

January / February 2020



## 2020 Vision

In the year that King Uzziah died, the prophet Isaiah had a vision of the Lord that had a transformative impact upon his life. In his vision, he heard a seraphim call out, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.'

20/20 vision is a phrase used to describe clear vision. In the year 2020, my prayer is that all of us who call Carrickfergus Baptist our home church, may have a clearer vision of our God. So often our vision of God is blurred by the distractions of life. I pray that the Lord would strip these away and give us all a fresh understanding of His holiness and greatness and glory.

A renewed vision of God will radically change our lives. It will give us a deeper appreciation of God's character and greatness and transform our worship, our prayer lives, our daily Christian living and our evangelism. Let us all pray for a fresh vision of God in 2020.

The words of the famous hymn make a good prayer as we start 2020.

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art -  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night;  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

Peter Lawther

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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)  
Knit & Natter 10:00am (2nd and 4th weeks of the month)  
Baby Massage 11:00am (rolling 6 week programme)

**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. P2 - P6 in Sports Hall. P7 / Yr 8 in Peter's Office.

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

**Youth Fellowship** Usually meet on Sunday Evenings. Contact Chris Wolfe for more details.

## Special Announcements:

**2nd January** - CB Women Meeting at 8pm - "At Home Night"

**10th January** - Ladies Precept Class - RUTH Study; 8pm

**30th January** - Ladies Precept Class - ACTS Study; 8pm

**6th February** - CB Women Meeting at 8pm - Speaker - Gail Curry BW Director

**14th February** - Ladies Precept Class - RUTH Study; 8pm

**27th February** - Ladies Precept Class - ACTS Study; 8pm

**Baptist Women Spring Conference:** first Friday or Saturday in March (venue and date to be confirmed) Speaker - Lydia Brownback Cost £10 ; Register at [irishbaptistwomen.org](http://irishbaptistwomen.org)

## Unite to Pray 2020

2020 marks the 125th Anniversary of the foundation of the Association of Baptist Churches in Ireland. To mark the anniversary, we have been called to unite to pray for and with our sister churches with purpose and expectation.

Throughout 2020 we will be spending time each month in our prayer meetings to pray for other Baptist churches throughout the island of Ireland. We also plan to unite with local churches for some special events to enable us to pray together.

Please use the following guide to help you pray for our Association of Churches.



## Update from Benjy

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Benjamin McKay. I am a member of this church, but I haven't been around for the past few months. I am currently in my second year of studies in the Irish Baptist College, and I am studying a degree in theology, the original biblical languages (Greek and Hebrew), and a preparation for ministry course alongside this. Through the three semesters I have now spent in IBC, I have had the opportunity to gain more and more knowledge of the Bible and other areas around biblical study, while also learning more about the practical outworking of life in pastoral ministry and situations that may arise. I count it as such a privilege to have been called by God to prepare for ministry in IBC, and I have been blessed by, and provided for, by Him throughout my time studying.



During the second year of study in IBC, each student is sent out on placement either to a church, or ministry organization. The purpose of this is to learn more about what certain ministry roles entail, and to get an insight into what life in vocational ministry looks like. Since September, I have been on placement in Larne Baptist Church coming alongside Simon Curry who is the pastor there, and the rest of the church as their student assistant. During my time there so far, I have had the opportunity to preach sermons, lead services, do pastoral visitation, and generally get more of a feel for how a church is lead, and what work gets done behind the scenes. The opportunities I have been given, and the things I have been part of, have taught me so much about different aspects of church leadership and pastoral ministry, and this experience has been invaluable so far in equipping me for the direction that God is leading me.

I appreciate all the support I have received from this church, from the leadership and members, and I thank you all for your prayers that have sustained me throughout my time in IBC so far. I would ask you all to continue to pray for me both for the academic study, and also in my placement, that God would continue to mould me into the servant he would have me to be, so that I may serve him effectively wherever he leads me. God bless.

## Finance Update

For 2019, the Office Bearers had a number of financial aspirations.

Firstly, we desired to make a substantial payment off our building loan, and I am delighted that we have been able to make an additional £37k payment off the loan, on top of our monthly repayments.

Secondly, we desired to maintain our levels of financial support to the Association of Baptist Churches in line with recent years. And again, we have been able to do so as follows:

Baptist Missions	£ 10,800
Irish Baptist College	£ 2,640
Aided Churches	£ 2,400
Annuity Fund	£ 2,400
Baptist Youth	£ 1,800
Association Director	£ 1,800
Baptist Women	£ 1,440
BYouth - Amazing Journey	£ 1,200
	<b>£ 24,480</b>

Thirdly, we wanted to ensure our outgoings did not exceed our income in the year, and this has also been the case. An increase in offerings has allowed us to cover all of our outgoings, including the overpayment on the loan. In addition to this, the receipt of a large legacy donation has allowed us to increase our reserves by around £25k, which puts us in a much healthier financial position than this time last year.

Finally, I would like to highlight that going forward we have asked that the monies given in support of the Association "Aided Churches" be designated to Craigavon Baptist for the duration that Paul Savage serves there. Paul & Emma were a great blessing to our church and we wish to bless their future work in return.

These positive financial results have come about as a result of your generosity and on behalf of the Office Bearers, I would like to sincerely thank you for your ongoing sacrificial support.

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*

*Matthew 6:21*

Tim Campbell  
Treasurer

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For more information visit: [www.carrickfergusbaptist.com](http://www.carrickfergusbaptist.com)

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