

July / August 2019



Summer Holiday

Life tends to slow down during the holiday period, especially in church life. Many ministries take a well earned break and provide an opportunity for tired volunteers to recharge their batteries. Summer also enables many families to get away, relax and take things a bit easier.

Life tends to slow down in the summer, and the temptation toward laziness (especially in our spiritual lives) reaches an all-time high. While holidays present us with a wonderful and much-needed time to refresh, we shouldn't let our relationship with God fall to the wayside and let bad spiritual habits creep into our lives.

In our study in 1 Timothy on Sunday mornings we have been challenged by the following words in chapter 4 verse 7: '...train yourself for godliness.' Our lives should be marked by a constant desire to grow in godliness and so we need to be continually committed to the spiritual disciplines of the christian life, even during the holiday season.

This summer, let us all take physical rest and relaxation seriously, but make sure we don't neglect our spiritual lives. Instead, use the extra time and opportunities we may have to invest in our spiritual growth. Take time to read your Bible and pray, keep attending church, even on holiday and do something you don't normally have time to do, like read a christian book or go on a mission team.

May this summer be a time of physical and spiritual refreshment in all our lives.

Peter Lawther

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Church Diary:

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

Wednesday Prayer Meeting 8pm

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.

Children's Church Children, aged 4 -11, leave the morning service around 11:15am

Special Announcements:

Church BBQ: after church on Sunday 4th August we will be having our annual church BBQ. Everyone is welcome. For catering purposes please 'sign-up' on the sheet in the foyer. Also, if you could commit to providing a dessert, there is a sign-up sheet for that particular act of service! Plan to attend!

Holiday Bible Club: please remember the sign up sheets in the foyer for the Holiday Bible Club, every evening from 29th July - 2nd August. There is a role for absolutely everyone to play - don't rule yourself out!

Child Protection Training: those working with children in any capacity must attend a training session this September. Choose either; Thursday 19th September at 7:30pm or Saturday 28th September at 9:30am. Please put either of these dates into your diary.

The Lord's Table: few areas of our new building have been more appreciated than the foyer. It has allowed us to enjoy relaxed fellowship every time we gather. However, while the Lord's Table is in progress, please be mindful of the need to preserve quiet reverence.

Church Picnic: after church on Sunday 1st September we plan to have a church picnic, open to everyone. Bring a picnic lunch and let's spend some time together, catching up on the events of the summer.



Summer Mission Team Prayer Diary

Summer Teams



Please pray for the following people and teams and accept our apologies if we have left anyone off the list by accident.

Portballintrae CSSM 29th June - 12th July

Benjamin McKay
Hannah McKay

Portstewart CSSM 29th June - 13th July

Elin Baird

Donemana BYE Team 13th July - 21st July

Benjamin McKay

Peru Team 18th July - 4th August

Alex Boyd
May Green

Kilkeel Baptist Youth Camp 20th - 27th July

Mark & Claire Thompson
Peter & Joanne Lawther
Tammy & Aaron White
Kim & Trevor Jordan
Joel White
Emma Millar
Benjamin McKay
Jordan Blain
Danielle McAllister
Rachael McAllister
Tori McAllister

Millisle Baptist Youth Camp 27th July - 3rd August

Ian & Kerry Courtney
Paul & Emma Savage
Heather & Gavin Martin

Crosslinks Senior Camp 28th July - 3rd August

Jonny Kirk

CBC Holiday Bible Club 29th July - 4th August

Large team of volunteers from the church

Finance Update: January – May 2019

Earlier in the year we raised some concerns about the finances of the church. Namely that we had finished the past two years with a deficit of around £20k per year.

We presented a budget that would see us end 2019 in a break-even position and allow us to maintain our current levels of support to important causes such as Baptist Missions/Youth/Women, etc.

We have been hugely encouraged by the response. At the end of May we budgeted to have a surplus of £1.6k. The reality is, that we are sitting with a year to date surplus of £24.3k.

Three things are driving this:

- The amounts received in the April Gift Day far exceeded our hope & expectations.
We budgeted for £13.7k as that was what was required to plug our shortfall.
We received £27.4k net of Gift Aid rebate;
- We have received a Legacy donation which was not budgeted for, and;
- We have made savings versus budget on expenditure.

If this continues, it will allow us at year end to:

- Support causes, such as the various departments of the Baptist Association, to the same levels as prior years, and;
- Pay a substantial amount of capital off our building loan.

Tim Campbell - Church Treasurer

The Office Bearers have been extremely encouraged, excited and blessed by the response of the congregation to the financial situation and would like to sincerely thank everyone who has financially supported the church over the past months. We would love to pay a substantial amount off our building loan at the end of the year so that we can clear this debt as soon as possible and would encourage you all to continue to pray about our financial position.

If you have any questions, please chat to Tim or one of the Office Bearers.

Peter Lawther

For more information visit: www.carrickfergusbaptist.com

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