



WELLINGTON RECORD

DECEMBER 2019

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Welcome to 2019's final Wellington Record!

The end of a year is always a great time to consider what has been done in the past 12 months, so this edition of the magazine takes a bit of a look back over the year. You'll find out about some of the organisations that are running in our church, often a little under the radar. And some of our young people have reported on what they got up to over the summer – close to home and further afield.

It's also a time to think about what lies ahead. Our church is an extremely active place, and we always need people to help in various capacities. We have a large congregation and a huge variety of gifts, so no matter what you believe you can or can't do, there is a place for you here. On pages 22 & 23 we've detailed several "vacancies" – areas in which help is particularly needed at the moment, and we hope you'll read and prayerfully consider these as we move into another busy year.

And as ever, please enjoy the photographic round-up of the last few months, seeing the faces of this edition's People of Wellington, and the reviews and kids' pages. Please encourage your children to enter the competition too – it's on page 24.

Designed & printed by Ballyprint.com
Front cover art by Jessica Fleming



As we come to this special time of year, so difficult for some, so enjoyable for others, and so crazy for most, I pray that we will know the peace that passes understanding as we contemplate the coming of the Christ of all peace.

Merry Christmas, and every blessing for 2020!

Alison

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

BLOWING AWAY THE WINTER BLUES

by ALISTAIR BATES

I recently walked the river path at 6.30am. (Or rather, was dragged along it by a beagle whose energy far surpassed my enthusiasm!) By 7.15am it was still dark - winter was coming.

I have to admit I am not a fan of winter. It's the cold, dark nights that I struggle with. The onset of winter blues is a reality that some contend with. Perhaps the psychological effect of going to work in the dark and returning home in the dark adds to the struggle. And with loneliness, illness or age, the winter nights can seem very long indeed.

However, winter blues rarely have the final word. The season brings a number of figurative and literal opportunities to find a 'glow in the dark'.

The first of those is the soothing and almost hypnotic sound of crackling logs. Little sparks that shoot into the air like miniature fireworks; the first-fruits of a roaring fire. How lovely to sink into the soft cushions of your favourite chair and be warmed by the fire's radiant heat and soothed by its soft glow. There is the sound of rain on the window, but the outside world remains locked away until morning.

Secondly, while the inclement condition of winter is a stark reminder of our frailty, and the treacherous conditions underfoot require

special vigilance, it often produces its own beauty, as out of the dark and foreboding sky the first snowflake of winter falls silently to earth, forming a pattern of defiant beauty against the backdrop of winter's barren landscape.

And as you nestle down even further into your favourite chair, the doorbell interrupts you. Who on earth could be calling at this time of night? Who would make their way through the snow to call uninvited? Too late to turn out the light and avoid detection, you suddenly hear not one, but a collection of voices fill the air, the vapour rising as a mist towards heaven.

Now a song fills the air, producing warmth greater than the fire, brighter than the flames and more beautiful than the snow beneath. Each carol becomes a declaration of hope in the dead of winter. A timely reminder that in the most barren time of the year, life springs eternal.

I am sure our ancient fathers knew nothing of our little province. The green fields, soda bread and our inclement weather played no part in their thoughts or deliberations. Yet they chose 25 December to celebrate our Saviour's birthday. Inaccurate historically, yet pragmatically heaven-sent: an oasis of hope in the dead of winter. A beautiful reminder amid the dark and difficult days of winter that Christ came to bring us life – and life to the full.

As you prepare for winter and look forward to Christmas, why not take a moment to reflect on how Christ breathes hope into your otherwise cold and barren life. Just as winter passes and gives way to spring, so must we give up this old life in hope of the new. As one of my favourite carols declares, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King".

It was the angelic host in Luke 2:10-11 who proclaimed:

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

I cannot think of any better reason to have hope as I look outside my window at the dark and often soulless world around me. It is the adrenaline that keeps my heart ticking. The spiritual oxygen that fills my terrestrial lungs. And I just want to cry out into the chaos, 'we bring you good tidings of great joy'. For the hope of this world is not found in something we create but in someone we have been given – Christ the Lord.

As you look out at the wintry darkness, coldness and dampness, thank God that although the landscape might be barren, your heart isn't.



CHURCH COMMITTEE REPORT – 2019

by DAVID KEYS (Chairman)

As I begin to write this article, thinking about the business of the church committee over the past year, it's easy to get hung up on the property and financial affairs of 'our church' and to forget about what the church actually is and why it exists.



That said, I absolutely believe that proper stewardship within the church is vital. As such, the church committee is responsible for the effective oversight and proper management of the property and funds of the church. We must do this in a way that is honouring to God, at all times seeking to display an attitude of openness, trust, integrity, humility, and respect in everything we do: doing the right thing and doing things right!

As a brief overview, during 2019 there was an ongoing programme of maintenance of the church property and grounds. This included general repairs within the site including the replacement of lighting, general ground maintenance, and landscaping. Within Cafe Aroma there was the installation of a permanent stage area along with the removal of the dividing wall, which have significantly improved this well-used area. Some further work in the cafe is planned for next year which will include the replacement of furniture.

During the summer, painting work was carried

out in the church hall, church hall foyer and the main church foyer, along with some minor repairs within the Sports Hall. The final item of work to improve the sound within the main church is to take place towards the end of 2019, which will involve the installation of ceiling speakers in the choir area at the front of the church.

The appointment of Mr Mervyn Orr as the church's Admin Officer has been a great step forward, along with the expertise of Mr Steven McBride as the church's IT Lead and the implementation of relevant policies drawn up by Mr Gary Hunter, the church's GDPR Lead.

During 2019, contributions to the 3 main church accounts (the freewill offering account, mission account and the building fund) were in line with 2018 with the church continuing to meet its obligations to the Ulster Bank concerning the loan. We thank the congregation for their generous giving at Harvest, where our gift day raised a total of £60,000, which, when Gift Aid is added, will total almost £70,000.

In 1 Corinthians 16, Paul tells us to give as we have prospered. God has blessed us individually, within families, and as a church community, so let's continue to count it a joy to be able to give back to Him who gives to us so abundantly.

Whilst we give thanks to God for our church buildings and to the congregation for their

generosity in giving consistently towards the building fund over the past number of years, what do we understand as the church? When you ask people what church they attend, they usually identify a building. However the biblical understanding of the church is not that of a building, but of people. Let's remember that the church is not a place, not a building, not a location, not a denomination; it is a body of believers who live out the Gospel in their words and actions.

As individuals and as a church, how do we want to be remembered? What would we want others to say about how we lived our life? That we were a good person, or a busy church with lots going on? What would people say about the impact we have had on others?

Let's thank God for his great love for us and may we seek to show that love to others, both as individuals and as a body of believers. In 1 John 3:1 we read, '**See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God.**' And that is what we are!

David

“ *Let's remember that the church is not a place, not a building, not a location, not a denomination; it is a body of believers who live out the Gospel in their words and actions.* ”

SPARK

by BEN McKENDRY & JULIE KERNOHAN

Spark has always been an integral part of our summer, but this year, as area coordinators (Tullygarley), it brought many challenges and many blessings. To see young people from Wellington and nearby churches proclaim the name of God, share his love and grow in their knowledge and understanding of the Scripture was a great joy for us, and filled us with encouragement and boldness too.

From 29 July to 2 August, teams of young people were commissioned with different areas in our community – from Dunclug to Broughshane, Town Centre to Portglenone, Doury Road to our very own Tullygarley. Each day began at High Kirk Presbyterian for the morning session where over 100 volunteers and leaders met for fellowship and praise. This was a great opportunity to fuel ourselves on the “spiritual” bread of the Word, and then after some “literal” bread, the teams would split and convene in their areas.

This is where we, the Tullygarley team, consisting of 6 leaders and 25 volunteers, played our part. Upon arrival at Wellington, we engaged in small groups, which enabled the team to develop friendships rooted in Christ that have continued and grown. Following this we headed to the Community Centre and from Monday to Thursday we broke into 2 groups: Outreach team and Kids Club team.

Our Outreach team, led by Ethan Crawford and Aimee Chapman along with 10 other volunteers



each afternoon, had amazing opportunities to go door to door around the Rosses and Riverdale, offering assistance in gardening and prayer. They had some exciting encounters with people in the community, in which they were given the boldness to speak out and share the love of God, praying for those experiencing illness, pains or struggles, whether personal or family related, and practically helping those who are not physically able.

Our Kids Club team was headed up by Rachelle Mitchell in the Community Centre, where, at the 3pm club, activities such as face painting, balloon & nail art, colouring and crafts were available. This time was beneficial for the volunteers, as they got a chance to build up trust and friendships with the kids, which led them into conversations about Jesus. The newly built park outside the Community Centre became a blessing in itself, as it also drew in people who weren't from the immediate area.

The week wouldn't be complete without some sports, so, with the assistance of Ben Fry and his team, we held afternoon football coaching

sessions on the nearby football pitch. As enjoyable as this time was for the kids, Ben made sure that at half-time the Gospel was covered every day, whether by him or another volunteer, showing that there is nothing better for us than this truth.

After a short rest, the team got spirits and energies high again with some personal study time and dinner, kindly provided by ladies in the church. We then made our way back down to the Community Centre for our final activity of the evening: our evening Kids Club! The theme this year was "Adventure Cruise" where we followed the story of Jack travelling on a cruise. Jack's adventures led us right through the story of salvation, starting at Creation and culminating with Jesus' death and resurrection and the gift that is the Holy Spirit; our help and guidance in the ways of righteousness.

The week came to a big close on Friday, a very exciting day for us as we had some new things planned in the area. We held an afternoon tea, and with the good turnout and relaxed atmosphere we managed to have some great conversations. In the evening we had our Family Fun Night with bouncy castles, face painting and a BBQ, kindly supported by some men in the church. Lots of people from the community came to take part in all the fun, and the chance for us to share the Gospel with kids and parents was a great send off for the week.

Spark was an intense and busy week, full of high-energy activities and long days. But by God's sustaining hand, the team was truly blessed. The conversations the young people had will impact them tremendously, as for some it was the first time that, in faith, they stepped out of their comfort



An impressive before and after result from the Spark team!



zone and prayed with a stranger. We are so excited to see what God is going to do beyond the week, as he plants and grows seeds in the hearts of not only the kids but their parents also. So, we wait and pray with expectant hearts that God, in his faithfulness, will bear fruits from his work.

We thank God for the prayerful support from the church; for the committed leaders and for the brilliant volunteers who had such a passion and willingness to serve. Above all we thank God for all he did through Spark, how he used us in Tullygarley and how he blessed the other areas of Ballymena. We eagerly await Spark 2020.

PCI

RACHELLE MITCHELL & ETHAN CRAWFORD

Over the summer we were involved in a Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) team, from 3-11 August in Whitehouse Presbyterian, Newtownabbey.

Throughout the week, we and ten other team members ran numerous events in order to reach out into the surrounding community, especially to encourage children and young people to become involved in Whitehouse, as the small congregation lacks any real youth presence.

We ran a five day Holiday Bible Club focused on the story of Daniel, which we taught to the children through stories, worksheets, memory verses, song, crafts and dramas. It was incredibly encouraging to see the numbers grow each day as they invited their friends to come along and hear God's word.

In addition, we held two street parties where we went into local estates and brought the Gospel message to the community, instead of expecting them to come to us. We also had a big focus on evangelising to the youth in the community, so we ran three events including combat archery and a games night. At each of these youth events a member of the team shared their testimony.

We held a community fun night and barbeque on the Friday to further involve the community, and during the week took some time to go around a few care homes to sing some songs and share the Gospel to those who were unable to come to church.



The congregation of Whitehouse was very encouraging, as they have a real zeal for outreach and wanted to be involved in any way during the week, even with the smallest tasks. Without their help, our team events wouldn't have been possible. Their enthusiasm for evangelism into their surrounding community was amazing, and so inspiring to see, as they supported us during our time there.

Rachelle

SOUTH AFRICA

LUCY McCORMILL & ANNA GASTON

In June, we travelled to South Africa for 6 weeks to work alongside Steven Lamont in Stirling Presbyterian Church, East London. It was amazing to return to the same location that we travelled to last summer, as part of Wellington's Youth Mission team, reconnecting with some of the children we met and refreshing our passion for the country.

Our time involved various different outreach programmes and we were closely linked with Greensleeves Children's Trust.

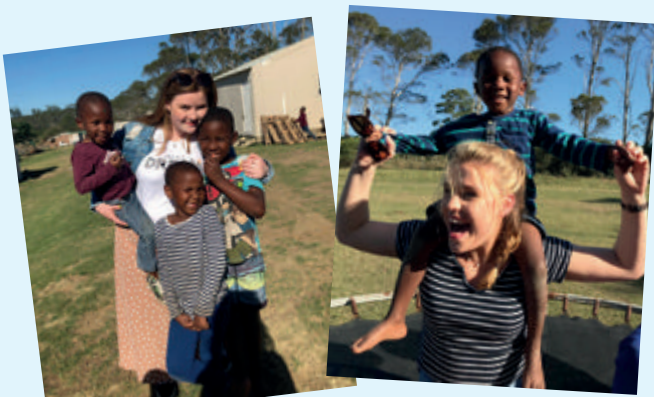
Within our first two weeks in South Africa, we helped Steven to organise and run Stirling PC's annual Holiday Bible Club. After many late nights of preparation and anxious prayers about numbers and leaders, we welcomed 90 children on the Monday morning. The Lord truly provided us with the energy and patience to get through that week! Our theme for the week was, "What's Your Story?" We studied key biblical figures like Abraham and Peter with the children, and then taught 1 Peter 5:7 as their memory verse which, in turn, led their discussion groups and crafts.

We were also involved in running an afternoon programme for primary school children who live in one of the local townships. Southernwood is an impoverished area and is dominated by many issues such as drug abuse, so we wanted to bring as much excitement to this programme as possible, in order to distract the children from surrounding circumstances. We led a short Bible-based story and quiz and then finished with a few games - needless to say we were more tired than the kids by the end of each afternoon!

Our main focus whilst in South Africa was contributing to Greensleeves Children's Trust. In June, the Family Life Group at church organised a coffee morning where over £1200 was raised; this money went towards the construction of a brand new classroom and Anna and I had the privilege of watching this project progress. We also managed to finish off another classroom with the help of Steven and his electrical skills, and got our hands dirty painting! Although most of our time on the farm was spent playing with the children and talking to them about the simple things in their daily lives - homework, friends and aspirations.

Our time in South Africa was truly unforgettable. It's safe to say that both of us were a little apprehensive about being away from home for such a long time, but the time went far too quickly and neither of us wanted to come home when those 6 weeks were up. We want to thank everyone at church who has supported us prayerfully and financially, and we are both looking forward to our next opportunity to head out to South Africa!

Lucy



CROATIA

by SARAH FRY

As someone who has grown up in a church and a Christian family in Northern Ireland, it's pretty hard to imagine what life would be like for a teenager in a country where only about 1% of the population know Jesus. That's what life is like for young people growing up in Slovenia. It makes you think how different it would be to contend with the things life throws at us without the hope that Jesus gives us. What if you'd never even heard about Jesus before?

This summer I got the opportunity to head off with a team of eight others from church to help out at a teens' camp that Metka and Goran Macura were running. At first glance we might have seemed like an unlikely bunch, but everybody brought their own gifts and talents and we each gained a few more friends that week.

After a pretty bumpy flight, which tested even



the frequent-fliers among the team, we landed at Zagreb airport in Croatia. The Slovenian kids all make the three-hour bus trip across the border to the Croatian countryside for the camp. Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) Slovenia have a purpose-built site there. This is where we'd be spending the week.

We arrived at camp on the Sunday evening. The next morning after some Turkish coffee (probably the best coffee I've ever had) and an early morning leaders' devotional, the teens arrived along with Metka, Goran and little Timeja, the rest of the Slovenian team and a few Americans too.



It was a fun day getting to know everyone. We played rounders and football, went on a walk through the beautiful surrounding countryside and played team games in the sun. That night was the first of five talks that our speaker David gave. His talks looked at five different stories from the Bible of people who encountered Jesus and how their lives were subsequently changed. For some of the kids this was the first time they'd ever heard about Jesus.



After these talks there was time for everyone to break off into discussion groups. During this time the young people were very interested in learning more and had lots of questions. Whilst the discussions were going on myself and the ladies on the team took ourselves off to a quiet corner to spend time in prayer. We weren't much use at discussions since we can't speak Slovene, but we can pray! It was in these moments that I was reminded of how important prayer is in God's work.

Each morning we had outdoor activities for all the kids and adults to get involved in. There was canoeing, mountain biking, a scavenger hunt and paintball. Some of us were a little apprehensive about the activities but they turned out to be a lot of fun!

We also had talks each morning which Goran had asked four of us girls on the team to do. We were asked to cover some of the bigger issues that the girls might be facing as teenagers. We did the talks in English and had Mirijam and Jana translating for us. So each morning we got together and had a chat about self-image, social



media, drugs and purity and what the Bible had to say about them. The girls responded really well and told us they were glad we'd taken the time to talk about that stuff with them. It opened up opportunities to have other conversations with the girls throughout the week too. It was great to get to know them, answer their questions and show them we cared.

The week went by so quickly. The Holy Spirit was working in the kids' lives and it was such a joy to be able to witness that as they grew more curious about God. Without a doubt the highlight of the week was when four young people gave their life to Christ at the end of the week. It was a huge privilege to be there and rejoice with them.

It was also a blessing to get to see first-hand the tireless work that Metka and Goran do for these kids. They do it with passion and so much love – something that has challenged me. I would encourage you to continue to pray for them as a family and for the work they do.

Sarah

HELP IN CANCER

by ALISON WOODROW

I met up with Iris McDowell (left) and Lorna Stevens, outgoing and incoming (respectively) leaders of the HELP in Cancer meeting in our church, to find out a bit more about this understated group.



Tell me a little bit about yourselves, and how you came to be involved in HELP.

IRIS: I'm a lifelong member of Wellington and was always involved in the church. In 2006 I was diagnosed with cancer, and spent the next couple of years in treatment. After that I felt really strongly that there was nothing in the church for people with cancer – it wasn't talked about much and I had felt so isolated. So I went to (then minister) Norman Brown and said that I really felt we needed to provide support and help for cancer sufferers. His words were, "Iris, if you think we need that, then you know what you have to do, and if you feel as strongly about it as you're saying, then don't delay". Shortly after, a lady from the church who had just been diagnosed with cancer came to me, and so she was the first person that we prayed for. Our first meeting was Wednesday 3 June 2009, and we had 5 people at that meeting.

LORNA: I joined Wellington in 2011. I had previously gone through my husband's illness, and I had found it difficult too. I really needed encouragement from Christian friends, to tell me that it was ok to feel like I did, to pray with me, to just sit with me. So when I saw the announcement in the bulletin in Wellington,

I was excited and decided to give it a try. And I quickly felt at home.

I'm also a Hospice nurse (and previously Macmillan), so I have that background which can be helpful at times. But nursing someone you don't know is totally different from actually experiencing the anxiety of waiting for results, and the sickness in your stomach when you get the diagnosis. It's a very different thing when it happens to you.

What format does the group take?

IRIS: It's primarily a prayer meeting, and those who attend are people who have been through a cancer situation in the past – either themselves or a loved one – or are going through it at the moment. It's a small group, which is good in many ways, because of confidentiality. People are giving us parts of their lives – they don't want to be talked about outside the group, so confidentiality is vital. The size of the group also means we can really get alongside each other.

LORNA: Before every meeting we'll get in touch with people for an update and to see what they'd like us to pray for. If and as they want, of course. And we try to end each meeting on a positive note – a bit of good news or something light-hearted.

Why do you feel HELP is so important?

IRIS: To pray for our members and to point them to hope in Christ. Initially, when we started the meeting, it was about praying that people would get better. But then God showed us that the most important thing to pray for was people's souls. We still pray for healing and for treatment etc., but our main aim now is to pray for their salvation, if they don't know Christ already. And we always remember the ministry team, doctors and nurses too.

LORNA: The friendships that form are so special. If someone is happy for the group to have details of treatments / surgeries, we send out texts with news. The replies we get back are lovely – there's real friendship there. And just spending time together is important, because people feel they have to be brave with their families, but they need to be able to talk about it – in all honesty - to someone.

It's a very individual thing – not everyone wants to get involved at the same time and in the same way. But it's there for people when they are ready.

So Iris has just handed over the leadership of HELP to Lorna – what does that mean for you both, and for the group?

IRIS: I've done this for 10 years...

LORNA (aside): I will not be doing it for 10 years, and I'd like that in print!

IRIS: ...and I didn't want to get stale. I wondered was there another way of doing this, and I felt that it'd be nice if someone else could take it on. And Lorna agreed. For another 10 years [laughing]. But I'll not stop working in the background.

LORNA: I'm excited but a bit scared – I have big

shoes to fill! I want to be sure to do it right; it's hard to know what way to take things. There's so much that could be done, but only so much is possible with the resources we have, so I want to be mindful of letting God lead me in that and not trying to do it all.

As a church, how can we help or what would you have people pray for?

LORNA: For wisdom that we go in the right direction.

IRIS: And generally pray for those who come and share with us, for their health and spirits.

LORNA: There are a few practical needs that we would like to try to meet in the future, so if someone perhaps feels that they have something they could offer, I'd be happy to speak with them to see what the possibilities are.

And we just want people to know that we're here for them. If you or a loved one is going through cancer, or if you've been bereaved, we're here for you – even if you're not ready to come to the group, we can meet you elsewhere for a cup of coffee, or a chat, or whatever you need.

HELP meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, at 10.30am, in the Book Room.

To get in touch with Lorna, please contact the church office.

Hope (Ps. 39:7)

Encouragement (1 Thess. 5:11)

Love (1 Pet. 4:8)

Pray (James 5:16)



MEN ALOUD

by STEVEN DENNISON

Proverbs 27:17 - "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." (ESV)

Christian Men's groups tend to have a stigma as being boring and slightly contrived social clubs, defined more about what they can't do than what they can. Men Aloud, however, takes a slightly different approach and we are always looking to explore what we can do. Our vision is to create a relaxed, friendly environment to inspire men to live Jesus-focused lives, that bring life to their families, workplaces and friends. We meet together to explore our faith with fun and fellowship, to support and mentor each other through troubles, and to increase our understanding and love of the Lord.

It's a busy world and we know that time at home is important, but we also think that having a catch-up and chat about stuff like sport or which car to buy is really important too. We try to meet every other Friday from September to June, (avoiding important dates such as Valentines' Day and the GB display).

Our fortnightly meeting is a great night for men of all ages and backgrounds to get together, whether it's in the informal, relaxed setting of Cafe Aroma enjoying coffee and cake, or involved in one of our many activities (where competitive spirits tend to run high). You don't have to be a member of the church, and in fact we strongly encourage those who have only started attending to come along, as it provides a fantastic opportunity to meet other men and develop friendships.



We have activities like; BBQs, pistol shoots, canoeing, BBQs, racing, pudding nights, volleyball, BBQs and curry nights (we eat very well!). In addition, there are always other activities being planned to try to cater for as many interests

as possible, and we welcome new suggestions.

There is great power in the coming-together of men to build up and strengthen each other, to conquer the challenges life presents. We look forward to seeing you, whether or not you attend Wellington Church, and encourage you to bring others along too.

“ Our vision is to create a relaxed, friendly environment to inspire men to live Jesus-focused lives, that bring life to their families, workplaces and friends ”

PEOPLE OF WELLINGTON

Name:
Conor Agnew

Occupation:
Interaction
Design Student
at University of
Ulster

Interesting fact:
I once spent
more money
buying my dog
a Christmas
present than
my twin brother, safe to say he wasn't
impressed!

How long have you been at Wellington?
Nearly 4 years

What is your favourite thing about Wellington?
I love the church community in Wellington, everyone is so kind and welcoming! There's also a bit of everything for everyone no matter how old or how young. The talented musicians, band and choir are also a huge bonus.

How are you involved?
I'm involved in the design of this magazine, and I help out as a youth leader at the youth club every other Saturday.



PEOPLE OF WELLINGTON

Name:
Nicola Lee

Occupation:
Library
Assistant
in Queen's
University,
Belfast

Interesting fact about yourself:
I am married to Andy and mum to Josh and Timmy. I worked as Cabin Crew after I left university.

How long have you been at Wellington?
7 years

How are you involved in the life of the church?
I help teach P3&4 in The Well, and help with the crèche.

What is your favourite Bible verse/ passage?
"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" Joshua 1:9 NIV. I love this verse as it reminds me that God promises to be with us in every situation.

What is your favourite song and why?
I can only imagine by MercyMe. I love this song as it helps me to look forward to Heaven when we can be forever singing the praises of God.



PEOPLE OF WELLINGTON

Name:

Eleanor McBride

How long have you been at Wellington?

I have been coming to special services at Wellington for a long time, then I became a member last year.

What is your favourite thing about Wellington?

I love the way it's so friendly and warm. It's a very big church and it would be so easy for it to lose the intimate, caring element but somehow it still possesses the ability to make everyone feel that they are part of it.

What is your favourite Bible verse/passage?

A friend once gave me a little wooden heart decoration which had Psalm 55:22 on it: "Give



all your concerns to The Lord, He will take care of you." She didn't know how touched I was to get it.

What is your favourite song and why?

I have so many songs which I love but one of my favourites is Andrew Peterson's Is He worthy? I love it because it asks so many questions & answers them with so much hope. I just find it very uplifting.

Do you have a life lesson you'd like to share?

I have learned that when I hear of someone who is going through difficult times, praying for them is essential, that they are given the strength to go through whatever lies ahead for them. I know that my family was prayed for by so many people, some of whom I don't even know. So when we feel there's nothing we can do to help in a bad situation, there is. We can pray.



“When we feel there's nothing we can do to help in a bad situation, there is. We can pray”

Reviews

Some of our members share what they've been reading and listening to...

Getting Your Kids through Church: without them Ending Up Hating God

Rob Parsons (*Monarch Books*)

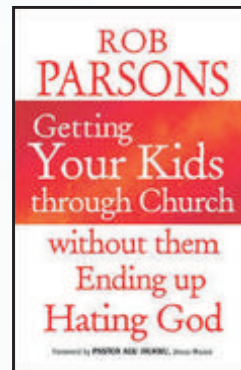
Rob Parsons is the founder of 'Care for the Family'. As a parent and grandparent I wish the advice in this book had been available years ago. It talks about the real issues we need to face in showing our children what God's love looks like, and covers a very wide range of topics - creating a sense of belonging, over-busyness, cynicism, hypocrisy, judgmentalism. It gives advice on getting them ready for disappointment with others, with themselves and with God. It also suggests giving them a vision.

Rob writes in an easily-read format, with humour, interspersed with true stories from his

own experience and from biblical examples of Jesus' dealings with people. This is not just a book for parents, but grandparents, aunts, uncles, youth leaders – in fact for anyone concerned for the children and young people in our Church Family.

I'm so glad I read this book; now I want to put many of the ideas into practice.

Margaret McKeown



Encouraging Christian Fathers Podcast

Encouraging Christian Fathers is a podcast aimed at Christian Fathers (however please don't let this put off any inquisitive mothers). It ran a series on training children the way Jesus trained His disciples. While the whole series was thought-provoking, of particular interest was episode 39 (part 6 of the series), 'Hardship makes character'. In this podcast the hosts discuss how parents instinctively want to ease their children's burdens, however it is the

endurance of hardship that makes the child and develops character. The philosophy of our day is to seek ease and comfort but this is not God's plan for our lives. It is the process of dealing with challenges and hardship that develops the character that helps our children to succeed.

Steven Dennison



Devotion Explosion: Getting Real with God

Christy Bower (Discovery House Publishers)

Many books have been written about prayer, a subject most of us find difficult. Bower brings a fresh look at the subject, which makes very compelling reading. The thrust of the book is about relationship and our intimacy with God, and not in formulae or, indeed, rigid 'quiet times'. Bower stresses that prayer is not monologue but dialogue – a conversation with the sovereign God.

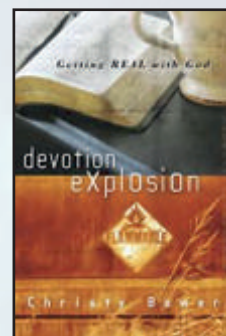
The book illustrates the point using Bible characters and how they connected with God. It is written from the author's own struggle with prayer as a new believer, and she is open

and honest about her experiences.

To sum up the desire of the author for the reader: 'When a devotion explosion takes place in our lives, we can't get enough of God'

This is a short, easy read and I would recommend it to those seeking to get real with God, especially those young in the faith.

Sam Andrews



Together for the Gospel 3

Sovereign Grace Music

Together for the Gospel is a large conference that runs each year in Louisville, Kentucky, for pastors and leaders to come and hear the word of God preached and to celebrate the love that Christ has shown in dying on the cross. Fortunately, for those of us who can't get over to Kentucky, every year they release an album of the hymns from the conference. "Together for the Gospel 3" features a collection of hymns ranging from those written in the 1800s to modern day. Bob Kauflin leads the congregation with just his voice and piano; this to me is what makes the album so special. There is no flashy equipment or 16 piece band spread

across the stage. Whilst those things are great to have, we see they aren't what's important.

What makes this album is the voices of the congregation singing with great enthusiasm, almost drowning out Bob as they extol God, singing with all their hearts. And not just the heart is involved, lest we give too much to how we feel affecting how we sing, but the words of each song engage our mind to see the truth of God. Like it says in John 4: 23-24, we worship in spirit and truth, together as a congregation.

Ben Kennedy



How can I help?

WELLINGTON NEEDS YOU!

In a church this size, with so much going on, volunteers are always needed in a variety of capacities. God calls us to service for him with our church, and there truly is something that everyone can do here. So in this edition we are highlighting 2 areas of specific need at the moment – please take a look and see if there is some way, large or small, that you might be able to help.

CAFÉ AROMA

The café is open on Monday and Thursday evenings when the GB and BB are on, providing drinks, traybakes, and a sit down for the parents / carers of the girls and boys, so that they don't have to go home between drop off and pick up. (The young people themselves often avail of what's on offer too!)



Why is it important?

Café Aroma is a great place for building relationships. It's also a lovely way to get to know folks who don't normally come to church, so that they feel welcome here – it could be an open door into church for them.

What help is needed?

- 1) *bakers to provide the traybakes - a dozen per month.*
- 2) *volunteers to serve the drinks, chat to folk, and tidy up afterwards - one or two evenings per month.*

We are a happy, friendly team who would welcome anyone to support us.

Donnah McKeown

THE WELL

The Well runs during Sunday morning services for primary school aged children.

Why is it important?

We are blessed to have a huge number of children in our congregation and we recognise that we have a responsibility to ensure that these little hearts and minds grow to know and understand the truths of the gospel and the reality of God's love. We are privileged to be able to minister to these children in The Well, and would love to see our team of volunteers continue to grow in this special ministry.

What help is needed?

The main requirements for this role are a love for the children God has placed in our care and a desire to make Him known to them. We welcome enthusiastic volunteers aged 15 and upwards who would be willing to serve for a 6-week session each year.

We are happy to place volunteers in positions where they feel most comfortable. While it is



important that we have some leaders who are happy preparing lessons and delivering talks, we also require helpers who simply take the time to chat to and listen to the children, whilst providing practical help with crafts or written activities.

We believe that all involved will be truly blessed, not only by the infectious fun and joy of the children, but also through serving together as part of this team.

Leanne Russell

If you'd like to find out more about these or other opportunities for service within our church, contact:

Geoff Marshall | David Keys | Gordon McNair | Church office

The Kids Page!

Book Review

That's a Good Question

J. John

This book is about questions of the Bible and the answers to them. It was hard to read but it was easy to understand and it had good pictures. Some questions answered were:

How old is God?

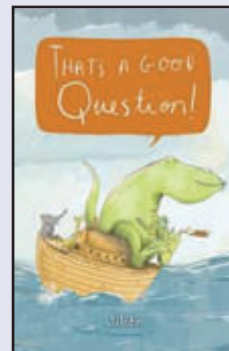
Do dogs (or pets) go to heaven?

What does God want me to do?

Why does God let bad things happen?

Mummies and daddies and my friends at GB and the Well would like this book.

Ellie Hood, age 7



COMPETITION TIME!

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of this great book, look through the magazine to find out the answer to the question below, and ask a grown up to email me (alisonwoodrow1@gmail.com)

How many people from our church went on the team to Croatia in the summer?

When Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem, there was no room for them at the inn. So the baby Jesus was born in a stable.

Read Luke 2:6-7.

Colour in this picture of the stable and complete it by adding some animals!



What's Been Happening?



On 28 July, Sarah McNeill brought her 3 children for baptism – Grace, Joel and Jude are pictured here with Sarah.



And another baptism was held on 15 September, for Ella, daughter of Samuel and Judith McCullough.



Sunday 6 October marked 50 years in ordained eldership for 5 of our elders. Pictured with Alistair and Geoff are: L-R Sam Caves, Robin Keys, Heather Law (on behalf of her father Tommy McAuley), Tommy Adger and Lex Brown.

What's Been Happening?



Our annual harvest celebration took place on Sunday 13 October. The church was beautifully decorated and the choir sang a couple of special pieces in praise of our God.



The Youth Weekend was held on 18-20 October in Kilbroney, near Rostrevor. About 50 young people attended, and studied the Fruits of the Spirit with speaker Michael Stoneman.

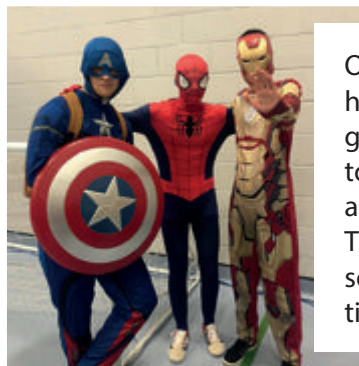


A massive thank you to all who supported the MacMillan Car Wash on 26 October. This was in support of Lauren Agnew, who ran the New York Marathon at the start of November in memory of her mum Wendy, and to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support. Over £ 2300 was raised at the car wash which brings the current fundraising total to over £ 16500. Lauren says "Thank you to everyone who helped make the day a success. It made every one of those 26.2 miles worth it!"

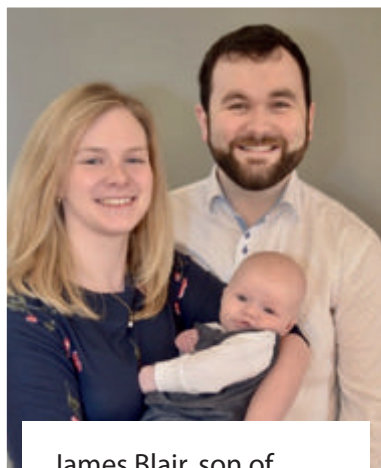
What's Been Happening?



This autumn, the Wednesday Fellowship had a much-enjoyed visit from the Singing Chef, Raymond Crooks, pictured here with Betty Dempster.



On 31 October, the church held a Superheroes party, to give families an alternative to many of the Halloween activities at that time of year. There were inflatables, crafts, songs and food, and a great time was had by all!



James Blair, son of Gareth and Rachel Blair, was baptised on Sunday 20 October.



Sunday 10 November was a busy day – not only Remembrance Sunday, but Enrolment Sunday for our Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade. Also pictured are recent Duke of Edinburgh bronze and silver winners.





RAISE YOUR VOICE!

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 December 2019.

MATT PAPA & MATT BOSWELL

Lord From Sorrows Deep I Call
Sing We The Song of Emmanuel
Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor
The King in All His Beauty

HILLSONG

Prince of Heaven
When I Think Upon Christmas
King of Kings

CHRISTY NOCKELS

Advent Hymn

THE McCLURES

Always Good

SHANE & SHANE

Living Waters (As The Deer)

SOVEREIGN GRACE

All Glory Be To Christ

CITYALIGHT

Shepherd
I Will Trust My Saviour Jesus

LAUREN DAIGLE

Love Like This

SELAH

He Will Hold Me Fast
Benediction



***“ Glory to God in the highest
heaven, and on earth peace to those
on whom his favor rests ”***
Luke 2:14