

WELLINGTON RECORD

SEPTEMBER 2019

Editor's comments

Welcome to your September Wellington Record!

As we kick off the new church year, this edition has something of a focus on our young people and the work that is being done among them. Our young people are a cherished part of the church family, and they face challenges that, even in the last 10 or 20 years, have changed dramatically – it doesn't feel like a long time since my time at school and university, and yet it was before technology and in particular social media took such a hold on our lives. The teens and early 20s can be tricky enough, but handling it all in these new and complex times is unimaginable to most of us.

So as a church, we surely need to be supporting our children and youth, equipping them, and most importantly praying for them as they find their way in the world. And also praying for wisdom for parents and youth leaders.

While we simply wouldn't have room in one magazine to look in detail at every single activity that goes on in Wellington, I hope that we'll all gain a valuable insight into the challenges and priorities of working with children, teenagers and young adults in 2019, as well as a flavour of what is going on both here and further afield, so that we can join in meaningful prayer for the efforts that are put in.

Also in this magazine, we have several very interesting reports from church members who are serving (or will be going to serve) elsewhere, and from projects and people supported by Wellington.

There is a (hopefully) helpful Reviews section on page 18&19, and some kids' activities too (page 22&23). And as usual, there's a photographic round-up of some of the recent goings-on in the church – you'll find that on pages 24 – 39.

A huge thanks to all those who have contributed to this edition in any way, for their helpfulness and willingness, and to Conor in particular for all his hard work.

All in all, I hope and pray that you will not only enjoy this edition, but that it will encourage and inspire you. This church has many moving parts, and our prayer is always that everything that is done here, little or large, is only done for God's glory and kingdom.

In His name,

Alison



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If you would like to include photos of your wedding in the church magazine, we'll be happy to print them. Please send via email to the editor:

alisonwoodrow1@gmail.com

Pray

Peter McClelland

You will have heard it said that young people are the church of tomorrow, which in some ways is true, but we can't forget that they are also very much the church of today.

In Wellington we are blessed with so many families and young people who are heavily involved in the life of the church. And within our youth ministry we have a large team of people who have a heart for the youth. These leaders invest time, passion, care, love, wisdom and so much more every week into the lives of our young people as they seek to see them grow in their faith. As the youth worker, I can't thank everyone involved in our youth ministry enough. And although we have a great team of youth leaders in church, there is always room for more! There is a role for everyone to play in the lives of young people.

The vision for youth in Wellington focuses on 3 stages: 'COME, GROW, GO'. Our heart is to see all the young people we work with

Come follow Jesus
Grow as a disciple of Jesus
Go share Jesus with others

Everything we strive to do focuses on those 3 strands, which we seek to achieve through the core values of scripture, prayer, worship and building relationships, all of which are integrated into our organisations. Wellington is a large church and I understand that people serve in many ways, however I am writing this article because I want to invite everyone to be part of making 'COME, GROW, GO' happen in the lives of our young people.



Life and church can be busy, and not everyone has the time to physically serve in a youth organisation in church, but as a church we are a family, and families are meant to support each other in any way they can. One of the core things we all can help with is prayer.

The apostle Paul was not always able to be there physically for the churches, so he wrote letters of encouragement, correction and guidance to the believers, and in those letters he informed the readers that he was praying continually and passionately that Christians would grow in their faith and share the truth of the gospel. In Philippians 1:3,4 Paul writes to the church in Philippi, "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy". To the church in Rome he says, "God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you in my prayers at all times" (Romans 1:9,10). In his letter to the church of the Thessalonians he encourages them that "We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers" (1 Thessalonians 1:2).

Paul understood the power and value of praying for others.

Throughout this edition of the magazine you will read stories and interviews of young people sharing their experiences of serving God, experiences of school and everyday life, and some of the things we as a church can be praying for. Being a prayer warrior for our young people is just as important as turning up to help on a Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday. The young people and leaders need us as their church family to be holding them up in prayer. And so I would invite you to be part of our youth ministry in the form of a prayer warrior. Below are some things to pray for.

* Pray that the time, passion, scripture and relationship being invested would bear fruit in their lives.

* Pray that through their time spent as a young person in our church, however long that may be, they would come follow Jesus, grow as a disciple of Jesus and go share the gospel of Jesus with those God places in their lives.

* Pray for leaders as they seek to share the truth of the Gospel with every young person who comes through the doors of our church.

College and University Chaplaincy in Belfast

James Diffin

A chaplaincy is a ministry attached to a specific institution. In the Presbyterian church, we have chaplains working in hospitals, prisons, the armed forces and educational institutions. There's a verse from 1 Samuel 23 that has always reflected the work of chaplains for me. In the passage, David is on the run from Saul and having a pretty miserable time of it but "Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God" (1 Samuel 23:16). I think that's the essence of chaplaincy – to meet people where they are, and help them find strength in God.

Colleges and universities particularly value the work of chaplaincy. Chaplains spend the largest portion of their time on pastoral activities – very often this is one-to-one support, a ministry that is growing as colleges and universities place more emphasis on support for students who are vulnerable and experiencing times of difficulty. And those difficulties aren't limited to students: teachers, lecturers, researchers, support staff and those involved in governance all face questions, challenges and times of trial. It's often chaplains, who are a part of the institutional community, yet at the same time somewhat independent of it, who can provide counsel, a listening ear and prayerful support. There is so much potential for the work of college and university chaplaincy in the city of Belfast.

Queen's University and Stranmillis College together have around 25,000 students. Belfast Metropolitan College has 37,000 students at different campuses across the city. Ulster University is about to complete construction of their new Belfast campus which will see 15,000 students move into the cathedral quarter of the city. Total that up and it's a number of people not far off the population of Ballymena, all studying within a two and half mile stretch. Huge developments of student accommodation are springing up in the city centre too. Just last year, Queen's University opened two new accommodation complexes off Great Victoria Street providing beds for 1,200 students. In the cathedral quarter, nine new developments will provide rooms for a further 4,200 students.

The Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland have been working together in chaplaincy ministry in Belfast since 2012. They chose 'The Hub' as the name for their ministry because they always had the aspiration to see ministry growing out of their student centre in south Belfast and into the rest of the city, like spokes coming out of the hub of a wheel. In 2016 the two churches decided to grow their chaplaincy team, to both continue the work already established in the city, and to plant new expressions of chaplaincy in some of the emerging student epicentres.

I joined that team in 2017 as the Associate Chaplain. I'm involved practically in the work that we do across the city, but the main focus of my role is to look after how we do discipleship and pastoral care across all the ministries of the chaplaincy. It's amazing to look back at the last two years and see how God has been opening doors for us and moving powerfully in people's lives. We have forty-eight students who live with us at our residential centre close to Queen's University, but it's much more than just a place to stay while studying in Belfast. Our residents commit to being part of a community of discipleship where they eat, pray, read scripture, share life and are disciplined together.

In this new season of chaplaincy, however, we've also been looking beyond the walls of our centre and growing into other parts of the city, and 2018-19 has been an amazing year as we've started to connect with Belfast Met. We've met Christian students and created space for them to meet other Christians from the college and spend time with one another and with us in fellowship, study and prayer. We've also got to know students who aren't from a church background, many of whom are going through really difficult times and just wanted someone to talk to. It's been a privilege to be a listening ear for them, to pray for them and to have some of them come to church with us.

God has also been opening doors for us in the student accommodations in the city. Loneliness is a huge issue for students, and chaplaincy has a vital role to play in creating a sense of community in otherwise disconnected accommodation blocks, and in supporting students who might be feeling isolated. Every Tuesday and Thursday, some of our team go into residences across the city. We serve some food, get to know the students, introduce them to one another, provide a safe space for them to talk about their life and their studies, share our faith with those who ask, and pray with those who want us to.

God has given us so many opportunities to connect with people on the different campuses. Over the last couple of years we've had meals for international students, supported students facing disciplinary action, prayed with members of staff struggling with increased workloads and difficult workplace dynamics, trained students in street evangelism and taken those teams around the city, and so much more. We're looking forward to what He has in store for us next.

Pray for...

...the work of The Hub.

...for the future of the ministry. We're entering the third year of a three-year project so we're being watchful and prayerful and really seeking God's wisdom for the next season.

...for the work that PCI is doing on campus.
...for David Gray, Presbyterian chaplain to Queen's University, Stranmillis and Union Theological College.

...for Cheryl Maybin, chaplain to Ulster University Jordanstown and Belfast.

...for Lee Eagleson, known to many of us, whose church plant is only a stone's throw away from Belfast Met Millfield and right on the doorstep of many student accommodations.





Celebration of 10 years

On 17 April, a special meeting marked 10 years since our congregation moved from the old church on Wellington Street into the new church building on the Sourhill Road. It was a varied evening, with many taking part. A number of members spoke of their memories of the move, and how everything came together, and Geoff Marshall did a quiz about the process. We watched a video about the build itself, and even enjoyed a boxed picnic tea!

The main point of the evening was how God was in the midst of the move, and we celebrated and gave thanks for the last 10 years, while also looking forward to what lies ahead in God's will.



He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. – 1 Thessalonians 5:24

MARK RODGERS

The Lord graciously saved me ten years ago, and even in those early stages of being a Christian I had the desire to preach the Bible. In 2015, after much prayer and encouragement from others, I decided to test this call to preaching and pastoral ministry by applying for the Handling the Word course, and then in 2016, the Accredited Preachers Scheme, both run by PCI. 2016/2017 was a rather hectic year, because as well as applying for the APS, I also applied for ordained ministry in PCI. And in order to demonstrate my academic ability for this, I had to undertake a one year part-time A-level in Religious Studies and gain a grade B for acceptance – all this while working full-time and with family commitments.

The APS was completed successfully, and then in April 2017 I had my interviews for ordained ministry at Union Theological College. After two days of intensive interviews, UTC accepted me to be a Ministry student in September 2017, on the basis that I gained the required grade in my A-level. After a long couple of months, it was results day in August – I didn't get my grade, and so wasn't able to commence studies at UTC that September. What now? Attempt the A-level again. August 2018, results day – same outcome again.

At this point I was so confused, everything seemed to be working out over the last few years, only for me to fall at this final 'hurdle'. At this point, in my frustration I began to question God.



However, in the midst of the disappointment I still had the desire to serve Him in some sort of preaching / pastoral capacity, so my wife Gillian encouraged me to study at Belfast Bible College for the year and see where the Lord would lead and guide us. This was a big step of faith, as I had recently been made redundant and now there was only one income coming into the home. But I applied, and was accepted.

Halfway through my year at BBC, out of the blue, I was informed by UTC that if I successfully completed my year at BBC, I would be accepted to begin studying and training for ordained ministry in PCI in September 2019. I am pleased to report that I have successfully completed my year at BBC, and I now look forward to beginning at UTC in September.

Throughout this journey, I have learned a few important things: just because there is an open door doesn't mean it is the right door, and just because a door seems closed doesn't mean it won't open later. I have learned to trust in God's sovereignty and realise that His timing is ALWAYS perfect – "He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it" – 1 Thessalonians 5:24.

Soli deo Gloria.

A SAFE PLACE

Gary Millar

When we think of where we live, we would most likely say it is a safe place. That cannot be said of many areas in South Africa, particularly if you live in a township. In the past three years more than 2600 children have been murdered, and it is reported that a husband or boyfriend kills a woman every 6 hours in South Africa. Yes, you read that correctly – every 6 hours.

In the face of such a seemingly overwhelming level of violence, it would be understandable for people, for the church, simply to wring their hands and say, “There’s nothing we can do”.

Thankfully, one church chose to say, “There’s something we can do”. In September 2018 I returned to South Africa, primarily to attend Steven (and Courtney) Lamont’s wedding. It was a great opportunity to visit a friend who is familiar to many in Wellington – Pastor Trevor

Downham of Norwegian Settlers Church (NSC) in Port Shepstone (www.nsc.org.za) Norwegian Settlers Church has a unique project called Genesis – a multi-faceted project seeking to holistically meet the needs of the community in which they live. Wellington supports Genesis Trust annually from the Mission Fund.

Over lunch Trevor introduced me to the latest Genesis Trust project: Safe Place. He was inspired by signs saying “Safe Place” in a less than stellar part of a US city he was visiting. He wondered what a Safe Place would look like back home in South Africa.



Trevor realised that a Safe Place was exactly what many people in the local community needed. The HIV pandemic has left behind an enormous amount of need and tragedy in South Africa. In addition to the townships, there are also low cost housing areas where enormous amounts of people come seeking to find jobs in the bigger towns. Many live there in abject poverty.

In addition, there is the danger factor, with many children and women facing incredible danger, particularly at night. A local school teacher told Trevor, “This community during the day time looks okay, but at night for children and women it becomes hell”. The church was burdened for these people and the Safe Place project was birthed to meet this very real need.

What does a Safe Place look like? Each Safe Place is a converted shipping container strategically placed outside schools, surrounded by a high fence topped with barbed wire and a secure gate. It is manned by trained security personnel and a registered social worker, and monitored by audio/visual technology with additional security on-call. Everything that takes place inside and out the unit is recorded, thus safeguarding the vulnerable and the staff.

The Safe Place units are located within 1 km of the communities in which the people live, so victims can escape quickly, and when it is safe to do so, they are taken to an appropriate location where their needs are attended to, whether that be the police station or social services.

The Safe Place project is more than just a solitary secure unit. There is also a Safe Play area where volunteers run afternoon activities for children and teens to come and do homework, have a safe place to talk to someone, and simply play. The Safe Space room can be used for counselling by social workers who are following up with Safe Place cases or Safe Play program.

There are currently two Safe Place units in operation, with two more under construction. The vision is to have five in place by the end of 2019. The set-up costs per site are R80,000 (approx. £4300) with monthly running costs per unit of R15,300 (approx. £830)

Finding funding for a project like this is a difficult task, but God is good. Genesis Trust believes that as God has given them a vision, He will inspire people to step up and provide the means.

Genesis refuses to stand still, refuses to be satisfied that they are doing enough. The scale of the needs in the surrounding communities can at times seem overwhelming, but each project operated by Genesis makes a very real difference in people's lives.

Safe Place puts the love of God into practice. Please speak to me if you would like more information; I have a Safe Place leaflet and brochure. You can also visit <http://www.genesishope.co.za/safeplace>.



Collective

Alison Woodrow

Jack and Jess Fleming took on the leadership of the Collective Sunday evening meeting in September 2018. I met up with them to find out a bit more about them, and what they hope, under God, to do among our young people.

Firstly, can you tell me a little about yourselves?



Jess: I'm originally from Glarryford. I did a law degree and then a one-year post-graduate Law Institute, both at QUB, and now work as a solicitor in Ballymena. I do a mixture of family law and litigation – it's a demanding job but I like it. I joined Wellington when I married Jack.

Jack: I grew up in Ballymena – Wellington is my home church. After graduating university I did a year in Dublin as an intern in a church there, and I'm now in my 2nd year of teaching P6 at Mossley Primary School. I love rugby and music.

How did you meet?

Jack: GCSE English Literature class! We were at school together from 1st year but didn't know each other until 4th year. We became friends, and after 3 years of solid groundwork on my part, Jess finally agreed to go out with me.

Jess: He was about 3 feet shorter than me at the start so the growth spurt in the summer of 5th year helped! We were on the 6th form committee together and went to the formal together, and by the end of Lower 6th we starting going out.

Jack: We were in Belfast together at university, although Jess had threatened to go away! We got engaged before I went to Dublin, so that was a really busy year for both of us, in terms of study and work and wedding planning. Then we got married 2 years ago.

I'm told that Jack loves books, and Jess loves podcasts – what are your top recommendations?

Jess: When I have to drive, podcasts get me through! Favourites include Desert Island Discs and anything about true crime (hazard of the job, perhaps!). I also listen to Bridgetown Church sermons – they did a great series on rest, which inspired the series we did in Collective on that topic [see below].

Jack: I've actually started listening to the Gardener's Question Time podcast – it's become a bit of a guilty pleasure! I know nothing about gardening but since getting our house and garden, I've bought lots of plants and am trying to learn.

Jess: I really never saw it coming...

Jack: Neither did I! In terms of books, I've just finished *The Art of Rest* by Adam Mabry. *A Creative Minority* by John Tyson was amazing and it's so short and readable, and I'd really recommend *Prodigal God* by Tim Keller. And I've finally finished *Knowing God* by J. I. Packer – it's such a good gateway into deeper theology, but it took me ages because there was so much to take in and think about! I also loved Bob Kauflin's *Worship Matters*. And anything by C.S. Lewis. Currently, I'm reading *The Book on Leadership* by John MacArthur.

When you got married, did you hope to find a way you could minister together?

Jess: When we first got married Jack was very active in the music and youth work in Wellington, so he took a step back for awhile to help me adjust. But yes, we were looking for some way to be involved – that comes easily to Jack but I'm never so sure how I can use my gifts in church, as a lot of the things that I find attractive happen during the day when I'm at work!

Jack: For me, returning to Wellington was also an adjustment after my year in Dublin where I was in a church with 40 people. So I knew that things were going to be different, and also it was no longer just me – it had to be something that suited both of us.

How did you come to take on the responsibility for Collective?

Jack: Peter (McClelland) and I were out for coffee one day and he mentioned it. I came home and told Jess, and we really weren't sure about it – it was scary, we didn't know if we had time, and I knew that this probably wasn't where Jess felt most comfortable. But one day, out for a run, I found myself just feeling really excited about it and the possibilities. We prayed about it a lot but finally decided to do it, in spite of our doubts.

Jess: I was very nervous about entering the world of youth work – I knew it was a big undertaking and we had big shoes to fill, following on from Jonny and Emma (McKeown).

Jack: It does feel like a big responsibility – there's a real legacy of influential youth leaders in Wellington, people like Jimmy and Anne (McIlvenna) and Jonny and Emma. But it's exciting to be a part of the next generation.

What kind of a team are you working with?

Jack: We have a team of 13 for the evening Collective. So we can delegate – there are nights we don't do anything ourselves, really. They're a great team, so helpful.

What does an average Collective evening meeting look like, if there is such a thing?

Jess: We try to keep it quite irregular, there's no real pattern in terms of the overall type of meeting. We try to do series', so this past year we did one on Acts and the early church, a chapter by chapter look at Ephesians, then small groups for Bible study, and then we did a few weeks on the Sabbath and rest, comparing Old and New Testaments on the topic and looking practically at what this looks like for us and for the young people. That was a really great one and so important. We're so conscious of how busy the young people are, and of their mental health etc. – something we want to focus on more going forward.

Jack: We've also had visits from organisations like IJM and Sports Academy, and last summer's South Africa team came and shared with us one evening. We've had prayer nights. And our weekend away, of course. So we try to have a range of activities, and no two nights are the same – the only things that are structured are that you come at 8pm and that there are snacks and drinks!

Jess: I think it's important to have a bit of a mixture, and even give them the opportunity to relax sometimes – around exam time, for example – and to build their community. We also want to show them that they are a part of the church at large, so we've had a few older church members come down some evenings to spend time with us. The young people actually loved that.

What are the biggest challenges you face each week?

Jack: Getting the balance right. We want Collective to be something that will help more mature believers to grow in their understanding of the Bible, but also draw in and welcome the younger ones, and make it somewhere they want to be. There's a huge difference between an 11 year old and an 18 year old, so that is a big challenge. And another is the culture they are growing up in – it's an age of constant distraction, and it's not enough to just say "get off your phone and read your Bible", so we have to show a better way. We also try to balance what we do with what morning Collective does, and link up if possible. We want to make sure it's not the same thing twice, but that there is a bit of a flow.

Jess: Some of the kids go to Youth Club, both Collectives, maybe BB and GB, and church too – they're hearing many different messages and that's great on one hand, but it's also a lot, so it's good to reinforce some of those if we can.

Jack: We want to be careful we're not building our own mini-church. We don't want to bring people away, rather we want to help them to commit to church as something that's bigger than what we do. So we try to encourage them to join us in church as much as possible. Because apart from anything else, at 18 they leave us, and if they don't feel a part of the wider church, then they'll have nothing. So we want them to feel like Collective is merely one part of all that Wellington is.

What do you think are the biggest challenges facing young people today?

Jess: The pressure of social media – it's just impossible for young people to be detached from it, and it's so anxiety-inducing. Being a young person is hard enough, but the pressure from social media is constant and inescapable. Also school – there are far higher expectations on them now.

What is your main hope / aim for Collective?

Jack: Obviously primarily that the young people will become believers. Then we want them to find their place in church. And that we'll find ways in which we can encourage them to serve. We also hope and pray that we can do this for awhile, that we will turn up and be faithful, and see fruit for God's Kingdom, watching these young people grow. Perhaps some of them will take over from us in the future!

How can we as a church be praying for you, Collective, and our young people in general?

Jack: Pray for the P7s who are moving up now, as they face so much change and newness in their lives. And the same for those heading off to university or work. Pray that Collective will help equip young people for these times. Also pray for help in getting to know them all: some nights we could have 60 there. We have a lot of ground to cover but we want to make sure that everyone who comes feels welcome. And pray for the leaders – that we will grow in our faith, and that we will stay passionate and energetic about this work. It can be hard to a. keep the energy levels up, especially as life (and Sundays!) are busy, and b. to have fresh ideas – how best to use the time we have with them, and not simply do things out of routine or habit.

Jess: Pray for wisdom in dealing with the tricky issues of mental health, social media etc. We really need to focus on nurturing young people on how to cope with the pressures they face. Social media is so ingrained in them and we can't chastise them for that because this is just how their world is, but we need to know how to navigate their mental health in the light of it.

Jack: Pray that we as leaders, and we as a church, will tell a better story and show a better way – that there is more than these distractions, more than an image, more than what people think of you... That if you're a believer, your identity is in God, and that's so much better and more free.

What's On

Type To contact any of the organisations, please email office@wellingtonpc.co.uk, or phone [028 2564 7185](tel:02825647185) (office hours are Monday – Friday, 0900 – 1230). We will arrange for someone to get in touch. Start dates and other information is available in the weekly announcement sheets, or in the Upcoming Events section of our website: www.wellingtonpc.co.uk.

SUNDAY

Collective (morning) Peter McClelland	0945
Prayer meeting Tommy Adger	1030
Morning service	1100
Creche Drop and Go – Stay and Play – Paula Marshall	during morning service leave your child in the Braid Room with our experienced volunteers stay with your child in the Prayer Room, watch the service via TV link
Tot Zone Age 2–preschool Lynsey Graham	after children's address during morning service
The Well P1–P7 Leanne Russell/Hazel Young	after children's address during morning service
Prayer meeting Tommy Adger	1800
Evening service	1830
Sunday Evening Kids Nursery – P7 Heather Jackson	from partway through evening service
Collective (evening) Age 11–18 Jack and Jess Fleming	2000

MONDAY

Girls' Brigade Explorers	1830 – 1930
Company section Clare Crabbe	1900 – 2100

TUESDAY

The Paint Pot Honor Hall	1030-1230	Sew Crafty Lynda Willighan / Clare Hunter	1930 – 2100 (fortnightly)
Circuits Hugo Carlin	1830 – 2000	Men Aloud Sam Kirk	2000 (monthly)
Men’s Fellowship Harold Patterson	1930 – 2200		

Badminton Ashley Shaw	2000 – 2130
Presbyterian Women Anne Backus	1945 (fortnightly)

SATURDAY

Prayer Meeting Saturday of the month) Victor McAfee	0830 – 0930 (3rd
The Net (youth club) Ashley Shaw	1930 – 2200
ASK (Additional and Special Needs Kids) monthly meeting for kids and families, details on request Paul and Anita Baird	

WEDNESDAY

Tots & Co Mandy Fleming	1000 – 1145
HELP in Cancer Iris McDowell	1030 – 1130 (monthly)
Wednesday Fellowship Robin Keys	1430 – 1545 (fortnightly)
Midweek	2000
Life Groups Margaret McKeown	2000

THURSDAY

Boys’ Brigade Anchor Boys	1845 – 1945
Junior Section	1900 – 2030
Company section	2000 – 2200
Geoff Eagleson	
Choir Erin McBride	1930 – 2100

FRIDAY

Mums Bible Study Laura Mark / Laura McKean	0930 (fortnightly)
Kettle Bells Hugo Carlin	1830 – 1930



PEOPLE OF WELLINGTON

This edition, we introduce..

Eleanor Dickey



Occupation

Retired teacher

Interesting fact(s) about yourself

Married to William, a Presbyterian minister. Mother of three and grandmother of four.

How are you involved in the life of the church?

I sing in the choir and attend the P.W.

How long have you been at Wellington?

2 ½ years

What is your favourite Bible verse / passage?

Proverbs 3 verses 5-6 have always been encouraging verses. I know that I can totally rely on the Lord and He has the best paths for my life that I need to follow.

What is your favourite hymn / song and why?

There are lots of hymns I love. One is "Beneath the cross". It reminds me of how unworthy we are of God's love and mercy "for hands that should discard us", yet He calls us to be His children and as verse 3 says "How great the joy before us to be his perfect bride." Amazing love!

What is your favourite book / hymn / song and why?

In Christ Alone. It has great truth and assurance in it – no one can take us out of God's hand.

Interesting fact about yourself:

I like dry fly fishing for trout, and hunting.

How long have you been at Wellington?

34 years

Peter Woods



Occupation:

I work in a gun shop

What is your favourite Bible verse / passage?

It's hard to pick a favourite verse, as I have so many, but I love Psalm 121 as I have the knowledge that the Lord watches over me.

Do you have a word of advice / encouragement to share with the readers?

Keep up your personal daily quiet time and prayer.

Leanne
McCaughan



Occupation:

Clinical Testing
Supervisor at
Almac Diagnostics

How long have you been at Wellington?

Wellington is my family church, so my parents brought me up through the church, attending the Girls' Brigade, Sunday School, Youth Club and Sunday Fellowship. When I got married to Andrew in 2014 we continued to come to Wellington, now also with our little boy, Joel.

What is your favourite book / hymn / song and why?

There are many that I would say are my favourites... I love Hosanna as it reminds me of everything that God has done for us. When I sing this song I can't help but smile and feel excited that one day we will be able to praise the Lord in His presence in our heavenly home.

What is your favourite Bible verse / passage?

Philippians 4:13 – "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". Throughout life and the challenges that it can present, I always remind myself of these words and take comfort knowing that the Lord will be by my side and steer me along the right path in everything that I do.

How are you involved in the life of the church?

During my school days I enjoyed playing the violin as part of the praise band on a Sunday. More recently, I have helped out at The Well. Each year I support the leaders with the P3-P4 children and I enjoy seeing how they have grown from one year to the next.

Reviews

This edition, we're looking at resources which our church's parents and youth workers have been finding useful. In the run-up to Christmas, perhaps there are some helpful gift ideas here!

5 Things to Pray for your Kids (Melissa B. Kruger)

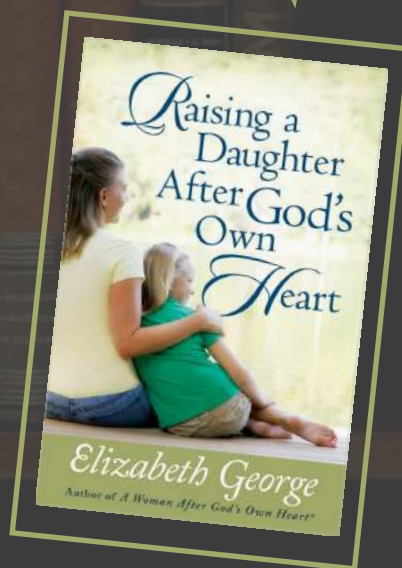
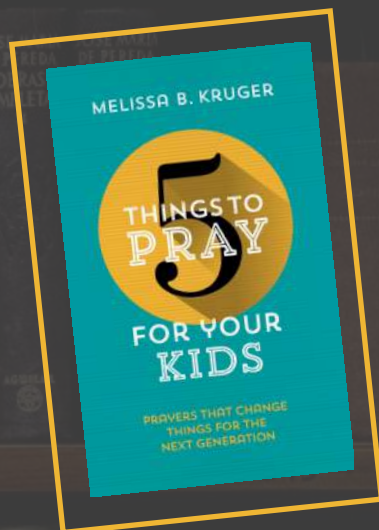
This is an incredibly helpful aid in praying scripture-shaped prayers. Our heart's desire is to see our children come to know and love Christ, but at times it can feel daunting and hard to know where to start in praying for them... I found this little book inspiring, encouraging and thought-provoking, and it has enabled me to pray more focused and specific prayers. It's laid out in a simple format with biblical references and a lovely balance of both practical and spiritual. I would recommend to parents of kids of all ages.

– Lynne Gamble

Action Bible (Sergio Cariello)

With its brightly coloured cartoon-style writing, this book is so appealing to children (age 7-13). It is also a much more detailed version of the Bible than many other children's Bibles, and includes many not so well-known stories and events.

– Laura McKean



Raising a Daughter after God's Own Heart (Elizabeth George)

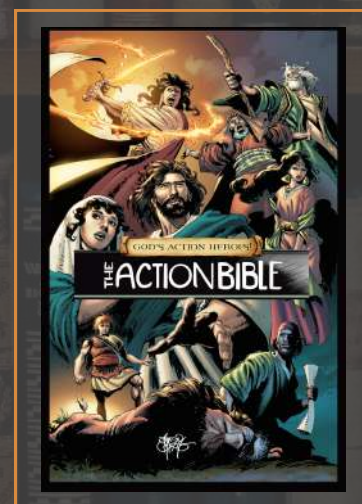
Being a mum has many aspects, but as a Christian mum, our main role is to help our daughters become the women God wants them to be. That is daunting, but this book reminds us that we don't face this task alone - that if we stay close to Jesus, he equips us to be the example our daughters need and helps us every step of the way. I was really challenged and encouraged by this book. It's practical, prayerful, and reflects the privilege and blessing that it is to raise a daughter.

– Linda McClintock

Katherine Sully books

Both of our children have loved these books – geared towards age 2 – 5, they are simple to read with a clear message. There are little rhymes to keep the kids interested, gorgeous bright illustrations, and at the end there are activities etc. to test understanding and extend the story. All very helpful for parents!

– Jennie Hood



New City Catechism

(Sam Shammas and Timothy Keller)

Knowing what you believe and why you believe it is so important today, in a society where people will try to increasingly put it to the test. This year in our 3rd - 4th year Bible class we used a new phone app called 'New City Catechism' (also available in book form).

The New City Catechism is a modern-day resource aimed at helping children and adults alike learn the core doctrines of the Christian faith via 52 questions and answers. We found it to be an extremely helpful way of helping our young people think through what they believe and challenging them on why.

For more information check out the website: <http://newcitycatechism.com>

– Peter McClelland

Parenting (Paul Tripp)

This is the most helpful book I've read on parenting. It's Gospel-centred, practical, engaging, and definitely challenged my approach to raising my children more than any other book I've read.

– Jonny McKeown

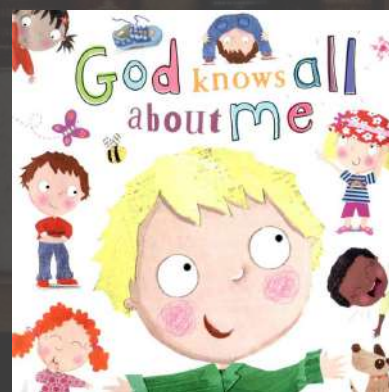
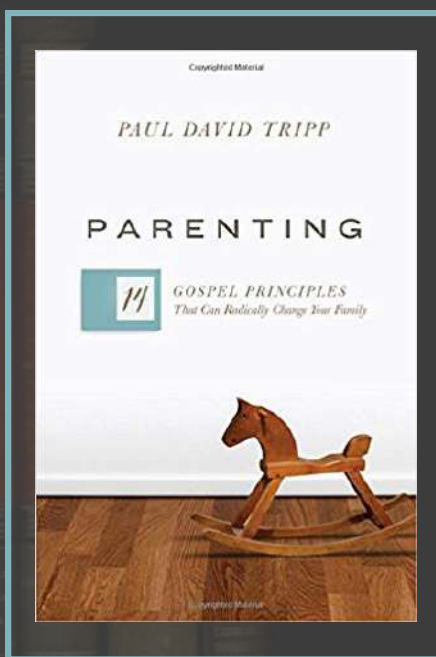


God Knows All About Me

(Claire Page)

This is such a lovely little book for babies and toddlers. Every page carries the reassuring message (for parents too!) that God knows everything about us, no matter where we are or how we feel. Such an important message to instil in little hearts from as early as possible. Our daughter loves the illustrations as well – it's definitely a favourite for us.

– Alison Woodrow



Take 4

Four of our young people talk about their life, struggles, and how we can pray for them.

This year I graduated from university with a degree in Computer Science. Sometimes starting out feels like a lifetime ago, other times it seems like yesterday. I could talk at length about the lessons I've learned and things I would do better now, but this is just a little bit of advice for Christians starting out, based on my own experience.

Firstly, have a solid connection to other Christians and a church. I made Christian friends in my halls who went on to be my housemates, as well as being involved at church and having close Christian friends from school. I didn't attend CU, but if you aren't already involved in a Christian network it's a good place to start. You will need Christian support, fellowship and accountability.

Secondly, the non-Christians friends I made at Squash club and on my course were apathetic rather than contentious about my faith. It took three years building relationships with some friends before they even asked me any faith-based questions with genuine interest. Friends are people you care about, not projects that must be completed in your time instead of God's.

Finally, most people at Uni have the "Is this what I actually want to do with my life" wobble. Above all else, trust God. Maybe you won't use your degree, maybe you won't even finish it. Just because you don't use your academic teachings doesn't mean God wasn't using uni to teach you something else.

Hannah Bates



I feel that one of the many challenges young people face today is to comply with peer pressure and conform to society's ideals and patterns. Some teenagers in school can be very opinionated, especially towards matters such as abortion laws and same-sex marriage. As a young Christian girl, I always need to keep a clear view of what the Bible says and keep my own personal opinion strong without being put down by my peers. My favourite verse that reminds me about this daily is Acts 18:9. We should always love everyone no matter what, and many situations in school have shown me this.

Encouragement is cherished by young people. Youth in church holds a special place in my heart as it has helped me grow in my faith immensely. It makes us feel like part of the church family. I love being in the youth band as I can worship God through music and I adore playing the piano. And my family has always had a great impact on how I live my life, as they've given me a moral compass and shown me God's love ever since I was tiny. I'm so grateful for everyone who has given me advice and love in Church, that'll stay with me forever.

I'd love the church to pray that young people will keep attending youth groups as it can be very easy to drift away from the faith. Also for Scripture Unions in schools, that they will be a close-knit network to give students the guidance they need for their walk with God. Pray that we will be kept safe and protected from dangerous or unhealthy situations. Pray that we will spread God's word and love to our friends, Christian and non-Christian alike. And pray that we'll keep discovering eternal love in our relationships with God.

Leah Mark



I'm 21 and I work at Belfast International Airport doing stock control, packing and delivering items for EasyJet and Aer Lingus flights. I've been there for 2 years, and I really enjoy it!

The biggest challenge for me in my workplace is that I'm the only Christian. Everyone knows I'm a Christian and they watch how I behave. No-one is openly hostile, but I do think about what they see when they look at me.

For me, the toughest thing about working is that many people of my age are at university. It can be hard to not be at the same stage as some of my friends. But I've become friendlier with others who are also working, getting to know them more than I might otherwise have done, which has been great.

My advice to a school-leaver going straight into work is to not feel that their path is any less valid. University isn't for everyone, but sometimes at school it's made to seem like it's the only option. I'm glad that I started work when I did, and I'm happy where I am now.

My favourite verse of the Bible is Romans 8:38,39 – nothing can separate us from God's love. For me, it's so great to know that no matter what kind of a day I'm having, whether life is going well or not, God will always love me.

How can the church pray for young people like me? Work is a big jump from school – you suddenly have to be an adult and cope with a completely different environment from anything you've been used to before. When you have a bad day, it can be tough to know how to handle it. So points for prayer could be the adjustment, and the completely different challenges that we have to deal with at a relatively young age.

Ben Davison



I've just finished school, and I'm hoping to study Sports Science at university.

There were a lot of Christians in my year at Ballymena Academy which was amazing on one hand, but on the other hand, we had to be careful to not become a clique. It's so important to have good Christian friends, but also to spend time with those who don't believe the same as we do.

As I moved up through school I wanted to be different, and to tell people about my faith. I wanted to show that while Christians can and do have fun, we have more to live for. This final year in particular felt like a last chance, and I tried to make the most of every opportunity. Being part of the CU was the main big encouragement and blessing of my time at school, and it also helped in witnessing – inviting people along, for example, can have an impact and give opportunities.

My advice to younger people at school: get involved in your CU – it helps you to start applying what you hear on a Sunday to your week-life. It's also another chance to hear the Word, grow spiritually, and to have a support network within school.

So many struggle with self-worth, so I'd also advise younger people to just remember the truths of the Word – remember that God loves you no matter what – and surround yourself with friends who will support and encourage you. The issues around identity, self-worth and mental health are such big concerns at the moment, so young people of all ages need a lot of prayer around that. Not just for ourselves, but that we know how to help and support others who are struggling. It'd be great if the church community could pray for that.

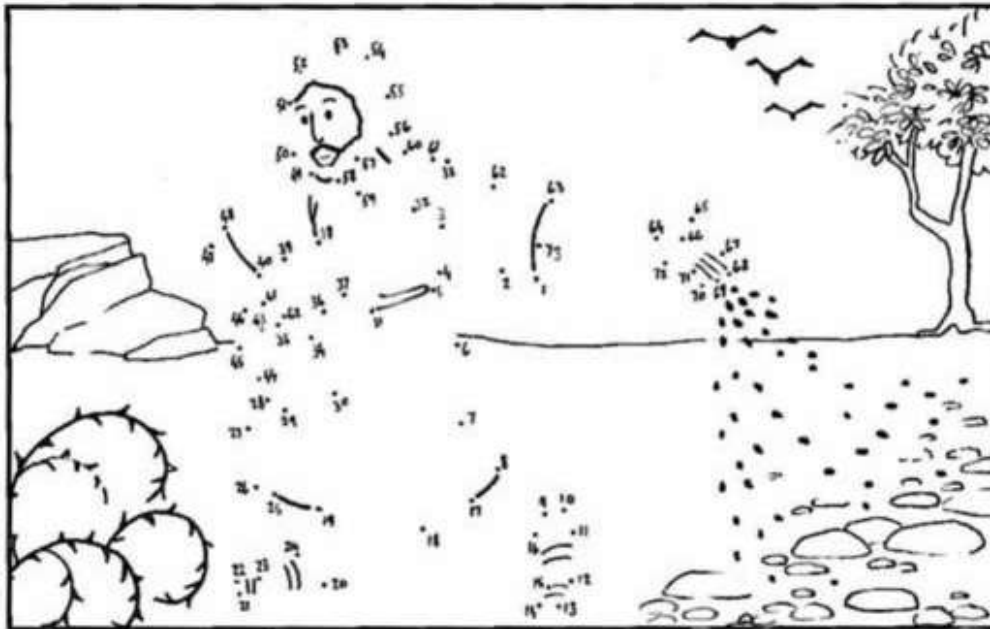
I'd also ask for prayer for the next step for school-leavers – whether it's university or something else, that we would trust that God has a plan for all the details and new starts and big decisions. Relationships, exams, future plans... Whatever it is, that we would focus on serving God and glorifying him, and relinquish everything else to His control.

Ben Fry





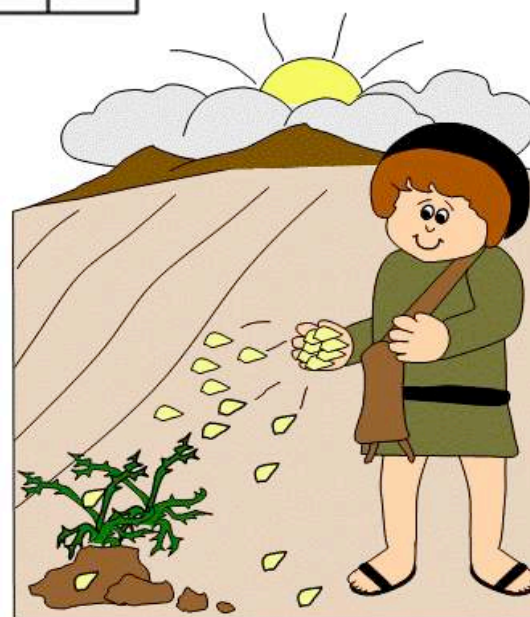
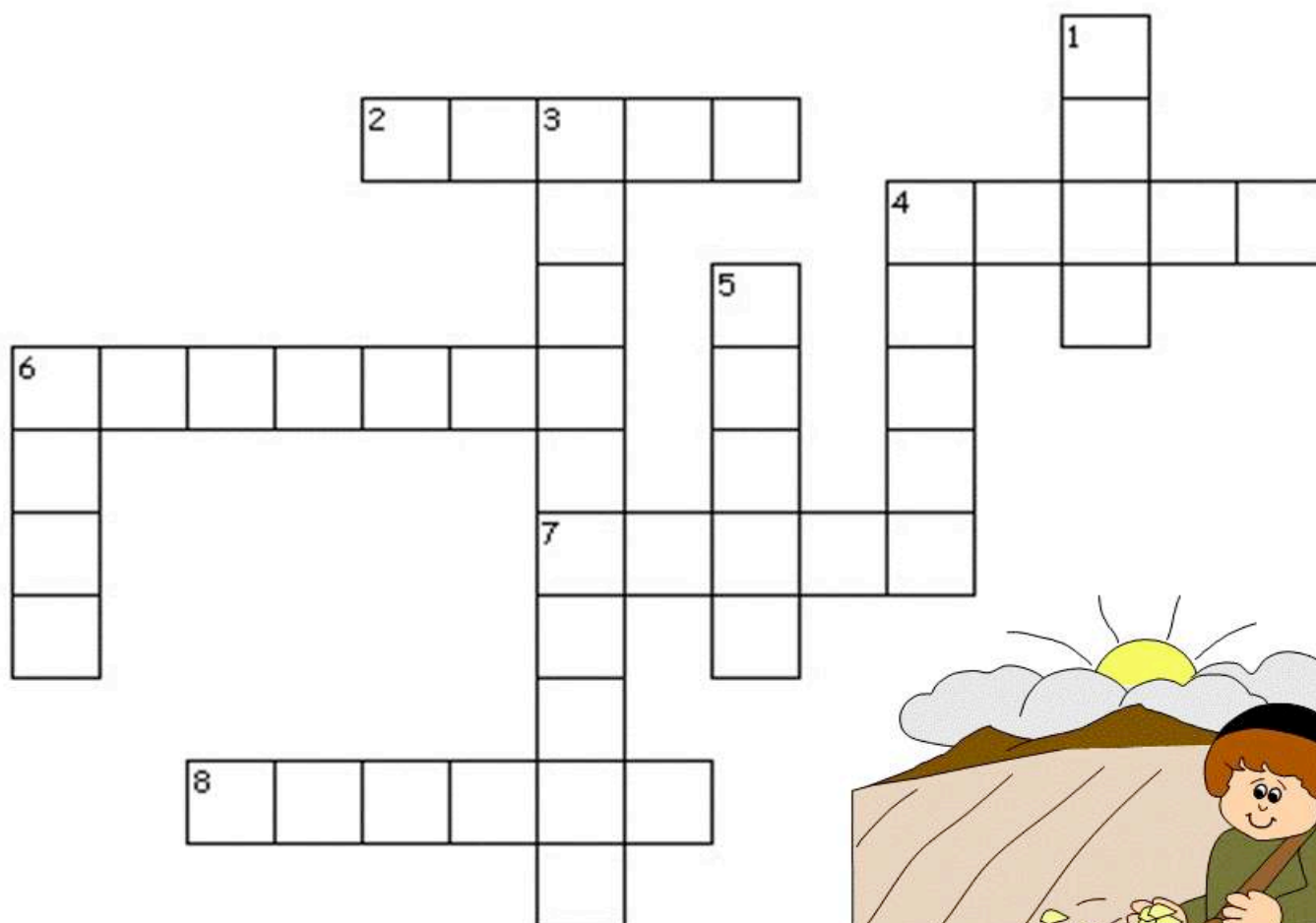
Read Luke 8:4-8 - a story Jesus told about a man scattering seed - and join the dots in the picture below.



On how many different types of ground did the seed land?

Now read verses 11-15. Do you know why Jesus told this story? Ask a grown up to help if you need.

Sower and the Seed Crossword



Across

2. If we learn and grow we, like the seed will bear ____.
4. It's important to plant seeds in good soil so these can grow deep into the ground.
6. This is a type of story Jesus told to teach a lesson.
7. These are what Jesus compares to the Word that we learn about God.
8. These choke out the seeds and prevent the plant from growing.

Down

1. We can do this if we learn and ask lots of questions about God.
3. The person that plants the seed in good ground are the same that hear and ____ the word.
4. The seed that fell among these couldn't grow roots and died.
5. This is the name of the person that plants the seeds.
6. Do this instead of worrying.

What's been happening?



17 March saw a double baptism – Stuart and Amanda McIvor's son Jude, and Ethan, son of Christopher and Lynne Gamble.



What's been happening?



In March, we enjoyed a visit from our friends Goran and Metka, from Slovenia. They spoke very passionately about their work, both in the Sunday morning service and at the midweek. Little Timeja also charmed the congregation!

On 26 March 2019, the Men's Fellowship had an outing to the Jim Baker Stadium. Pictured in the front row with Alistair are the winners of the bowling competitions played at church over the winter.



The Anchor Boys and Junior sections of the Boys' Brigade held their parents' evening on 5 April. Special mention goes to Steven and Heather Bell on their last night of many years' service in our BB.





On 7 April, Liam and Sarah McCarthy brought baby Sophia for baptism.

The BB Company section Prize Giving Dinner was held on 11 April. Pictured is 1 of 5 tables, where the boys and leaders were served a lovely 3 course meal by our church catering team, followed by the prize giving.





The annual GB display was held on 12 April. Pictured are the Explorers, Seniors and Brigaders, and some of the Juniors.





The church organised a Community Fun Day, held in Tullygarley on 13 April. A great day out was had by all!









And in the evening of the same day, Keith and Karyn Irwin's two daughters, Amy and Emma, were also baptised.



David and Clare Moore brought little Jacob for baptism on 12 May.



5 May was a very special day for the McQuade family, as Jorja, Lois and Caihla were all baptised. Pictured here with their parents Martin and Anita, and older sister Aimée.



On 1 June, the Family Home Group held a coffee morning in Cafe Aroma, helping to raise funds for Lucy McCormill and Anna Gaston's upcoming trip to South Africa to spend time at Greensleeves with Steven and Courtney Lamont. We'll hear more about this trip in the next edition of the Wellington Record.



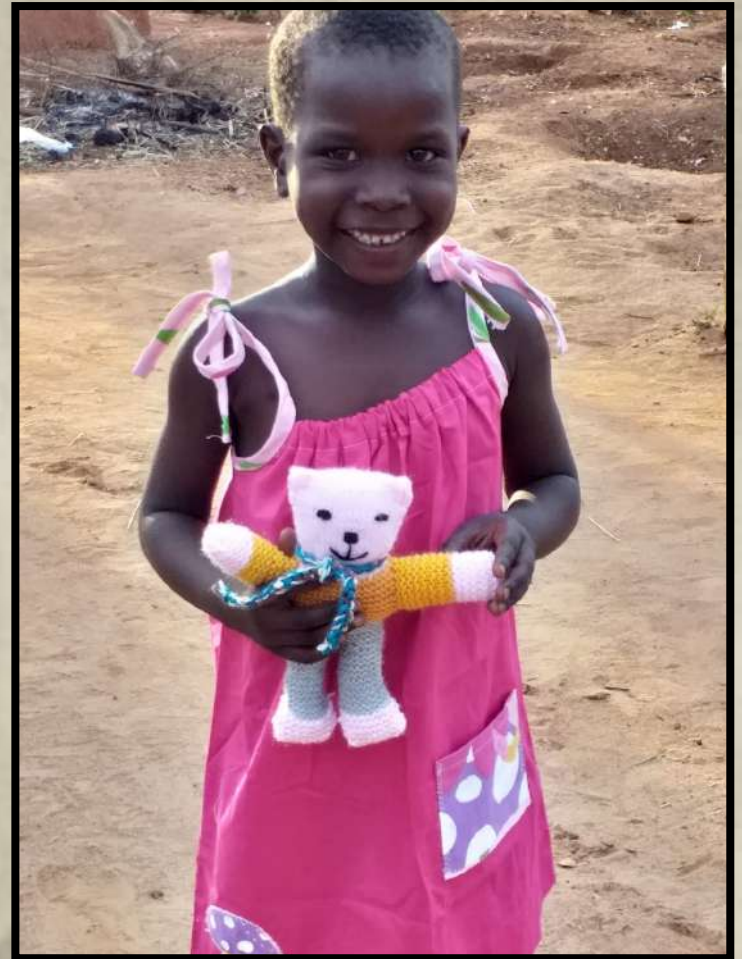


2 June saw the ordination and installation as elders of James Millar, James McClintock, David McKean, David Currie and Keith Irwin, and the installation as elder of Ronnie Crooks (L - R). The very challenging yet encouraging service was followed by tea in the hall. The new elders are also pictured with members of the session and presbytery.





Dolores Kennaway recently returned from her Fields of Life trip to Uganda. Pictured are some of the children she met. In total the team were able to make up and distribute 1300 care packages for primary school children, including some items made by Wellington's Sew Crafty group.





The last week in June saw the annual Holiday Bible Club, held this year on "Sunshine Island". As well as the usual fun and games, throughout the week the children learned about Jesus who is the light of the world.





Wellington's eldest member, Maud Nicholl, celebrated her 110th birthday on 3 July. The Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Rev. Dr. William Henry, and our Minister, Rev. Alistair Bates, joined with other friends and relations at Glenkeen Nursing Home to wish Maud a happy birthday.



On 16 June, Stephen and Nicola Murray brought their daughter Anna Grace for baptism.

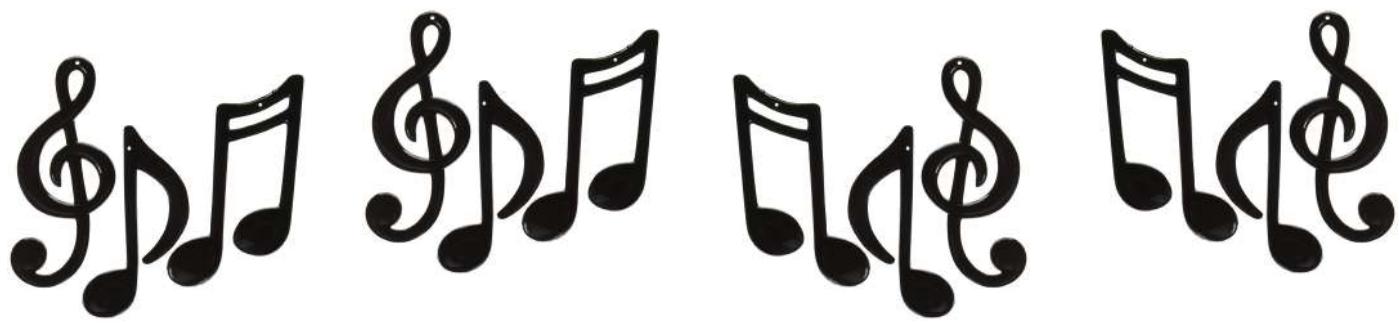


Early in July, the youth weekend was held at Kilbroney Christian Residential Centre in Rostrevor. The young people studied the stories of Jesus with Bartimaeus and the rich young ruler, and took part in a range of activities including canoeing, pier jumping, a Crystal Maze - themed games night, and a campfire.



On 23 June, we said goodbye to both our intern Stephanie Houston as she finished her year with us, and our assistant Jonathan Boyd as he moved on to his role as minister of the churches of Ballygawley and Ballyreagh. We thank them for their time with us, and wish them all the best for the next chapter.





We're a church that loves to sing, and we're grateful to the music team for regularly introducing us to wonderful new songs. It's incredible that nowadays we can access such a wealth of musical theology so easily, allowing us to use what other Christians have written to help us in our worship.

With this in mind, we've pulled together a list of songs which we've been learning or are planning to learn in the coming months, as well as ministry songs which have been a blessing in recent services. We would love you to listen to them – both to help us learn them as a church, but also so that they can minister to you and encourage you in your own quiet times.

To make things extra easy, we've compiled playlists on Spotify and YouTube. Simply search for: Wellington PC September 2019.

Andrew Peterson
Is He Worthy?

Laura Story
I Give Up

Hillsong
Another In The Fire
Clean

Keith & Kristyn Getty
I Will Wait For You
Magnificent, Marvellous, Matchless Love

Matt Papa
Lord From Sorrows Deep I Call

Kari Jobe
The Cause of Christ

Pat Barrett
Hymn of the Holy Spirit

Shane & Shane
Goodness of God
Isn't He
I Shall Not Want

Rend Collective
Christ Lives in Me

