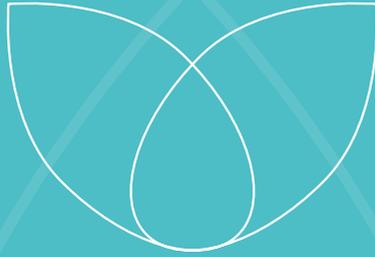




WINTER 2022



DIOCESE OF DOWN & DROMORE

# Church Planting News

# Keith writes...



Dear Friends,

Cultural changes in our society are putting increasing pressure on children and young people to grow up more quickly. In deprived neighbourhoods, by the time they reach secondary school, many children will have been exposed to crime, violence and sex. Even from a young age, children may bear the burden of looking after themselves, their younger brothers or sisters or a parent with a chronic physical or mental illness. By the time they become teenagers, they may already have become hardened to the church and the gospel.

*Jesus called a little child to him, and placed the child among the disciples (Matt. 18:2).*

Welcoming, protecting, valuing, teaching and praying for our children and young people is therefore a vital ministry within our church plants. We want our church plants to be places where kids and youth will want to come, where they will feel safe and secure, and where ministry to them is a mission priority rather than just a strategy to reach their parents. We need to invest in building relationships with young people and helping them to grow physically, emotionally and spiritually strong. For this reason, this edition of Church Plant News features aspects of the work of our church plants among the children, young people and students in the communities that they serve.

In other news, monthly Ministry Leadership Days for leaders of church plants and pioneer ministries began in September 2021 at the T3 Conference Centre at the House of Vic-Ryn. As well as contributions from Bishop David and diocesan staff members, we were delighted to welcome guest speakers Mark Melliush, Assistant National Leader of New Wine UK on 20 October 2021 and Stephen Bloomfield, General Manager of Danske Bank on 12 November 2021.



Keith Gardiner

In October 2021, Bishop David appointed Bishop Darren McCartney (Rector of Clonallon and Warrenpoint with Kilbroney) to the new role of Warden for Pioneer Leaders and Church Plant Leaders. Darren will be providing support for the leaders in our church plants and pioneer ministries as well as acting as a link to other support structures in the diocese and central Church of Ireland.

We are extremely grateful for the interest, prayers and donations that we have received during 2021 to support our seven existing church plants and to enable Bishop David to commission new outreaches in Tullycarnet (East Belfast) and West Winds (Newtownards). Your partnership in this work is very much appreciated and a source of great encouragement to the whole team. We thank God for his blessing and provision.

**Every blessing,**

**Keith Gardiner**  
Fundraising Officer for Church Growth

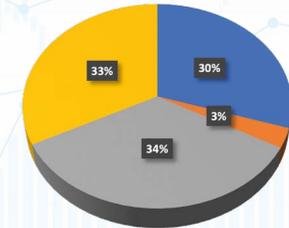


# Update on Church Plant Finances



## GIVING TO GENERAL CHURCH PLANT FUND 2021

- Standing Orders
- Large One off Donations & Collections
- Advent Gift Day
- Vestry Allocations



Church planting is a response to Jesus' Great Commission to the Church to make disciples. Every item in the budget for a church plant, whether it is renting a room in a community centre or school, purchasing a sound system or a coffee machine, running a summer scheme for children or organising an Easter trail, is connected to God's mission.

We trust in God each year to bless and resource the church planting and outreach work in Down and Dromore. God blessed this work during 2021 through the financial support that was given by churches in the diocese and by individuals who have given faithfully by standing order or have made one-off donations, as well as through grants provided by Church of Ireland funds and Christian charities.

We really want to thank the congregations in the diocese who contributed £11,045 through the 2020 Advent Gift Day (received in 2021) and £10,430 in 2021 Select Vestry Allocations. The Church Plant Fund also received £9,600 in standing orders and £1,000 in one-off donations.

We are also very grateful to Christian charities and Church of Ireland funds for the grants they have given to support

the work of church plants in 2021:

Christian charities £69,000  
Church of Ireland funds £52,800

The goal for each of the diocese's church plants is that they become financially self-sustaining through the giving of those they serve, as well as self-governing. However, it takes time for a church plant to become self-financing, especially in communities which have experienced years of deprivation. It is anticipated that the Church Plant Fund will need to commit £115,000 to support the current church plants during 2022. In addition, realising the vision of planting one new worshipping community this year will require donations or grants of £40,000 - a total of £155,000 for 2022.

If you would like to partner with us in supporting church planting in the Diocese of Down and Dromore, please contact Keith Gardiner, Fundraising Officer for Church Growth (kgardiner@downdromorediocese.org). Standing Order and Gift Aid Declaration Forms are available in this booklet.

If you would like to consider leaving a legacy, please download our Legacy Giving Leaflet by clicking [HERE](#).



# From Toddlers...



**A Parents and Tots Group launched last September is the most recent addition to the outreach work in Killough led by Sarah Irwin.**

Sarah identified the need through a community survey, and she set up the group with a grant from The Church of Ireland Orphans' and Children's Society (Antrim and Down) plus donated toys and equipment.

"It has been a great way for us to connect with the parents and grandparents and we feel we are forming great relationships with those that attend," says Sarah. "We have focused for a number of years on children and youth, but this has been a natural next step and we can't wait to see what other opportunities may arise from this."



Parents and Tots is for all children up to primary school age with their parents, grandparents or carers and runs on Thursdays from 10.30 to 12.00pm in St Anne's Parish Hall. Kids' Club and Youth Club continue to run on Wednesday and Friday evenings.

# ...to Students



**Andrew McCaw, Youth Worker at The Gathering Belfast is working to establish a student Christian community within the Titanic Quarter in East Belfast. The aim of this is to meet regularly with non-Christian and Christian students from the Belfast MET Titanic campus and to help them grow deeper in their walk with Jesus.**

Andrew says: "One of the ways we have started to do this is by partnering with the Dock Café and YWAM East Belfast to facilitate a hang-out space. Students can come for conversations, games, advice, and prayer once or twice a week. It's our heart to see this progress into an Alpha Course, and then further discipleship. This has proven to be a gateway for conversations with students who wouldn't normally come to church or think about the Christian faith."

"Since the start of this outreach, numbers of attendees have fluctuated, but in 2022 we hope to hold some get-to-know-you events, such as a BBQ, quiz nights, and we're praying that God may open a door for us to have a visible presence in the college itself regularly."



# In School...



**This past season in Moneyreagh Community Church, we have been delivering schools, community, and church kids and youth ministries in partnership with interns from the PAIS Movement.**

We are also excited about the many ways we have been able to serve schools. Throughout October we provided anti-bullying workshops and assemblies to two different schools in our area, as well as video assemblies to three schools. We have been able to host a lunch club at a high school, concentrating on building relationships with the young people and connecting them with our outreach events. Through this club and relationship with the school, we have also been involved in leading assemblies, SU clubs, and student wellbeing sessions.



In September we also began a new youth group in the church called Build. This is a space for young people to build relationships with leaders and each other and to be encouraged to explore and build their faith through the youth alpha series and other creative sessions.

# ...after School



**Here in Braniel Community Church we have enjoyed working with Dorit, Liana and Hannah, a PAIS Team from Germany.**

"Our team has been able to go into different Primary Schools to connect with the students there and to invite them to our church," says Dorit. "We run a Bible

Afterschool Club where we learn more about the Bible, play some games and give the students some challenges for their school day (eg. sit with someone who is lonely during lunch).

"We run different activities with the kids and youth in the church and community. Sundays we have a Kids and Youth Programme and on Wednesday evenings a Kids Club and Youth Club. As part of our Youth Club we have a monthly 'Local Mission' when we share in creative ways God's love within the community. So, we prepare something together with the teens (eg. Origami hearts and bible verses) and bring it outside to people we meet on the streets. I love that we are able to do this together with the young people and show how easy it actually is to share God's love."



## PRAY



*For Killough Parents and Tots*, for safety and for the formation of strong relationships with parents and grandparents in the coming year.

*For Andrew McCaw* as he looks for new and creative ways to engage with Christian/non-Christian students; maintains healthy relationships with current partners YWAM East Belfast, Belfast MET, and the Dock Café. Pray for an openness among students to talk about life and what faith means to them.

We thank God *for Moneyreagh Community Church's work* in both primary and secondary schools in

their area. Pray that it would bear life-changing fruit in the lives of the children and young people.

*For Dorit, Liana and Hannah* as they serve the people of the Braniel, especially out in the schools and community. Pray for an openness and understanding of the good news of the Gospel and for strong connections with the church.

*For Keith Gardiner* as he works alongside our Church Plants to help them secure finances. Pray that more individuals and parishes would grasp the vision and offer to partner with us as we respond to Jesus' Great Commission.

# Down & Dromore Church Plants and Leaders

Glen Community Church, Newtownards, led by **Rev Stephen Doherty**.

Moneyreagh Community Church, led by **Rev Rory Blake-Knox**.

Braniel Community Church, led by **James Crockett**, Diocesan Evangelist.

Killough outreach to Children and Youth, led by **Sarah Irwin**, Diocesan Evangelist.

The Gathering which meets in St Martin's, Ballymacarrett, led by **Ross Munro**, Diocesan Evangelist.

Killicomaine Community Church, Portadown, led by **Rev Jim Fleming**.

St Donard's Community Church, Dundrum, led by **Colin Morris**, Diocesan Lay Reader.

West Winds Community Church, Newtownards, led by **Rev Stephen Doherty** assisted by **Paul Hawkins**.

Tullycarnet outreach led by **Matthew Gault**.



**Our church plants now reach into 9 communities but we want to do more.**

Please join with us. We invite you to commit to prayerful and financial support using the standing order form below and gift aid declaration overleaf. Thank you.

## 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



## 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



# 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: .....

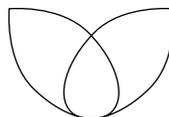
*I will notify the Diocese of Down and Dromore if:*

- 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**

