



**WELLINGTON**  
RECORD

EASTER 2020

# EDITOR'S COMMENTS



ALISON  
WOODROW

Hello again and welcome back to the Wellington Record! Thank you for taking the time to look through our magazine. Our hope is that everyone will find something of interest here, and that the information given will help guide and direct our prayers as we move forward as a church family.

In this edition, we've focussed on a few new works that have sprung up in the past number of months in our church – some new outreach ministries to those who are in need, and a really interesting podcast that a couple of our young people have recently begun. Hopefully you'll find these articles to be useful and interesting, and perhaps they'll even inspire you to get involved.

We also have a report from Lee Eagleson on the work he's heading up in Belfast city centre. There is lots to learn and lots to pray for there.

And of course, we have our usual People of Wellington pieces, song list, reviews, and reports that I'm sure you'll enjoy. And don't forget our kids' page. The winner of the last competition was Isaac Kernohan – please do encourage your children to enter the competition to be in with the chance of winning a new book.

Before any of that, however, in the very first article you'll come to, our deaconess Eleanor is hoping to focus our hearts and minds on rest and prayer as we approach this Easter season. And with that in mind, I'd just like to wish you a happy Easter, filled with awe of the work Christ did on the cross, and the wonder, joy and hope that his resurrection brings ■



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](mailto:alisonwoodrow1@gmail.com)

# STOP, WAIT, AND WATCH WITH GOD



**ELEANOR  
DRYSDALE**

Deaconess

**It was just a couple days after Christmas. I left the house early and went my usual route, and it was then that I saw them. I remember stopping and looking because I wasn't sure I was seeing what I was seeing. It couldn't be, could it? Yes, they were there in all their glory: shelves full of Easter eggs. But Christmas hadn't finished, there was still turkey to eat, how could there be Easter eggs already?!**

Do you ever feel that the world is moving too fast, that we are being rushed from one season into another, that the children are growing up too fast? There are some of our young folk at university now, and it seems like it was only yesterday they were at Mums and Tots in the old Wellington. How did that happen? We have all these gadgets to make things happen faster, yet it feels like we have much less time!

I recently read this poem by Jason Lehman:

*It was spring, but it was summer I wanted,  
The warm days and the great outdoors.  
It was summer but it was fall I wanted,  
The colourful leaves and the cool dry air.  
It was autumn but it was winter I wanted,  
The beautiful snow and the joy of the holiday season.  
I was a child, but it was adulthood I wanted,  
The freedom and the respect.  
I was 20 but it was 30 I wanted,  
To be mature and sophisticated.  
I was middle aged but it was 20 I wanted,  
The youth and the free spirit.  
I was retired, but it was middle-age I wanted,  
The presence of mind, without limitations.  
My life was over,  
And I never got what I wanted.*

CONTINUED...

Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.

MATTHEW 11:38-30

*The Message*

Life is happening in a rush, from one season to the next, but God calls us to stop and rest, to stop on a daily basis and rest in Him. To stop and rest in Him on a weekly basis. I love Isaiah 58, especially the last few verses when God asks us to keep the Sabbath. God knew that each one of us needs time to rest. He himself rested on the 7th day. Jesus, when it was early in the morning, withdrew and went to a quiet place to spend time with his Father.

If I have important things to do during the week I put them in the diary on my phone and set the alarm on it to ring 30 minutes before the appointment. I check my diary each day to see what I have to do and where I have to be. If you struggle to set time aside each day, then maybe that is where you start, by setting a time you are going to stop, and how long that stop will be for. And then keep it.

On that first Easter, everything was fast moving: the entry into Jerusalem, the evening together with the disciples, the garden of Gethsemane, the arrest of Jesus, the chaos that ensued amongst the disciples, the trials, the crucifixion and then silence for 3 days, but then on that 3rd day, the incredible happened – Jesus rose from the dead, death was conquered, hallelujah!! And through it all, people stopped and watched and waited to see what would happen.

And that is what God calls you and me to do: to stop, to wait and watch what He is doing.

As we head into this Easter season we have an opportunity to stop and rest. It's a choice that each one of us makes.

We will again have the prayer area set up in Aroma and we invite you to join with us to pray for your own family and the Church family. We ask you to pick a time that suits you to come and pray. You can do it on your own, or with family or friends. The first time I came into it, I wondered if I could be still enough for the hour, but it wasn't a problem. I have kept a journal of my time in the room, and it has been amazing looking back at what was going on in my own life but also the life of the congregation, and what has happened since 2018.

*Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.*

**Matthew 11:38-30** *(The Message)*

**Stop, wait and watch with God.  
He is waiting for you to join Him ■**

# NEWS

## FROM SESSION



**GEOFF MARSHALL**  
Clerk of Session

### APPRENTICES OF JESUS

must be the aim of any church. Leading in this area requires much discernment and a clear understanding that first and foremost leaders must be apprentices of Jesus - must be lights in a darkened world. This thought provoking challenge was recently set out as we reviewed the purpose of an organisation. As we ponder and reflect, it will require honesty, openness and a desire to love people as Jesus did. Simplistic yes, but a timely reminder not to lose focus on what we should be doing.



### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

has taken us on a new path in this past year. Restory Furniture, Helping Hands Food bags, Domestic Abuse/Safe Place via Woman's Aid, and one-to-one contact has opened up our awareness and perception of those in need. Many, if not all, those with whom we have thus far come into contact have no connection with a church. As this work grows, we need to be willing to reach out and invest time in these people. Session also encouraged the recent lobbying of local MPs/MLAs on proposed Abortion Laws ([www.fearfullyandwonderfullymade.org.uk](http://www.fearfullyandwonderfullymade.org.uk)) and to respond to the online UK Government consultation. This was a first for many. How good to see our church engage, giving a voice to the unborn child - shining a light in a dark world.

## 'PEOPLE MATTER TO GOD'

- familiar words which are used often. This theme never fades and presents the challenge that all people regardless of their background are to be loved and served. To help with the pastoral needs of people in Wellington, we are delighted to welcome Rev. William Dickey to the Pastoral Care Team. Willie will be visiting homes and in doing so will bring years of experience in care and encouragement and the love of Jesus into whatever situation he meets. He's an affable man, likes to play the bagpipes, watch rugby, and promises not to stay too long!

## RETURN FROM SABBATICAL

We welcome Rev Bates back from his sabbatical. We know that God will have used the time in a fruitful way, not only to bless Alistair and the family, but to encourage and broaden his thinking and writing. We look forward to hear of his research and findings into 'Stress in the Ministry', praying that it will be helpful to those who experience stress in their work.

## NEW CONTACT ARRANGEMENTS FOR MINISTRY TEAM

have been set in place by Session. Outside of periods of annual leave, our team members work and respond 24/7. Given that we have such a large congregation and a heavy workload, Session recognises the need for the team to have proper downtime. Subsequently each member of the team will have a minimum of one weekend off in any four week period. The new arrangements will be rolled out by introducing week-end cover (5pm Friday to 11am Sunday). This will not impact or weaken our pastoral care response times or responsibilities. The only change will be contact telephone numbers. Please make yourself au fait with the new phone numbers for Alistair and Eleanor. Previous phone numbers are no longer in use. As we progress this new system, please don't hesitate to give feedback – good or not so good!

*I will put my dwelling place among you, and I will not abhor you. I will walk among you and be your God and you will be my people.*

**LEVITICUS 26:11-12**



# Helping Hand

## FOOD MINISTRY



**HEATHER MARSHALL**

**HOW'S IT GOING?** In the first three months we have distributed 108 food bags and 60 frozen meals.

**WHO GETS A HELPING HAND?** Anyone! But a big part of our focus is with various agencies (Womens Aid/NHSCT/Triangle Housing/Barnardos) who provide first response / early intervention to those in crisis. The crises can be for various reasons - perhaps benefits are late or not in payment, loss of employment, or even simply that over the winter period, sometimes people have to choose between heat and food.

**THE HELPING HAND FOOD MINISTRY HAS BEEN UP AND RUNNING SINCE MID-NOVEMBER 2019.**

Confidentiality is paramount in all that we do. We don't need to know the details of the recipients, we just need to know that they have a need. Of course wisdom and discernment is needed in these areas but we must act in love – no pre-conditions or judgements.

#### WHERE DOES THE FOOD

**COME FROM?** A food collection takes place every Sunday. Our people have been so generous and every Sunday bags of food are brought to the ministry. On the following Monday evenings, our GB Senior girls along with Jackie Cullinan, a former GB officer, sort through the food and make up bags to be distributed.

#### WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING?

Running alongside our helping hand bags, we have frozen meals going out, both to those within our congregation and also into the community. Our GB Brigader girls are involved in this and when the freezer runs low, the girls meet and get cooking in the kitchen. Also, over Christmas, our young people from Sunday Night Collective put together bespoke hampers for individuals/families in the community. A total of 18 hampers were distributed.



### WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR:

- People's interest and the many items brought to the food ministry.
- Our young people embracing the need to help others.
- Contacts made with people, including professional support workers.
- Opportunities to present the love of Christ in practical ways.

Helping Hand has naturally run alongside Re-Story Ministry. Through these ministries God is bringing us into contact with those who are vulnerable, some with addiction issues, others socially-isolated. God has presented a challenge and it is so exciting to see an ever-growing band of helpers from the congregation having a heart for people and willing to give in this way. We have seen God work in so many ways through what we have been doing – and He has given us so many opportunities to draw alongside people and invest our time in their lives.

The Bible speaks so much of God's love for those who are weak, vulnerable, or living in poverty, and about our responsibility to help. Jesus tells and shows us how to care



for the poor and oppressed. When we see so many broken and lost in our community it is not optional when it comes to reaching out to them. We must do as Jesus did ■

COMMAND THEM TO  
DO GOOD, TO BE RICH  
IN GOOD DEEDS, AND  
TO BE GENEROUS AND  
WILLING TO SHARE.

I TIMOTHY 6:18

# RE-STORY



ERIN  
McBRIDE

***When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God. Leviticus 19:9-10***

This verse prompted something in my heart way back in October 2018. I was so struck by the heart of a God who would put an actual law in place to protect and provide for the most vulnerable and needy in society, that those who have plenty should help provide for those who have less. It is the same law that we see applied in the book of Ruth, where Ruth (a Gentile) is allowed to glean the field of Boaz (her soon to be husband), so beginning a series of ‘timely coincidences’ in the providence of a loving God, who



orchestrated circumstances toward the birth of David, Ruth’s great grandson, then from David to the birth of Jesus, and ultimately God’s plan of salvation and restoration for the world.

Through the constant recurrence of this verse in my life, accompanied by an undeniable series of ‘timely coincidences’ and unprompted confirmations from other believers, it became so clear that God was planting the seed of an idea in my mind, and that all He needed was my time, a specific hobby which I was passionate about, and ultimately my obedience to follow His lead and trust His hand. All of which took a while to hand over to Him. A full year and a half, to be precise.

A few years ago I had taken a real interest in restoring older pieces of furniture and created a small Facebook page



“  
WE AS A CHURCH HAVE  
STARTED A FURNITURE  
RESTORATION MINISTRY  
WHERE WE DONATE  
OUR PRE-LOVED ITEMS  
OF FURNITURE  
”

called Re-Story. The vision behind it was to challenge a throwaway society by showing that something older, more worn out and used up, could be renewed, restored to a thing of beauty, and ultimately given a new story.

So now, a few years later, the purpose of Re-Story has shifted. We as a church have started a furniture restoration ministry where we donate our pre-loved items of furniture, they are given a brand new lease of life in our church garage and then we give them out freely to those in our communities who are struggling for many different reasons. Of course the initial aim

# RE-STORY

is to show unconditional love by providing essential pieces of furniture, but ultimately the vision is to draw alongside people who are in such need of the love of Jesus and the freedom that only He can bring to their lives. Since September we have given out 43 items of furniture to many different people. All with the same message: that we care about what happens to them as individuals. It has been such a privilege for our small team to see how God is working in their lives and also so much in ours, showing his faithfulness, His sovereignty, his tender care and that He is IN THE DETAILS and cares very much for those who have been forgotten.

It is no coincidence that at the same time Re-Story was beginning in my heart, God was prompting Heather Marshall to follow His leading on setting up our food ministry, Helping Hands. These two ministries work closely, and as God brings people from many walks of life across our path, it is such a privilege to begin, as a church, to try to meet some of their physical and social needs. But more than that, to see people taking the first steps towards restoration. To see someone who has been worn out by the darkness of this world begin to have a new story is such a beautiful and humbling thing. We are mesmerised as we see the doors which God is opening and we continually trust His hand to lead and guide us. The work is His.

I love the verses in Matthew 11 which say

*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*

It is our prayer that as this ministry continues that people who are weary and burdened will be led to the One who is gentle and humble in heart, the only One who can give rest to their souls and carry their burdens, and ours ■



## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

**PRAY** that God continues to guide us to the people HE wants to touch, and that we will see men and women given a new story in Him.

**DRIVERS.** We have a small group of men who volunteer to deliver or pick up furniture, These men are vital to the work and we so appreciate them. If you have a van, lorry or trailer and would be willing to help out in this way, please let me know.

**DONATE** your pre-loved furniture. Please get in touch with us if you have any items you would like to donate. We specifically need storage items e.g. drawers, bedside cabinets, beds, sofas, tables and chairs, coffee tables.

**FACEBOOK** page is called Re-Story Wellington PC. Please share the page amongst your friends so we can appeal for furniture and keep you instantly updated.

**THANKYOU** for being so supportive as we take a step of faith as a church and follow God's leading.



## REPORT



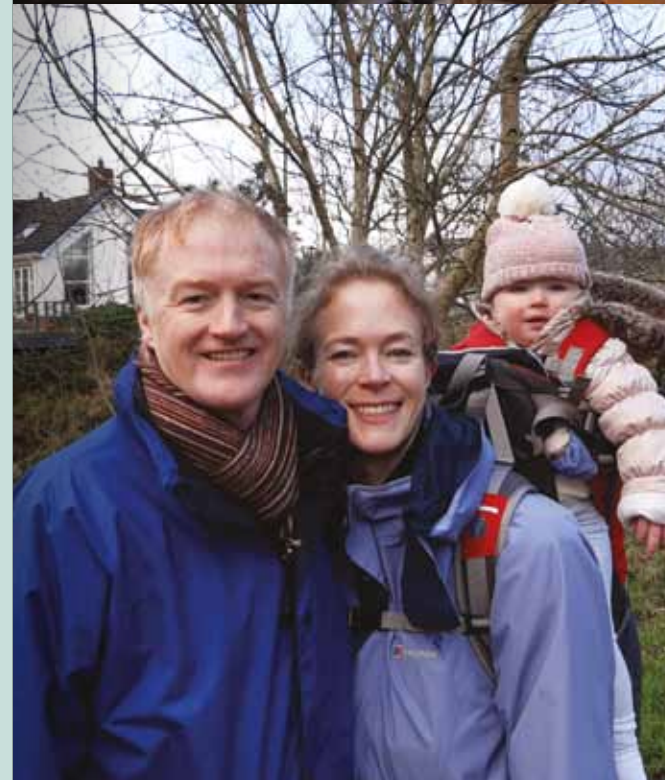
LEE EAGLESON

**In John 4, while Jesus is in Galilee, there is a royal official who comes from Capernaum to see Jesus. He wants Jesus to return home with him to heal his son. Reading that passage we assume that Capernaum is close. However, in v52 we see that after receiving Christ's promise of healing for his son, the official must travel an entire day before he hears his son is healed. This story was recently used in a talk on church-planting that I heard, and it resonated with me. How must that man have repeatedly cudgelled his heart to believe, amid what might be seen as uncertainty, on that long walk home?**

Uncertainty is the word that might be used to describe my experience - partly over the use of Berry Street, and partly over my own status as a minister of the Presbyterian Church. Thankfully, what looked like a definite decision to sell the former Berry Street church site (which Trinity Church now uses) has been halted for a year. The request has come from within the denomination, because Berry Street is in a central location to a new wave of students flooding the city centre. Apartments to house 4000 students have already been built 5 minutes from our building. There are some suggestions of Berry Street becoming a chaplaincy hub, and Trinity Church being resident within that. This means Trinity shifting a main focus to students, but this is maybe a more natural fit for many on our church team.

We have had encouraging stories from other areas of our work, but it is challenging and tiring and we need more people to further resource it. This may come from Trinity introducing disciplined students into our Prayer Room and Blossoms ministry works (which will continue even if we make this shift). We have positive connections with student organisations developing, but these are in early stages and we are still learning. It is all very tentative and we need the Lord's guidance.

CONTINUED...



“ WE HAVE POSITIVE CONNECTIONS WITH STUDENT ORGANISATIONS DEVELOPING, BUT THESE ARE IN EARLY STAGES AND WE ARE STILL LEARNING. IT IS ALL VERY TENTATIVE AND WE NEED THE LORD'S GUIDANCE. ”

Each year, ministers need to have permission to stay on as a minister of the Presbyterian Church if they aren't serving in an established congregation. I have been told that the denomination will not renew my status as a minister this June. I have been informed that this isn't personal – it's just the way they are now applying rules. We are viewed as too small to be recognised as 'official'. I am disappointed, and I'd ask you to pray that this would be reconsidered. One way round it may be to have a larger established church take on Trinity (and me) as a church plant of their congregation. Please pray about this.

Uncertainty is a word I might use. I too have to cudgel my heart at times to believe. Yet, from the conclusion of John 4, the royal official did believe, and found the Lord to be faithful. I choose to believe the same, and have found him to be likewise.

Blossoms had not had a single referral up to January after a launch in early October. Our balcony was full of baby clothes going nowhere. A prayer team of young students arrived from Toronto and prayed that every sock would have a baby, and after 3 months of nothing, the next day two bags of clothes were requested. The day after, we had thirty requests. (We discovered that our phone number had dropped a digit on our publicity – doh!). Women's Aid, St. Vincent DePaul and Salvation Army are all now referring young single mums to us.

Hampers have gone into prisons and last Monday we took the decision to expand to the Greater Belfast area as requests arrive from more shelters and hostels. (We need people to help us sort baby clothes – would a team want to come from Wellington?) Yet God didn't move until that prayer team arrived and it came on the heels of a moment which had brought discouragement and questioning. God wanted to show that he had it covered.

Prayer Room continues to astonish. Last Monday was our most prolific to date, with many people on the street, who thought they were Christians, discovering to their great shock they weren't. 14 people prayed a prayer of forgiveness. The day had begun with the team believing God wanted them to spend a longer time in prayer. God wanted to remind us this is his work. One remarkable story came a few weeks ago. Two of our people saw a young woman leave a nearby church, looking a bit befuddled and upset. They approached her and asked if she was alright. Could they pray for her? They started to explain about Jesus. She started to cry. "I was in there and I felt so alone and lost. I prayed, 'Jesus, if you are real, can you find me?'" The two folks from the Prayer Room led the lady, sobbing, to faith in Jesus. Jesus had used us to find her.

Family life is a great joy. Sarah, now 15 months, is the sweetest little thing and a constant source of joy to her parents. In Nancy, I have an amazing helpmate and encourager. Even in my lowest moments of ministry, I come home to this family and instantly recognise I am so blessed. It has come from God's hand. If I lose my ministry and keep this – I am blessed.

I am learning more and more that neither the uncertainties, failures, and obscurity of this work, nor the success and plaudits of others to whom I compare myself, form what God is principally doing in my ministry. It is about me learning, like that official, that Christ's word is enough. I trust and find it so ■

## CONTACT DETAILS

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Follow Trinity on Twitter

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**FUTURE VISION** – pray for the Lord's guidance in the continuing development of Trinity. Pray for this new emphasis on students. Pray for the continuing work on Sundays, the Prayer Room on Monday and the developing work of Blossoms.

**SPIRITUAL FRUIT** – one area is discipleship. How do we win and grow new converts into fully devoted followers of Christ and then people who disciple others themselves? Pray for encouragement in this area. While we can think this through, ultimately it is the Lord who builds his church.

**BERRY STREET SITE** – pray that the Presbyterian Church would be guided to God's vision for the site. Pray that Trinity Church, Belfast would have a definitive answer within the process. If it is not on this site, pray for alternatives.

**MY STATUS** – pray for a solution within the Presbyterian Church that allows my passion for new and pioneering work to continue within the denomination. Pray for all the aspects that make work a positive experience - security, encouragement, pastoral oversight and care for our family. Pray for the Lord's guidance if this is not the case.



## HELP ME TEACH THE BIBLE



Nancy Guthrie (Gospel Coalition)

In this podcast, Nancy interviews a range of well-known Bible teachers – such as Kevin DeYoung, Sam Alberry, Melissa Kruger, Don Carson, and many more – on various Biblical themes. Themes like:

**Teaching Scripture in a Secular Context** – so gracious and wise, useful for anyone seeking to live as a Christian in our world today.

**Asking Better Questions** – great for small group leaders or anyone involved in discussion groups.

**Why Middle Eastern Women Want To Learn to Teach the Bible**, where Nancy interviews 5 women who are involved in churches in the Middle East, often at great risk to themselves; such a powerful reminder of the privilege that we have to be able to study God's word freely.

There are also episodes dedicated to specific Bible books or passages, ideal to listen to before or after doing a study series.

As the name suggests, it's aimed primarily at those who teach in any capacity – pastors, small group leaders, youth workers. But I hugely recommend this podcast for everyone who loves God's Word and wants to love it more – it is engaging and easy to listen to, but it's jam-packed with real treasure.

*Alison Woodrow*

## RED SEA ROAD



Ellie Holcomb (Full Heart Music)

Many of the songs on this album explore those times in life when we are facing difficulty or pain – and they beautifully remind us of God's faithfulness in those times. When we seem to be in impossible situations, God makes a way and He never leaves us alone.

This is one of those albums where every song is great to listen to. Ellie has a beautiful voice and an easy-listening style. But what really stands out is how these songs comfort and remind us that God is in control.

Ellie writes of the title track, "It is so scary and so hard to take God at His word some days, especially when you feel that grief will crash over you like the waves of an ocean and swallow you whole. So we wrote this song to remind our souls that God is with us."

*Gillian Andrews*



## ON GUARD: DEFENDING YOUR FAITH WITH REASON AND PRECISION

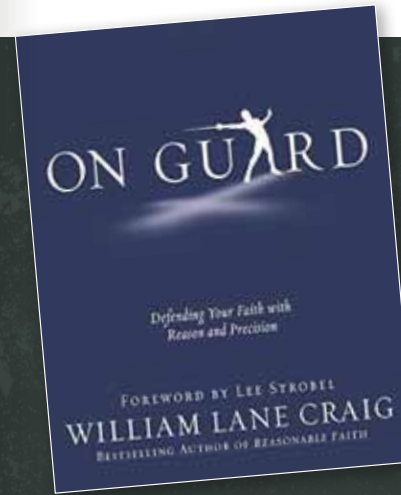


Dr William Lane Craig (David C Cook)

Dr William Lane Craig is one of the foremost Christian apologists in the world today. Through his books, online ministry, lectures and debates he has defended the intellectual credibility of the Christian Faith. On Guard summarises the main arguments for the existence of God and for the historicity of the resurrection, equipping the Christian with the tools to confidently engage with a sceptical world.

Christianity is not a blind faith devoid of reason, but has a solid evidential base, and Dr Craig's book shows how it speaks to the head as well as the heart.

*John Goodrich*



## MAMA MAGGIE



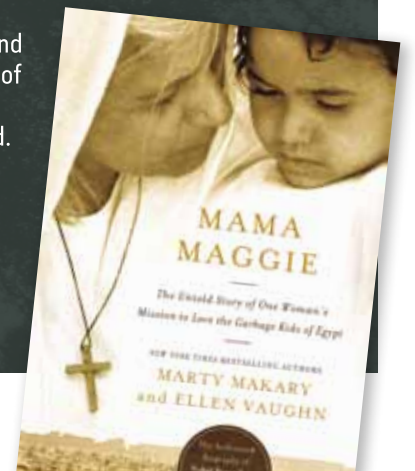
Martin Makary and Ellen Vaughn  
(Thomas Nelson)

Mama Maggie is the story of Nobel Peace Prize nominee Maggie Gobran. A Coptic Christian, raised in Egypt, she lived a privileged life as a college professor and successful businesswoman, but after visiting Cairo's garbage slums with friends from church, she decided to make a radical choice: to do something for people who had no choice. Maggie exchanged her affluent life for one of simplicity, and in 1989 began Stephen's Children, an organisation working in poverty-stricken areas in the Middle East.

'Garbage children' were so named because they sift through rotten food, broken glass, and worse, to scrape an existence. 50% of these children will not live to be adults, sickness, hunger and abuse being the norm in these slums. As a loving mother-figure, "Mama Maggie", through her faith and dedication, brings hope to the hopeless. Amidst the most dire circumstances, God is very much at work through Maggie and her team (many of whom grew up in the slums and are now serving God). Not only does Mama Maggie serve tirelessly, but she rises at 3:30am to spend time in God's presence to gain strength and direction. Even in the face of persecution, forgiveness is the norm.

This is a challenging and encouraging reminder of God's amazing grace. An absolute must-read.

*Hazel Bates*





## JANICE DARRAGH

### OCCUPATION:

I hand-make natural deodorants, moisturisers, lip balms etc. God opened this door for me, He gave me this ministry and I call it Truly Blessed, because I believe I am!

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE BIBLE VERSE / PASSAGE?

I have so many, but these verses have come to pass these last 10 years since a breast cancer diagnosis:

*2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.*

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK / HYMN / SONG AND WHY?

Without a doubt The Goodness of God. Every word of it! Especially the line: "with every breath that I am able, I will sing of the goodness of God". I wake up almost every

## People of Wellington

morning with that song in my head and on my lips. I sincerely mean every word of it, I get lost in His presence as I sing it and I truly believe that all my life He has been so faithful to me, He has always held me in His hands and the rest of my days I will still be held in His hands. I really have lived in the goodness of God!

### DO YOU HAVE A WORD OF ADVICE / ENCOURAGEMENT / A LIFE LESSON TO SHARE WITH THE READERS?

Live life to the full, get your priorities right: God first! Don't waste time on technical devices or trivial arguments, make time with God your first priority in the morning and the last priority at night. Spend more time with family and friends. Be thankful for every single second of every single day. Notice the beauty around you and enjoy the simple things in life. Ask God to use everything you've been through to bring hope and comfort to others, don't let your troubles be wasted. As you bless and comfort others through their trials, God will bless and comfort you, I know this for sure.



## CHRIS GAMBLE

### OCCUPATION:

I've been in the agri-food industry my whole life, with no sign of escape! I grew up on the family farm outside Gracehill, studied Agriculture and Food Science at CAFRE and I am currently employed by red meat processor Dunbia, as a Commercial Manager.

### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT WELLINGTON?

Lynne and I have enjoyed fellowship at Wellington for 10 years, becoming members in 2012. And we now have our 3 boys coming with us: Isaac 5, James 3 and Ethan 1.

### HOW ARE YOU INVOLVED IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH?

My first involvement in church life was in a small group led by Liz Kernoghan. As a young, newly-married couple, we found the group hugely encouraging and it really helped Lynne and I settle into our new

## People of Wellington

church family. Lynne and I also got involved with Big Feed and were greatly blessed through serving alongside like-minded Christians with a passion for teaching and discipling the young people. I have recently become a church committee member and joined one of the men's small groups, and look forward to my next chapter at Wellington.

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT WELLINGTON?

The people - we are blessed with a large church of passionate believers, each with an incredible story.

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE BIBLE VERSE / PASSAGE?

I have always enjoyed the book of Proverbs - it is packed with God's Wisdom and lends itself to practical application in everyday life.

*Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.*

# HOW CAN I HELP?

## the net

(Youth club)

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

For the majority of the young people attending The Net, this is the only time they hear about the good news of Jesus. We want our young people to have their best life and that can only be through knowing Jesus, so we must do everything we can to let them know about the love Jesus has for them. If we don't have leaders and helpers, we can't run the youth club.

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 1 area 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.

### WHAT HELP IS NEEDED?

We need helpers of any age or personality-type – we just need people to come along and enjoy getting involved in any of the different activities: football, basketball, Xbox, unihoc, table games etc.

Primarily, though, leaders are there to show Christ-like love and care for each one of the young people.

The Net runs every Saturday night 7-10.15pm. We would love to have all leaders there every week, but any help is welcome so even if it's only once a month, we can work with whatever suits you.

*Ashley Shaw*

WELLINGTON NEEDS

YOU

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

# KIDS' PAGE

## Book Review

**'Everyone a child should know'**

by Clare Heath-Whyte

This book is about lots of Christians who helped change their world. It tells us about people like Brother Andrew who helped to take Bibles into countries where God's Word wasn't allowed. He was so brave.

I also loved reading about Gladys Aylward who was very ordinary but God used her to do extraordinary things. Every person in the book was Jesus' friend and told people about Him.

I really loved this book and I think all the boys and girls in church would love it too.

**Mollie McBride**  
aged 8



## 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)



**Q:** What is the name of the new food ministry in our church?

## Jesus Is Alive!

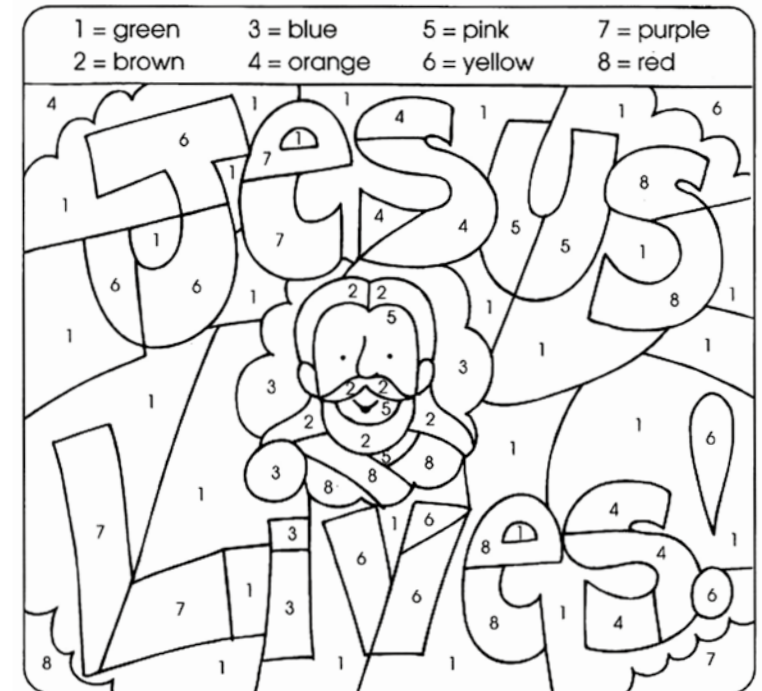


John 20

At the empty tomb, Mary Magdalene talked to a man. She thought he was a gardener.

But then she saw that the man was really Jesus! He had risen from the dead and was alive again!

**Colour the picture using the code so you can be reminded of this wonderful truth!**





01

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

**01** On 17 November 2019, we had the wonderful occasion of 4 baptisms: pictured here with Alistair are (L-R) Emma Todd, Neil Kinnear, Richard Wilson, Ben McKendry.



02



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And on the same day, we welcomed a number of new communicant members:

**02** Neil & Danielle Kinnear,

**03** Liam & Sarah McCarthy

**04** (L-R) Richard Wilson, Dorothy Dunlop, Sarah Fry, Mark Tweedie, James Tweedie, Frankie & Denise Logan  
*(Not pictured: Ben Davison, Jessica Fleming, Julie Kernohan, Rachelle Mitchell, Peter & Amy McClelland, Ben McKendry, Tommy Nicholl, Emma Todd)*

**05** Neil and Danielle Kinnear brought baby Joel for baptism on 1 December 2019.

**06 / 07 / 08** On 4 December, the annual Christmas dinner for the Wednesday Fellowship took place. This year Gillian Andrews provided music, and Rev. Bates brought an epilogue. Also pictured are the ladies who cooked and served the food.



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**09 / 10** Sunday 8 December 2019 was our annual Gift Service, when our children bring gifts to go to families in need through the Belfast City Mission. The children's choir also sang at this service.

**11 / 12 / 13** Our annual Carol Service was held on 22 December 2019, and the church was packed to capacity. The choir, musicians, reader and children reminded us beautifully of the importance and meaning of the season – "Now the darkest of ages are done, for the Saviour of heaven has come".

**14** On 2 February 2020, Peter and Amy McClelland brought their son Charlie for baptism.

**15** Frank and Claire Geddis brought baby Henry for baptism on 9 February.

**16** And it was a double baptism on 9 February: Caleb, son of Jeffrey and Clare Neeson, was also baptised.



12



13



14



15



16



PODCAST



BEN  
MCKENDRY



BEN  
KENNEDY

INTERVIEW



ALISON  
WOODROW

*Ben Kennedy and Ben McKendry, two members of the music team here in Wellington, have recently started a podcast (available on Apple Podcasts or Spotify) called Scripture in the Song. We wanted to give them the opportunity to explain it to the congregation in a bit more detail, so one Saturday evening I met up with them – one in person and one via Skype! – to find out more.*

**SO WHAT IS SCRIPTURE IN THE SONG?**

It's a podcast – which is basically like a pre-recorded radio talk show. We chat, in an informal way, about the Gospel and the study of God's Word.

In each episode we take a different song. We get some history on it – which can be so important as it gives an insight into why the song was written in the first place, and can even change how we sing it. Then we look at Scriptures relevant to that song.

**WHAT ARE THE MAIN REASONS FOR DOING IT?**

We're still in the early days, but at the moment we have 3 main aims:

- To see God glorified in the study of these songs and ultimately in the praise of him through them.
- To see the church encouraged as to why we sing the songs that we do, and what they teach us about God's character.
- To see conversations started about the songs we listen to or sing, so that we can be discerning, which hopefully leads into faithful study of God's Word.

**WHAT PROMPTED YOU TO START IT?**

It came from a place of listening to a lot of worship music that had bad theology, until a certain point where there was a change in both of our mindsets: God was leading us to take his word and truth more seriously, which subsequently changed our thinking on what we were singing and listening to. So after a few years of talking about different songs pretty every time we went out for a coffee, we thought we'd maybe try to find an outlet for it, and start a conversation in the wider church, so that we can all think about the theology of the songs that we sing.



We like the format of it being a conversation, just two friends talking through a song. Wellington is so blessed in terms of our music ministry, but we want the congregation to be involved in thinking about what we sing every week.

### WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES YOU'VE FACED?

We want to be very careful that we don't seem to be sitting in a position of authority speaking down to the listeners. We're young and we know we have a long way to go in our faith. But we also believe that this shouldn't deter anyone from studying and discussing things like this – part of the Christian faith is figuring things out together. So we want it to seem like we're simply studying the Bible together with our church family or other fellow-believers.

We've had to record and re-record certain episodes because when we got started, we realised that we weren't exactly clear on how we understood something, or perhaps there was a particularly challenging line which we hadn't really thought through properly. Towards the beginning we chose How Deep the Father's Love, which I think we thought was an easy one for our second-ever episode, and as it turns out, it was not!

### ANY HIGHLIGHTS SO FAR?

So many! We keep stumbling across things we're not expecting to find. When we were studying How Deep the Father's Love, for example, we felt really impacted by looking into all the types of suffering that Christ endured – physical abandonment by friends, emotional abandonment, society turning against him... With that one, we also went on a real journey into the mystery of the dual nature of Christ.

The latest podcast we've recorded is on How Great Thou Art. One of us thought it was all about the wonder of creation, while the other took it as being about how God is present with the writer wherever he is. So we were approaching it from different angles, and it was interesting to explore both of those.

We've gained a new appreciation for the first 3 chapters of Genesis, too – no matter where else you go in the Bible, you just can't get away from those chapters.

So I suppose the real highlight has been how deep this has taken us into the Bible – preparing for each podcast, the study that we've had to do, has just been amazing. And even in terms of our friendship – it's been such a great thing to do together.

### WHAT ARE YOUR OWN FAVOURITE SONGS AT THE MOMENT?

Ben McK - A new Sovereign Grace song called When Christ Our Life Appears – it's so good. At this stage of life, I definitely need to learn about contentment and patience, and following God's leading into the future, and this song is so helpful:

When Christ our life appears,  
our hope will be complete,

Our longings finally rest as we  
fall at his feet.

Ben K – for me it's an old hymn, though also recorded by Sovereign Grace. It's called Dear Refuge of my Weary Soul; it's so beautiful and meant a lot to me recently when I went through a really hard period of doubt and questioning. One line in particular just made me realise that I had no alternative but to cling to God:

But gracious God, where shall I flee?  
Thou art my only trust.

And still my soul shall cleave to  
thee, though prostrate in the dust.

### FINALLY, TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOURSELVES – WHAT YOU'RE DOING NOW AND WHAT YOU'RE HOPING TO DO NEXT.

Ben K: I study Microbiology, but I'm currently on a placement year in Galway. Once I graduate, I'd quite like to do something creative or musical for a while – I'll hopefully take a gap year for that.

Ben McK: I'm in my 3rd year of studying Maths at Queens. Next, I plan to just be best friends with Ben forever! (laughs) But realistically I'll go into the world of work as God leads, though ultimately I'd like to maybe go into ministry. We joke sometimes about planting a church together, so who knows!

# 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 SPRING 2020**

## **Sovereign Grace**

- Turn Your Eyes
- The King In All His Beauty
- When Christ Our Life Appears

## **Natalie Grant**

- My Weapon

## **Shane and Shane**

- Living Waters
- Hallelujah For The Cross

## **Cory Asbury**

- The Father's House

## **Anthony Evans**

- Mercy Tree

## **Andrew Peterson**

- His Heart Beats

## **CityAlight, Colin Buchanan**

- Jesus, Strong And Kind





“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord  
Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given  
us new birth into a living hope through the  
resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

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1 PETER 1:3

[www.wellingtonpc.co.uk](http://www.wellingtonpc.co.uk)

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