

February 2019



14th February is a day when we celebrate love. We often define love by an experience or a feeling. We tend to think more about what love is rather than what love does.

I wonder how many people define love by who God is? In 1 John 4, we read, beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love, does not know God because God is love.

God defines love by who he is. In contrast to our culture, the Bible is more concerned with what love does rather than what love is. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). God gave his son to the world and for the world. He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all (Romans 8:32).

We could sum love up in two words – Jesus Christ.

Once we know Jesus we take on a completely different understanding of what love is. We begin to think in terms of what love does rather than what love is. Love is simply being like Jesus Christ. Our love becomes self-less and other-centred. Love becomes more about serving others rather than seeking an experience or feeling from others.

In 1st Corinthians 13 Paul helps us to see more clearly what biblical love looks like - Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.

God's love is not just for one day. May we celebrate and give "true" love every day!

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Church Diary:

Sunday Prayer Meetings 10:30am & 6:30pm (meets upstairs in Room 2)
Church Services 11am & 7pm

Tuesday Parent & Toddlers 10:15am

Wednesday Prayer Meeting 8pm
Prayer and Study Groups 8pm (1st & 3rd weeks)
Missions Prayer Meeting 8pm (last week in month)

Thursday CB:Women 8pm (1st week of month)

Friday CB:Friends 2pm (2nd week of the month)

Children & Youth

Crèche Available for babies and toddlers during the Sunday morning service in the upstairs Fellowship Hall. We would encourage families with young children to use this provision.

CB:Kids Sunday Children leave the morning service around 11:15am.
Age 3-P.1 in Minor Hall. P.2-P.7 in Sports Hall

CB:Kids Monday Meet in the Sports Hall each Monday between 6:45pm-8pm

Youth Fellowship Usually meet on Sunday Evenings. Contact Paul Savage for more details.

Special Announcements:

Deacon Nominations: At the Members' meeting on 20th March 2019, we are hoping to elect some deacons to bolster those already serving. Please give this important matter your prayerful consideration. Nomination forms are available in the foyer and nominations need to be received by **Sunday 17th February**. Should you require further information on the role or the process, please speak to Trevor Davison or Gavin Martin.

Contact Details: as in previous years, we will be reviewing and updating data held for individuals prior to issuing the revised Members Directory. Could we encourage you to check these details and to update the records held by the church?

Annual Report & Members Directory: this year it is our intention again to circulate the Annual Report and Members Directory electronically. Should you however prefer a paper copy of either document please speak to Trevor Davison.

Emily Peru Hope Trust

First, **thank you** for the very generous Christmas morning collection. We plan to use this towards a three-year cycle to replace the school uniform of every child at **Casa Hogar El Amor de Dios** (about 60 children). Funds were provided for a Christmas present for every child there, and also at **New Hope** (48 children). Contributions towards Summer Camps for the children in their (current) summer holiday were added.

We have moments of turbulence as we try to learn to effectively run a small business, albeit one that eschews profits and tries to give money away. That's not as easy as you'd think! Currency fluctuations and bank charges are on our mind, and we are appraising alternative transfer methods. In the meantime the rental from our late daughter Emily's flat continues to fund remedial teaching at both Homes, and contributes to **TAMAR** at All Souls in London. www.tamarwestminster.org

New Hope, substantially funded from the USA, has improved facilities, including new accommodation for older children to help prepare them for the world outside the gates of the Home. In contrast, El Amor de Dios is run on a shoestring by a local couple; but give thanks that the Trust was able to fund a new storey containing **two dormitories and a recreation room** for their older girls. Both Homes are very grateful for any help they receive. Please pray for the hard-working staff at both.

Both Homes will hopefully be visited by **a team from Carrickfergus** around the brief Peruvian National Day holiday. Please pray about this.

Linda & Jack



Many will remember **Pepe** (as pictured age 10). He had to leave New Hope because of behavioural problems, almost certainly stemming from the horrific abuse he received at home in his early years.

He has reached 18 and potentially would have had to spend the rest of his life in uncaring state institutions, but **give thanks to the Lord** that a home and a job have been found for him with an aunt.

CB:Kids Sunday

During 2018 CB:Kids Sunday continued to follow the Gospel Story for Kids curriculum finishing the New Testament lessons at the end of June. We have now started the course again at the start of the Old Testament and by the end of December we were learning about Jacob and Esau. Over the course of the last 3 years, using this material, we have been really encouraged to see the children's Bible knowledge and understanding of scripture increase.

For our missionary focus we continued to learn about and pray for Simon & Jayne Gibson and Tim Wilson.

During 2018 we were sorry to lose Stephen and Rachael Johnston and Andy McIvor from the teaching team and I would like to thank them all for their hard work and commitment to CB:Kids Sunday during their years of service.

On average, we have 8 children in tinies and 25 in the junior section each week. We operate 3 teams on a rota basis which requires a teaching staff of at least 24. Unfortunately from September we did not have enough teachers for all the teams. We have managed to cover the vacancies temporarily with one reserve teacher and teachers volunteering to cover weeks outside of their own team. Please pray that permanent teachers will come forward as it is not sustainable to continue as we are at present.

We have a lot of fun with the children in CB:Kids Sunday as we share the gospel with boys and girls. It is a great encouragement to the teachers to see children grow in faith and understanding of God's word. We have been really blessed this year to hear about a number of children becoming Christians, please pray that CB:Kids Sunday will be an encouragement to Christian boys and girls and that they would grow strong in their faith as they grow up.

Thank you to those who pray regularly for the work of CB:Kids Sunday, please continue to pray for the teachers that we will stay enthusiastic and committed to the work of CB:Kids Sunday and that all of our children would come to a lasting faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lesley

Please pray for our leaders that they will continue to develop close relationships with our children, to understand their needs and point them to Christ.

For more information visit: www.carrickfergusbaptist.com

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