



HOLYWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

MAKING JESUS KNOWN

Annual Report 2017



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PASTOR'S REPORT 2017

What a period of change we have experienced since this time last year. Locally, the Stormont Executive has collapsed and, as I write, preparations for another election are underway. The UK has voted to leave the EU and only time will reveal the full implications of this decision. Donald Trump has been elected President of the USA and the world holds its breath! In our rapidly changing world, always searching for that elusive leader or movement which will finally deliver peace and prosperity, it's good to frequently remind ourselves that the God whom we worship and serve is "the same yesterday, today and forever".

The past year has also seen some important changes in Hollywood Baptist Church. The church called Aaron Williamson to serve as Assistant Pastor and I am delighted that he accepted this challenge. He and Naomi, along with George, Bethany and Luke are already familiar faces to us, of course, having worshipped in Hollywood for 4 years already. I look forward to sharing ministry with Aaron who has already shown himself to be a diligent and able minister of the Gospel

Home Groups have begun again after a break during the autumn programme. Some former leaders have continued in this role, while others have decided to take a break for a while. Home Groups form an essential part of church life, particularly as the church grows, and I'm very grateful to both former and current leaders for their commitment and support in this vital ministry. I would, again, commend membership of a Home

Group as they offer the opportunity to support and be supported by a smaller group of people in a way which becomes more difficult to sustain as the church grows.

Pauline Blair has taken over coordination of Crèche from Jill Michael, and Benny and Jayne McKeown have assumed the leadership of Junior Church. These are also very important aspects of our church life. God has blessed us with many children in our church family and we want to ensure that they are well catered for. Many thanks to Jill and Pauline and to all those who regularly volunteer in crèche to allow parents to enjoy the service in peace, and also to Benny and Jayne and their large band of Junior Church teachers and helpers.

Carol Craig has now joined Sheila Jones in staffing the church office several mornings every week and they perform a very important role in the administration of the day to day matters which allow church life to run smoothly, and Aaron and I appreciate all their help.

As always, space does not permit me to mention all those who work away, often unnoticed, in the life of the church but I want to extend a sincere thanks to them on behalf of us all. We have experienced much blessing in the life of our church in the past year and can echo the words of Samuel when he said "Thus far has the Lord helped us". As we serve God in our rapidly changing world, may we continue to know his help as we seek to "Make Jesus Known" in Hollywood and beyond.

Alistair

ASSISTANT PASTOR'S REPORT

How do you measure 'success' in church life? As we reflect on 2016 how can we tell if we have done a 'good job'? That is one of the struggles of being in ministry. There is no clear, objective, method you can use. Is it in the number of attendees? In the efficiency of our programs? By how much people seem to be enjoying our church? Each of these is important but they don't necessarily indicate a healthy church.

Looking at the ministry of Jesus we see that He ended up deserted by His followers and so unpopular that He was crucified. So numbers, efficiency and enjoyment weren't in great supply there. But what did He have until the end? Faithfulness. He was faithful through popularity and shame. Through comfort and suffering. He was obedient to His Father and trusted that God was working.

Thank God for the faithfulness of His people in Holywood Baptist in 2016. There are so many people who have served Him through thick and thin and trusted Him with the results. We need creativity, ideas and enthusiasm. But more than anything we need people who are constant in prayer, love and action. Keep going this year and trust that God will add the blessings to our faithfulness.

Aaron

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TREASURER'S REPORT

The year 2016 has seen a good growth in membership numbers from 131 to 146, our number of regular attendees has also increased. Despite this growth both our income and expenditure have remained at the same levels as the previous year. General giving has increased in 2016 by 1% to £168K, of which £149K is by monthly standing order averaging a monthly giving of £12,400 and £19K has been received through freewill offerings across the year. The Building Fund giving has gone down 2% on 2015, to £15,091 for 2016, of which £10,761 was received through the quarterly offerings. Bank loan interest payable has been reducing year on year with the repayment of the loan meaning that the cost of the loan has reduced by 12% in 2016 from 2015. A big thank you for the interest free loans that enable us to keep bank interest to a minimum. The Special Offering in May 2016 for the MAT Bursary Fund raised £822 towards the cost of £1,348 for those applicants who went away on short term mission trips. Finally the Christmas Carol Service offering raised £417 for the Zimbabwe Orphan Fund. I would like to thank everyone for the increase in the number of standing orders/internet transfers as this helps reduce bank fees and reduces the administrative overhead. A more detailed report forms the annual accounts and these will be formally presented at the AGM on the 29th March 2017. Please feel free to speak to me directly if you are unable to attend and have a question. May I just thank you on behalf of the Church for your generosity and I hope you will join me in praise of Our Lord Jesus Christ who continues to

bless and provide for the ministry at Hollywood Baptist Church.

Debbie Nicol

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

When Noel Lavery first approached me in February 2016 to consider taking on the role of Church Secretary, my first reaction was "they must be stuck", followed swiftly by "they'll have to accept a drop in standards from Mandy's levels of service"! Whilst Noel didn't actually resort to physical persuasion as such, he did assure me that I would have extra support in the role. I was humbled to be considered by the elders, and after some encouragement along the lines of "Are you half wise?", "When are you going to fit that in?" etc. that my name was put forward for Church Secretary. When this was ratified at our last A.G.M., the subsequent support and encouragement from all over the congregation confirmed to me that this was the right role within the church for me, and that I would be prayerfully supported by all around me.

As you can imagine, Mandy's hand-over was in-depth, detailed and informative, so I have no excuses for errors, and I am indebted to Mandy for her continued advice and support, A massive "thank you" to Mandy!

Huge thanks must go to Carol Craig and Sheila Jones. Carol organises all of the rotas within the church, (a job which is not for the faint-hearted!), and Sheila

coordinates all of the external and internal bookings that come in for the use of the building for various functions and events. Without Carol and Sheila I wouldn't be able to manage the workload that is involved. Thank you also to my fellow Deacons, who, once the novelty of continuing to call the Church Secretary "Mandy" wore off, have been a great support and encouragement.

Membership of the Hollywood Baptist now stands at 146 members, and with the increased numbers, managing all of the programmes becomes a challenge for the leaders. There has been a huge increase in the numbers of children attending crèche, Junior Church etc., so if you can help out even just one Sunday every few weeks, speak to the leaders whose name you'll see further on in this report. Or, if there is anything else you would like to help with, please let us know, and we'll gladly accept your offer!

The Association of Baptist Churches in Ireland provides us with a lot of support around areas such as the legislation which does and will affect how the church must conduct itself in the public arena, as well as registration with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. These are potential minefields for a body which simply seeks to spread the good news of the Gospel, and to "Make Jesus Known".

It is a privilege to serve as Church Secretary within Hollywood Baptist, and to be able to take a more involved role assisting in the day to day running of the church. Please prayerfully remember the Pastors, Elders and Deacons as God's guidance is sought not only in the

“big” issues that face us here in Holywood Baptist, but also in the day to day issues that arise.

Gary Robb

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FELLOWSHIP

Worship

As the quotation goes.... "Music speaks what cannot be expressed, soothes the mind and gives it rest. Heals the heart and makes it whole, flows from heaven to the soul." As we continue to serve the church through our musical abilities, it is the prayer of the music team that as a church our hearts and souls will be refreshed as we offer our praise and worship to God in our collective gatherings. Music is also for the individual as well as the church body and we encourage each participant in our services to engage with the words and music on an individual level as we sing praise to a worthy God.

As Psalm 95 verses 2 and 3 encourage us to bring our thanksgiving in music and song, we are supported each week in doing so by a dedicated team of musicians. We give thanks to God for the commitment of the following people who support our church using their gifts and talents, musically;

Guitar: Philip Thompson, Chris Lockhart, Richard Thompson, Jason McFerran, Robin Hickey, Steve Patty, Jonny Michael, Andrew McNeice.

Bass Guitar: Aaron Williamson, Brian Campbell, Jason McFerran, Robin

Hickey.

Piano: Sharon Nelson, Philippa Harper, Denise Campbell

Vocalists: Christine Thompson, Tanya Skillen, Linda Drain, Judith Maguire, Joanna McNeice, Denise Campbell, Jason McFerran.

Drums: Colin Thompson, Chris Lockhart, Brian Campbell

We are grateful to the various members of the music team who lead us each week, their guidance, choice of songs and servant heart to the worship within church is greatly appreciated.

Finally, as always, our Christmas Carol Service was enriched through the talents of our Christmas Choir and Orchestra. Thank you to Sharon Nelson, despite personal grief, continued to serve our church so faithfully by leading the orchestra and supporting the choir. Thank you to Ellie Totten, Clara Totten, Anna Campbell, Hannah Matchett, Christine Thompson, Patrick Campbell, Andrew Cave and Ben Skillen for playing in the orchestra – you made Christmas extra special for us all.

Thank you to the members of the Christmas Choir, 'Stars of Heaven' and 'Joy to the World' encouraged us to focus on the Saviour, sent from heaven to bring salvation and joy to all mankind. Their dedication, harmonies and enthusiasm each year are greatly appreciated and our carol service was enriched through their participation.

Continue to pray for the music team within church. We appreciate the positive feedback received – thank you. We are servants, working together to bring glory to our great God, sometimes we get it

right and sometimes we don't; let's bear one another up and remember worship comes from our hearts where we engage with God as individuals, but praise together as one body.

Denise Campbell

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Home Groups

Our church family has grown steadily and for that we give God thanks. Of course, growth brings challenges along with blessings.

The late John Stott once said that a church family should be more like a bunch of grapes than a bag of marbles but he was quick to add that the development of close friendships becomes more difficult as numbers increase. The solution? According to Dr. Stott, church history teaches us that we need to divide into small subgroups so that relationships can deepen and loving support can be provided.

In light of the previous assertion it might seem strange that our Home Group programme was suspended at the end of June 2016. This decision was not taken lightly. Numbers had dwindled and it had become clear that 'Home Group' was not on the radar of many of our members. The break provided time for prayer, reflection and the recruitment of some new leaders.

At the time of writing we are poised to restart. I trust that the new groups will be flourishing as you read but I suspect that

some will not have been enticed to join in. I know that there are those who cannot attend for a variety of reasons but, if it is possible, please give it prayerful consideration. This might require you to leave your comfort zone but it will be well worth it.

To conclude, I would like to thank all those who have been prepared to lead in recent years (particular thanks to Alex, Colin and Jason who are about to take a well-earned rest) and for those who have opened their homes. I would also like to thank Alistair and Aaron who took the organisational pressure away from me during the period when my father was very ill.

Martin Beggs

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Prayer Team

"Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up."

"Again, if two lie together they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him – a threefold cord is not quickly broken." Ecc. 4 v 9-12

Our fellowship provides the opportunity to support you in love and prayer in the prayer room after the Sunday morning service. Two prayer team members will

be available to listen and pray with you and bring your requests before the Lord.

Paul writes in Philemon 1 v 7 “For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.”

Lorna Plunkett

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Women’s Ministry

2016 was another great year for the women’s ministry. Our numbers have grown and new friendships have emerged from the group. As usual we have hosted a range of activities, some new and some of our old favourites!

To kick start our year, we hosted an accessory swop which we all enjoyed. It was an opportunity to revamp our jewellery drawers and spruce up our outfits with new accessories.

Barbara Moisevich was our guest speaker at our Easter brunch. She told us about the charity that her and her husband have set up to support vulnerable young people in Romania and it was great that we were able to give a donation towards their work.

In May last year we partnered up with our friends in Strandtown Baptist women’s group and headed south to Kildare Outlet Village. Our bus driver made our journey very pleasant by adding in a little commentary about our surroundings during the trip. Between shopping, eating and drinking coffee, a great day was had by all!

Following on from our popular Colour Me Beautiful night in 2015 we invited Deborah Harper to host an evening when she shared make up tips with us to enhance our natural beauty of course! Joanna Nelson then joined us in October to show us how to do some funky nail art and kindly treated all our women to a nail makeover! Our very own Naomi Williamson was also on hand to indulge each of us in a mini manicure.

In HBC women we love to hear people’s stories! Sharon Nelson kindly shared her testimony and life story with us. It was encouraging to hear how God has faithfully guided her through each stage in her journey, slowly making His plan unfold in her life.

Our year would not be complete without our traditional visit to the Comber Cinema. We watched Breakfast at Tiffany’s; the oldies are the best!! And of course Roy, the owner, treated us to the usual complimentary ice cream!

After the roaring success of our Christmas dinner in Chef and Manager in Newtownards last year, we decided to re-run the fun. It was another lovely evening of great food and great company and everyone went home happy with their secret Santa present in hand!

We organise a range of events hoping that this gives all ladies an opportunity to attend something throughout the year that fits around their other commitments. The format is usually very informal and always involves a cup of tea and a bite to eat. It’s a great way to get to know each other better and everyone is welcome of all ages - we always love to see a new face.

If you would like to be added to our contacts list to be notified of upcoming events, please speak to Christine, Chrissie or Tanya, or text Tanya 07496439108.

Tanya Skillen

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Special Events

Visitors to Hollywood Baptist Church often comment on the new building and the great facilities that it offers. It's good to be reminded that we are blessed to have such a lovely space to use for our church. It is therefore no surprise then, that both those from our own church, the local community and other organisations want to use the building for meetings and events throughout the year. It's great to see it used and appreciated.

There is barely a day in the calendar that doesn't have an event of some kind recorded and very often several per day. Throughout 2015 all sorts of events have taken place; weddings, funerals, children's parties, large musical concerts and baptisms, to name but a few. Some of the visitors attending these events may not otherwise enter a church building and it is our prayer that they would feel welcome and come back again.

It is especially good that many Christian organisations make use of the building for training, meetings and conferences. Irish Baptist Networks,, Baptist Youth, SU, Africa Inland Mission, Gospel for Asia, Care for the Family and Christians

in Sport are just some who have come to Hollywood.

Each event requires some sort of event management. This ranges from taking the booking, ensuring the heat is on and someone with a key is available to allow entry or to lock up, through to providing assistance with catering, audiovisual equipment, musicians and car parking. I want to thank all the volunteers who have helped out practically in so many ways with events throughout the year. This work is usually unseen but vital to allow the church to function as it does. Thank you.

Already 2017 is shaping up to be a busy year with the calendar filling with events that will take place in God's will over the coming months.

Jason McFerran

Freezer Ministry

The Freezer Ministry is a simple and practical way of serving others in the church with good food at a time of illness /bereavement/following the birth of a new baby/ or someone who simply needs practical help due to circumstances. It is also a unique opportunity to show God's love outside of the church to people in the community by providing free meals.

During the time the Freezer Ministry has been on hold we are aware that within Home Groups there has been continued support for anyone needing meals provided within each Home Group.

We are now in a position to recommence the Freezer Ministry under the guidance

that we have been given and will be in touch very soon with people that have already shown an interest in supporting this work.

In order for the Freezer Ministry to run successfully, the more volunteers we have the better. If you think this is something you could help with in the church, please speak to Roberta or Tanya.

Roberta Armstrong/Tanya Skillen

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Contemplative Prayer

(Praying with Scripture)

Our group continues to flourish as we explore our relationship with God together. Feedback from our number has led us to embrace the format of a “Quiet Day” based mainly at our own home. We remain open to meeting in the church building on occasions and would be happy to run some shorter or introductory sessions there, but the quiet informality of our house and gardens have proven more suitable in general.

We aim to meet monthly when we can, though as 2016 brought particular developments in the GriefShare ministry Mandy and I had for this year to restrict our availability to the Spring and Mid-Summer seasons. Hopefully the time invested then in developing the GriefShare team will now allow us to offer contemplative prayer opportunities throughout the year starting in February 2017.

Our gatherings centre around our desire to deepen our relationship with God. We do so principally by meditating on his word and contemplating its implications for our daily journey. Hence we embrace the title ‘Praying with Scripture’. We are not a Bible Study group in the understood sense. Prayer is our primary focus but a way of praying that is informed by what we read, take to heart, and apply to our Christian walk.

Our group draws its membership from across a wide range of life experience within our church family. The time flies as we meet and are refreshed in all respects. The contemplative dynamic defies brief description and must be experienced to be understood well; it might be described as the best available antidote to ‘Busyness in Christian activism’. One of our members has coined the term ‘Spiritual Spa’ to describe her experience

David Matchett

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CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

Crèche

I took over the running of crèche from Jill Michael in October 2016. The crèche continues to be held in the minor hall (I think that's what it's called!). There are 25 volunteers currently signed up to help in crèche with 4 volunteers on the rota each Sunday. Numbers attending crèche tend to vary from around 12-20 with ages ranging from new born to 3years old. If numbers continue to increase as they have over the last few years, we may have to increase the number of volunteers on the rota each Sunday in order to meet child protection ratios.

Crèche generally centres around the children playing with a selection of toys (free play). A snack is then provided by one of the volunteers. The children are encouraged to sit around the table to have this. Finally there is normally a sing-a-long time where we sing some nursery rhymes and the children can "play" musical instruments.

In the year ahead, I would love to try and introduce some different things into crèche such as crafts (especially for the older girls), a bible story time and teaching the children some bible songs.

Pauline Blair

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Junior Church

The start of 2016 brought some changes with Sunday school – starting with saying goodbye and a huge thanks to Linda Martin and Tanya Skillen for all their hard work and dedication over the last few years.

We also had a change of name to “Junior Church” but more significantly we changed the model and now work in four teams. Team leaders are Stuart Harper; Jenny Thompson; Pete Lockhart / Angela Speers and Benny/Jayne McKeown. Whilst this does help share the load each team takes an intense month of teaching (aiming to enhance continuity for the kids and for teachers using the materials) and then has three months off. This means each group of kids only has four teachers in the year which maximises relationship building. Another change is that the children leave Church much earlier and we have a group time together (ie Junior Church) where we learn new songs, memorize scripture, have Quizzes, and find out more about our leaders and their faith. In November we undertook to inspire them by how amazing the Bible was as a book, and walked them through the story of the Old Testament, aiming to memorize all the books of the Old Testament. It can be quite a challenge for 3 years olds to say Habakkuk!

We have also introduced our, “Junior Church Mission Sunday”. It had dawned on me that due to our not doing a collection at Church, the kids don't actually see the “giving element” that each of us is called to do. So, on the last Sunday in the month we support a

Baptist Youth ministry in Zimbabwe. We inform the kids each month of the work that is being done in Zimbabwe to build a Life Training centre, for orphans who are now of an age to be getting work. The kids have enjoyed learning about another culture, very much brought alive by Angela's trip to Uganda in October. Each month we do a collection towards this mission and ask the kids to give some of their pocket money if possible. Through this we are aiming to engage the children in the work of mission, and encourage their own giving.

We started the new term in September with a Pizza, Prayer and Praise night for Junior Church leaders and helpers. It was great to get new faces in and enthuse everyone for the work of Junior Church. We were reminded of how it's not about the "getting the lesson done" or "learning the verse" but it's about connecting to each child and taking them under our wing in prayer.

Before Christmas we had a joint Friday club and Junior Church Big Christmas Birthday Party – a fun-filled evening where nearly forty kids enjoyed games, food, cake and pressies to celebrate Jesus' birthday! In the New Year we hope to organise a Junior Church picnic to get teachers, helpers, parents and kids all fellowshiping together!

We currently have 46 kids on our register and now have a full team of teachers (16) and helpers (16), which is one of the many ways God has provided for this year. During the year we moved out of the minor hall due to the need for increased crèche space and we realise the work in Junior Church is only going to increase so we may need to look at an extra class next year. So whether you

are young, middle aged or very old and wise, the kids and leaders would appreciate any input possible!

All in all Junior Church is an exciting way of making disciples, forming strong roots to our creator, provider, sustainer, saviour and friend. Like all teaching we rely on parents' involvement, to be interested and engaged with what the kids are learning here on a Sunday morning for these roots to fully take hold.

Mark (Benny) & Jayne McKeown

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The Friday Club

It has been another great year for Friday Club, with new children and leaders joining our core group from previous years. We continue to meet from 7.00-8.00pm on Friday evenings during the school terms, and typically have 15-20 children attending each session. We play games, sing songs, hear stories and learn memory verses, and make a take-home craft to help us remember them. The children enjoy each other's company in an informal environment, and while Friday evening is maybe the tireddest point in the week for children and grown-ups alike, we continue to be encouraged by the enthusiasm of the children for Friday Club, and confident that God is speaking to them and making Himself known in all our activities.

We spent the early part of the year thinking about Jesus' life and ministry. We spoke to the children about many of Jesus' miracles and thought about what He has done for us through a series of

Easter passages. Our aim has been to introduce the boys and girls to a full understanding of the Bible, and as we have watched the developing enthusiasm of the children for the stories and teaching, we are confident that God's spirit has been at work.

We are thankful that the children really seem to enjoy their time with us, and are growing in their friendships with each other. The small size of the group means there is plenty of scope for the children to mix well. As more children join us we pray that we will be able to keep this focus, creating a positive environment in which all children will feel welcome and included, and free to explore the stories and lessons we are considering. We also hope to develop activities for the older primary school age group, including a separate club for P5-P7s.

The team for the programme this year was Angela Speers, Anne Brennan, Jenny Harkness, Judith Millar, Steven Patty and Ken Carson and it was led by Leanne Dunlop and Robin Hickey.

Leanne Dunlop & Robin Hickey

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Holiday Bible Club

From the 25th-29th of July Hollywood Baptist Church was transformed into something only marginally less exciting than a Baptist church (because nothing is more exciting than a Baptist Church), a Pirate Island!

The children were stranded on an island with a whole host of Pirate characters; Row Your Boat Robin (who looked like an even less attractive Robin Hickey), a Puppet Pirate Captain (who sounded a bit like Angela Speers for some reason) and Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaron (who's Pirate voice was much less impressive than his costume) and many other very willing Piratery helpers.

Our theme was the book of Philippians and the children learnt about how the Apostle Paul's treasure was Jesus Christ who is greater than anything this earth has to offer. We learnt this lesson through songs, memory verses, talks, crafts and fairly mad games, all tenuously connected to our Pirate theme.

A massive thank you to the leaders who made the week possible. We will take any excuse to dress up as Pirates but sharing about the Treasure that Christ is needs no excuse. We look forward to next years Mad Week!

Aaron Williamson

YOUTH WORK

Put simply, far more happened in 2016 than is possible to fully report in this short space. However, here is some of what happened.....

Ignite

We have been very encouraged to see more young people attending Ignite and becoming more committed to the group. But to prove we really are a youth group we had to get our own jumpers, which have proved popular. It has also been

encouraging to see our young people take more ownership of the group and help organise some of our own events.

During the ordinary run of Ignite on Friday and Sunday nights we have looked at the basics of Christian living, the book of Judges as well as John's Gospel and started a series on the Fruit of the Spirit.

Trips Away - Ignite went on tour a number of times this year. We voyaged all the way to the Folk and Transport Museum for our weekend in February. Our whole group went to Craigavon to mess about in the lakes. And a few of us went on our annual pilgrimage to Carrickmacross to help out with their Holiday Bible Club and Youth Week. While more complicated than staying at home, trips away help us bond together and encourage our young people to see a bigger world that needs Jesus.

Special Events - At Easter and Christmas our young people did a fantastic job of helping organise and run events to which they could invite their friends. At the Christmas event, an acoustic night, we raised money to help sustain toilets in the developing world.

SNATCH (Youth Club)

We have seen small but steady attendance at SNATCH with faithful attendees who enjoy the crafts and friendships that they are developing with leaders. We pray that God would work in hearts and lives and show the young people their need of Him.

A big thank you to the leaders in both these programmes. Life is busy and time is valuable. Their willingness to be

present in the lives of the young people is a work that will reap eternal rewards. Thank you also to the parents who are amazing partners in this work.

Lots has happened besides all of this and it is easy to just be busy in our youth work. However, we want more than a full program. We desire God to make Himself known to our young people and for them to love and follow Him in response. Pray with us that God would continue to use the efforts of 2016 and that He will use what will happen this year to make God big and man small in the lives of the young people of Hollywood Baptist.

Aaron Williamson

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MISSION (THE LOCAL COMMUNITY...)

Local Outreach

Author Rita Snowden tells a delightful story about visiting a small village in Dover, England. Sitting outside a cafe one afternoon enjoying a cup of tea, she became aware of a beautiful scent. Rita asked a waiter where it was coming from, and was told it was the people she could see passing by. Most of the villagers were employed at a nearby perfume factory. As they walked home, they carried the fragrance that permeated their clothes out into the street.

What a beautiful image of the Christian life! As the apostle Paul says, we are the aroma of Christ, spreading His fragrance everywhere (2 Cor 2:15). As we follow Jesus we too become permeated with His fragrance, and we carry His aroma into the streets through our words and deeds.

It is such a joy and pleasure to be involved in local outreach and share the amazing good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The food ministry Restore continues each week and we are so thankful to our team who work faithfully collecting and distributing food to local families. We are also thankful to the local bakeries and coffee shops who generously give to us each week to make the ministry possible. Grateful thanks to those who contribute to our food basket on a regular basis. The work of Storehouse Bangor continues each Thursday, and it is so encouraging to work alongside members of Bangor Road Presbyterian and CFC. It is a privilege to demonstrate Gods love in

such a practical way, as we get to know the families and share in their lives and walk with them through difficult and trying times. At all times sharing Jesus with them and upholding them in prayer.

May Day again gave an opportunity to work on the High Street of Hollywood along with our friends from the Northern Baptist Association making good use of their bookstall. We gave out Gospel literature and engaged in meaningful conversations. It was such a joy to work with the churches in Hollywood at the 'Hollywood Christmas Light Switch On' singing carols and reminding people of the true meaning of Christmas. Many thanks to all who came along and supported the event, special thanks to Denise and Phil for playing the keyboard and guitar, despite frostbite setting into their fingers, and Jonny for looking after the sound system. It was a privilege to work with our friends at the Church of Ireland who hosted this years Christmas Day Dinner assisted by helpers from the Methodist and CFC Churches. It was so humbling to see God at work in this simple endeavour. One of the ladies who came along requested a bible and bible reading notes. We had two unexpected guests, a young Chinese couple studying in Dublin travelled to Belfast on Christmas Day only to find that everything was closed. Our God is so awesome that he could use a simple Christmas meal to enable us to share the Gospel to the couple who in their own words said 'there had to be a reason for life and wanted to know more about this man called Jesus'. They took a copy of a gospel of Mark and promised to read

it. Please pray for this young couple Terry and Alma.

Thanks to Tom who organises the visits to the Care Homes, The Fold, New Croft Lodge, Redburn Nursing Home and Salvation Army. Thanks to all those who speak and attend, not forgetting the pianists.

As we enter another year we are excited about ways that we can work with the other churches in the town at May Day, Culture Night and Christmas. On a weekly basis folks within our church are meeting with people in our town through various connections, building relationships and friendships which we trust will at the right time, prompted by the Holy Spirit give opportunity to share our faith and our sure hope.

Please continue to pray for our town and our witness and would encourage you all to get involved, it is the reason we exist. Recently we came across this quote which has really challenged me to take stock:

“The Church itself exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the Cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons are simply a waste of time. God became man for no other purpose” C.S. Lewis Mere Christianity.

We trust and pray that the love we have for Jesus will lead us to have a real love for the lost, the unchurched and the unreached. Challenged by Paul’s words in 1 Thessalonians ch. 2 v 8 “We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you , not only the gospel of God but our lives as well because you had become so dear to us”

Angela and Graham Speers

Refresh

Towards the end of the 2015/16 year the refresh team felt that it had come time to take a slight change in direction with the mums’ work in church.



We decided to focus our attention more on providing a support for mums in the church through a weekly bible study. We meet every Friday morning for fellowship, prayer and a study session. So far, it has been very beneficial, particularly for the mums of very young children who have valued the support and community in the weekly meetings. We follow a study through an app (Loving God Greatly) which also helps include people who are unable to join us on Friday mornings. Once a month we focus on a DVD study (Lifeway-Seamless) and enjoy digging deeper into God's word. We hope to continue in this pattern until the summer.

Jayne McKeown

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The Bridge

The Bridge, as in the past year, continued to be a place where men from the church and community came together to relax, to compete, and hopefully to bond deeper friendships.

Our aim is to encourage each other to develop a personal relationship with the Lord by following the teachings of the Lord Jesus and the apostles as well as

to share this faith with our friends from across the town.

The format slightly changed this year in response to a number of people expressing their desire to have a more intimate look at the bible and its application to our daily lives. This small study takes us in a journey across the time looking into different characters of the Bible and learning how their walk in/or out of faith can apply to us in the present day. We opened this "insider" journey from 8pm, where a number of people from our fellowship on a rota bases lead it for approximately 40 minutes. This had been a joyfully and challenging time, where often guys from community joined us and became involved in discussions and debate.

We're looking forward to the blessings to come in preparation for the ministry the Lord gives every one of us to do or be.

Personally, I would like to thank all who have prayed and continue to pray for the men's ministry in our church, in particular for The Bridge and the team.

Daniel Enescu

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CAP Money



Founded by John Kirby in 1996, Christians Against Poverty

(CAP) celebrated it's 20th anniversary in 2016. In those years many people and families have been helped out of debt by

working with CAP debt centres based in local churches throughout the UK and linked to the CAP offices in Bradford. More to the point is that through this outreach of love many have come to know Christ as Saviour.

CAP Money started in 2008 and has helped thousands of families avoid unmanageable debt by organising their finances.

The core objectives that the CAP Money course aims to teach people are:

- How to build and live on a budget
- The CAP Money system
- How to live week to week using cash

We in Hollywood Baptist have run CAP Money courses for many years now and we are currently working to re-launch the course in the town and area and reach out to many more. During 2016 we welcomed a new Money Coach in Tanya Skillen who joins Caroline Hickey, Noel Lavery and myself.

CAP have recently launched CAP Job Clubs, to help people unemployed get back into the work place and CAP Release, to help people overcome addictions. These two new endeavours are proving very effective in their ways to help people.

We are currently in discussions with other CAP supporters in the town as to how we can best help those in Hollywood and the surrounding are who are in need.

Ken McCaw

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Grief Share



The GriefShare bereavement support ministry grows year by year in depth, in scale and in the range of backgrounds from which participants are drawn. In February we concluded our third cycle since we started in 2013. This event was significant because it completed the transition to the latest edition of the materials upon which we had retrained the previous year.

A further and most welcome training opportunity presented itself in 2016. Peter and Heather Barbour have now completed their training in the role of facilitator. It is a special pleasure to welcome them as the first of our participants of GriefShare in Holywood to take their place as facilitators. I suppose with Judith and Hilary continuing along with these new recruits Mandy and I have become (in industry terms) 'Old hands'! Seriously, we are delighted to see a programme delivery team working so well, and capable of running GriefShare without us (should circumstances so require).

in the Kingdom of God we know that "nothing is done but by prayer". Our weekly prayer brief has 23 recipients within our church family each of whom are committed to praying for the ministry. Their work is affirmed by the blessing we see week by week including warm expressions of gratitude from our participants. In GriefShare the primary work is prayer. Some pray in the background, some facilitate sessions, and some gather weekly in the prayer

room but first and foremost stands the commitment of each team member to pray.

Our current cycle opened in September. To take account of the faster pace of the current edition we have added an introductory session of our own. Part way through we offered 'Surviving the Holidays' for which we were joined by eleven participants who are not part of our regular group. This time around we received more advance commitments to attend the weekly group than in any previous year. Surviving the Holidays was bigger than ever, and our farthest travelled participant came all the way from Londonderry. We completed ten mainstream sessions up to the Christmas break and with three to come in January plus the social evening the GriefShare cycle at HBC now comprises sixteen gatherings.

I am as ever grateful to the church for the readiness with which the outlay to cover its GriefShare ministry is made available to us as stewards. To God be all the glory. As His servant I am honoured once more to thank and pay tribute in His name to all who partner so faithfully in this work. In serving, as so faithfully they do, they each demonstrate the loving compassion of Christ to all our participant friends.

David Matchett

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Women's Walk & Craft

The 'Crafters' are so busy concentrating there is no time to talk!



The past year has been another one of creativity for those of us who prefer to be indoors and exercise in the form of walking for the more adventurous! Approximately 18 – 24 in total come along faithfully and enjoy sharing together in the activities, the chat and the supper.

We have supported Hospice with some of our craft and Dementia patients have benefited from “Twiddle muffs” which we made.

We meet on Monday evenings at 7.30pm and anyone interested would be most welcome.

Corona Maguire

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Soccer School

The summer offered Hollywood Baptist Church another opportunity to use football to engage with the children of Hollywood and spread the Gospel message. A team of over thirty volunteers took responsibility for coaching, registration, refreshments, first aid, car park duty, prayer and befriending.

The project took place between Monday 8th and Friday 12th August at Spafiel Sports Pavilion and was open to boys and girls from Primary 3 to Year 8. The Summer Soccer School consisted of four coaching sessions and a prize giving and barbecue on the Friday evening. There was an opportunity each evening to bring a Biblical message using football related themes. On average there were 100 children in attendance each night and the popularity of the week culminated in over 200 people (children and family members) attending the Friday evening.

The programme was again blessed with good weather and safety throughout. Importantly, there were wonderful opportunities to build relationships and explain the message of salvation to children of Hollywood and their families.

The football outreach programme could not be delivered without the dedication and passion of the members of Hollywood Baptist Church. Their faith, enthusiasm and friendliness have made it possible to provide a nonthreatening environment as an entry point to evangelism and discipleship. The programme has provided children with the opportunities to engage with football

and develop their skills but more importantly it has provided occasions to introduce them to the gospel and make an impact on their hearts.

Thank you to everyone involved and to everyone who has supported us in prayer. We look forward to continuing to build on our evangelism through football and reach out to the community of Hollywood. "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

Jonathan Michael

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MISSION (...AND BEYOND)

Mission Action Team

It is clear from Scripture that mission begins in the heart of God and that He has given to each of His children the awesome privilege and responsibility of being involved in His global harvest field through our informed prayers and giving, sending and going. Mission is an integral part of the normal Christian life, not an added extra for a few. During the year we have sought to inform the congregation about different aspects of God's work throughout the world, with items highlighted in the weekly bulletin and projector notices, the monthly Sunday morning mission focus and at Wednesday prayer meetings.

During the year, Angie Minion ceased to be an associate mission partner since, due to family responsibilities, she has resigned from her job as Project Director

of Big House. Sally Patty was accepted as a new associate mission partner. Jean-Daniel (J-D) Lovell continues to work in the New Hope Children's Home in Arequipa, Peru, and, at the time of writing, is being regarded as a short-term mission partner. Early in the year, Rachel Lovell visited J-D in Peru and, on her return, it was good to have first hand news of the work he is involved in at New Hope. In addition to J-D, we currently have 4 other mission partners - Leanne Dunlop, Mark Grant-Jones, Walter Maguire and Ken Carson; 2 associate mission partners - Amy McGuffog and Sally Patty; and 3 linked churches - Église Protestante Évangélique de La Garenne-Colombes, France; Iglesia Evangélica Renacer, Algeciras, Spain; and Carrickmacross Baptist Church, Co. Monaghan, ROI. In order to inform and encourage prayer support throughout the year, we publish regular news from our mission partners and partner churches in Info:Mission and updates are shared in the services. Valerie Greer and Andrew Elliott have brought up-to-date news from the churches in France and Spain, respectively, and, under Aaron's leadership, the young people maintained links with our Carrickmacross partner church.

Interest in short-term mission has continued and during 2016, 28 individuals - ages ranging from 16 years to retired - participated in 23 different short-term mission projects in this country and abroad. Some served in more than one project; 5 as team leaders or co-leaders; and 7 on their first mission project – four 16-year-olds, an elder and his wife and our church treasurer – all these outside N Ireland. It is encouraging to see new folk of all

ages becoming involved in global mission, as well as “old-timers” returning to serve again. An act of commissioning for those going on short-term summer missions was held during a Sunday morning service in late June and, on their return, we have been encouraged by reports of their various activities in debriefings and sometimes in Sunday or Wednesday meetings. It is always good to hear of what God has done through our short-termers and of the lessons He has been teaching them. We praise God for the opportunities they had and for all He accomplished in and through them. It is our prayer that their experiences will contribute significantly to their own spiritual development and long-term interest in mission. A number have already expressed interest in short-term mission projects in 2017, and Aaron is organising a team to visit our partner church in Algeciras at Easter. We also pray that God will call others from our midst to serve Him in mission at home or abroad on a longer term basis.

Once again we encouraged HBC folk to attend the Bangor Missionary Convention in August and at one of our Sunday services we welcomed a speaker from the convention who shared with us how some of the amazing new tools which modern technology provides are being used to spread the gospel. In October, following a Sunday morning service taken by a Tear Fund representative, we held a simple lunch which was well attended, at which almost £600 was contributed to the work of Tear Fund. Locally, we continue to contribute to the support of Rachel Kirker, the Scripture Union E3 schools worker for North Down and Ards. We

have also participated in petitions in support of persecuted Christians.

During the year Linda Drain and Aaron Williamson joined the MAT, while Lorna Plunkett stepped down after serving for 7 years and Noel Lavery relinquished his responsibilities as link with the elders. At the time of writing, the MAT consists of David Brown, Linda Drain, Lynn Treanor, David Trimble, Helen Weir and Aaron Williamson.

Helen Weir

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