



ISSUE 3 • JUNE 2021

OUTREACH



Christ Church Primacy

A Word From Denise

Dear Friends

My favourite of Aesop’s Fables is the tale of The North Wind and the Sun. The two elements argued about who was stronger, and finally to settle the dispute, they decided to try their powers on a traveller. The first to make the traveller remove his coat was the winner. The North Wind blew and howled around the traveller, who of course pulled his coat more tightly around him. The Sun tried next, and in the persistent, rising heat the traveller finally took off his coat. The moral of the story is that gentle persuasion can be more effective than a mighty force.

God gently encourages us to throw off our ‘cloaks’ of sin, despair, loneliness, shame, fear and whatever else might hold us back from fully following Him. Instead we are urged through the writer of Hebrews to ‘run with perseverance the race marked out for us’, Hebrews 12:1.

Since the last edition of Outreach, there has been much by way of God’s encouragement. Café church has been very well attended and on a few occasions there have been more attendees than at the first service! Exploration groups have launched using the book ‘How to Pray’ by Pete Grieg (there is always room for anyone else interested in being a part of the Exploration Groups!). The Bishop’s address at the Service of Introduction was a great encouragement to the church as a whole, to boldly share our faith and serve the local community.

As with any race, participants tire and sometimes sustain injuries. The cheers and encouragements of the crowd can help the runner to get up and run again so as to finish well. One of CCP’s strengths is that of encouragement, which is why so many people are willing to ‘dip their toe in the water’ with regard to new ministry opportunities – including myself! 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says ‘encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing’. Keep up the good work of encouraging and being kind to one another as we seek to build God’s Kingdom and each other! Bless you,
Denise

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Update on Christian Aid Week

For the second consecutive year we have not carried out a door-to-door collection in the Primacy area during Christian Aid Week because of Covid-19. However, our joint church members (Church of Ireland and Methodist) and friends have been very generous, with total donations from both online giving and cash donations amounting to £1,530.00. A further £188.75 has been made available to Christian Aid through Gift Aid.

For your interest, the total general donations were £1,247.00; Big Brekkie donations were £235.00 and Shoes and Tools £48.00. There are tentative plans to have a specific fund-raising activity for Christian Aid later in the year, but in the meantime I would like to thank you very much for your generosity.

Audrey Derby (Bangor Area 3 Organiser)



Tools for Solidarity

by Audrey Derby

Tools for Solidarity is a local not-for-profit organisation based in Belfast. The charity collects, refurbishes and sends old and unwanted hand tools and sewing machines to skilled tradespeople in Africa to enable them to become more self-reliant.

As a joint congregation at Primacy we would like to support this charity, so during the summer why not check out your garage, garden shed or roof-space for those unwanted items? Garden tools such as spades, rakes, shovels and digging grapes will all be very acceptable. We shall arrange a date in September when your tools or sewing machines (and knitting machines) can be brought to church for collection by Tools for Solidarity.

All hand tools will be gratefully received, whether they are in good condition or not. If you have large or heavy items such as lathes or drills, these can be collected directly from your home.

For more information about the charity check out www.toolsforsolidarity.com or their Facebook page.



New Beginnings

by Scott Carson



A further chapter in the annals of Christ Church Primacy was celebrated on 26 May 2021 with the formal introduction of Denise Wilson as Community Pastor in the Parish of Christ Church Primacy.

In compliance with Covid Guidance, the ceremony was conducted by the Right Reverend David A McClay, Bishop of Down and Dromore, before a restricted audience of family, friends, ministerial colleagues and parishioners.

In commissioning Denise to lead the Parish forward in promotion of God's work, Bishop David charged Denise and the congregation to reach out to the wider community and bring faith to the needy.

The Service was followed by light refreshments in the Church garden at which Denise, husband Rory, son Gideon and mother-in-law Christine were welcomed into the Primacy Church family. In response Denise commented on how happy she was to come to Primacy and take up the challenging work ahead.

The congregation is looking forward with eager anticipation to supporting her and playing a part in achieving God's vision for his Church here in Primacy.



Exploration Groups

by John Shannon



Maybe you've never heard of these, or perhaps you're thinking "what sort of a name is that"?

Well, let me explain: Exploration Groups are small groups of people, (typically no more than 8) meeting together on a regular basis.

What is the purpose of meeting like this?

We aim to explore our relationship with God and encourage one another to grow deeper in our faith.

We will explore our relationship with other members of the group and get to know one another better. As we do so, we will explore what it looks like to build a strong community of faith in Christ Church Primacy.

The Bible uses several pictures to describe the community of faith. One is of a body, each part joined to the other, and each part vital to the functioning of the whole body. Our Exploration Groups are a key element in seeing such a body built together in our local church community.

What can you expect?

Each week you can expect to have a chance to worship together, pray together and explore God's word together.

Who and when?

Just now there are four groups and we plan to meet in homes as restrictions allow.

We meet fortnightly, three on different evenings and one during daytime:

Wednesday morning group led by: Scott and Maureen Carson, Brian Curran

Tuesday evening: Liz and John Shannon

Wednesday evening: Tim and Gillian Parr

Thursday evening: David and Jill Symington

What makes a good Exploration group?

The short answer is, you. There is room for you and it is our prayer that we will see new groups springing up around the church community.

If you would like to know more or to join a group contact Denise on 07745298734 or myself on 07710892138.

Back to Church

a chat with Ella Worthington

Ella was born in Belfast. She met her husband, a baker, when she was 14 and they married when Ella was 17. She always went to church and was described as 'gospel greedy' when she was young as she was always at church.

Ella remembers the Asian flu in the 1950s. She was pregnant and got pneumonia and had to stay in hospital until her son was born.

When Ella and her husband moved to Bangor, they were members of Christ Church Primacy but, as Ella worked in the Banks Residential Home and her husband was a baker, they often had to work on Sundays and didn't get to church every week.

Ella was 'locked down' before Covid as she had a stroke in December 2019 and then, in March 2020, she was in the vulnerable group who were required to stay at home. However, during Covid and when she had troubles throughout her life, she always had a friend to talk to - her Heavenly Father. She passed the time by trying to remember all the good things that have happened to her in her life, and with knitting and crocheting.

Ella used to welcome people arriving at church on Sundays with a hug so she knew everyone. She says she doesn't call Christ Church Primacy 'church', she calls it 'family', as everyone is so welcoming and caring, and she feels it is her second home.

When asked how it felt to be back at church, Ella said there was only one word to describe it - great!

"If everyone followed the first commandment - Love the Lord with all your heart..... and love your neighbour as yourself - we wouldn't go far wrong".



Cafe Church

by Maura Mooney

It gave us great joy to welcome our children and their families back with the launch of Café Church in May. Running from 10.30 until 11.00 Café Church provided a space for families to come along with their own food and drinks and enjoy a fun-filled half hour focused on the children. Each family sat socially distanced at their own table.

The morning started with a game which included knocking over plastic cups with an inflated balloon and "Keep my Potato Safe" with the girls competing against the boys. This was followed by a story with the message focused on the promises of God including God keeps me calm, and Jesus keeps me safe. The children then got the chance to make something or take part in a prayer activity. Things got off to a noisy start in the first week when the children were invited to write a worry on a balloon and then pop it with a pin. When learning about Jesus keeps me safe, they made pipe cleaner people and parachutes. There was also time for some singing with actions, led by Richard and John.

About eight families came along each week and it was so encouraging to see how the children engaged with the activities. Café Church provided a great opportunity for everyone to have a lot of fun and encounter the love of God. It was a blessing to see so many children, parents and grandparents in church together enjoying themselves.

Many thanks to everyone who helped to set up tables and chairs ready for Café Church and all those on the Café Church Team.



GRACE

by Katrine Carson

GRACE is Christ Church Primacy's ladies' group for all ages. We try to do a wide range of activities and outings so there is something for everyone to enjoy. We meet on the first Tuesday of every month and finish with an outing in May. Each month we have something new to look forward to and we are starting in September 2021 on:

Tuesday 7th with a live cooking demo

Tuesday 5th October get your bowling shoes on as we are heading 10-pin bowling

Tuesday 2nd November we will be making Christmas Craft

Saturday 6th November ladies' breakfast with Hilary McClay

Tuesday 7th December we will be holding our Christmas celebrations.

If you are looking for fun and fellowship you have found us! Come along and join the fun!

Diary Dates

July - August

Every Sunday 11am	United (Cofl and Methodist) Church Service
Sunday 4th July	United Church Picnic (on Church grounds)
Saturday 10th July	9 - 10 am Men's Breakfast, Pit Stop Cafe
Saturday 28th August	United Church Family Fun Day

September

Sunday 5th Sept 10 am	All Age Service
Sunday 12th Sept	Jigsaw and Jigsaw + start

The Generosity Project - How we use our Time, Talents and Treasure for God (see page 9 for more information)

Sunday 5th and 12th Sept 6.30 - 7.45 pm

Sunday 3rd and 10th Oct 6.30 - 7.45 pm





Day of Prayer

by Liz Shannon

During the period between Ascension and Pentecost, I found it a great focus to pray for God's kingdom to come into 5 people's lives. The day of prayer on 19 May 2021 came on the sixth day of this period of prayer.

The church was set out with seven different prayer stations which were very creative and prayer inspiring and I will mention some of these. At the station "Thy kingdom come in our parish and town", I was able to again pray for my five people, but also with this focus, was able to expand my prayer to include people in schools, shops, houses, factories and offices around our town. What a privilege to add my prayers to the prayers of the monks who prayed over our town many, many years ago. The station "Who is my neighbour" stretched my mind to think and pray about vulnerable people outside my normal path.

The station "Forgive us our sins" allowed me to meditate on the Cross and the amazing love of God and His great forgiveness of my sins, seen and unseen. It also gave me the opportunity to humbly thank God for His powerful ability to enable me, when I asked Him, help me forgive those who sin against me. Those who have hurt me no longer cause me hurt, instead unbelievably, I have love for these people. How amazing is our God? It is indeed true that "we are more than conquerors though Him who loves us".

The thankful game may have been for the kids but I took down the five ideas to be thankful for to think over. One was - Name something you are thankful for that starts with the first letter of your name. For this I reverted to the name I was called by my parents, and I am indeed very thankful for eternity!

Thank you to all who worked so hard and so creatively to provide this resource for us. I was indeed blessed by participating in the day.

Moira and Helen having lunch with Saray and the girls at Primacy Village. A little get-together especially to say thank you to Saray for her excellent work as treasurer.



The Generosity Project

Matthew 6:21 'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'

Giving is a matter of the heart. When we are passionate about someone or something that is where we invest our time, talents and treasure!

The Generosity Project will run over 4 Sunday evenings. We hope this course will give us:

- a powerful, clarified understanding of what generosity is and how it grows
- a renewed, generous heart that longs to give to others
- a fresh language for talking about generosity within our congregation, and
- a new resolve to put all this into practice in various areas of our lives.

A typical night will involve worship, a short video and discussion, based on relevant Bible passages and our own life experience. We may even throw in a cup of tea!

Do put the dates in your diary
(see Diary Dates, page 7),
and together let's work at creating an even
greater culture of generosity in Christ Church
Primacy!



How to Get in Touch:

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