

VISION ANNUAL REPORTS



Elders

One of the greatest promises in the New Testament is found in Matthew 16:18 where Jesus made a very clear declaration that he will build his church. If we were to take time to think about these words, we would have good reason to hope and live with an excited expectation. I love the fact Jesus was very resolute, sure and certain in what he said. 'I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH'. The church is Jesus' 'grand design,' on which he is continually working. Sometimes, like any other construction project, the church can look and feel like a 'building site,' and it can be difficult to see past the mess and rubble, or to recognise that the mess and rubble may well be a sign of progress.

The past year has been a challenging and changing time for us as a church family. Many in our church have had to deal, [and continue to do so] with horrendous life changing circumstances. Others have been wearied with the ongoing demands and responsibility of extremely busy lives. While others are in the process of discovering the new challenges that positive godly change brings like getting married or having children or changing jobs. Yet despite all these changes and challenges we can say with confidence that Jesus is building his church.

One of the biggest changes that we faced as a church was Mat stepping down as pastor after seven years. We thank God for Mat and Claire, and we ask you to continue to pray for them as they try to discern what God has for them and their girls in the future. With Mat being no longer our pastor, this meant there needed to be a lot of change that would lead to some adjustment in roles and responsibilities. I would like to say a big thank you to Phil, with the support of Sharon for carrying the bulk of the responsibility of ensuring that the church was able to continue to function in an organised and sustained way. We recognise that this has been very demanding on Phil and has taken up a lot of his time. We are so grateful for his love and care for us as a body.

We are also very thankful for four new deacons, Caroline, Rosalind, Brian and Blair. We are thankful for Dawn, and her wise and helpful input as a deacon over recent years, she has now stepped down as a deacon. Andrew is taking a break from deacon responsibility so he can spend time looking after Andrea. So we now have five deacons, Robert plus the four new ones. All the deacons have been given, and have willingly accepted areas of responsibility, which has eased the burden on Phil...

Room2Pray – Wednesday 7.15-8.00pm

Our weekly time devoted to praying together.

The engine room of our church!

Roundchurchtexts:

Remember if you have a **prayer** request or want to thank God for answering prayer – let Phil know.

...Another important development over this past year has been the appointment of ministry leaders to lead, grow and develop the area of ministry they have been called to. As elders we want to do all we can to encourage and equip these leaders to develop their ministries. We are mindful that Jesus wants to build his church, not maintain it, so we want to draw alongside these leaders and help them in every way possible to build not maintain.

We are also grateful for those who are involved in the Pastoral Search Group. Although we are a small congregation, we are a people who need the care and support of a pastor. Can we encourage you to keep praying that God in his grace would bring someone to us who would be good for the church and the community of Kircubbin.

Finally can we say as Elders, we value and love everyone who comes to KCC. Your contribution to our church is both essential and important. Over the past few months our numbers have been low at times. We understand that at times the challenges and circumstances of life can make getting to church very difficult or even impossible. Can we encourage everyone to come as often as you can, come with the intention to worship, serve, and learn. Come for the sake of others, so you can have an opportunity to bless and encourage them. Come and be part of the church that Jesus wants to build.

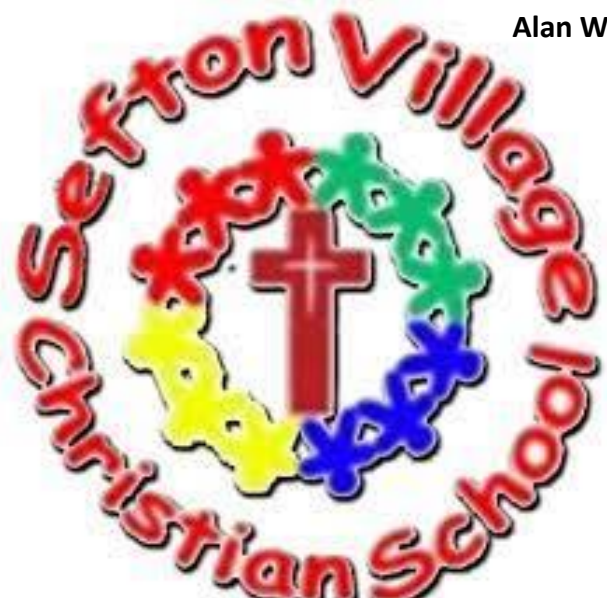
Love Phil and Alan

Alan Wilson

Men's Ministry

The work to encourage a bit of fellowship among the men is still very much "under construction". The aim is just to have a few activities through the year which give the opportunity of getting together and to that end we had a pizza night in November. The meeting in Room 2 was a relaxed and enjoyable gathering. Attendees munched on delicious, locally sourced, pizza as we engaged in conversations about a range of topics. The atmosphere was laid back and welcoming and hopefully there will be the opportunity to run something similar (or totally different!) in the coming months. Any suggestions would be welcome.

Christian Wilson



Sefton Village Christian School

It was 2 years ago that Joy Salazaar, who is the Director of the school in the Philippines, suffered a severe stroke. Initially she was barely able to move or talk, but since that time has gradually improved to the point where she can now get around with the aid of a walking stick and speak slowly. The faith and joy we see in Pastor Lorenz and the rest of the family is both inspirational and humbling. We consider it an honour to hold them up in prayer and be able to help them financially with their medical expenses through our missional giving. Please continue to pray for Joy and the school and the other ministries in Sefton Village.

Mat Kerr



Room2Pray

Isaiah 55:6 - "Seek the Lord while you can find Him, call on Him while He is near"

1 Thessalonians 5:17 – "never stop praying"

James 5:16 – "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results."

What better way to find God than to spend time in His presence praying, seeking and listening!

We have continued to meet each Wednesday night in Room 2 pray and it is always a blessing to be able to pray about things going on with the Church and those of us who are in need of our prayers. It is also a time to rest in God's presence and enjoy His peace and hear from Him. A time to reflect on answered prayers and to give thanks for God's goodness and mercy to us.

At the end of May 2022 we held a 24 hour fast and prayer time and it was so encouraging to have so many of us take time to take part in this. The Lord really did meet with us and the presence of God was very evident in Room 2.

Isaiah 54:2-3 encourages us to enlarge our house and build an addition, to spread out our home and spare no expenses, and so Room 2 is our expansion and such a blessing being used in so many ways not just for us but for the community.

God spoke clearly to encourage us to step out in His strength, and not to be fearful but believe that our God is faithful and we need to keep our eyes fixed on Him and to trust Him to accomplish the work that is ongoing in Kircubbin and the Peninsula. The outreach that began all those years ago will bear fruit as we continue to look to God's leading and His Holy Spirit.

CENTERED PRAYER- mentioned in Prayer course home study Rae held an introduction session one Wednesday evening and the feedback was very positive.

Centering contemplative and Meditative prayer are all a method of drawing closer in our relationship with the Lord helping us to delve and go deeper into scripture. Rae would hope to continue to develop and continue introducing sessions to our church family.

Entering into this new year we are excited at the way the church is evolving and embracing new challenges and the need for us all to unite in prayer to know the leading of the Holy Spirit. It would be encouraging to see more people turning up to the Wednesday night prayer meeting to show our united determination to move and be guided by the Holy Spirit.

"No not by might, nor even power, but by your Spirit O Lord move through this land, till every man, praises your name once more"

**Rosalind Hennessey
Rae Campbell**



Set Up

Because we don't have our own premises, everything has to be set up prior to the service and put away after the service. So the set-up team is important to ensure the smooth running of our church services. Thankfully we have a good wee team consisting of Christian & James, Billy, Zach & Rebekah and myself but would welcome anyone who would be interested in joining the team.

Brian Orr



Foodbank

Foodbank continues to operate out of Room 2 each Thursday night (7-8pm) with a team of local people from across the community serving together to help support local folk who need a bit of a helping hand. Whilst we still have not seen a huge leap in demand some weeks there can be 2 or 3 clients and it is wonderful to be able to help just a little bit – people are always very grateful. If you ever know of anyone who this service could help, please do get in touch. We are a satellite Foodbank supported and supplied by the Foodbank from Home Church in Ards (previously Thriving Life).

Sharon D

Ladies' ministry

As I have been thinking about writing this report, I am very aware that personal circumstances meant that I have not been able to begin the ladies' ministry as I had hoped. My plan had been to get us together a few times over the summer months so we could reconnect socially, catch up with one another and find out where we were at and what we were looking for in a ladies' group.

Rather than start in September, my plan was to let the month go past to allow the parents and teachers amongst us get life back into a daily routine. We would start in October with a plan for the year ahead.

Well the summer came and went, as did September and still I felt totally unprepared to organise, plan or facilitate a ladies get together. Time though was passing by so quickly, so I took a deep breath and organised a pot luck supper one Friday night in October. Due to sickness and other peoples plans, we didn't have a whole lot of ladies in attendance but those who did come, seemed to enjoy the evening. As you all know, when women get together there's always plenty of chat and we certainly enjoyed getting to know each other a bit better. In December, thanks to the very talented Foraging Florist's wonderful demonstration, we were able to make Christmas wreaths. The creative juices were flowing (for most of you!!!) and the craic was good. It was lovely that ladies of all ages came together to enjoy one another's company.

My hope for the year ahead is to have a spiritual focus on some of the evenings as well as social nights.

As we were looking at the Christmas story in November and December, it struck me that Mary didn't go running to her friends when she first became pregnant with Jesus. She went to spend time with her older cousin Elizabeth. I'm sure that was a precious time for them both as they helped and encouraged one another as they looked to the future. I love the idea of older, more mature women coming alongside younger women and sharing life with them. It's how we learn. It's my desire that as women we can grow together in God and teach one another and become a community that loves and cares for each other.

Caroline Wilson



Sunday WhizzKidz

WhizzKidz is now held downstairs in our new Room 2. Each Sunday morning we aim to teach some simple truths through the Bible passage that we study. We have been looking at how God looks after His people and have been studying from Exodus right through to Joshua. We have used a Bible-focused resource called Click and since we have a rota of leaders, this book helps us keep continuity and allows the children to build upon what they have been taught in previous weeks.

We would ask for prayer as the numbers can vary from only a few children up to almost 10, and the age range is from P3 up to P7. On weeks when there are more children in creche, then we could do with a few more volunteers to help to keep the noise level down as we do share the same space as creche. Please let Sharon or Hazel know if you are interested



in helping on an ad-hoc basis or would like to become a regular leader at WhizzKidz. But most of all please pray that as God's Word is shared each week, these young lives would be encouraged to follow Jesus and live for Him.

Hazel Wilson



Pastor Search Group Report

The church members agreed to set up a Pastor Search Group to help guide the church through looking for a new Pastor. The elders and deacons agreed on a group consisting of Sharon, Brian, Blair and Phil. The group met to plan and write a job description in the autumn term. The job description was then shared and discussed at the November Vision Meeting and subsequently redrafted.

We have invited several people over the autumn and winter to come and speak either from the Baptist College, by direct recommendation from within the church and one whose name came to us through one of those 'God-incidences' that surprise us all. When any visiting speaker comes try to have a chat to them and pass on any feedback to one of the PSG to help us know God's guidance and discernment through his people. Please commit to praying for God's guidance and provision of our next Pastor and family. As and when we can the PSG will share progress and continue to act to seek God's way forward.

"Please Father give us your Pastor... and soon."

Phil Derrick

Whizz Kids/BYE Team

We thank God for a wonderful week of Summer Whizz Kids in July '22 – our 26th year! We had a great core of helpers from church to serve alongside an energetic Baptist Youth Evangelism Team, led by Michelle and Kyle, who came to serve in Kircubbin. We had between 50 and 60 children registered each day and we, again, were very aware of God's provision and faithfulness through the week. The team also led Teen Spirit through the week, reaching out to many local young people, finishing with a shore campfire and chips after the Friday barbecue for the parents of the Whizz Kids, when we saw around 40-50 parents, grandparents and family members.

As Whizz Kids has been around for so long and is such a key ministry from our church, we are saddened that we have not been allocated a BYE team this year, as we have really valued (and needed) the extra help over the last few years. Please pray about this and whether you could be involved this year, as we want to continue to serve our community and share the best news of the Gospel with families around us this summer. Thank you!

Sharon Derrick



Room2Report

Through most of 2021 Old Room2 had been used by the Post Office whilst the new EuroSpar in the village was built. We moved back in early in the new year after EuroSpar had completed a refurbishment and repainting for us. We were then approached by Maxwell's Courtyard to see if we would be interested in taking the other groundfloor unit which had been empty for several years because they had a potential client who felt our Room2 would be much more suitable to his needs. After considering the offer, negotiating a very good rent and bringing the decision to the members it was agreed to move. The new Room2 required an enormous amount of work to make it useful and we are very grateful to both Mat and Brian for all the work that they put in to get it so we could start using it very promptly. The cost for a new floor, painting, electrics, plumbing and fitting the kitchen have come to just under £1500.

The room is larger, more adaptable and has more storage but only costs us an extra £25 per month. Because we had worked with Maxwell's Courtyard to allow them to get another unit rented out we negotiated to not pay rent on the new Room2 until the summer so a lot of the renovation costs were paid for by this.

By the end of the year we had cleared the office (again great thanks to Brian for all his work to do this) this will save us over £100 per month – this left us needing some additional storage for which we purchased a shed at just over £700.

Brian has continued to work tirelessly to do further improvements to Room2 including changing the ceiling lights and sourcing more atmospheric floor lamps.

New Room2 is used every Wednesday for our Room2Pray – the hub, cockpit and engine room of our church. It is used every Sunday morning for WhizzKidz and Creche as well as occasionally for hospitality and church lunches. Every Thursday it is used for FoodBank which is reported on elsewhere, as is the new and exciting ministry of Room2Chat which is on every Tuesday morning. During the week Room2 is used by SureStart for 'mums and bumps' as well as a health visitor-led breastfeeding support group. It was also used after the Christmas Tree Light turn-on to offer refreshments to the community.

Room2 is available for the church to use at other times – we are hoping to have a calendar on the website which shows when it is free – if you would like to book it or know a group who would then they should contact Gillian from our church. If it is a non-church group or if a member of the church is not going to be present then we do have to have documentation to show that the group has Public Liability Insurance.

We are all grateful to God for the provision of this wonderful resource for us and the community and we should all find a moment to say thank you sometime to Brian who has worked so hard throughout this whole year on this project.

Phil Derrick



Patterson Ministries

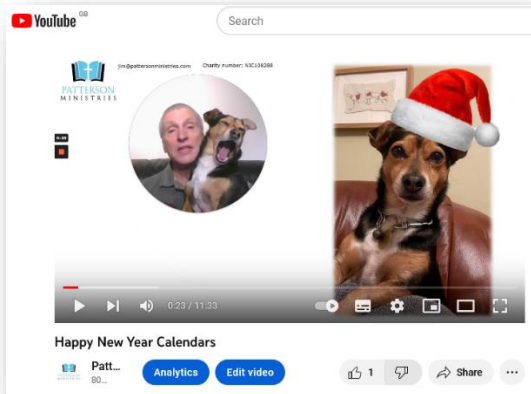
“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defence to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;” 1 Peter 3v15 NKJ

“Lord, help me be Your witness today. Bring across my path today, someone that I can speak to about You.”

This is a prayer that I have been praying each morning when I waken, then each day I look for opportunities to share with people the hope that Christ gives. God answers that prayer.

School outreach

At the start of September past, I contacted many of the primary schools around our area, offering to speak in their assemblies. Praise God that 10 schools have said yes.



It has been great to be able to speak to children face to face. Since back taking assemblies I have taught lessons on David Livingstone, Harvest theme of giving thanks, and a talk on Nicodemus.

Please pray many children who hear the Gospel will trust in the Lord Jesus.

I continue to make and send out the YouTube videos. We have had very encouraging feedback and to date over 6400 views.

Comber 'Fair in the Square'

This hadn't taken place for a few years due to covid but was held again on the 24th of November. People were very friendly and for some reason this year, wanted to talk. I had many encouraging conversations and hundreds of adult tracts and booklets for children were handed out.

One of those conversation was with a local school principal. I haven't got into his school yet but please pray that when I approach him again that I will get a favourable response. His son took a booklet and was reading it while we spoke.

Praise God for a very encouraging night.

Door to door outreach

During November and December we, once again, helped distribute tracts and calendars around the area. This year we went to Strangford Loughinisland, Ardglass, Darragh Cross with other teams covering Downpatrick and Portaferry. Praise God for a good friendly reception in these areas and for many good conversations. Please pray for those who took the literature, that many will put their trust in the Lord Jesus.

One big encouragement for me is Aidi. It was back on the 19th March 2020 and I had arrange to pick up a car I had bought. I called and spoke the salesman, Aidi. During the conversation he shared about his life which had been very difficult to say the least. I suggested “Why not give your life to the Lord because on your own you have made a bit of a mess of it!” He said “Yes, I would like that!” We prayed and Aidi trusted in the Lord. Since then his life has totally turned around. He has been going regularly to church, met and married a lovely Christian lady, been on mission trips and just last September 3rd, he was baptised, in the sea.

God does answer prayer

“Lord, help me be Your witness today. Bring across my path today, someone that I can speak to about You.”

For prayer –

- For more opportunities to share the Gospel.
- That more schools will open up to me.
- For more views for the YouTube videos and for them to be a blessing.
- For someone to help the charity with Gift Aid claims.
- For wisdom as we plan.

Jim Patterson

(Patterson Ministries) Charity Number - NIC108288



Deacons

We are seeking to clarify the different role of deacon from elder in our church to greater reflect the Biblical precedent:

“So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.” Acts 6:2-4

Please try to differentiate to go to the deacons with more practical physical matters and to the elders with pastoral and spiritual ones.

We have been very thankful for Andrew Walker’s service as a deacon for over a decade and a half. In the autumn term he stepped back from the role in order to support Andrea. At the moment he is continuing the role of Treasurer.

The elders took the decision to ask the members to pray and propose the names of people for the role of deacon to the November Vision Meeting and we were so pleased to welcome Caroline, Rosalind, Blair and Brian as new deacons. Robert is continuing in this role and God is already binding us into a God-centred team with vision for our church.

Room 2 Chat

When Rosalind, Gillian and I started meeting in October 2022, we weren’t quite sure what the Tuesday morning would look like. We knew there were one or two mums from the village, whose children were now in school, were keen for an opportunity to meet up, so we opened Room 2 to any lady in the village who would like to come along. For the first two or three weeks there were some older ladies who came along but we found that, unfortunately, they got ‘drowned’ out by the noise and chatter from the younger mums and a few young babies, so have not come back. Now we have, on any given day, between 2 and 8 ladies with 2 or three children.

Very often our mornings are quite literally, room to chat. We provide tea, coffee and usually a biscuit and find that conversations are, as often with mums, about the children and their problems/illnesses. We are praying for opportunities to bring Jesus into the conversations and have on occasions been able, in a very simple way, to do this.

Before Christmas we had a few craft sessions, when Lorraine, Gillian’s mum, and one of the girls from the group helped us make Christmas cones and holly wreaths. This was great fun and the ladies really enjoyed it. We are planning a few more such sessions as St. Valentine’s Day, St. Patrick’s Day and Easter draw nearer.



We started off 2023 with breakfast when we had bacon butties and croissants, which again on a cold, frosty January morning were very enjoyable and much appreciated.

We are discovering as the weeks go by that

there are a lot of health issues within the group, either with the children or the ladies themselves. We would ask for prayer that we would be sensitive to what we are told and open about our love for Jesus and His love for them. Pray that we would be bold in our witness.

Deut 31:6

Marilyn Craig

If you or someone you know would like to book Room2, please get in touch with Gillian Cassidy

Website, Roundchurchtext and Facebook report

We continue to maintain a website at www.kircomchu.com, a Facebook page and we use a roundchurchtext service to communicate quickly with the whole church.

Our website is a good entry point for people looking for information about our church but more importantly it has the gospel presented on it.

Nearly every sermon from the last few years is on our website (there are a few where there were technical difficulties and some during Covid which were videoed and put on Facebook.) If you miss a Sunday, it is very important and helpful to catch up on the sermon during the week so that you don't miss what God is saying to our church. This is an amazing resource. (You can even speed up the preacher if you're short of time!!)

The website is also used for letters from the elders to the church and for the church rota so that you can access from almost anywhere to see when you are on duty for a ministry on a Sunday morning (and if you are unavailable – make sure you do a swap with someone!)

Our website is hosted by Faithlife who also provide our presentation software that we use on the screen on Sunday mornings. However Faithlife are refocussing their ministry this year and they will not be hosting websites after the end of June. We will need to move our website before then... This is beyond my skill-set as well as not having time. If this is something that you could take on then please get in touch.

The FaceBook page is updated occasionally, especially for things like the Carol service, WhizzKidz, TeenSpirit and Room2Chat. This has a lot more potential but we need someone who enjoys, understands and is careful with FaceBook to take this on as a ministry – get in touch if that describes you or if God says “you should offer to do that...”

The roundchurchtext service is so important to share information, reminders and roundchurchprayer requests. Over this past year there have been over 100 roundchurchtexts sent to about 40 people at a time. If you or your family and friends need prayer support then please send the prayer text written as you want it to be sent round (it can be very hard sometimes to word a text when not being sure how much or how little detail to include.) It is also a great idea to let us know answers to prayer as well so that we can be encouraged and thankful. Many people have been touched by the prayers prayed because of the roundchurchprayer service be encouraged to use it and to pray!

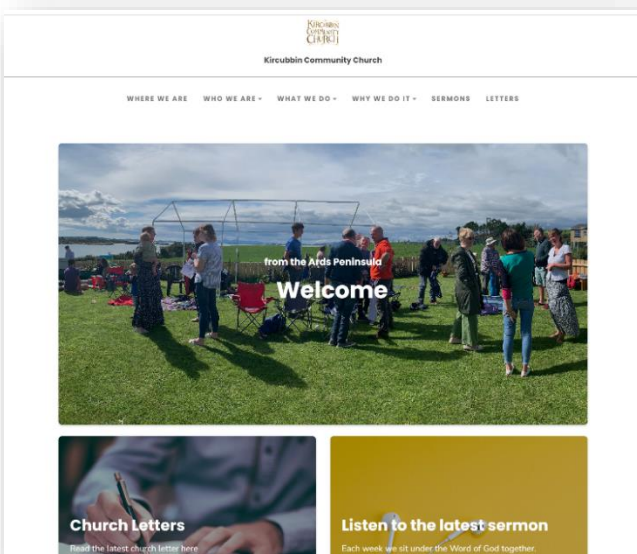
Phil Derrick



Portavogie Fishermen

Many of the migrant fishermen have returned home over the winter as there is less fishing activity at this time of the year. Being away from home, especially over Christmas is a part of the hardships they face undertaking this dangerous and physically demanding work. Please continue to pray for them as they spend time here – many of them have a strong faith and their witness will be visible to the others around them. One piece of good news is that one of the men we have had good contact with was able to travel home to Ghana in time for his wedding. There are opportunities for meeting up with the migrant fishermen at Portavogie harbour so if anyone is interested in this ministry just let us know!

Christian Wilson





Hospitality and Welcome

We all love to feel welcome, especially when we visit somewhere for the first time, so as a church we feel it is very important to show hospitality and a friendly face at the door each Sunday. Tea and coffee are provided to help enforce that welcome with any visitor but it also gives regular members an opportunity to have a quick chat before the service begins

The practice of having lunch together each month, we feel, is very necessary in maintaining relationships within the church family and also to show any visitors love and friendship.

I would like to thank the team for their commitment to this simple but very worthwhile witness.

Hebrews 13:1-2

Marilyn Craig



Creche

Room 2 is a busy place on a Sunday morning with Creche and Whizz Kids operating side by side separated by a screen. Creche is a vital ministry within our church as we seek to support families with younger children so that they can focus on the service and enjoy fellowship and time free from the distractions of little people. The difficulty with Creche is that some weeks we have no children and last week, as I write, we had 11 children which was great fun and a huge blessing but really means we need extra hands....so if you would like to help out, even in a sedentary supervisory capacity, please let myself or Hazel know. We do thank God for all our children – what a blessing they are!

Sharon Derrick

Ukraine Report

All of us have been moved by the situation in Ukraine and the impact which it has had especially on those involved first-hand with the conflict, people who have resolutely stayed in their homes and those who have left their homes and sought shelter and refuge in other countries.

In March our church registered interest with Sanctuary Foundation to either provide or find accommodation for a Ukrainian family or to provide what support we could. A small group from the church committed to pray and actively look into this. There were four possible options for providing accommodation but for different reasons each one was ruled out. We committed to pray and we had a special offering which amounted to £410 to which £500 was added from Church funds. This was kept through the year in case any families were housed in the local community who we would be able support. When this fund hadn't been used by December it was given to Tearfund for use in their response to the situation in Ukraine. The church should keep praying actively for Ukraine and for families who have lost loved ones and their homes.

In January and February our church had previously looked to provide funding towards the situation in Afghanistan and a special offering of £430 was given to TearFund's appeal for emergency relief in that country.

We should be encouraged by our church's readiness to practically support people in need far from home. We must maintain a world-view perspective as we seek to love our neighbour.

Phil Derrick



Church Music Praise Team Report

On Match of the Day they would say 2022 had been 'a game of two halves.' The beginning of this year saw a much-strengthened Worship Team leading our praise and singing in our services as well as with some beautiful praise evenings in Briar and Robert's home. The team met regularly during the week to eat, fellowship and practice together. We had Briar and Hazel sharing playing the keyboard, Scott, Steven and Phil sharing the guitars, Zach and Steven playing drum box and drums, Madeleine playing the violin and an array of Natalie, Erin, Bex and Hannah singing. We are very grateful to Briar for coordinating and encouraging us all. Once the summer came we saw our numbers dwindling a little with Madeleine going to Shetland and Hannah to Cardiff. Then in September, due to going back to work full-time and family commitments Briar temporarily stepped back from coordinating the group and playing, with our support. Hazel continued to play when she could with her health issues through those months. We are very grateful to her, Steven stepped up to lead our times of and to our singers who were to singing on their own each maybe partly because of them) remained vibrant, energetic and November and December worship was quite dramatically uplifting and really help me to and Holy Spirit in spirit and in truth. Please take time to encourage the members of the Music Praise Team.



and Scott who enthusiastically worship during the autumn term flexible to go from singing in pairs week. Despite the challenges (or our times of praise and worship wholehearted even though in numbers of people coming to reduced. I find our times of praise worship our awesome Father, Son

As we move into 2023, we say 'farewell' to Erin who has stepped back from singing. For the first couple of months we have taken Zach and Bex off the rota to give them a bit of a break after getting married. We are really pleased to welcome Abigail to the singers and James to playing the drum box. Briar is back playing the keyboard and we plan for her to renew her leadership role in the group in the next couple of months.

Please do pray for the Church Music Praise Team, it is such a central part of our church services and, from experience in the past and in other churches it can easily become a focus for attack.

"Hallelujah! Praise God in his holy house of worship, praise him under the open skies; Praise him for his acts of power, praise him for his magnificent greatness; Praise with a blast on the trumpet, praise by strumming soft strings; Praise him with castanets and dance, praise him with banjo and flute; Praise him with cymbals and a big bass drum, praise him with fiddles and mandolin. Let every living, breathing creature praise God! Hallelujah!" Psalms 150:16 MSG

Phil Derrick

Fostering and Adoption

This is a ministry which has been 'unofficially' going on in the background in our church for the last couple of

years. Gillian and Anders have been serving in this ministry since before they came to our church and are looking to extend their work in this area. Phil and Sharon started respite foster care once a month two years ago. We have all appreciated the interest, support and love from the church and how easily and warmly these children have been welcomed into our church family. This is a ministry that the elders would like to raise the profile of in our church to provide prayerful and, when needed, more 'physical' support for the families involved. The need across our land for foster and adoptive families is almost overwhelming and it may be that there are other families in the church who might consider whether this is something that they want to look into more. The first step would be to chat to the families named above. We also hope to have someone from Home for Good coming to our church later this year to speak about their ministry and the needs in society.

"Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you." James 1:27

 home
for good



Teaching

I wonder, as a follower of Jesus, would you rather be known as a Christian, or as a Disciple. The reason I ask this question is because the bible speaks more about disciples than Christians, The word disciple occurs over 270 times, while the name Christian occurs only 3 times. This may seem a bit interesting but not very important, but that is not the case. The word disciple simply means someone who is in the process of learning, someone who is eager to learn, who is teachable. That is why as a church we believe the good teaching of the word of God is an absolute requirement for life-long disciples/learners of Jesus.

As elders we desire that the teaching in our church would be prophetic, relevant addressing people at the point of their need as the Word of God is graciously and lovingly applied to our lives. We recognise that the purpose of biblical teaching is not merely to inform but, more importantly to transform. To change our thinking, to change our hearts, to make us more like Jesus. We also want to do all we can to help you engage in more meaningful ways with the word of God at church, so if you have ideas or suggestions that you think maybe helpful, please come and talk to us.

Over this past year we have looked at the lives of Jonah and Jacob. Then we spent four months going through 1 Timothy. We ended the year by studying the early chapters of Luke as we considered the Christmas story. We hope to return to Luke's Gospel just before Easter. Until then we want to explore a biblical understanding of rest.

Teen Spirit Report

After our congregational supply of teenagers dried up a few years ago, there was a question mark hanging over Teen Spirit's future. But this ministry is thriving!

The summer BYE team were an excellent help in August, bringing in throngs of young people with a number of evening events (one of which involved walloping Ziva in the face with a tortilla) and we managed to keep that momentum moving into the school term. While numbers fluctuate from week to week, we'll often see half a dozen young people or more joining us in Room 2, mostly a bubbly gaggle of non-church girls from the village.

While we do spend a lot of time enjoying each other's company playing games and going a bit mad we also use the time to teach, challenge and pray. Zach's Map Attack is a staple. There's always a lot of engagement; very good questions, banter, out-loud praying and even enquiries about getting baptised! We've also had fellowship with other church youth groups by meeting with them at a recent Connect event in Newtownards. It's a real encouragement (and such a blessing for me personally) having watched many of these young people grow up through WhizzKidz and continue with KCC and their journey with God throughout the years. I've known one of them since they were four! Please pray that these young people would continue to be challenged about their relationship with God and that the lessons and discipleship they get at Teen Spirit would guide them towards becoming strong men and women of God.

I would like to say thank you to Mat, Phil, Blair and Robert for the many hours of hard work of preparation and study they had to do so they could teach us. We are also grateful for a number of visitors who came and shared God's word with us.

As I write this, I am very aware that no matter how well someone prepares to share the Word of God, they cannot determine how that word will be received. As a church we not only want to be taught well, we also want to be a people who are very eager to put into practice the things God is teaching us. I love the way Jesus equates those who listen and follow/does his teaching, he is like the man who is actively building his house on a rock. However, those who listen and doesn't obey are actively building their house on sand. It would be a lot quicker and less demanding to build on sand, but sadly that house will not remain standing when the storms of life hit it. It is the hard work of building on the rock through determinative obedience that will ensure that our lives will be constructing something that is meaningful and lasting.

Let us all be disciples, let us all be life-long learners, let us all be eager to learn as a community as we help each other build on the rock.

Alan Wilson



Blair Bailie

Finance

This report will bring you up to date with our church family’s finances, detailing the income and expenditure for 2022. I will also ask you to think about your own giving to our church – are you able to contribute and serve God in this way?

2022 was a year which saw us temporarily end paying our Pastor in July, and restart a full rent payment in August, with the taking on of the new Room 2 and a return to post Covid normality in Maxwell’s Court. As with the previous couple of years, it isn’t a year to base future budgets on!! Most of our giving is by regular bank transfer, which was very necessary during the pandemic, but also reduces admin and I would ask that we continue to use this method. A big thank you to all who reviewed their giving and continued to give so generously to the work of the church. However, please consider using Gift Aid if you use regular bank transfer as the tax returned from HMRC will be very useful in the future. More detail on Gift Aid later. While we had again implemented a strict budget at the 2022 AGM, the reduced rent/salary and subsequent surplus, allowed us to give additional gifts to Sefton School, Ukraine and the Baptist Association, beyond the initial budget.

Background to our Church finances

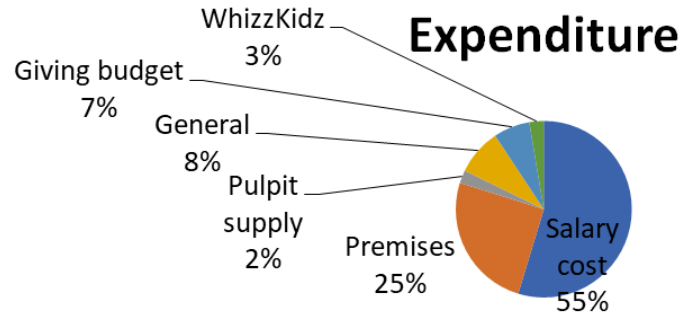
Over recent years our activities and our giving have changed. In October 2016, we acquired (the original) Room 2. In April 2018, we changed Mat’s role from paid administrative elder to become our Pastor. In April, Mat stood down from the Pastor role and in April we moved Room 2 to a larger unit. Hopefully this year will see the employment of a new Pastor.

We rent Maxwell’s Court each Sunday for our services.

This has seen our expenditure and our giving change over the last few years.

Year	Expenditure	Year	Expenditure
2016	£35400	2020	£39556
2017	£41100	2021	£37033
2018	£40400	2022	£36054
2019	£41000		

It may surprise you to learn that our church costs around £40000 to run on an annual basis. This pie charge shows the breakdown of where our money goes, but note that it reflects the 2022 budget, not the year end position with additional mission giving:



While we reduced our original giving budget to 7% again in 2022, we have aimed for a 10% figure in previous years and would plan to do so again in 2023, with the following detailing who we supported this year, including special collect giving:

Organisation/Person	Monthly Amount	Additional / year end	Annual Amount
Baptist Association	£80	£500	£1460
Sefton School	£80	£500	£1500
Jim Patterson	£50		£600
Ukraine		£910	£910
Afghanistan		£430	£430
		Total	£4900

We are thankful and truly blessed that the giving from our church family has covered our costs and allowed us to do all that our fellowship is involved in. However, we must recognise that for the third year in a row, the improved year-end balance is largely a result of the reduced rent payment and cessation of salary costs, so next year’s budget will be again, deliberately tight and we have to be careful about our spending. To do more in our fellowship, to support each other in times of need, to do more for mission or more in our community, will cost more money. Church running costs, like household costs rise each year. This brings a useful challenge...and 2023 will hopefully bring the employment of a new Pastor. This will require renewed commitment of giving, to ensure we can support the new man, who God sends us.





When did you last review your giving? Are you able to support our fellowship, if you do not currently give?

There are a number of ways to give – the following provides a number of ideas which may help.

Standing Order or electronic transfer – Regular giving from your bank account to the church's account is excellent as it helps with planning, particularly if you are able to indicate that it will be regular. If you do wish to use this method, please put your full name in the narrative when sending the payment

The Church Sort code is 950679, Account number 00046736

Gift Aid – This is a government scheme for tax payers which is of real importance to our church finance. If you are a tax payer, and the amount of tax you pay is at least equal to the amount you give to our fellowship, then you can use the scheme and the government gives 25% of your giving back to the church as a tax rebate. We currently receive approx. £5000 per year through the Gift Aid scheme. Please speak to me if this is something you would like further information on. This will be important as we seek to employ a Pastor. If 60% of our Free Will Offering giving had been eligible for Gift Aid, we would have received an extra £1250 from HMRC.

Sunday Collection Box – A great way to give on a Sunday-by-Sunday basis or a one-off gift, the collection box is found on the table by the Community centre entrance. We are also able to claim a tax rebate through the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme. Small gifts of £30 or less are eligible for a government rebate of tax, again at 25%.

Give As You Earn (GAYE) – depending on your employer, you may have a charity giving scheme through your salary. This allows you to set aside a gift out of your salary each month. The money typically goes to a third-party organisation, such as Charities Trust, who then send the gift on to the church. The employee gives on a tax-free basis and the church doesn't need to claim tax back through Gift Aid. KCC will need to be registered as an acceptable charity with the scheme organiser for this to work. Ask your employer for more details.

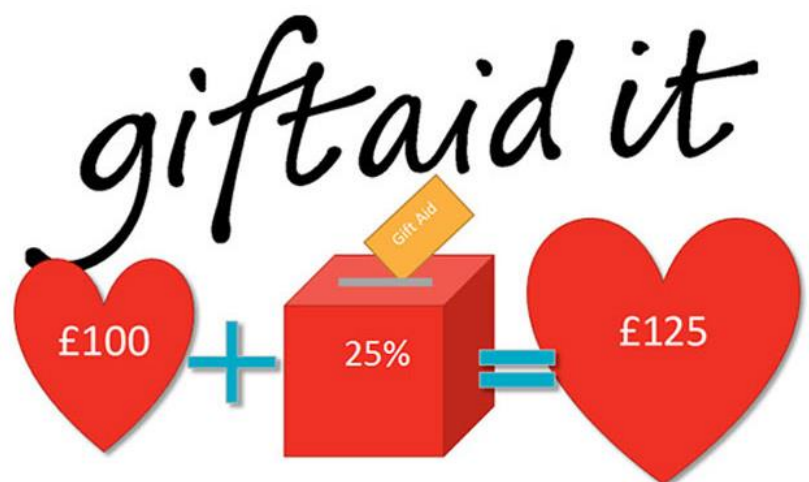
Thank you for taking the time to read this introduction to the Annual Accounts. I hope this will encourage you to consider giving to the Lord's work in our fellowship, or to review your current giving. Rest assured, I understand that it is an expensive world in which we live and that we may be in a position where it is not possible to change/increase our giving. All I ask is that you prayerfully consider the information provided in this note. Please speak to me if I can provide any further information.

2 Corinthians 9 v 7

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Andrew Walker, Treasurer

Ph 07988 721056





The Prayer of Jabez

And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying,
“Oh, that You would bless me indeed,
and enlarge my territory,
that Your hand would be with me,
and that You would keep me from evil,
that I may not cause pain!”

So God granted him what he requested.

1 Chronicles 4:10

—TKIV—

A Church for all the Family

KIRCUBBIN
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sundays 11am-12.30pm

Maxwell's Courtyard

Everyone welcome
Come as you are

