

ISSUE 4 • AUGUST 2021

OUTREACH

Christ Church Primacy



A Word From Denise Dear Friends

Last week a friend on Facebook posted a picture of a shop selling Christmas decorations! My immediate response was to roll my eyes in disgust. However, guilt quickly followed my judgemental attitude, as I have to confess that I have been thinking about the need to begin Christmas shopping! September is upon us, and with it we look forward to the routine of school and church activities resuming, not forgetting the familiar rhythm of the church calendar – Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and Advent.

The disruption of the last year and rising Covid cases perhaps make us less 'cocky', more hesitant about entering the new season. We realise that we cannot assume that all activities will run, or that there won't be another lockdown. For that very reason perhaps we enter this new season with a renewed sense of gratitude for every opportunity we have to meet friends, help our neighbour and worship in community.

Paul encouraged the Ephesians to make each day count, 'Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.'

Joyce Meyer talks about being an 'on-purpose' Christian, by which she means using our God-given gifts and time well, making smart decisions with the help of God's Word and not letting good opportunities pass us by.

Each day we have is a gift from God; let's ask Him how we should be using our time and seek to live an 'on-purpose' life!

Blessings Denise

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The Generosity Project

by Denise Wilson

Let me introduce Keith Gardiner. His C.V. would tell you that he has been a surgeon, educator, researcher and leader in the past and so he brings a wealth of experience to his current role as Fundraising Officer for Church Growth within the Diocese of Down and Dromore.

This September we launch The Generosity Project with Keith at the helm, helping us explore the generosity of God. As we discover God's generosity in our own lives we will look at how we, His image bearers, can reflect that generosity to others using not just our money, but our time, talents and testimony! We will discover that giving in whatever form is a matter of the heart!

A typical night will include some worship, a 15 minute teaching video and an opportunity to discuss the topic in small groups, using The Generosity Project workbook as a guide. We will even throw in a cup of tea and a biscuit! You don't need a Bible as the workbook contains everything that you will need. The work book costs £4.99 per person and can be purchased at

I look forward to seeing you there!



Tools for Solidarity

by Audrey Derby

the first session.

In the June edition of Outreach I wrote an article about Tools for Solidarity, and you can read the full article on our website: www.christchurchprimacy.com under the heading Magazine.

As a brief reminder, this local charity collects, refurbishes and sends old and unwanted hand tools and sewing machines to Africa to enable folk to become more self-reliant, training them where necessary.

On the morning of **Saturday, 11th September, between 9:00 and 10:45,** you are invited to bring your unwanted or no longer loved garden and DIY tools to the church car park. Sewing machines and knitting machines are particularly welcome. Don't worry if tools are blunt, broken or have no handles. These can be made as good as new.

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

There is a short video which is very interesting.

Men's Breakfast by David Symington



It had been on a few of our hearts for a while to start a ministry for men in our church. You see, once men reach a certain age, making new friends becomes increasingly difficult. Plenty of colleagues, acquaintances, neighbours and people we wave to if we happen to drive past them - but as for making new friends that we talk to about matters beyond sport, weather and petrol prices - it's a rare thing. To that end Rory, John and I met together in June to start to flesh out what such a ministry for men might look like.

Our first official meeting occurred on Saturday 10th July at 9am for breakfast at the Pit Stop Cafe. It was great, and so encouraging, to see that nearly every man in our church was there enjoying fellowship and laughter with one another. For the last 15 minutes Rory then shared with us some of his amazing experiences of being a Christian doctor, husband and father working and living in a foreign land and culture for over a decade. Rory mentioned the particular impact he noticed that just being a thoughtful and tactile family man had on the people living around him. It was a different way of living than most people there were used to seeing - and many of the people liked what they saw and wanted that kind of life too. "You never know who is watching you and what impact your daily life and choices have on the people around you", Rory observed. "People notice everything you do".

That's true for all of us, wherever we live and whatever culture we find ourselves in. Everyone around us notices the choices we make. Our words, our gestures, our honesty. They all say something about the person we are deep inside. Most people don't want to simply hear about Christianity; they want to see Christianity in action.

A.W. Tozer once wrote, "There are rare Christians whose very presence incites others to be better Christians". That perhaps in a nutshell is what we hope this ministry to men will be. That together we can grow in friendship, learning from one another and supporting one another and in doing so grow more into the likeness of Christ.

Our next meeting will be 9-10 am on Saturday 11th September back at the Pit Stop cafe for breakfast. All men welcome.



Church Grounds by Audrey Derby

The first Monday in July dawned dry and warm, a perfect day for gardening. Two sessions had been identified to tidy up the church grounds, and a small number of members from both congregations formed a work party in the morning to start trimming back shrubs and removing weeds from around the paths.

Some of the same folk returned for the evening session, along with others, with their hedge shears, saws, hoes and spades for another assault on the grounds, including the area at the back of the church hall which had become overgrown. All sorts of things, such as an old shopping trolley, the remains of a shed and discarded bottles and cans were removed. Thanks to Rory who brought his trailer, all this material, plus the shrubbery material, was taken to the recycling centre.

Another session will be arranged soon, so keep your tools sharpened.



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Wanted

One again we are looking for volunteers. If you haven't yet found your niche in Christ Church Primacy, here are a couple of options to consider:

Drivers

We are looking for volunteer drivers who would be available to help people get to church on Sundays or attend some of the midweek activities.

If you could offer regular or adhoc help in this way, we would love to hear from you.

Hospitality Team

We would love to put together a team of people willing to help prepare, serve and tidy up when we have tea before or after services, or if we have special events.

If you are interested and would like more information please get in touch with Denise as soon as possible.

Thank you in anticipation.



Thank You

Earlier this year, John (as seen here with Audrey) and his family said goodbye to a wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother, June Pattison, following several years of ill health.

John and his family have a connection to the church through Rev Francis Rutledge and his wife, Julie.

The wheelchair in the picture has been donated by John's family to the church, or indeed to any family that at this time could make good use of it.

Sadly, June never had the opportunity to use the chair. If you know of anyone who has a need for the wheelchair please contact Denise, otherwise we will keep the chair at the church.

We send a big 'thank – you' to John and their family for their kind generosity.

Church Picnic

by Paddy McGlinchey

The Fourth of July wasn't quite Independence Day for us, but it did mark our much-anticipated Church Picnic where the Primacy congregations, Church of Ireland and Methodist, came together to share an enjoyable outdoor celebration.

Against the odds, we had bright sunshine which - combined with the convivial atmosphere – made for a really positive and memorable experience.





Doorstep Deliveries

by Carol Graham

Over the past few months we have made two Doorstep Deliveries. The Easter gift was reflective of this season. It was a 'Bag of Hope', with Afternoon Tea being the order of the day in July.

Each time we were blessed to bring these gifts of love to sixteen people.

The Bag of Hope was inspired by an initiative in Merseyside, which we adapted for CCP. The bag sought to bring hope e.g. amongst other items it included a rainbow pencil and notebook for folk to write down their blessing; a hand- made card with a Forget Me Not Flower as a reminder that we are not forgotten by God and a candle to represent that God's light can be found in even the darkest of times.

The Afternoon Tea menu was all homemade with sandwiches, scones using Ella's recipe, shortbread and mini muffins.

One of the recipients commented that it was such a lovely surprise and she thought she was in The Merchant Hotel.

A huge thank you to everyone involved for their love and care in making these possible. Also thank you to The Heatherlea and The Starfish for the provision of the beautiful presentation boxes and the containers for the cream.



Freezer Ministry

by Carol Graham

During one of our regular prayer times in the Springtime, we prayed for healing for our brothers and sisters who were unwell, and also for their family members.

When the prayer meeting ended, a few people who had attended sparked up a conversation. Very quickly it became clear they had all been moved to seek to establish a Freezer Food Ministry.

The idea is a simple one. As the Body of Christ, we are called to love each other. One of the ways we can express our love is through the provision of nutritious home cooked meals for people during periods of ill-health or incapacity. At times like this we or our family members may not be up for doing the shopping, or making a meal. This is where the Freezer Food Ministry steps in.

Volunteers sign up to cook meals, which are stored in the church freezer, so that they are available for distribution as needed. Recipes, food handling guidelines and containers are provided for our chefs.

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Galatians 6:10

Diary Dates

While we are delighted to have plans in place for the next few months, the programmes will be subject to change depending on Covid cases and restrictions. We will endeavour to keep you updated via our web page and Facebook account! Thank you for your understanding.

September 2021

Saturday 4th 10am-12.30pm Sunday 5th 6.30-8pm

Tuesday 7th

Saturday 11th 9-10 am Saturday 11th 9-10.45 am

Sunday 12th

Sunday 12th 6.30-8pm

Sunday 26th

Community Fun Day The Generosity Project **GRACE** Cooking Demo

Men's Breakfast

Tools for Solidarity collection Jigsaw and Jigsaw+ recommence

The Generosity Project

Worship Night

October 2021

Sunday 3rd The Generosity Project 6.30-8pm

Monday 4th 9.30-11.30am Tots at Primacy

Tuesday 5th **GRACE Bowling Night** Thursday 7th GB recommences Sunday 10th United Harvest Service Sunday 10th 6.30-8 pm The Generosity Project

Friday 29th Worship Night

November 2021

GRACE Christmas Craft Tuesday 2nd

Saturday 6th Ladies Breakfast with Hilary McClay Sunday 14th United Remembrance Service

Sunday 28th Worship Night

December 2021

Tuesday 7th **GRACE Social Night** Sunday 19th United Carol Service Thursday 23rd Christmas Worship Night Saturday 25th Christmas Day Service



If you don't have access to the Internet or don't feel comfortable using technology, then we are happy to help.

Contact Moira on 07801 082 459, or speak to her in church, and we'll get one of the Tech Savvy Team to assist you.



Register to Vote - Canvass 2021
The electoral register in Northern Ireland is being renewed as part of the national canvass.

You are required by law to provide information which is accurate as at 15 October 2021, for example, where you will be living on this date.

If you do not register you may not be included on the electoral register and will not be able to vote at future elections.

It may also affect your ability to access borrowing as the register is used by credit reference agencies when checking applications for credit. You should respond as soon as possible.

You must register even if you are currently on the Electoral Register.

For more information, visit: https://www.eoni.org.uk/Register-To-Vote/Canvass-2021

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