

*Sydenham Methodist Church*  
*Magazine*  
*2019*



## **IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **2019 – 20**

Sunday 23 June after Morning Worship –  
**Church picnic in Victoria Park.**

Tuesday 25 June at 7.30pm –  
**Prayer Walk around the community.**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July from 6.30 – 8pm  
**Holiday Bible Week.**

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm –  
**Meet the Neighbours BBQ.**

The dates and times of the various church activities will be on the church calendar on our website.

[www.sydenhammethodist.org](http://www.sydenhammethodist.org)

# LETTER FROM THE MANSE

Friends,

It's been another busy but fruitful year in Sydenham. As always there is a lot going on, and that means that lots of people are serving, in lots of different ways, within the life of the church.

At the beginning of this letter, I want to publicly say thank you to all those who serve in whatever way, as you play your part in building for God's Kingdom.

This year has seen some changes in staff and in leadership. We welcomed **Emma-Jayne Speers**, who joined us in early December, as our Community & Family Worker.

**Sammy Stanfield** has been the Youth Worker in Sydenham for 14 years, but, as a part-time teacher, has decided to accept a full-time post, so will be leaving his employment with us the end of August this year. However, as a family the Stanfields expect to remain part of our congregation, so we won't be saying goodbye to them. I want to acknowledge Sammy's wonderful service amongst us and say a personal thank you to him for his friendship and his leadership.

At the time of writing, Council is giving prayerful consideration to the future work of **Vocational Lay Employees**, to discern how best to use resources for the work in our church. To this end Council have had 3 special meetings, 2 of which facilitated by Leanne Hill from IMYC, who enabled us to reflect upon our programmes and our ethos.

At the New Year we had a change of Circuit Stewards as **Carolyn Hall** completed her 3- year term in office. I want to formally say thank you to her for her gracious wisdom and for her leadership. And now we welcome **Ruth Boyce** on board as Circuit Steward.

Reflecting upon the spiritual life of our congregation, it has been encouraging to see that the numbers of those involved with our **midweek Bible Study/Prayer evenings** and our **Life Together Groups** have slightly increased. This shows me that there is a hunger for people to grow in their faith and to support each other. I know that with 60 people on our prayer network, that our **prayer ministry** is of great encouragement especially to those who are in need.

This year has also seen a first - a Catholic priest preaching in Sydenham Methodist. In January, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we were again delighted to welcome the **Unity Pilgrims from Clonard Monastery**. I invited Fr Ciaran O'Callaghan to preach and it was a magnificent sermon! I know that they deeply appreciated the warm welcome they received.

Our **United Worship** with our friends from Strand Presbyterian continues monthly and at Christmas and Holy Week/ Easter. We were blessed to have the **Rev Dr Janet Unsworth** as the guest preacher at our Holy Week/Easter united services.

On Easter Day we were delighted to confirm 4 young people as they publicly professed their faith in Christ. We continue to seek to show **God's love to our community** through the likes of Coffee Kindness, Messy Church, Little Stars and our Uniformed Organisations.

This year we celebrated 90 years of our Girls' Brigade company, and formally thanked **Ann Anderson, Sam Anderson & Pat Gordon** who retired from their roles in Scouting after a combined over 100 years of service! And many people exercise their ministry outside of the 4 walls of the church - through the likes of **City Centre Chaplaincy, Street Pastors or SOS Bus**. It is my prayer that wherever you exercise your ministry, that the Lord will encourage you by his Spirit and through his people.

Our **Church website** has undergone an overhaul and is ready to view at the usual website address of [www.sydenhammethodist.org](http://www.sydenhammethodist.org). I am grateful for the work that **Susanne Bryans** has done and continues to do with the website. We have sought to make it more user friendly and more modern looking. I invite you to keep up to date with church life through this website.

At a **Connexional level**, this July sees some new structures with our current 8 Districts being amalgamated into 3 Districts, each with a fulltime District Superintendent. As the MCI website put it: Having full-time District Superintendents will mean that, for the first time, we will have a person in each district whose sole job and permanent full-time focus will be on supporting and enabling local churches to fulfil their visions for mission. This should help us all to bring a greater focus to our mission work, to grow and learn together, and to operate on a Connexional basis in a more coordinated manner.

It should also mean that individual circuit superintendents and ministers are freed from some of their administrative burdens and committee obligations, thus enabling them to focus more clearly on the core work of mission in their communities. The primary focus of the DS is to serve the MCI by 'encouraging, enabling, coordinating and implementing the Church's vision for missional discipleship'. The new structures are being

introduced in the context of both a renewed emphasis on mission within our church, and the reality that we face significant challenges in that, overall, our church is facing a decline in numbers and effectiveness. The new DSs will be firmly focussed on these two areas while proactively seeking opportunities for mission and witness. The DS for the Southern District will be the **Rev. Andrew Dougherty**; the DS for the North Western District will be the **Rev Dr Stephen Skuce**; and the DS for the North Eastern District will be the **Rev Philip Agnew**.

Also, during this year, **Peter Morris** was accepted as a student for the ordained ministry and so we will formally lose Peter to College as he begins his training and formation. We pray for Peter, Faith & Junia as they begin this new chapter in life within the church.

We are delighted to see our young people growing in faith and wanting to exercise a ministry.

We congratulate **Sara Fullerton** who has been chosen to serve in Team On Mission for the year. **TOM** is now 30 years old and during this time has afforded young people the opportunity to use their gifts and broaden their church horizons.

Please pray for Sara during this year.

In the church, it is natural to talk a lot about service and ministry (as I have done in this letter!!) but I leave you with an encouragement to **'rest' in Christ** - to allow the overwhelming love and grace of God to carry you along in life, as you worship and pray. May you know the Spirit of Christ with you each day.

Blessings,

Robin.

## Sabbatical

There is a rhythm to ministry and part of that rhythm in the life of the church allows ministers to take sabbaticals. The rules of the sabbatical are, that a minister can take it after the first 10 years of ministry and then every 7 years after that. I am taking my sabbatical in August, September and October of this year, following my holiday in July. I am grateful that two of our retired ministers, Brian Fletcher and Ed McDade will oversee ministerial cover in my absence.

Subject to Conference, I will be appointed as Secretary of the Ordained Ministry Committee, so I will take my sabbatical to prepare for this Connexional role and to do some study on the nature of ordination and ministry in the future.

Brian will cover most Sundays during July and September, with Ed covering most Sundays during August and October. There won't be evening services in September and October, apart from united Services with Strand.

### Sabbatical Cover Contacts

If you require the urgent services of a minister during this time, for hospital visitation or for funerals, in the first instance please contact our Society Steward, Brian Maxwell on 90424239 or 07850 789941. He will arrange for appropriate pastoral attention.



## Happy Memories by Pat Gordon

In last year's magazine, Ann mentioned my leaving the Beavers. I thought I would write a few lines about my time in Beavers.

Looking back, I have so many memories of the different activities and outings that we had. I have watched boys develop in their own way through the badge work we do. Shy boys interacting with others by helping with craft, during games, talking about our outings or a topic for a badge.

There have been many funny moments in Beavers too. For instance, during a fishing game, which involves boys putting on over sized Wellington boots and using a make shift rod to catch fish (paper ones), a young Sam Rainey put the boots on but his legs were not long enough for him to walk in them (sorry Sam).

In another game, dress the dummy, one boy stands still, and other boys take it in turn to try and put over sized shorts and a t-shirt on him. The 'dummy' would put his two legs into one side of the shorts and the t- shirt would come down to his ankles.



It has been great over the last few years that the Beavers and the Squirrels have had outings together.



I have so many memories of my time in the 9<sup>th</sup> Scout Group, not only in the Beavers, but helping at Cub and Explorer camps.

I have to thank all the Leaders in the Group but especially Ian Fullerton and Valerie Sunerton for the many years we worked together. At our Founders Day Service in February, Ian presented me with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and a lovely canvas with many photos of our boys past and present. Thank you.

I will finish by thanking Ann Anderson, our Group Scout Leader, for all her support during my time in Scouts and also Sam Anderson our treasurer for keeping me right with the finances.

# PRAYER

I would like to share with you a little about prayer - how important it is in our Christian walk and other times.

Jesus made it His priority to spend time with people and get to know them.

Starting with spending time with God His Father in prayer, Jesus always made time

to be with those who needed to hear that God loved and cared for them.

The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Philippians said - his greatest discovery was knowing Jesus Christ and being known by Him.

Sometimes we forget that God knows all about us and the things we are going through in our lives. God really cares about us and wants us to bring our cares and concerns to Him in prayer.

We can learn a lot from the Psalms.



Psalm 139 : 1-4 gives an incredible description of God's knowledge of us. These verses mean we can't surprise God with what we share with Him.

However, He waits for us to come to Him, to receive what we need for each hour of our lives.

Read the following chapters:

(Matthew 11 : 28-30) and (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5 : 7).

Keep reminding ourselves that God knows us completely - He cared so much He gave us Jesus to take away our burdens and anxieties.

As you come to Him, may you receive the grace and the peace you need.

With every blessing,

Liz Bennett



## Gift Aid

Many of our members have signed a gift aid mandate and this enables the church to claim back the income tax that you paid before making your donations. This is a very valuable source of income to our church. Currently we receive back approximately £13500 each year from HMRC without our members giving anything extra. Not all members have taken the step of signing a mandate but if you are able to do this, it would be a great help to our finances. There is a stock of blank mandate forms on the vestibule table or from Derek Cottney.

**Note** that you must have paid an amount of income tax at least equal to what we claim off HMRC in that tax year.

Derek Cottney

*giftaid it*

## 7<sup>th</sup> NI Girls Brigade

This year has been a busy one for Girls' Brigade. Our own company here at Sydenham celebrates its 90th Anniversary and the GB organisation, as a whole, celebrates its 125th birthday.

Throughout the year the girls have been working for their badges. The Junior section learnt a little about Indonesia as part of their educational badge as well as making Christmas sweet boxes for their service badge. These were distributed within the community.

This year the company also had a visit from *Play it by Ear*, where they took part in many games and learnt new drama skills. Great fun was had by all. We also had one of our associates, Nadia Hall, begin her Queen's Award. This is the highest award given by the Girls' Brigade and requires Nadia to complete church and GB service as well as complete community service, initiative tests and an exam.

As this year was our 90th anniversary, the company decided that this would make a good theme for our annual display. The programme brought back music, dance routines and tv shows from the 90's which the girls had loads of fun learning. We also had a special treat for the audience by bringing back previous captains and officers of the company for their own dance routine.

The officers would like to thank the many helpers we had in preparation of the display. It was very much appreciated.

After the Easter break, the girls had their badge award night, followed by a party night to end the session. The explorers are having a trip to Belfast Zoo in June as part of the GBNI 125th celebrations.

The company, officers and associates would like to thank the church for their continued prayers and support. We hope the girls and their families have a wonderful Summer and we look forward in welcoming them back after the break.

Rebekah Bryans



**7<sup>TH</sup> NI**  
**SYDENHAM METHODIST**  
**GIRLS' BRIGADE**

**90<sup>th</sup>**  
**anniversary**

## **Prayer Network**

I cannot remember exactly the year our Prayer Network was formed but it must be over twenty years. This ministry has grown in the intervening years and each month we have an average of six to eight new requests for prayer, although as I write this article, we have had twelve requests. These have been for adults, young people and babies. It has been notable how many young people in their early teens have had serious illness to cope with. This must be a source of great stress both for the young people and their parents. We have also prayed for babies just a few months old who have had life changing health conditions. One baby in particular comes to mind, who was born prematurely weighing one and a half pounds and now in our latest update we were pleased to record that she now weighs over six pounds.

We are also aware of the number of people who have had to deal with bereavement. It is a privilege to be able to support in prayer, on a daily basis those who are ill and grieving because of the death of a loved one.

We don't know what lies ahead in each of our lives and what possible suffering we will have to face but we know that God, as promised, will be with us. We feel sure that with the support of our prayer partners this gives those who have

requested prayer added strength to face their circumstances with courage and, by God's grace, will know His ever present help in times of trouble.

An update on prayer requests, which is issued at the beginning of each month often includes grateful thanks to those who have faithfully prayed for them or for the person for whom prayer was asked.

The number to text is **073 9850 1495** for prayer requests; it is shown every week on our Sunday announcement sheet. If necessary, it can also be telephoned to the manse **028 9047 1782**.

New prayer partners are always welcome and if you feel you can serve God and our Church in this prayer ministry and would like to know more, please speak to Rev. Robin Waugh or Jack Boyce.

**Jack Boyce**





## STREET PASTORS

We are ordinary Christians from many different churches and even nationalities!

Street Pastors is the church in action on the streets to care, listen and help.

We meet every Friday and Saturday evening at 10:45pm to pray and get our equipment ready (flip flops, first aid kits, water, gloves for bottles etc.)

Then we head out into the streets in teams of 1 or 2 whatever the weather and do the following:

- **pick up bottles** and broken glass (to prevent injury)
- Provide first aid.
- Give out **flip flops**,
- Calm **anti-social behaviour**,
- Provide a **listening ear**,
- **Signpost** to other help.
- **Stay with vulnerable people** until we are sure they have a safe way home.
- **Pray** for anyone who wants prayer, but we don't preach or push 'religion'
- **Report** needles left from drug use.

We normally get back to base at 2:30 or 3am, write up some notes, pray and go home. It is a long night which each person does once a month. Teams are now going into West, East Belfast and the parks to reach out to youth on the street.

I became a Street Pastor about a year and a half ago. It is a pleasure to serve God and help people who find life or a particular situation, difficult. We would value your prayers and any financial support since we are a charity.

Their website is [belfast.streetpastors.org.uk](http://belfast.streetpastors.org.uk)

Love in Christ,

Valerie Fullerton



A group of Street Pastors getting ready to go. I'm back right.

## ***Time***

I never seem to have enough time in my life to do everything that I want or need to do. As one of my fridge magnets says... *'If it wasn't for the last minute ...I'd get nothing done'*. Including this article! This got me thinking about TIME. There are lots of biblical references and other quotes about TIME. It appears that God wants us to realise the importance of spending time wisely.

**Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:15-16 (NIV)**

How you spend your time is more important than how you spend your money.....

We all have the same amount of time in a week. 7 days, 168 hours, 10 080 minutes, 604 800 seconds. Time may be free but it is priceless.

*Time is your most precious gift because you only have a set amount of it.* Rick Warren.

*You can't own it but you can use it. You can't keep it but you can spend it. Once you've lost it you can never get it back.* Harvey Mackay

In today's world it is so easy to spend our time excessively on social media or watching TV, things that can distract us from spending time wisely. We know the importance of regularly spending time with God, yet so often he has to make do with the little bit of spare time we have at the end of a busy day.

How can we make the best use of our time? We must be wise stewards of our time. Then we will not look back in regret, as we never know what tomorrow brings.

Could you use some of your valuable time to work for God? This could be within our Church helping in one of our organisations who are all looking for extra leaders and helpers or doing His work in other areas such as Street Pastors, SOS bus, City Centre Chaplaincy, or working on a team overseas. You will read more about all these within this magazine. We are **always** looking for volunteers to help within the life of the Church. Could you help collect the offering, do a reading, be a door steward, drive someone to an appointment or for shopping, help with the Church garden? Some are small things, some larger but they all important in God's eyes and can be used by Him to bring a blessing to others.

If you are one of the many people who do volunteer and serve in any way within the life of our Church, we are very grateful.

*Ruth Boyce*

Circuit Steward



# Card Making Group

Our Card Making Group has been meeting since 2003, meeting on Tuesday evenings throughout the year and having a break for summer.



Last year we took the decision to return to our original concept, only meeting during the summer months of June, July and August; when other organisations are on a break.

At its height we had sixteen members and each year were able to hold an open workshop for various local charities. We currently have eight regular members and would welcome anyone interested in combining fellowship and craft to our group. We have abundant supplies so no need to purchase anything (please bring your own scissors, pencil and ruler) . If you would like further information any of our members will be happy to speak to you.

I look forward to seeing you at our first meeting in June.  
Linda Nicholson

**Card making class 2019 – Tuesdays @ 7.30pm in the Sam McGuffin room.**

**June – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>**

**July – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**August – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>**

## Manse Report.

I am a “Child of the Manse” and it is ironic that this year I was asked to be manse steward. I spent 21 years in manses north and south of the border, all big lovely homes; but homes which had to be maintained and looked after. One pleasing aspect is that in my day when a minister left one manse and joined another, the old inventory was brought out and everything checked off. If things were missing, the items had to be replaced by the minister. Thankfully this system has now gone which must be a relief to present day ministers. Still, the upkeep of these properties is up to the church, remembering of course that not only is this a family’s home but also an asset belonging to the church. The mind set I use is; “Would I like to live here myself?”

As I have just only recently taken over this job, and so cannot give a yearly report, may I at this stage thank Neville Thomson & Ken McGuffin for the sterling work they have done in the previous three years to get the manse into good order and a credit to our church? Thank you Ken for your continued support. I have asked for your help a few times and you have never said no, so once again a big thank you from me.

A manse is not just a home but also a symbol of the church that it represents. If the manse is in a bad state of repair what sort of message does this give to not only neighbours but also to visitors, laymen and dignitaries? This is sometimes the first impression of our church that people needing help see and maybe the only time they will need the services of a minister, so the manse has to be presentable, welcoming and comforting to all at all time. To this end, my task is to ensure that the house becomes a home which is always fit to live in; so I like to think of it as my own. If there was something wrong with my own house, I would want to get it sorted, the only difference is that I am answerable to the Church Council and the minister for all the work which I sanction and is undertaken.

Because I may think something needs doing, does not necessarily mean it will need to be done, and the minister/family is under the same constraints as I am. The Church Council, after discussion has the final say by vote. This does not mean to say that if an emergency arises; (hopefully never happen on my watch) that I cannot deal with this first and then seek the council's approval later.

I have had one official visit since January, which pointed out a few niggles. These have been sorted or are in the process of being done and I will do an informal back to front visit, when the last task to be done is complete. I have also "past" the house a few times just to check on the outside work, gutters, paint work fencing, etc.

*(someone is watching you Robin)*



I am finding this rewarding to be able to do God's work in this small way. To be able to see achievements and goals set and realised but most of all, keep a home comfortable for our minister and his family to live and be happy in.

John Gray

Manse Steward

## Report on Finance 2019

This year the opening balance in our **Circuit Account** was **£13,859** and in our **Property Account** was **£28,310**.

There has been no major expenditure on property this year to date. The overall trend in these accounts shows that we are 'paying our way'. However, we are heavily reliant upon **Gift Aid** which last year amounted to approximately **£13,208**.



So, while we can be pleased that our income is covering our expenditure there would be a need for additional fundraising if we were to undertake any further major projects.

So far this year we have donated **£478** to the **WDRF cyclone Appeal** and **£370** to **Play it by Ear** for their work in bringing the Gospel to young people in a very visual way.



Our monthly joint services with **Strand Presbyterian** have so far this year, raised **£772.45** for **Christian Aid**.

Our church has also raised **£856.98** during **Christian Aid Week**.

**I Believe In Life  
Before Death**

Gina Neill

Treasurer



## Love personified.

The ministers sermon was about a flock of birds in the formation of a V A little bird near the front became sick and flew to the ground. At the same time two birds left the flight and went to ground where they stayed with the sick bird until it was better and helped guide it home.



My friend has two daughters who have done this same action by helping a young, abandoned mum with a new baby, bringing her into their homes and caring for her.

Taking her to appointments. Filling in forms for social services and baby-sitting her other child.

Eventually they will help her settle in her new home and be there for her when they are needed.

Anon.





## **Cultiv8 Team – July 2019 – Uganda**

From 30<sup>th</sup> June to 13<sup>th</sup> July I am heading out with a short term team to Uganda with Fields of Life.

I will be working in two primary schools, running health, hygiene and child safety programmes as well as doing sports, music and dance with the young people.

We will be running a Holiday Bible Club and carrying out practical projects such as painting.

I am aiming to raise funds for the team project and I recruited a relay team for the Belfast marathon from school friends.



I appreciate that there are a lot of requests for fundraising in our church and so I am very grateful to everyone who has sponsored me.

If you are still interested in sponsoring me, please just speak to me, or sign the sponsor form at the front entrance foyer or link in to my 'just giving' site:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/erin-izzy-claire-zoe-hannah>

More importantly, I would really appreciate your prayers as I prepare for this.

I will hopefully keep you up to date as plans come together.

Thank you so much,

Erin Armstrong

# Little Stars

At Little Stars, we have around 30 babies and toddlers who attend with their parents, grandparents and guardians.



We have our regulars who attend each week. It is so lovely to see and we have consistently been having new little ones coming which is so encouraging for the team.

Little Stars has become like a community. The children are learning vital social skills as they make friends and learn how to share and play with others.



The adults have a place to come, where they can chat and support each other. There is always time for free play with a room full of toys, dolls, puzzles, scooters and cars.



Craft time is another part of the programme to help the children with their fine motor skills and we always have time for bubble play and sing-a-longs.

A highlight for both the toddlers and minders is snack time! We have the most amazing team in the kitchen preparing snacks for the children and food for the adults. We would be completely lost without this team of volunteers who serve in this way. At the end of every term, we always have a party to celebrate. We have such an amazing team who run Little Stars. People with a heart for the ministry, that happens every Wednesday morning, as the children meet to play.



## *Seniors Fellowship*

*Sydenham Methodist Seniors Fellowship meets at 2.30 in the Taylor Room on the third Thursday of each month, September to May for afternoon tea and fellowship.*

*Everyone is welcome and we love to see new faces.*

*There are occasional variations to this routine, but plenty of notice is given.*

*In recent times there have been coach trips to*



*Harrison - Greyabbey, Christmas shopping at Hillsides nursery and visit to Colemans Nursery with its variety of shops.*

*Margaret Gordon.*

## Coffee Kindness

It's hard to believe Coffee Kindness is fast approaching its eighth birthday! It's a simple but effective way to be kind to our community.



Every Friday morning, a couple of us arrive at Sydenham station and give out tea and coffee to passers-by- completely free, no strings attached. It's wonderful having wee conversations with commuters and school children alike and we soon get to know the regulars!

If this is something you would like to occasionally do from September onwards, please see

**Sammy Stanfield or Anne Holmes.**

Thanks again to all those who make the drinks and serve them. Coffee Kindness couldn't happen without you!

Sammy





## Reminiscing

Where have all the years gone? Having stepped down as Group Scout Leader of 9<sup>th</sup>, I will miss being closely involved with all going on, but am happy that we have a wonderful team continuing the work with our young folks, and I Thank them for all they do for their sections, and all their support and friendship to Sam and me. Our Thanks also to Pat Gordon for all her work with 9<sup>th</sup> and support to us both. It was my brother who first got me involved with 9<sup>th</sup> Group (in1965!) and I have really enjoyed my time there, first as Assistant Cub Leader, then Cub Leader (Akela) and finally Group Scout Leader following the retirement of our former Group Scout Leader, the late Roly Beckett who was a wonderful example of a true Scout and Friend who we all miss.

Outside 9<sup>th</sup> Group, I have had the great honour of being an Asst. District Commissioner for Cubs, and two periods as District Commissioner covering all sections. I also attended the National Cub Scout Board at our London HQ twice a year for 6 years, representing Cubs and Leaders in NI. This was a great experience.

Having also been on staff at several Scout Jamborees both in the North and South of Ireland, it was great to see thousands of Scouts attending from all over the world. Of course the one in Gosford Forest Park was the best !! That was where Sam and I started going out together and the rest as they say is history!

Sam has been involved in Leadership in Scouting for almost 60 years. He was District Commissioner for West Belfast at the time we met, and Scout Leader in 14<sup>th</sup> Belfast Troop, taking Scouts and Venture Scouts abroad which was a great experience for them. He was also Commissioner in charge of our Crawfordsburn Campsite, overseeing many changes there and many camps for foreign and local Scouting.





He was also on the Belfast County Finance Committee and is currently volunteering help with the accounts in our local Scout Shop.

At our Founder's Day Service this year Stephen Gordon and 3 boys presented Sam and me with brilliant gifts – a super montage of the world scout badge on canvas with the details picked out with ropes and knotting



and with 9<sup>th</sup> Scout Group also added. They had also made up a scrapbook of photographs through the years which we have been through many times and has brought back many memories, and also a beautiful bouquet of flowers. A lot of hard work went into these gifts and we both Thank everyone involved very much indeed. We will cherish them greatly.

We wish 9<sup>th</sup> all the best in the future and Pray God's Blessing and Guidance as the Leaders help the Members to become good citizens of the future.

Please keep them in your Prayers also.

Sam and Ann



## 9<sup>th</sup> Squirrels

We have a lovely, fun group of boys aged 4 to 6, meeting each Wednesday at 6.30pm. Last September we started with 17 Squirrels, though at Christmas 4 Squirrels 'swam' up to Beavers.

The sessions include games, craft, Bible stories, simple baking and badge work.



We have completed two badges this year.

The 'I'm Caring' badge involved learning about other faiths, having a visit from Guide Dogs and raising £55 for the charity. We also cared for wild birds by making bird feeders and had a parent's evening, serving juice and biscuits.

Our second badge was the 'I'm Friendly' badge. We learned how to work together to create a big art attack based on Creation. (Genesis Ch.1) Found out about Chinese culture, and invited Stormont Presbyterian Squirrels to join us in a drama workshop with 'Play It by Ear.'

We have a great time in Squirrels finishing each term with an outing such as Indiana Land.

New boys are always welcome.

From Laura, Wilma, Valerie and Sara

## Beaver Annual Report

We started in September with 6 boys but after about a month, this quickly increased to 15. This was partly due to St Brendan's Scout Group ceasing and by word of mouth from the existing boys.

Badge work has been steady with 4 or 5 badges already completed. These include Faith and Community badges.

At Christmas, we had a great evening at Leatherdale Residents Home. The boys played 'Pass the Parcel' with the residents and a decent number of parents helped us sing Carols.

We also spent an energetic evening at Indianaland.  
Beaver Rally Day is a planned event in May.

The work put into the group by Callum Young, Denise Brown and Anna Rainey has been vital to the success of the Beavers this year. Also regular input from Emma-Jayne has been really valued. I couldn't have carried this through without all their invaluable help.



Ian Fullerton BSL

## 9<sup>th</sup> Scouts

Once again, the Scout troop for 11- 14 year olds have been pushing out in learning new skills. This year they have completed badges in Mechanics, Astronautics and further exploring different faiths. Each badge involves many practical skills and a great degree of dedication.

As well as these, the scouts have been continuing to use their camping and scouting skills with an overnight camp to Slievenaman. This site is situated in the Mourne mountain group and the Scouts set off in good order.



I was delayed in arriving at Slievenaman, but with Explorer Scout Freddie in charge of the route plan, I was assured they would be on course for their hike up to Hare's gap.

Taking a slightly different route I phoned the main group to find that a certain leader had modified their route to add an additional 1 kilometre to the starting length! I quickly gave my grid coordinates before the phone signal failed and awaited the Scouts. My call had forced Freddie to modify his route plan, but well trained as he was, he found me with no problems. The walk around the Mournes certainly built up an appetite and once back at camp, the fire was quickly lit and dinner put on. The Scouts practiced pioneering, fire building, backwoods cooking, knotting and other skills. A quiet night



was had by all, until early the next morning when various accusations of sweet theft in the night led to a high level investigation. A full court case was set up to answer the matter. The accused and his counsel, along with the prosecution, built up evidence and tried the case in front of the leaders (judges). The case was argued well on both sides, until the accused inadvertently confessed to the crime during a brilliant piece of cross-examination from the prosecution. He was sentenced to clean the sleeping areas of sweet wrappers, though his defence council helped him to tidy. We all had a great time and are looking forward to the next camp.



At present we have only one Explorer Scout but we hope to have several scouts move up after the summer.

Stephen.





# Ulster Project

July 2019 - Hannah Armstrong - Alliance, Ohio

The Ulster Project originated in the mid 1970's to help break down the prejudices and stereotypes rooted in 'The Troubles'. Today, it brings teens from different faiths and traditions together to learn from their similarities and differences.

It aims to build relationships, foster trust and help these teenagers from Northern Ireland and America learn from each other.

## What will I be doing?

- ◇ Working with the other young people on the team to undertake various service projects within the Alliance, Ohio community
- ◇ Learn to live with a different family for a month
- ◇ Broaden my thinking of the world – exploring ways of peace making and conflict resolution through discussions & training
- ◇ Use my skills in sport and dance....

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## As I prepare to go to Ohio....

### Please pray for –

- ◇ Safe travel
- ◇ To 'fit in' with my host family
- ◇ For my health, especially in the hotter weather
- ◇ To be challenged in my thinking and creativity
- ◇ For courage to try new things and step outside my 'comfort zone'



**Thank you for supporting my Ulster Project  
fundraising coffee morning  
and for  
your support and prayers**



## THE WORSHIP TEAM

Praise with a blast on the trumpet,  
 Praise by strumming soft strings  
 Praise him with castanets and dance,  
 Praise him with banjo and flute;  
 Praise him with cymbals and a big bass  
 drum,  
 praise him with fiddles and mandolin.  
 Let every living, breathing creature praise God!

**Hallelujah!**



**Psalm 150v3-6**  
**(From the Message)**

We have a dedicated team who know and love the Lord. It is a privilege to worship God with our instruments and voices. Each Sunday our prayers exalt the Lord and ask the Holy Spirit to move in the hearts of all to seek God's power to lift up the name of the Lord with heartfelt worship.

If you know the Lord as your Saviour and are a competent musician with a desire to serve please talk to Rev Robin Waugh.

## My Role and about Me

Hi, my name is **Emma-Jayne** and in case we *haven't* met yet, I am the **Community and Family worker**. I have been in Sydenham since December which means *I'm* coming up to the six month mark. *I'm not* quite sure where the time has gone.

Before I start, *I'll* let you know a bit about myself.

I have been a Christian since I was 7 and might be one of the biggest Disney fans you will ever meet. My favourite colour is **yellow** (hence my bright yellow car) and since working on cruise ships, have found that I definitely have the travel bug!

I have been involved in youth and *children's* work since I was a teenager, volunteering within my home church Joanmount. This led me to do my year on **TOM team**, which led to completing the degree in **Youth and Community Work with practical theology**. *I've* always had a heart for ministry, especially the ministry of children and young people, leading me to Sydenham.

In the first few months, I have endeavored to visit all the existing groups to get to know the children and leaders and to see if there was anything I could help with. This led to doing the Faith badge with the **Beavers**. It was great getting to teach and pray with the boys. I have also been going to **GB**, to get to know the girls and lend a hand to the amazingly faithful leaders, especially in the lead up to their 90th display. I have now been involved in three '**messy churches**'. One on looking at Esther and one on Holy Week, both of which were well attended by families and leaders. Messy Church is slowly becoming one of the best things to do because the bible is my favourite way to connect with God, so I love the opportunity to help others connect using it too.



**WNTMG** has become a regular part of my calendar and has been a great way to get to know the young people, especially the ones who came with us to **Soul Mates**. We took 5 girls to Soul Mates this year and learnt about prayer and the power that prayer has.

I am slowly getting around all the families within the church- to visit and get to know them better.

I am part of the team that runs the **SU** in **Victoria Park Primary School**.

Every Wednesday morning, I have been going to **Little Stars**, getting to know the children that attend and their accompanying adult, as well that the wonderful team that look after Little Stars. It is an amazing ministry and it has been a blessing to be a part of it.

At the minute, I am praying and planning the **Holiday Bible Club**. It will run from the **1st to 5th July 2019**.

The theme will be **SUPERHEROS** and how we can be super heroes for **Jesus**!



## My Favourite Hymn

My favourite hymn is the worship song “**In Christ Alone**” as it summarizes the whole of the Gospel message in the four verses of the song. This song was written in 2001, the lyrics by song writer and worship leader Stuart Townend, and the melody by composer Keith Getty from Northern Ireland.

As we look at each verse, I will try to highlight something of what the verse means to me.

**In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song:  
This cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My comforter, my all in all,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

This speaks to me of the hope we have in Christ, no matter what challenges we have to deal with, He is always with us assuring us of His peace and comfort. He is the solid ground on which we can leave our fears and experience His eternal and everlasting love.

**In Christ alone – who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied,  
For every sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

As I reflect on these words, they show the divinity and at the same time the humanity of God when He came to earth and was born as a helpless babe. Then we move on to the love he has for each of us, when he sacrificed Himself on the cross to take away our sins as only the sinless son of God could do.

**There in the ground his body lay,  
 Light of the world by darkness slain,  
 Then, bursting forth in glorious day,  
 Up from the grave He rose again!  
 And as He stands in victory  
 Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
 For I am His and He is mine  
 Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

This must be the most wonderful news that the human race has ever heard. Having recently celebrated Easter, when we rejoiced in the knowledge that Christ defeated death when He rose again. He stands in victory and we too can know victory over sin because of the resurrection.

**No guilt in life, no fear in death  
 This is the power of Christ in me;  
 From life's first cry to final breath,  
 Jesus commands my destiny.  
 No power of hell, no scheme of man  
 Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
 Till He returns or calls me home,  
 Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.**

When we face death, as all of us will, it is reassuring to know that if we have the power of Christ in our life, we will not fear death, even though we might fear the manner of our passing. If we have made a commitment to Christ, then our destiny is assured, and nothing can separate us from Him until He returns as He has promised, or calls us home, for it is in the power of Christ we stand.

Jack Boyce



## **World Mission Partnership and World Development & Relief**

In the Methodist Church in Ireland we have two organisations which help us get involved with God's mission in the wider world.

Firstly, we have WDR (World Development & Relief). Secondly, we have WMP (World Mission Partnership). Both organisations follow a strategy of working in partnership with groups that have local knowledge and expertise and share Methodist values.

In recent years, at our 'World' services, we have been very fortunate to be able to learn in more detail, from various guest speakers, about the work of some of our partners

At our annual WDR service in September,

Emma Dunwoody told us about a summer 2018 trip to South Africa by a group of Methodist young people.

The group was able to see the work of two of our WDR partners - Church Land Programme and Phakamisa.

Church Land Programme is concerned with fighting for those suffering from land injustice and establishing housing rights.



**Methodist World  
Development & Relief**  
PARTNERS IN CHANGE

Phakamisa respond to the needs of children and adults from poor communities, who are living with or impacted by HIV/AIDs through their uplifting and economically empowering programmes.

At our annual WMP service in February, Catherine Little from the Bible Society, one of the WMP partners, told us about the varied work they are involved in.

This includes distributing Bibles in detention centres in Austria and distributing Bibles among the many migrant workers in the Gulf states. Catherine also made us think about the availability of the Bible in different languages around the world.

We can find more information about all the various partners in the Annual Reports of WDR and WMP and at the following links:

<http://methodistworlddevelopment.org/>

<https://www.irishmethodist.org/wmp>



IRISH METHODIST  
**WORLD MISSION**  
PARTNERSHIP

Thanks to everyone in the congregation who supports the work of WMP & WDR.

WDR is traditionally supported through the annual 1% envelopes distributed in September. Another option is Direct Debit.

Sometimes in response to disasters there are additional appeals. In recent years we have also supported WDR through involvement with the Belfast Marathon.

WMP is supported through boxes, annual envelopes distributed in February, monthly envelopes included in the FWO pack and Direct Debit.

If you are not in the habit of using any of these options to support WDR & WMP, please think again.

When we look at the world around us, it is possible to feel overwhelmed and think 'What is the point in trying to do anything?'

The good thing about being involved with the various partners of WMP & WDR, is that we get to hear some of the detail and some of the stories about how God can use our support to make big impacts on lives.

We can find real encouragement in those stories to get involved and continue to be involved with the work of the Methodist Church in Ireland through WMP & WDP.

Alan Hall

## SYDENHAM METHODIST BOWLING CLUB

Bowling is a skilful game. **A DRAWING GAME!!**

The aim of the game is to get bowl near to the jack.

**"Our aim is to keep the bowl on the mat!!"**

The bowling club has been going since the early 60's when the completion of the Ferguson Hall, in 1966, gave us a good quality floor, and a mixed bowling club was formed in the evenings.

At the end of the night we have an epilogue taken by Some members of the club, which proves to be a real blessing.

**We can't forget the cup of tea and a sticky bun.**



There's only 13 of us, and we all have a bit of fun.

**(Can't play very good bowls, but we have fun.)**

**We need a lot more new members:**

If you are not doing much on a Monday night why not come and have a look. You might like what you see.

And there is plenty of bowls for new members.

So why not join us, also make new friends

**We should be starting** about the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE**



## **DURING THE YEAR...**

**We welcomed into our church family,  
through Baptism or Dedication**

Mateo Coulter Stanfield, son of Sammy & Kierinda  
on 25th November 2018

Matthew David Bryce, son of Michael & Laura  
on 17th March 2019

Junia Niamh Morris, daughter of Peter & Faith  
on 31st March 2019

Reuben Thomas James Sloan, son of  
Chris & Joanna.  
on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**Congratulations to those who were  
married... 15th March 2019**

Peter Gammon & Vicky  
Hamilton  
(in Bangor Abbey)







**We give thanks to God for those  
who now celebrate the fulness of life...**

Lily Sweet - 17 June 2018

Nelty Harbinson - 28 August 2018

Tom Walker - 4 September 2018

Lewis Fisher - 12 September 2018

Maureen Crooks - 8 October 2018

Jack Halliday –20 December 2018

Sandra Elliott - 5 February 2019

Isabella Flack - 9 February 2019

Evelyn Grigg - 16 February 2019

Helen Fisher - 21 February 2019

Tommy Doran - 12 March 2019

Heather McDade - 16 March 2019

Mina Phillips - 29 April 2019

Dickie Bell – 25 May 2019

Annie Dawson – 1 June 2019





## Sunday morning coffee

Sunday morning coffee continues to provide a place for people to enjoy tea or coffee, biscuits and chat each week following the service.

On any Sunday there will be those who loiter near the biscuits, Others who always take their seats and the little ones racing around at the back of the hall!

We are grateful to have a group of faithful volunteers who serve each week, although more volunteers are always welcomed!

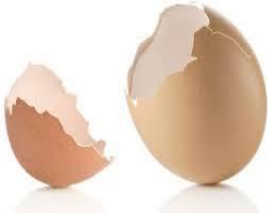
It is lovely on special Sundays when a larger group of the congregation venture across to the halls to share in buns for birthdays, cake for baptisms or special coffee for JMA.

Thank you to all our volunteers who serve, those who enjoy the fellowship and if you haven't ever come across and feel like you would like to join with us, we would love to pour you a cup of coffee!



Orla.

## Breaking eggs



When I worked for Roads Service (now called Transport NI) I had a colleague whose favourite saying was “you can't make an omelette without breaking eggs”. He used to say this every time we were about to do something new on the road network. I certainly discovered the truth in that saying as we watched the effect on queues of traffic as new schemes bedded in. In Isaiah 43:19 we read God saying “see, I am doing a new thing!” Now Isaiah didn't mention breaking eggs, but in many ways, change can take a bit of getting used to until it settles down. As you may know our Church Council have been seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit for our future mission - in particular our lay vocational employees and also the refurbishment of the vestibule to make it a more welcoming, brighter environment for both congregation and visitors alike and to open up its potential to facilitate other forms of ministry.

Two significant things have happened recently to focus our thinking.

First, after 14 years of much appreciated ministry, our Youth Pastor, Sammy Stanfield, has taken the opportunity to move from his part time teaching post to a full- time post. Robin has mentioned this elsewhere in this magazine however, I would just like to record grateful thanks to Sammy for his long years of faithful service leading our youth ministry.

The second thing is that representatives from the Joseph Rank Trust visited our Church and have offered us a grant of £10,000 towards the cost of refurbishing the vestibule. This grant does, however, come with the conditions that we must have the scheme completed within 1 year – i.e. before the end of April 2020, and they will only pay out the funds when the work is complete. At the Church Council meeting on 6 June, gratitude was expressed to the Joseph Rank Trust for their generosity, and it was agreed that we should crack on with the work and not lose the opportunity of obtaining the grant. In addition, we are continuing to explore if other grant aid organisations would also be willing to support our project.

The vestibule refurbishment is really two schemes rolled into one, to minimise the disruption (the 'breaking eggs') and to ensure cost effectiveness in carrying out the work. One aspect of the scheme is Health and Safety works as required by the Fire Authority, which includes the installation of emergency lighting and alarms, new fire safety doors at the foot of the stairs, the building-in of fire resistant storage under the stairs where the crèche equipment is currently stored.



The cost of these works is estimated at £22,000 incl. VAT which would not benefit from grant aid but thankfully we do have the necessary funding in the Property Account.

The second aspect of the scheme is to provide further enhancements during the time the Health and Safety works are on- going.

These will include new ceilings and lighting; new floor coverings; replacing the entrance doors into the church ; replacing the partition wall into the Taylor Room with new folding doors ; and replacement of the window panels in the entrance.



The estimated cost of these works is approx. £28,000. With the contribution of £10000 from Joseph Rank, it means our shortfall is currently £18,000. We are trying to reduce this further by seeking other grant aid. Ideally, we would like to obtain other grants to fully meet this £18,000 but there may be a shortfall. It is very likely that we will have to have a A Gift Day and/or interest free loans to help manage the payment of the work.

Thank you for the very generous way the work of our church is supported through the weekly giving. Unfortunately, the overall income figures did show a decrease of almost 5% last year, however, there were very understandable reasons for some of this decrease as people's circumstances change. Thank you to those who do review their giving from time to time – it is good practice and an example to all of us. We have a very faithful team who look after our finances.

I would pay tribute to the meticulous work of our Treasurer, Gina Neill, Derek Cottney our Gift Aid Secretary and Alan Gray who looks after our weekly envelopes. If you would like further information on weekly giving or gift aid, please speak to any of these folk, myself or Robin our Minister.

The timescale to complete the vestibule works is very challenging. We will lose the £10,000 grant if the complete scheme is not finished by end of next April. Our intention would be to have a contract awarded towards the end of this year and a contractor starting work in early January. The estimated timescale for the work is 8 to 10 weeks. We are unlikely to lose the use of the church during this period, but the vestibule and Taylor Room will be 'out of bounds.' Groups that use the Taylor Room will be relocated to the Sam McGuffin room.

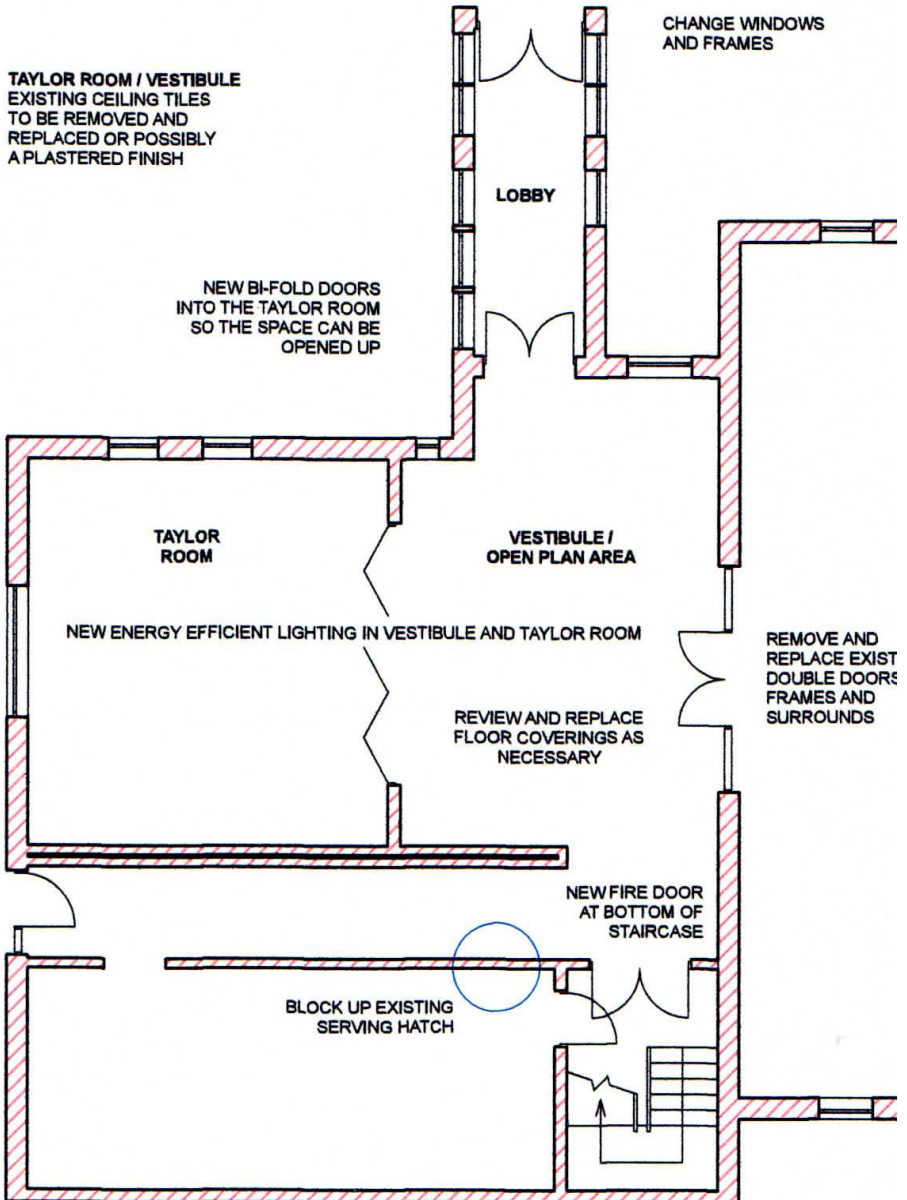
It does look like a period of disruption (breaking eggs!) ahead – which we will try to minimise and get the work completed as quickly as possible.

Please be as supportive as you can as we, together as part of the body of Christ in Sydenham, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, meet the challenges of our youth and community ministry and the enhancement of our premises

May the Lord richly bless each of you.

Brian Maxwell,

Society Steward



# Re:store



Looking through your wardrobe? Need a few new clothes?

Spring cleaning the house?

Someone else may find a good use for your items.

**Please remember our container.      Thankyou.**

\* \* \* \* \*



Please keep your donated items coming in for STOREHOUSE.

Items needed for following six months are:-

June - Tinned fish

July - Tinned Desserts

August - Tinned Fruit

September - Long Life Milk

October - Pasta

November - Pasta Sauce

December - Tinned Potatoes

**THANKYOU**



## HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

This year our holiday Bible Club is called  
**Hero Headquarters!**

We will be learning what makes a good superhero by using some of the best kind of superheroes....God's children!

Each day we will look at a character from the Bible and see what they can teach us about being a superhero.

By the end of the week we should have all the skills and knowledge to be superheroes ourselves!

**Hero Headquarters will be from  
6:30-8pm each evening  
from the 1st to the 5th July!**

**Anybody aged 4-11 is invited!**

We look forward to seeing you all there!



\*Make sure on the first night the child attends, an adult is there to fill in the consent form!\*

[sydenhammethodist.org](http://sydenhammethodist.org)

The church website is updated every week with useful information. There are details of upcoming events and reports on recent occasions.

You can view the latest notice sheet, news sheet and church magazine, and the church calendar shows important dates for the whole year.

Missed a sermon or want to listen again? Clicking the link will take you to an audio file so you can hear the message.

We are currently working on a new version of the website with a more up-to-date feel and format that will be easier to use on mobile phones and tablets.



We'll let you know when we are ready to launch the new look!

Suzanne Bryans.

# CHURCH WEBSITE



*Sydenham Methodist Church*  
*Magazine*  
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*YOUTH SUPPLEMENT*

*In appreciation of Sammy's 14 years as  
Youth Pastor*

*Jesus said: "Let the little children come to me, and do  
not hinder them, for the kingdom of  
heaven belongs to such as these."*

*Matt. 19 : 14*

## Youth Report 2018/19

This was another busy year in our youth ministry. **Focus**, our Sunday Bible class, continues to run during the latter part of our Sunday morning worship. We have been following an online programme run by Youth for Christ, which helps our young people engage with God's wisdom in a fun, relevant way.

During spring we ran **Membership classes** in place of Focus. Sessions included learning about God the Father; the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; the empowering Holy Spirit; the sacraments of Baptism and Communion; spiritual rhythms that draw us closer to God; and the exciting adventure of God's big picture, to which all of us are invited. We're delighted that **Amy Martin, Erin Armstrong, and Anna and Sam Rainey** entered Full Membership on Easter Sunday.



We continue to run several age-specific groups during the week, from age eleven upwards.

**WNTMG** runs every other Wednesday evening, and is a fun group for 11 – 14 year olds to make friends, eat food and learn about God. At this moment in time, one of the interesting characteristics of our church youth is that many are content in attending only one group or activity per week. There may be several reasons for this, but the important point is in realising that for many of our WNTMGERS, what happens on a Wednesday evening is the only church they experience. This year, we have been focusing on *grace*. Some of the young people's descriptions of grace have stayed with me: it's costly, it's a second chance, it's unowed (and yes, they made up that word!), and it's undeserved extravagant kindness.

Our **Cluster groups** continue to meet during each month. These are for young people and young adults, aged 14 and above. In the Guys' Cluster we have been studying the Enneagram this year. This is an ancient Christian personality typing model, which helps us to understand ourselves and others better. For centuries great Christian teachers have said that knowing yourself is just as important as knowing God. Hopefully by the end of this year we have learned a little more about what makes us- and others- tick!

**Young Youngs-** our group for over 18s- has continued to run monthly. We alternate each month between having a social and studying a Christian teaching DVD together. Many of our young adults serve the church in different ways, so it's great to be able to provide them a space to not have to be a leader, unwind and just be themselves!

The Methodist Church in Ireland continues to run large events for different age groups and we love taking a group to them, as they help our young people to grasp that they are part of something bigger than our church. This year groups from our church attended **Autumn Soul** in Bangor, and **Soul Mates** in Lurgan. Autumn Soul always falls on the weekend that the clocks go back; I'm not sure having an extra hour lying on a church floor is a good or a bad thing! But what *is* a good thing is the opportunity to spend a weekend worshipping with our wonderful children and young people, eating together and wandering aimlessly with them around a mid-sized town, searching for pound shops on the Saturday afternoons!

A special thanks to all the leaders who give their time, energy and love to bless the children and young people in our church family. We couldn't function as a family without you.

Sammy