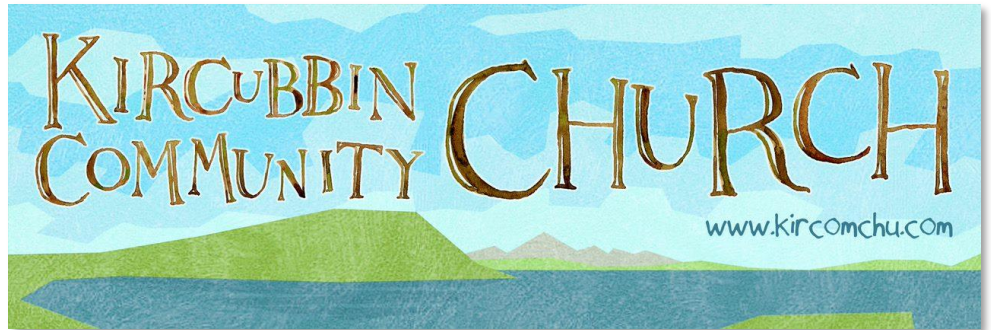


VISION ANNUAL REPORTS

Elders

"He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of His Son and forgave our sins."

Ephesians 1v7



This year has been yet another year in KCC when we have proved the faithfulness of God. One of our themes has been "a living membership." This theme was part of the elder's thinking and conversation even before Stephen was introduced to Mark Dever's "Nine Marks Ministry." Mark was the guest speaker at the ABCI Pastor's Conference in Carlingford at the beginning of March 2024. Here Stephen became acquainted with Dever's book "Nine Marks of a Healthy Church." This fitted together with our thoughts as elders and formed part of our key teaching program after the summer.

The concept of a living membership correlates with the idea of the living spiritual body i.e. the local church, taught in scripture. If we claim to be a part of the living body, then we cannot do life separately from that body. The body is only healthy as each part of the body is present and plays their part in the life of the whole. This led to a revision of our church membership to reflect those still committed to being a part of the life in Kircubbin Community Church. The result was a series of goodbyes, some in person and some in writing. It was evident that our numbers on paper were shrinking, yet in fact they were becoming more realistically aligned to the numbers attending our services and actively involved in the ministry of KCC. The devil will certainly want us to be discouraged by smaller numbers and this process may well have led to discouragement in some. However, I thank God for our church leadership and others within the fellowship who kept holding on by faith, believing that God was part of this process.

It was such an encouragement then in the autumn of 2024 and following to see new people join our church after a period of considering what God wanted for them. Firstly, Ken and Patricia Bleakley and then after them David and Lorraine Stitt. We pray that God will bless these couples and use them among us. There have been other young families and older individuals who have also been coming through our doors in recent months. We dare to hope that these green shoots will flourish as many others become living members in the body of KCC.

There will be a separate report no doubt on the Young Life Discipleship Group happening in Room 2 later in these reports, however, it is only right that I mention the encouragement that this group has been to the elders. What a joy to see young people coming together in our church building, desiring to study God's Word. This alone gives us much hope for the future. It was lovely on a recent Sunday morning to have 8 teenagers in our service. Let's keep praying for these teenagers and encouraging them in every way that we can.

April 2024 marked a stressful and yet glorious period in our church life when our fellow-elder Alan was faced with serious, and it seemed terminal, illness. Having begun last year's elder's report with the comment, "This year, the team of elders in K.C.C., increased again to three....," it seemed that they would be reduced again to two. We praise our wonderful God that this was not the case and that in answer to much prayer Alan was raised up once more. How wonderful it was at the end of 2024 to have him at the front teaching the body as so many times in the past. It was a time when Phil and Stephen were reminded how much they rely on the wisdom and input of Alan on many subjects. I should also say that we enjoy his wit and humour in many tense moments. We praise God for the different opportunities that we had last year to hold out the Word of life to the young and old in our village. The Hope Explored Course in the run up to Easter was a little bit of an experiment, but

we praise God for the ladies who attended those 3 evenings and the opportunity we had to discuss the hope of the gospel. We also give thanks for Rebecca, David and the other members of the BYE Team who gave of their time to help our church in Evangelism at the beginning of July. It was a joy to see the response of the children with whom we came in contact during that week. The response of the young people during that week was the thing which persuaded us that we had to address the question of youth work within our church as a matter of urgency. It was also wonderful to be able to host 8 weeks of Spring WhizzKidz and 8 weeks of Winter WhizzKidz during the year past. This was often organised with a skeleton volunteer team, but God always undertook. We praise God for this opportunity to share many clear presentations of the gospel with the boys and girls. Of course, we thank God for the parents who brought their children and were so comfortable to stay and chat in Room 2 during the time of the club upstairs.

The other major happening in our eldership team was the employment of Stephen as full-time pastor. This concept initiated with Alan and Phil, before being shared with Stephen, the deacons and eventually the church body. In many ways it seemed like a ludicrous suggestion for which there was not sufficient funding. However, in a mammoth step of faith the church decided to employ Stephen in a full-time capacity until the end of May 2025 and trust the Lord for the needed funds to extend this further. As always, our God proved his ability to supply our need way beyond anything we could ever imagine. We rejoice in the supply of our financial needs from local churches, and individuals. So great has been the response to our appeal for help that we have had to defer one grant coming from our Association of churches, at least until later in 2025. How marvellous is our God!!

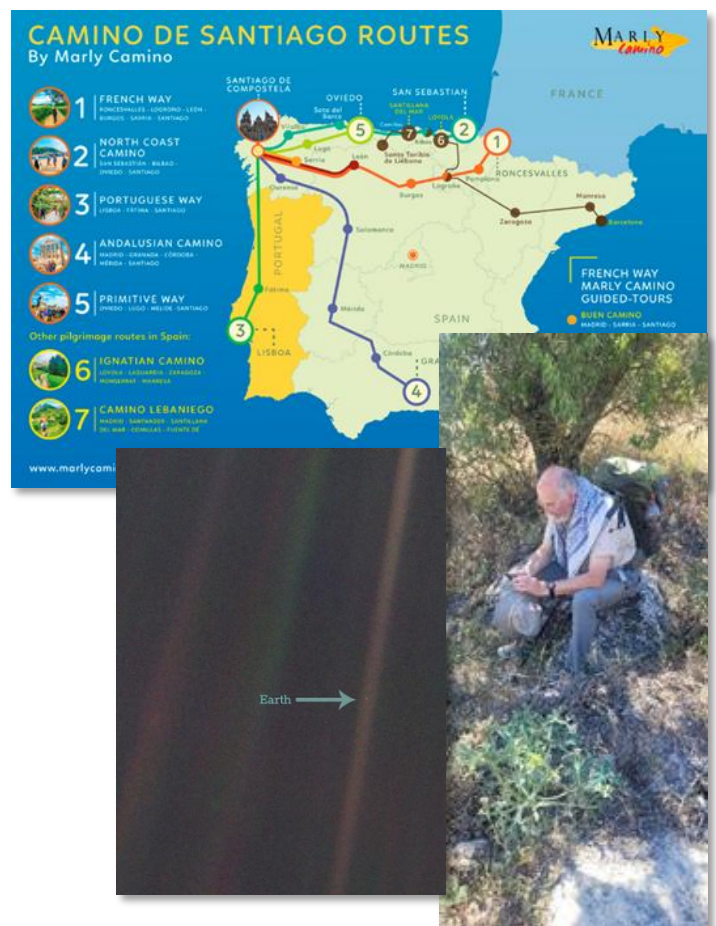
Please continue to stand with us as your elders. We are open to the attack of the enemy in just the same way you are and therefore greatly appreciate your prayers for us. The enemy is very subtle in the way he seeks to get a foot hold among us. We greatly appreciate each one of you and look forward to the coming year of service together. As always, we want you to know that we are always available to you at all times. We want to know of any concerns you may have, and we are always keen to hear of any ideas and suggestions you may have in relation to the life of the church and the effective functioning of its ministries.

Yours in His Service
Stephen, Alan & Phil

Men's Ministry

The men have managed to get together for a breakfast where Ken shared with us about his pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago sharing some wonderful photos as well as what he had learnt through the walk and the people he had met (especially Clint Eastwood!) We also got together before Christmas for an Indian and Chinese in Room2 with a mind-bending quiz about perspective (look up the photo below called 'the pale blue dot' to realise just how, in one sense, we are very, very insignificant but because of Jesus we are very significant!) We enjoy our times together and hope that they continue to bind us closer to each other and closer to our heavenly Father – if you can please commit to coming to each of our times together and to pray for each other.

Phil Derrick



Set Up

Because we don't have our own premises everything has to be set up prior to the service and put away after the service. That makes the set up team a very important and vital ministry to ensure the smooth running of our church services. We have a good wee team but have lost Zac and Bex whilst they are away on their travels. Phil has kindly stepped up and joined the team, but we would welcome anyone who would like to commit to joining the team.

Brian Orr



Foodbank

Foodbank continues to operate out of Room 2 on a Thursday evening as a 'satellite' branch of the main Foodbank from 'HOUSE' church. Our little team has lost some volunteers over this year so we would welcome any new helpers – it's quite straightforward and usually you only serve once every 4-6 weeks for an hour at a time. There continues to be a need in the peninsula, as with everywhere, and we have had some interesting follow ups as well. Please do talk to me (or Richard Porter) up at HOUSE church if this is something you feel you could be part of. It is a lovely way to help meet a need, serving together with folk from different church backgrounds.

Sharon D



Room2Pray

Acts 1:14 – *"They all met together and were constantly united in prayer."*

We have continued to meet every Wednesday to pray for the Lord's work in our church and the local community and it is so encouraging to see answers to our prayers. Notably, with the miracle of Alan's recovery and return to his home *and* back to preaching. We have also been praying for opportunities to introduce the Lord into our conversations with the ladies at Room2Chat and also being able to start something to accommodate the teenagers in the area. God has definitely answered both these prayers in that we have been able to share Christ with the ladies and also to pray with them. Regarding the teenagers a door has opened for our church to partner with the work of Young Life which meets in Cloughey Presbyterian Church. A Bible study group has started on a Thursday night in Room2 and is being enthusiastically attended. It is so encouraging to know that God hears our prayers and surprises us with the way He puts His plans in place. With the start of Home Groups, the prayer meetings are now twice a month with our continued focus on hearing from the Lord and seeking His direction for our church, as well as praying for those in need. (We take time to pray together in our Home Groups too.)

Prayer is at the centre of how God shapes our lives and that of our church community and I would encourage everyone to join with us in this very important work.

Rosalind Hennessey

Ladies' ministry

2024 has been a good year with many blessings, although as a group we have shared trials and challenges – we have supported each other and learnt and grown as a result.

Hazel and myself came “onboard” (Caroline’s description!!) to assist with the Ladies Ministry in January.

A program of dates was agreed and our first get together was arranged for Alchemy in Greyabbey for late February – a yummy dinner and good craic ensued.

Our March catchup was breakfast in Room 2, courtesy of Caroline – wonderful fellowship and another opportunity to get to know each other better - a number of the ladies also attended the Baptist Women’s Conference in Lisburn – an inspiring day with excellent teaching.

Circumstances meant that the Ladies did not meet again until we belatedly celebrated Caroline’s 60th birthday during the summer months.

Our Christmas catchup was another delicious meal, this time at the Saltwater Brig.

Whilst we may not have managed to meet monthly as per our original plan, and not all KCC ladies have been available to attend our nights out, we have continued to support each other by way of our Church Ladies WhatsApp group, where we share encouragement through Bible verses, Christian songs and prayerful support. The group is also used for specific prayer requests – KCC related or individual family and friends related – such support is invaluable and a real encouragement to all, as we see God working through His answering of these prayers. If you are not currently a member of this group and wish to be added, please contact either Caroline or Sharon.

Since the Church Home Groups commenced in September, the focus of the Ladies Ministry will continue to be more socially focused in 2025.



For I know the plans I have for you. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

Andrea Walker

Home groups

One of the latest developments in our life as a church family has been the welcome reintroduction of home groups. Two groups meet twice a month on a Sunday evening to talk about lessons we have learned or are learning from the Sunday morning teaching.



I would like to thank those who host us in their homes, Gillian and Anders on the peninsula, and Andrew and Andrea, Bex and Zach in the Bangor/Donaghadee area. I would also like to thank Phil and Stephen for leading the groups.

I believe that meeting in smaller groups is an essential part of our Christian growth and development. It gives us all an opportunity to get to know each other better and to encourage one another. Church was where people feel lonely or isolated. Home groups are an ideal place where people can connect with each other and discover that their voices matter. If you don't attend a home group, can I ask you to seriously think about it. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from and encourage others.



Alan Wilson

WhizzKidz

Once again, we had a wonderful BYE Team to come and support our outreach to the children and teenagers in the summer. It wasn't the week that we wanted – straight after the end of term for the teachers involved but God enabled and strengthened his team of servants to put loads of energy and love into our children and young people from Kircubbin and roundabout. We ran the program from 2.00-4.00pm using the CEF "Run the Race" material to fit in with the Olympics happening later in the summer. The BYE Team were real encouragers and workers getting the room and resources prepared and taking a very active part in WhizzKidz. We had about 20 children each day and were so pleased to see so many parents and grandparents come on the last day for the barbecue but they were also welcomed in for the last half hour when the gospel was clearly presented and everyone listened really attentively – we continue to pray for God's work to be done in hearts and minds of children, young people and adults.

We had Winter WhizzKidz for four weeks either side of Easter (with Hope Explored running in parallel in Room2 for parents) and either side of autumn half term. It was so encouraging to have two of our young people, Ziva and Leah, coming to help the team – they have been such an asset to the work. We used resources to tell the story and teach from the life of Elijah. Winter WhizzKidz was on Wednesdays from 6.00-7.00pm and while the children are upstairs Room2 is open for parents and grandparents to come in and sit, have a coffee and a chat, which most of them do. We are grateful to the ladies who have facilitated this. Thank you as well to the team of leaders who make this happen – we may only have around 15-20 children each night but we definitely need the capacity of at least 4 leaders to run the

programme and cater for the specific and sometimes challenging needs of the children. The BYE Team with some of our own church also did some wonderful work with the Teens which I hope you will read about elsewhere in these reports! Our great thanks to all who were involved so enthusiastically!

Phil Derrick



Sunday WhizzKidz



Sunday WhizzKidz is very possibly the ministry that has experienced the most change. As Hazel indicated in her report on Sunday WhizzKidz last year, there were a number of very real challenges to the sustaining of this ministry, and these have not abated during the last year. In fact, the number of Primary age children attending on a Sunday morning has further decreased since last year and we have lost further volunteers.

As a result of the above challenges, we have tried 2 new strategies to meet the needs of the children on a Sunday morning. Firstly, we sought to merge creche and WhizzKidz so as to maximise volunteers. You may have noticed a change to 2 of the columns on the rota so that they showed "Week Main" and "Week Adult 2." The idea under this plan was that one adult would take the children out and keep them upstairs in a clearly

visible space. If the number of children going out of the service rose to greater than 4, then the second adult would go out to assist and the children could be taken down to Room 2. This worked well for a time in conjunction with the Family Service which was still happening during the first half



of the year.

Following a further reduction of children leading to the situation whereby on most Sundays we had a maximum of 2 children of Primary age, also the ending of regular family services, we have currently introduced a second strategy. In the last number of months, we have sought to introduce worksheets for the children to complete. These match the theme of the adult teaching. Creche age children have remained within the service with family members taking them out if its felt necessary, whilst the plan has been that Primary age children would remain in the service for 3 Sundays of the month and be taken out for WhizzKidz on the fourth. In fairness, this has worked with varying degrees of success, and we want to thank the patience of our families as we grapple to find the best solution to allow the teaching to be relevant to our children on a Sunday morning.

The situation always seems to be changing in KCC and presently we again regularly have a 2-year-old in our

service and also the potential for some more Primary age children. Therefore, we may need further refinement to our plan, and I want to assure you that as elders we are continually considering the needs of these children. It may be that you could assist with this ministry. The main qualification is a heart to teach boys and girls about Jesus Christ. There is no age or gender restriction. Indeed, I would challenge our teenagers to consider if they could help alongside an adult on a Sunday morning.

To close, I want to thank all who have sought to help with the children on a Sunday morning. However, I want to especially thank both Hazel and Sharon for the time and energy you have given to Sunday WhizzKidz. We are sorry to lose your leadership in this group but fully understand your reasons for stepping aside. We know that you both have a genuine heart for our children in KCC and wish you well in the ministries in which you still serve within our church.

Stephen Garrett



Room2

I am mindful that many of the groups meeting in Room 2 will have coverage elsewhere in these reports. Therefore, I don't want to duplicate details in this report but rather to give you a broad overview of the room's wide variety of uses. Its usage has not declined in the past year, maybe even increased. Many of the groups who avail themselves of the room have not changed. The following groups are still on the schedule: Sure Start are still making use of the Room on a Monday morning, Room2chat on a Tuesday morning, and Social Services on a Wednesday and Thursday. At the moment we are facilitating contact sessions for 2 of our Health and Social Care Trusts on the 2 days mentioned above. The room also continues to be used by FoodBank early on a Thursday evening.

In addition to the schedule, I've outlined we are more than thrilled that Young Life in partnership with KCC are using the room after foodbank on a Thursday evening for a Discipleship Bible Study. This is something we've been desiring for some time since TeenSpirit stopped meeting regularly. The schedule also shows some regular designated slots for Pastor's usage. These sessions are on a Tuesday afternoon and all-day Friday may be for pastoral meetings/appointments and to allow study and administration. Please feel free to arrange to meet me on either of these days.

Stephen Garrett

Patterson Ministries

School outreach

Praise God for Principals who continue to allow the gospel to be shared in their schools. Over the past year I have had the opportunity to share with up to 2500 children per month. I used stories on Jonah, Richard Cadbury, the miracles of Jesus, George Carver (the peanut man) the rich fool, the Lord welcomes children, the unforgiving servant, Betty Green MAF, and the Lord walking on the water. Also, in the run up to last Christmas some 1000 Christmas tracts were handed into many schools in the South Down area.

Please pray many children will put their trust in the Lord Jesus and live their lives for Him.



YouTube channel - We continue to send out videos via YouTube to over 50 schools each week.

We have 174 videos with 105 subscribers, with around 9650 views of the videos to date.

On the run up to Christmas I used five lessons on the life of Abraham. While preparing these I was, once again, amazed at the faithfulness of God to his children.

I have been very encouraged with the YouTube channel. I have had a few comments from schools and people overseas. One lady, Alison from USA, said how much she enjoys the videos and uses them in her Sunday school.

Other activities –

Saint Patrick outreach in Downpatrick – I must admit that as I joined the team at the St. Patrick parade, I was a little wary of the reception we might receive. I was very pleasantly surprised to find we were very welcome, and the literature very well received, to the point where I ran out of booklets and had to go back to the car for more.

Summer outreach – Over June, July and August. Praise God for hundreds for tracts and flyers handed out this summer. We went to Lisburn, Belfast, Ards, Comber, Ballymena, Holywood, Lurgan and many other places. This year I noticed how many people I met from overseas! Julie and Jannet from Swindon, Kyle - South Africa, Christine – Nigeria, Ray – London, Jodie – Philipppians, Chris and Amanda – Devon, John – Romania, Eamon – Ireland, car full of ladies from Dublin, others from Ohio, Denver, Cavin, Guernsey and many others. I had dozens of conversations with so many people who chatted and promised to read the literature.

Comber 'Fair in the Square' – After a very wet start I took up the spot I use each year and had a great night. I handed out hundreds of Christmas tracts and was very encouraged this year as to how many teenagers took the little booklets and I watched as many walked away reading the tracts.

Christmas outreach – Once again this year I teamed up with Trevor Bennett to give out tracts and calendars in the South Down area. Thousands of these were handed out and very well received in every town and village.

Pray many will put their trust in the Lord Jesus.

Also

Continued one to one outreach and door to door work, giving out tracts and YouTube flyers.

Visitation of supporters and friends of the ministry. Speaking engagements in different churches and groups.

For prayer –

- For many to accept God's free gift of salvation,
- Schools to stay open for the Gospel, and more to open up to us,
- For God to guide in the work,
- Wisdom as we plan ahead in the work,
- To finally have the Gift Aid sorted,

"I have a joy that the world cannot rob me of; I have a treasure that the world cannot take from me; I have something that is not in the power of man or devil to deprive me of, and that is the joy of the Lord."

D.L. Moody

God bless, Jim Patterson

(Patterson Ministries) Charity Number - NIC108288.



Thank you for your partnership

The Valentini family

"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now." Philippians 1:3-5 NLT

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

You are a big encouragement and valuable partners, and we really appreciate efforts to support this ministry continues. **I pray this report encourages your heart and bring closer what we are doing and what are some goals for future. YOUR PRAYERS AND FINANCES MAKE AN IMPACT**

As I often share, we aim to develop a strong digital ministry in Europe. We are part of a significant technological development, presenting both opportunities and challenges. Artificial intelligence is improving daily, and mobile devices are part of our routines. **A 2024 study indicated that children aged 6 to 14 in Europe have an average screen time of 2.77 hours per day; about 19 hours and 39 minutes per week; or 42 days in one year.**

Because children are part of digital world we want intentionally build digital platforms so children are influenced by God's word.

Digital technologies have changed our society, and children are very exposed to these trends with low quality content. It is crucial to be present, engaged, and seize every opportunity to provide for children good and Bible centred content.

Partnership with you enabled us to cover a shortfall in our budget, allowing us to continue our plans. **I'm very encouraged that in 2024; 87.642 children were impacted with God's word through WONDERUSF platform.** Our vision is to reach 1 million children per year by 2031 through different platform we will build.

WONDERUSF

PLANS FOR 2025

If God's allow, our primary goals include expanding our digital outreach to engage more children across Europe. We already have a few platforms we use. For one of those we really struggle to keep functioning because person who build platform got a cancer, and we need somebody who will continue to develop.

We aim to develop new interactive content, animated movies for children and implement technologies so children can access God's word and be equipped with Bible truths. I love to call this ministry "Pixels of Hope" because we want the pixels in front of children's eyes to bring transformation in their lives.



IMPACT OF TRANSFORMED LIFE:

I already mentioned how many children were impacted through Wondersurf platform. It would take too much time to write about things God is doing in children lives. In 2024 about 5586 children were active on Wondersurf platform in Romania. I want to share with you a testimony how God is using Wondersurf in this country for blessing and salvation of many children. May this short video encourage your hearts.

VIMEO LINK: [Click here](#)



***scan QR code to watch video

Our vision is to bring positive transformation through digital communication and provide digital tools so children can find good Gospel materials online. We do not want this vital ministry to be held back by lack of finance and want to plan on a strong year of ministry growth in online ministry.



Your involvement will make a powerful impact, and we want you to feel the joy of investing in something truly good and transformative.

The story of David and Goliath reminds me a about choosing adequate tools to win the battle. Also, a good balance of faith in the Lord and right skill set. Although Saul wanted to send David against Goliath in soldier's armour, David knew that he needed only a few stones and God's help to defeat Goliath.

David knew what he needed to get the job done. 5 smooth stones for David, or high-quality digital materials for us.

**THE RIGHT TOOLS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.
MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU!**

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding is a priority in our church and refers to keeping children and vulnerable adults safe. At present, Sharon and Hazel are our Safeguarding Officers and are responsible for keeping our policies up to date, ensuring that people working with children and vulnerable adults have a current AccessNI check, making sure relevant people have relevant training and dealing with any Safeguarding related incidents or disclosures. Our policy needs to be updated and agreed by the members at our Annual Vision Meeting each March. AccessNI checks are mostly up to date but we are approaching the need to start renewing the ones which were carried out three years ago - if/when you are asked to do so it would be very helpful if you prioritised the online part of this process

and then promptly show your forms of ID to the appropriate officer. Otherwise, this process becomes arduous and burdensome for both the officer and the person involved.

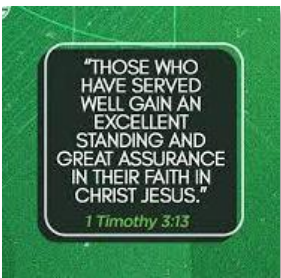
Relevant people have received the relevant training. We are pleased to report that during the year 2024 there have been no disclosures and no Safeguarding incidents in our church and associated ministries.

It is the responsibility of everyone in our church to be vigilant, careful and ready to report any concerns of a Safeguarding nature to our officers. The safety of children in our care is paramount and comes from the Bible - Matthew 18:10

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven."

Deacons

As I've been thinking about writing this report, it has occurred to me that there are more than three Deacons in our church. The word itself means 'someone who serves' and so a lot of us in KCC serve one another through our various ministries:- From welcoming people at the door, to making the tea and coffee, not only for ourselves on a Sunday, but for the group of women who come along to Room2Chat, to setting up the Inishargy room, to hosting church, to leading us in worship and praise, to preaching the sermon, to teaching in WhizzKidz, and looking



after the wee ones in crèche, to looking after our finances, to leading the prayer ministry and serving our teens in young life. We couldn't function as a church without the help, service and support of everyone involved.

At the moment there are three 'official' (for want of a better word) deacons. Rosalind, Brian and myself. Blair was on the team until he left us to get married in July 2024. We meet once a month with the elders and after a short devotion and prayer time, we discuss all things church, be it pastoral needs, outreach goals, financial and practical concerns and any issues we may have with the building. At this point, I need to thank Phil and Stephen for liaising with the committee of volunteers who oversee the day to day running of Maxwell's Courtyard. It was my job, but when Alan took sick (probably before that if I'm being honest!) they stepped into the breach to keep the lines of communication open with those who have responsibility for the upkeep of the building.

I also need to say a special thank you to those of you who are on set up each week for cleaning and tidying the Inishargy Room before we leave the building. Also, for those who make sure that the kitchen and gallery are left clean and tidy too. We really do appreciate the work that goes into keeping our church as comfortable as it can be, we don't take this for granted. Personally, I feel that it is a privilege and an honour to serve the church in this way, and I am thankful for the opportunity.

Caroline Wilson

Room2Chat

We have enjoyed another year with the ladies on a Tuesday morning, building on the friendships which have developed over the years. These friendships are very important to us as they allow us to get a perspective into the needs of these young mums. These needs can be very complex and sometimes leave us feeling very inadequate, but the lovely thing is that the girls themselves are very open with each other, so we never feel that we have to provide all the answers.

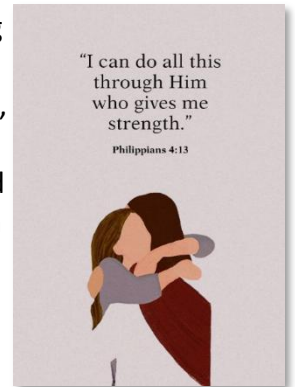
We pray daily for these young women and know that God is bigger and greater than all their problems and He has the answers. Our mornings are running as usual with chat and a cup of tea or coffee and, of course, a wee treat on the side. In June, we finished our year with a breakfast in Harrisons.

At the beginning of December, for the switch on of the Kircubbin Christmas tree lights, we enjoyed mince pies with our coffee after the girls put up the Christmas decorations in Room2. To carry on the Christmas excitement Lorraine had us all at her house for a craft morning when she provided all the materials to make beautiful lanterns. We have to thank Lorraine for

her generosity. We finished up before Christmas with breakfast at Alchemy. On reading this report, I realise a lot of eating goes on, on these Tuesday mornings!!

As we provide friendship to These girls we are very aware that we are representing Jesus. We have had the opportunity to have Jesus conversations with them would love to have more, therefore, we ask for your prayers for them but also courage and boldness for us as we try to witness by all we say and do.

Marilyn Craig





Website, Roundchurtext and Facebook

Our website is regularly updated (I won't say how regularly) and if you are ever looking for the rota then set our page as one of your favourites and you can find if you're 'on' anytime you're near a smartphone!! If you haven't been to it recently, please go and see... there's so much on www.kircomchu.org

If you have any ideas for or issues with the website, then let me know!

It's a great and colourful way to introduce our church to someone who might be interested in coming and also provides a way for people to see that we are active, caring and will respond to messages and requests.

The music group and hosts continue to use Proclaim – an online presentation tool to make sure that we have something on the screen on Sunday mornings to enhance and facilitate our worship without taking too long to prepare, if you're involved and want a short training session on how to use it, please ask me and we'll set something up.

The FaceBook page is updated occasionally, especially for things like the Carol service, WhizzKidz, TeenSpirit and Room2Chat. This has a lot more potential, and we hope to see this method of communicating grow... However, we were very pleased when a local mum, not associated to the church, messaged the church through FaceBook to see if we could help with Christmas presents for her children. She said that out of 3 local churches she had messaged we were the only ones to respond. With Gillian and Stephen's help we were able to use church funds to buy and deliver presents for her children. On visiting it was apparent that this was a completely genuine and

much needed request, and it meant an enormous amount to a mum who was in genuine need and wants the best for her children.

The roundchurtext service is still very important to share information, reminders and roundchurchprayer requests. If you or your family and friends need prayer support, then please send the prayer text written as you want it to be sent round (it can be very hard sometimes to word a text when not being sure how much or how little detail to include.) It is also vital to let us know answers to prayer as well so that we can be encouraged and thankful. Many people have been touched by the prayers prayed because of the roundchurchprayer service! Be encouraged to use it or start using it again and to pray!

If you have any good ideas about how to develop our online presence, then please let us know.

Is  next??

Phil Derrick



Hospitality and Welcome

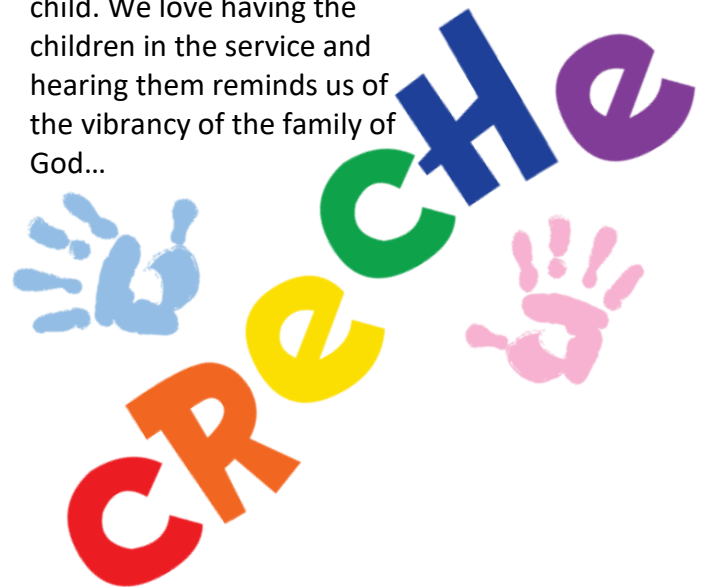
To feel welcome anywhere you go is very important and particularly so when you are somewhere that represents Jesus, so we feel that having a friendly face at the door and a cup of tea or coffee available each Sunday is the first step in showing friendship. Please come early enough to enjoy this and have a catch up with regulars or be able to welcome any visitor who might be with us. Thank you to all who have their names on the rota for this simple but worthwhile service. Church lunch on the 4th Sunday of each month is more relaxed and a wonderful opportunity to spend time getting to know any visitors or just spending time with each other. Thank you to all who contribute each month, it is fantastic that everyone is so ready to provide such lovely food. 1 Peter 4:8-9

Marilyn Craig



Creche

Most Sundays there are only one or two children of creche age at church and parents have been happy to keep them in church with them. We continue to keep this under review and may need to try to re-form a team to provide a creche at least on some Sundays each month. Your thoughts are welcome. In the meantime, it seems to be good for the person on set-up to bring the green mat from Room2 and to put the back row of chairs on it with space for the children to play and parents can select some toys from Room2 to bring up for their child. We love having the children in the service and hearing them reminds us of the vibrancy of the family of God...

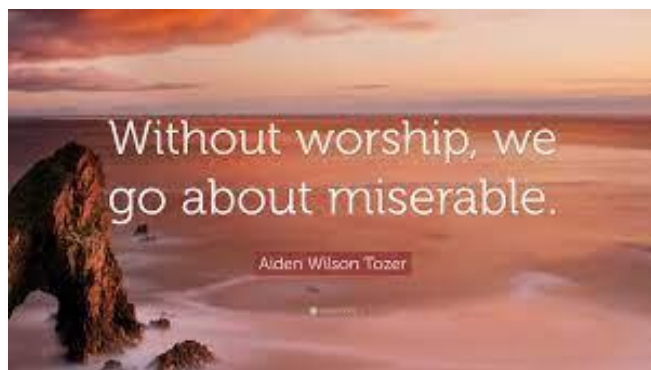


Church Music Praise Team

Last year we reported that the team had shrunk...but like a diamond is basically the same as coal that changes under extreme pressure and heat, I feel that the team that we have had through 2024, have sparkled in leading our church in praise and worship – like a diamond. Not having any light of its own, our aim is to reflect the light and brilliance of our Lord and God and to facilitate our church being able to worship Him in spirit and in truth through music and singing. We share the choosing of songs between the team, but we always welcome suggestions of new or old songs to sing, so please get in touch. During our praise times it is always uplifting when someone spontaneously prays between songs – we would like this to become more a part of our times when we can respond to what God is doing in our hearts and encourage each other.

With Zach and Bex going away for the next year, we will miss them in so many ways during 2025, but it is great to welcome Minnie, who has joined our team as a singer which is a real encouragement. Generally, we have a rota where Hazel and Phil get one week off in every four and Abigail, Minnie and James get two weeks on and two weeks off. (We have a church tambourine, if anyone's keen to give it 'the full Sally Army' on a Sunday morning!!)

We also have a team of Hosts who plan and lead our services – Caroline, Rosalind, Stephen and Phil. We generally stick to the same sort of structure but are always open to changing the order and the way we do things as long as it stays very firmly Biblical.



Fostering and Adoption

This ministry generally continues quietly in our church but has a significant impact on the children cared for. As a church, we are particularly grateful to Gillian and Anders for their love and care for their children. Please remember to support them with your love and prayers. Sharon and Phil have continued to offer more occasional support through respite care throughout the year, although Brooke has now moved to Fermanagh, and they see her much less often. They are hoping to develop new support for respite care in 2025.

Fostering is much needed in our society with many children waiting for placements, if you are interested in finding out more then the best place to start would be an informal chat with Gillian or Sharon and then, if necessary, they would direct you for more information and support.

"Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you." James 1:27



Phil Derrick

Finance Annual Report 2024

This report will bring you up to date with our church family's finances, detailing the income and expenditure for 2024, and will ask you to think about your own giving to our church – are you able to contribute and serve God in this way?

2024 saw the church take a financial step of faith and in June change Stephen Garrett's role as Pastor to full time. It had previously been part time. While we have a current surplus, which will fund the role through 2025, we need God's provision to cover the full-time role into the future. We have been encouraged by one-off gifts from individuals, as well as from local churches, as well as blessed by committed regular giving and increased tithing from our members. Continued focus on our budget will be required as 2025 progresses.

A big thank you to all who reviewed their giving and continued to give so generously to the work of the church. However, please consider using Gift Aid if you are a taxpayer, as the tax returned from HMRC will be very useful in the future. More detail on Gift Aid later.

Background to our Church finances

Over the last ten years our activities and our expenditure have changed. In October 2016, we acquired (the original) Room 2, changing to the larger room in April 2022. In April 2018, we began to pay a stipend for a Pastor, and as I mentioned earlier, this role moved to full time in June 2024. We continue to rent Maxwell's Court each Sunday for our services, and "Room 2" as an additional meeting room, enjoying the benefits that it brings.

Mission Giving

Our Mission and special collection giving came to about 11.5% of income this year, with the following detailing who we supported:

Organisation/Person	Monthly Amount	Additional / year end	Annual Amount
Baptist Association	£80	£500	£1460
Sefton School		£525	£525
Jim Patterson	£60		£720
YFC	£30		£360
CEF/ CEF Serbia	£60	£1076*	£1796
Benevolent gifts		£815	£815
		Total	£5676

*We also released Stephen Garrett to work for two weeks with CEF, while continuing to cover his Stipend and as such a notional amount of £1076 is included above to reflect this.

It costs around £48000 to run our church on an annual basis, including the full-time Pastor role. We have a significant shortfall each month, which, come 2026, will be an important issue to deal with – **please prayerfully consider this.**

The 2025 church budget will be deliberately tight and we have to be careful about our spending. To do more in our fellowship, to support each other in times of need, to do more for mission or more in our community, will cost more money. Church running costs, like household costs rise each year and will require renewed commitment of giving.

When did you last review your giving? Are you able to support our fellowship, if you do not currently give?

There are a number of ways to give – the following provides a number of ideas which may help.

Standing Order or electronic transfer – Regular giving from your bank account to the church's account is excellent as it helps with planning, particularly if you are able to indicate that it will be a regular payment. It also helps reduce admin. If you do wish to use this method, please put your full name in the narrative when sending the payment.

The Church Sort code 950679
Account number 00046736

Gift Aid – This is a government scheme for taxpayers which is of real importance to our church finance. If you are a taxpayer, and the amount of tax you pay is at least equal to the amount you give to our fellowship, then you can use the scheme, and the government gives 25% of your giving back to the church as a tax rebate. We currently receive approx. £5000 per year through the Gift Aid scheme. Please speak to me if this is something you would like further information on.





Sunday Collection Bag – A great way to give on a Sunday-by-Sunday basis or a one-off gift is in the collection bag. We are also able to claim a tax rebate through the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme. Small gifts of £30 or less are eligible for this scheme.

Give As You Earn (GAYE)/ Payroll Giving – your employer may have a charity giving scheme through your salary. This allows you to set aside a gift out of your salary each month. The money typically goes to a third-party organisation, such as Charities Trust or StC, who then send the gift on to the church. The employee gives on a tax-free basis and the church doesn't need to claim tax back through Gift Aid. KCC will need to be registered as an acceptable charity with the scheme organiser. Ask your employer for more details.

Our church accounts are managed under appropriate governance. Any payments are signed off by two people. At year end, our accounts are reviewed by a second church member, before being reviewed by an external third party and are then submitted to the Church Members. The third party also provides an Independent Examiners Report, which, with a copy of our accounts is submitted to the Charity Commission and published on their website.

Thank you for taking the time to read this introduction to the Annual Accounts. I hope this will encourage you to consider giving to the Lord's work in our fellowship, or to review your current giving. Rest assured, I understand that it is an expensive world in which we live, and that additional giving may not be possible at this time. All I ask, is that you prayerfully consider the information provided in this note. Please speak to me if I can provide any further information or answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.

Andrew Walker, Treasurer. Ph 07988 721056

Treasurer.

Ph 07988 721056



“EACH OF YOU SHOULD GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE DECIDED IN YOUR HEART TO GIVE, NOT RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER COMPULSION, FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER.”

2 Corinthians 9:7

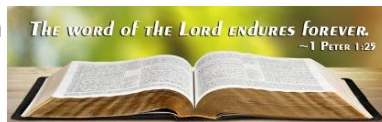
Teaching

"Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

Jeremiah 23v29

We praise God for the sufficiency of His word and those who were willing to prepare and preach that word for the building up of the body of Christ in KCC.

Back at the time of writing the last teaching report we were finishing off a series entitled "Prayers of the Bible." This series ran from January 2024 through to the end of March and left us all with the very real challenge to pray more as individuals and as a church. Following Easter, we took time to consider the Old Testament book of Esther. In some ways Esther may have seemed like a strange book to choose in that it does not even contain the name of God. However, as we considered this book it became obvious that God was active in every part of Esther's story. Throughout the book, we were reminded that God is always at work in every situation, whether we realize it or not. Sometimes we see God work in direct and miraculous ways, but equally wonderful is the way in which God providentially directs events so as they line up in the way he desires. I believe that all of us were encouraged when we looked back as a result of Esther's story and saw how God had indeed brought things together in our lives according to His will.



Throughout the year we were blessed to have a number of outside mission's speakers. Before the summer in June 2024 Jim Patterson took our morning service, speaking to us about the work of Patterson ministries and sharing God's word with old and young. I believe that all were struck by Jim's sincerity and humility in all of his ministry and were blessed by the opportunities that he has in our schools right across the Peninsula. Later in November 2024 we were blessed by the visit of another missionary whom we support, Vilijam Valentini. He very powerfully shared one of our Sundays looking at the book of Ruth, as well as sharing about his media ministry as part of CEF Europe. It was wonderful to meet him face to face and to be updated regarding his family also.

During Summer 2024 we looked at a series of Old Testament Characters including Gideon, Enoch, Habakkuk etc. I believe we all discovered that there is a lot to be learnt in the Old Testament as

well as the New Testament. The Old Testament prophets that we looked at provided us with very real role models on which to base our own faith and lives.

Then began our series "Nine Marks of a Healthy Church." This series was based on the book by Pastor Mark Dever, though for all of that very much based on scripture throughout. This series was very hard hitting in places and may therefore have been as difficult to hear at times as it was to preach. For the first time in the last few years home groups were up and running and this gave us the opportunity to discuss the teaching from a Sunday morning in a more detailed way on a Sunday evening. I believe on the whole that this was useful to be able to do and at least spurred us on to consider what we'd learnt, after leaving the morning service. This series took up a good part of our autumn teaching program, but did leave time to fit in 4 weeks in the book of Ruth before the season of advent began. Although there were only the 4 weeks in Ruth it was wonderful to consider God's hand on the life of a foreign widow girl and how she was brought into the household of Israel through the gracious kindness of her kinsman redeemer. We were blessed when confronted by the truth of our own Kinsman Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

And so, we've recently begun a new teaching program. The elders have felt led to consider the topic of discipleship and so we have chosen to follow the Discipleship Explored Course based on the book of Philippians. Once again, we trust that the Home Groups will be a good time to consider the teaching video clips associated with this course. We look forward to the challenge to a deeper level of Christian living. We pray that each of us will respond to this challenge.

This year saw a change to our regular preaching team with the marriage of Blair and the decision of he and Kate to join with a church in Newtownards, where they are living. We want to take the opportunity to thank Blair formally in this report for all of his service in the teaching team within KCC. Thank you, Blair, for all the effort you made to break down God's Word for us and apply it to our lives. However, Blair's moving on and the illness of Alan from April onwards, meant that only Stephen and Phil were left standing. As a result, the elders decided to invite our own member, retired pastor, Ken Bleakley to preach God's Word to us

over the summertime. The response to Ken's addition to the team was very positive and so we continued this arrangement into the autumn winter program. Thank you, Ken, for your willingness to share God's Word with such honesty to us. We look forward to your preaching in 2025.

Stephen Garrett

Young Life - KCCYL

Young Life Cloughey has been thriving since its launch in the summer of 2024 – creating a fun and welcoming space for local youth. This was set up by Gareth Mornin of Young Life and Stevie Garrett, Chaplain at Glastery. Our club currently has a dedicated team of 10 leaders supporting an attendance of up to 80 kids each week – though we typically see around 70. Whilst things have been going well, the growing numbers mean we are in real need of more leaders and prayers to help continue this vital work. A significant new development is the launch of YL Bible Study after Gareth and Stephen made the connection with Stephen and we were so excited to be able to host this 'Discipleship Group' in Room 2. This group of about 10-14 young people meet every Thursday Evening in Room 2 with Stevie and Gareth, supported by a little group from KCC – Abigail, Rebekah (before Christmas), Stephen and Sharon. This is a superb opportunity to build relationships through games and chat before spending time in

God's word – looking at a passage each week and really drawing out what we can learn through it, how we can know Jesus and how He impacts the world around Him. These evenings have been excellent, fun, focused but really founded on studying the bible – just great! In December we also came together at Sharon and Phil's house for Christmas dinner and games which was good fun (see photos.) It is exciting to see how the Young Life Cloughey continues to grow and impact the lives of many young people. We continue to pray for these young people, some from our church, the village and some who have also been to WhizzKidz – that they will commit their lives to Christ and let Him be Lord of their lives. It is an exciting and thrilling ministry to be involved in and we value the prayers of everyone in church as we partner with Stevie and Gareth and pray for more leaders for Young Life on Tuesdays.

Abigail Wilson and Sharon Derrick



