



***“LET HIS LIGHT SHINE”***

**Autumn 2024**



Photo by Ards Chronicle

***SPECIAL SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER***

**Sunday 1 September** - Combined Presbytery Prayer Service

A Prayer and Praise night in St. Andrews, Bangor starting at 6.30pm, with the Moderator Rt Rev Dr Richard Murray.

**Sunday 8 September** - Service of Thanksgiving and Prayer in the Welcome Area at 7.00pm. The service will focus on the work of our church throughout the year.

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This magazine is published to let you know what is happening in our Church. Not every member of the Church can attend on a regular basis, so it is important that those at home should be kept informed. If you have articles or news of a special anniversary or birthday, including photographs, please email them to Rosemary Black (Editor) [rosemaryblack@gmail.com](mailto:rosemaryblack@gmail.com), or alternatively give them to Barbara McCartney in the church office.

## Reflections from the Manse

A wise person told me that the older you get the faster each year seems to go by. They were so right as I cannot believe that the summer has nearly gone already. What summer I hear you ask; well it was that week back in May when the sun put in an appearance and then quickly disappeared again.



We complain about the changing weather patterns. We seem to have little or no summer even though the average temperature is rising. Winter is just grey and wet as our planet suffers climate change and we have to accept our role in this change.

Some people are better at embracing change than others. Most of us would like everything to stay the same but we must embrace change. Having said that, we have a constant in our lives that never changes, and that is our loving God and Heavenly Father. In **Malachi 3 v 6** God says about Himself *“I am the LORD, and I do not change”* and in **Hebrews 13 v 8** we are told *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever”*. Church is about coming together to worship God and to learn more about Him and how He wants us to live.

As we look around our church, it has changed, and it will continue to change. We have new faces as people join our family and there are familiar faces that are no longer with us. The praise items we sing are changing along with how we sing. We don't want children to be seen and not heard, it is their church as well, so it is lovely to hear the children as they talk, laugh and sing. Even when we come into church before the service, to hear people talking is so special as it shows there is community and connections.

What doesn't change is that we come together to worship our loving Heavenly Father, we want to be in His presence, we want to know and experience His blessings. We are part of God's worldwide family and we have Jesus as our Saviour. So as we embark upon a new season in Streaton, let us commit to continue to meet together, pray together and seek to follow God wherever He is taking us. And why not come along earlier on a Sunday morning and join us in prayer before the service, or come along on a Wednesday evening or Friday lunchtime to small group Bible study and see where God will take you. Let us continue to do this journey together.

**Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)** *“ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”*

*Jeff*

# CHURCH MEMBER RECORDS MARCH - AUGUST 2024

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Catherine Beaumont  
Leslie McAuley

## **DEATHS**

7 March – Mrs Ann Gordon  
11 March – Mr Robert Lytle

As a church family we will continue to remember in prayer, the families of Ann and Robert.



## **MARRIAGE**

Congratulations to Mr Graham Cairns and Miss Chantelle Campbell who were married by Rev Jeff McWatters in Streaton on 5 July.



## **JOY SCOTT has been awarded the OBE in King Charles Birthday Honours.**

Joy received the honour for services to social housing in Northern Ireland, having served as chair of Clanmil Housing. Speaking of her “absolute delight” on receiving news of the award, she stressed the honour ‘reflects on Clanmil’, and recognises the team behind the organisation. She said, “I am so pleased as it is recognition for the work Clanmil provides in the social housing sector, and also how it tries to build a community. I was part of a team, which works very hard and does tremendous work under all sorts of constraints.”

Having been a board member of Clanmil for nine years, Joy served as vice chair before taking up the post of chair in 2019.

Joy is a former solicitor, having studied law at Queens University Belfast. She became an articled clerk with the Law firm Carson and McDowell in Belfast in 1975, and when fully qualified, joined the legal team at the then Department of Environment. She returned to private practice five years later eventually becoming a partner with Cleaver, Fulton and Rankin. She was with the firm for 37 years before retiring.

A dedicated member of our congregation Joy has served as an elder and former Clerk of Session for several years. She has a heart for the children and youth of the congregation, having previously served a Bible Class leader and in more recent years helping with the summer Holiday Bible Club and the Summer Blitz. Also an amazing baker; her cakes, cupcakes and traybakes just melt in your mouth - if you would like to taste her carrot cake volunteer for Summer Blitz 25.

## WHAT IS SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY?



Imagine if someone asked you if you would like to go back to school and start learning something new. Most of us would probably run in the opposite direction. The thought of sitting in a classroom with a teacher talking at you might just fill you with dread. Perhaps that is the way you feel when in church I talk about Bible study and our small groups.

On a Wednesday night there are about 16 people and on a Friday lunchtime up to 10 people present. Before we meet there will be a passage or two from the Bible that each person will have read at home. When we meet there will be some questions that help to guide us through the passage, exploring what it is saying and what we can learn from it. But don't worry if you are the sort of person who just likes to sit and listen, nobody is made to speak or share, it is entirely voluntary. And we always end up going off on a sidetrack because as we talk together, our own questions come up and we explore these together.

It is not all serious faces, we do actually laugh together and have fun, because life is a mixture of serious and light-hearted and so Bible study is as well. We get to know each other better, we enjoy the fellowship as well as the learning. We always end with a time of prayer, and no one is pressurised into praying.

In September we will be starting a study on the book of Hebrews; this would be a perfect time to give Bible study a go. So why not come along and join us, we would really love to see you there? **Jeff**

## COMPASSION UK SPONSORSHIP

**Tots and Toddlers** have been sponsoring Heidi for over 13 years. This is through Compassion UK which was founded in 1952 and currently works in 29 countries partnering with 8600 local churches within communities experiencing poverty.

Heidy is 17 and from Colombia. She lives with her mum and brothers not far from the capital Bogotá. She enjoys school and really likes soccer.



The project that supports Heidi provides her with many different opportunities and lessons. There are Bible lessons and songs, letter writing to us, her sponsors, as well as social lessons, our children would call that LLW, (learning for life and work). Then there are sport and music workshops, vocational training and career planning. She also receives two lunches of rice and beans and two snacks per week.

This summer Heidi graduated from the Compassion project and will be joining the army. Please pray for her as she starts this new chapter in her life.

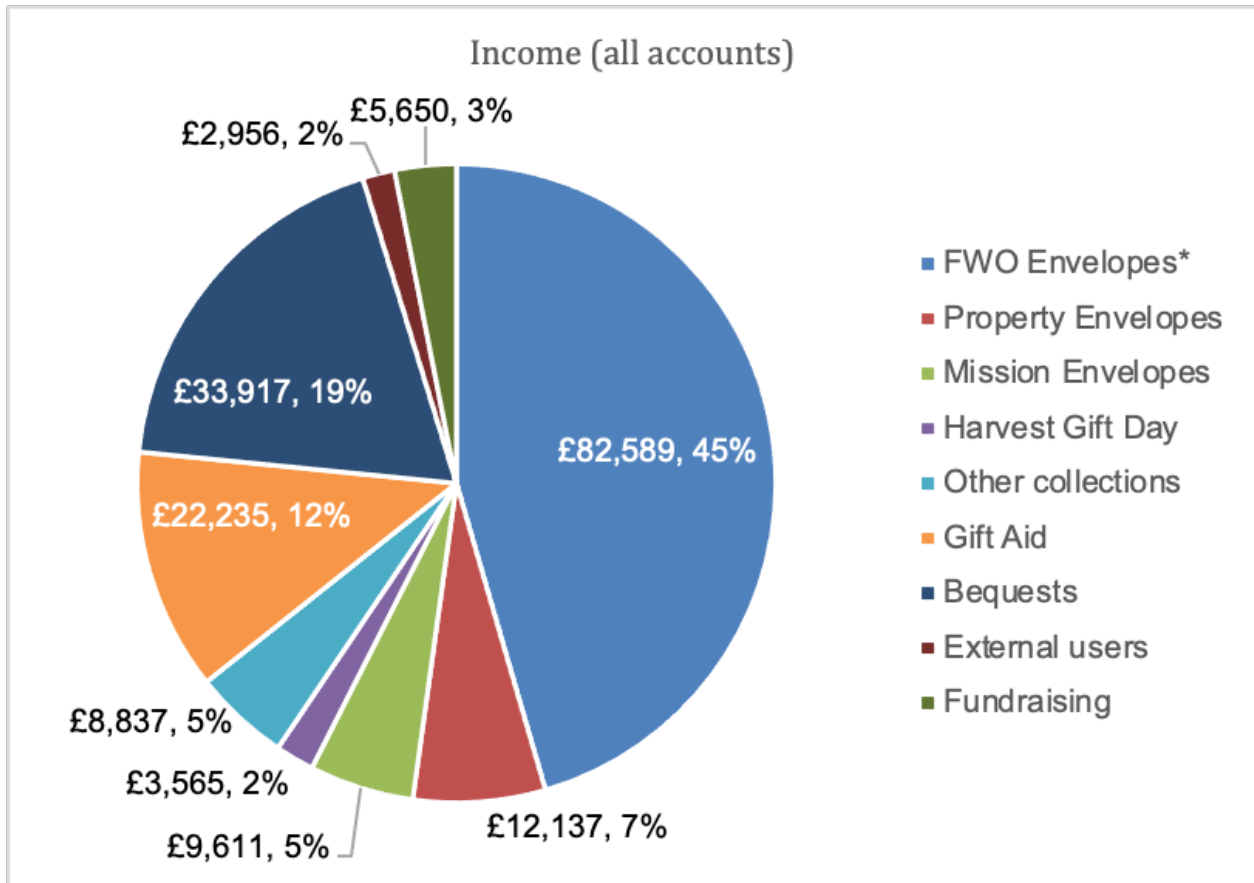
The Tots and Toddler leaders have decided to continue with the sponsorship programme and will be sponsoring a young boy called Gean. He is 5 years old and from Brazil, in the north of the country. We are looking forward to learning more about him and following his progress.

**Heather Faloon**

# TREASURER'S REPORT (2023 ACCOUNTS)

We currently have 156 contributing families in the congregation, including 11 new contributing families in 2023, and we are very encouraged to have an increasing number of members.

The 2 Pie Charts in this short report show the total Income and Expenditure (Payments) during 2023 for each of the 3 accounts that we operate (i.e. General A/c, Property A/c and Mission A/c).



\* Including loose collection

## Income

The income we receive from our members across the 3 accounts are by far the biggest slice of the Pie! And we would like to thank the congregation for their generous support during 2023.

Each year our income from member donations and Gift Aid is supplemented by the investment income we receive from our bequest investments. In 2023, a further £34,000 of income was received from bequest investments of which £27,000 was in respect of the Thomas Streat bequest.

The monthly Property and Mission contributions plus the donations from the Antiques & Christmas Fairs (raised by the Fund Raising Committee), as well as Harvest contributions, all helped greatly to increase our income.

We are very encouraged that an increasing number of members are making their contributions by standing order. If you currently make your contribution using FWO Envelopes and would like to change to online banking, then the details you need are:

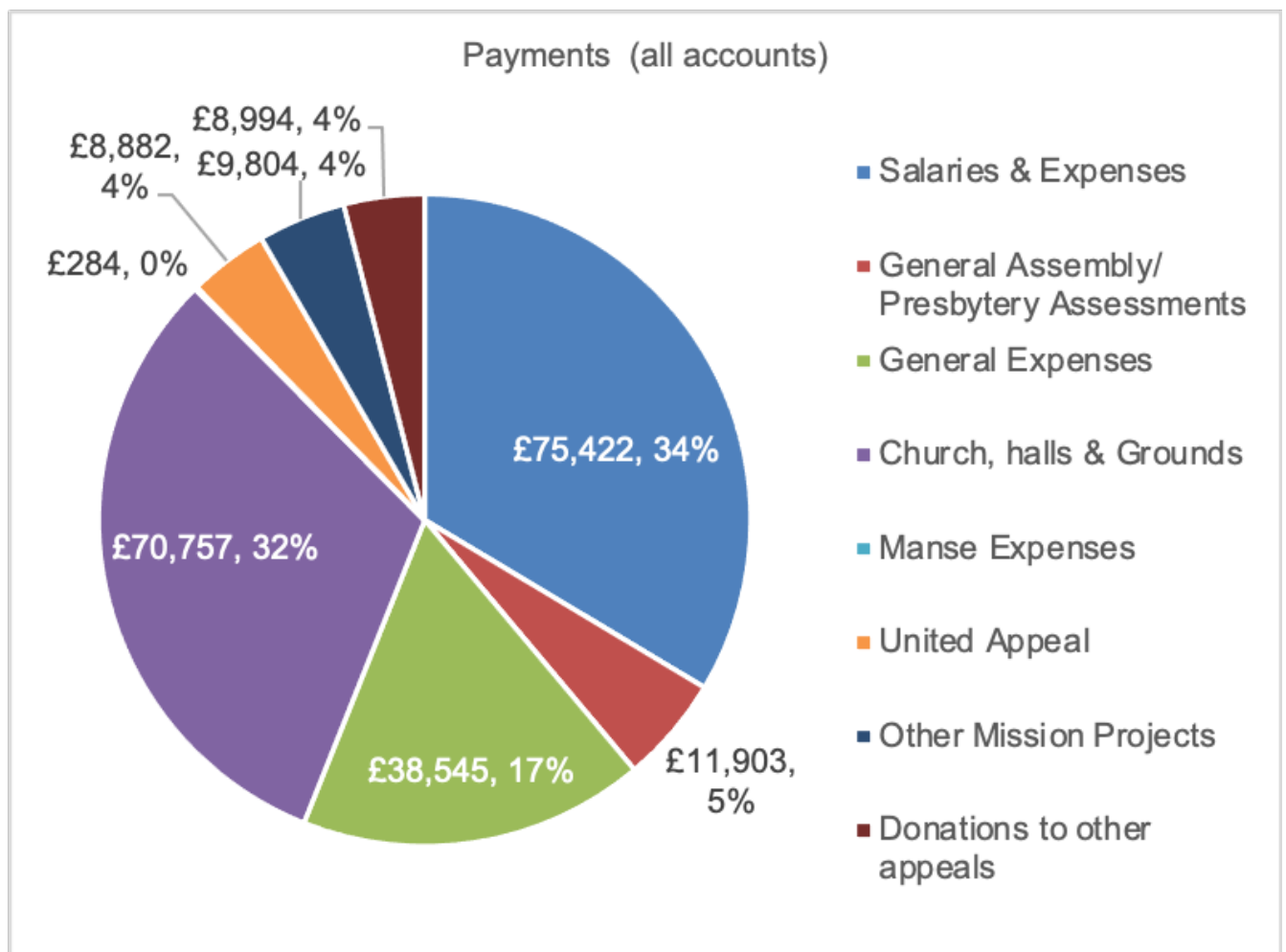
Strean Free Will Offering A/c:	Sort Code: 95 03 96	A/c No: 62745623
Strean Property A/c:	Sort Code: 95 03 96	A/c No: 62745607
Strean Missions A/c:	Sort Code: 95 03 96	A/c No: 21155849

Please note that the account name for all 3 accounts should be entered as "Strean Presbyterian Church". Your FWO Number should be included as the reference when setting up the standing order. You can also speak to any of the Finance Committee or to Barbara in the office (028 91 816225) if you have any questions.

## Payments

We were able to meet all of our financial commitments, as well as our obligation to pay Church House assessments and Presbytery fees. Our biggest outgoings last year were for the repair of the Adgey Hall roof and the purchase and installation of Solar Panels.

We were also able to meet all of our Charity Projects. You can see a list of all our Mission projects in the 2023 Annual report.



**Sandra Gwynne (Treasurer)**

*God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9: 7*

## STAINED GLASS WINDOWS AT STREAN



JOSHUA

One of the enjoyable aspects of worshipping in our beautiful Church sanctuary on bright Sunday mornings is looking at the detail of our stained-glass windows. These special works of art add to the beauty and dignity of Church, and help create the atmosphere and spirit of worship within it. They reflect important parts of the history of the congregation, as they honour some who have given devoted Christian service to Strean and to our town as well as those who served in two World Wars.

At the front (or North end) of the Church building, when looking towards the pulpit, the Thomas Strean window is the central and dominant feature. This was erected by the congregation to honour Thomas Strean, the man whose vision and motivation helped establish our congregation back in the mid-1800s.



GIDEON

To either side of the pulpit are two of my favourite windows – of Joshua and Gideon, two Old Testament warriors, and men of strength of purpose and commitment to God. These are the War Memorial Windows which honour those members of Strean who served their country and the cause of freedom in the Great War of 1914-1918. These windows were installed in 1920.

Flanking these windows to the East and West sides are two further single-panel, feature windows. The window in the East transept illustrates Jesus bestowing the Crown of Life on one of his followers, and in the West transept it depicts Jesus as the Good Shepherd with his sheep and is inscribed with an extract from the 23rd Psalm. These two windows were presented in 1924 in memory of Hugh James Johnston of Kiltonga – and so they celebrate their centenary this year (in 2024!!) These four windows at the front of Strean were designed and installed by Ward & Partners.



THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Another window was installed in 1964, with the following inscription:

*This window was erected in thankfulness to Almighty God by the pupils and past pupils of Tullynagardy Sunday school on the completion by Mr John Colville of fifty years as Superintendent, 1913 – 1963, sowing the seed of the Word, in the school founded by his father.*



THE CROWN OF LIFE





The window has two figures. The first is a woman sewing the seed, and the second is a man, harvesting – depicted by sheaths of wheat and a sickle. At the top of the window we see the ark and an anchor.

This window is of note because it was designed and installed by Clokey, Stained Glass Studios, Belfast, one of only a small number of stained-glass window designers across Ireland at that time.

The Clokey family were of Huguenot origin, with the first known entry of early stained-glass work by Andrew Clokey of Magheragall in 1719. His descendant, Walter Francis Clokey (1870 – 1930) founded Clokey Stained Glass studios in Belfast in 1904, and it operated under his direction and then his son, Harold, until around 1972.

The studio had a number of famous artists and designers including Olive Henry, and many connections to Ward & Partners (see above), as well as direct links with Campbell Brothers, glass merchants in Belfast. Unfortunately many of their original paper designs were lost in a fire at the studios in 1970.

Clokey windows adorn churches throughout Ireland, and are held in very high regard. Other important buildings, such as Belfast City Hall, include examples of Clokey windows.

It is important to remember that all of these windows miraculously survived the terrorist bomb which caused so much damage to buildings in the middle of our town, including our Church, in July 1993.

So, next time you are in Church, perhaps take a few minutes to study the detail of these fine windows and the important messages which they continue to bring to the generations in Streaton .....

To God Be The Glory!

(Thanks to Martin Conroy for the photographs)

### **Quick Quiz**

Can you find a window with the symbols for Alpha and Omega (the beginning and the end)?

Which window has the most faces in it?

Can you find a window with a harp?

How many sheep are on the windows?

What's the most recent window in our church?

Can you find a window in our church buildings, but outside of the sanctuary? **Stephen & Fiona Boyle**

### **BADMINTON CLUB**

The 23/24 badminton season finished at the end of March 2024 with a fun competition and annual general meeting. Prizes consisted of Easter eggs for the players who had the best drop-shot, serve, or smash, and for the best attendee and best dressed.

During the badminton season we had between 8 and 14 members attending each week. A team was entered in the East Ulster Badminton League and had some notable wins. Two of our players, Cathryn and Julie, were selected to represent Ulster in the Senior Inter Provincials Masters 40+ held in Dublin. This is a first for Streaton badminton club and a successful one, as they won all but one of their matches.

Overall, it was a successful and enjoyable badminton season. ***The new season begins on Thursday 12 September when we look forward to welcoming both current and new members.***

**Stanley McBurney**



## PW

As we begin to organise our winter programme for 2024-25, we can take time to reflect on the season just past. For our theme of 'Transformation' we had a good variety of speakers and activities showing how we can be transformed both inside and out through God's love.

Some highlights of the year were the Christmas flower arranging evening with Mandy Graham, our 'Afternoon Tea' lunch after church, and an evening of Pudding and Praise with Karen Glass where we ended up dancing!

We also had an enjoyable outing to a sunny Lisburn for Afternoon Tea and a tour of the Irish Linen Museum.



The theme for 2024-25 is 'Entrusted' and we have finalised our programme. Our meetings are on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. I would encourage any ladies, of any age, to give us a try. It's like trying something new – you won't know if you like it until you try it!

***Our first meeting will be on Thursday 5 September at 7.30 pm.***

***It will be a 'Getting to Know You' night with fun and games.***

***Jennifer Wallace***

### ***Changes in Youth Ministry Leadership***

As the new season of church youth activities begin in September there will be a few changes in the leadership of several organisations. The new leaders are as follows.

GB - Kirsty Patton; YF - Robin Kennedy; Youth Club - Julie Gillespie; Sunday School - Charmaine Clint co-leader.

In Streat we are blessed with an excellent calibre of leaders who volunteer to run the various Youth Organisations. We are indebted and extremely grateful for the service given by all who serve in any capacity within our church.

The following people have stepped down (or changed roles) from leadership, Sandra Gwynn GB, Stephen Wilson Youth Club, and Kirsty Patton Youth Fellowship (moving into GB). Please remember them in prayer as they move into a new chapter in their lives.

Please also pray for the incoming leaders Kirsty, Robin, Julie and Charmaine, as they lead the various teams of volunteers.

## ***SPECIAL SERVICES & UPCOMING EVENTS***

### **DATES OF SPECIAL SERVICES OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2024**

- Sunday 6 October - Communion
- Sunday 13 October - Harvest Thanksgiving
- Sunday 20 October - G.B. Enrolment
- Sunday 10 November - Remembrance Day
- Sunday 17 November - B.B. Enrolment
- Sunday 1 December - Christmas Tree Service

### ***Saturday Coffee Mornings 10:00am – 12:00noon***

- 5 October - Friends of Ards Hospital
- 19 October - PanC NI (Eileen Bell)
- 2 November - Home Start (Ards, Comber and Peninsula Area)
- 16 November - G.B.
- 30 November - Christmas sale

### **Antiques and Collectables Fair**

**On Saturday 26 October 2024**

**From 10am - 4pm**

**Refreshments will be available to purchase**

**Proceeds are in aid of church funds and missions**



# SUMMER BLITZ 2024

If it's summer – it must be Summer Blitz time! The following is a reflection on 3 brilliant days in late July for 41 of Streaan's young people and 13 leaders, as they took part in our fourth annual Summer Blitz programme.

Summer Blitz is a 3-day, high intensity outdoor activity programme for young people who are all connected to Streaan through BB, GB, Youth Club and Youth Fellowship. The purpose of Blitz is to connect our young people, to stretch and challenge them through a variety of experiences, to get alongside them, and to share God's Word and Love with them.

This year Blitz was at Delamont Outdoor Education Centre near Killyleagh

Before the residential we held an ice breaker event on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July, funded by a community grant award from John Gray & Co, Funeral Directors. The group took part in a Street Detectives challenge and also an interactive and very noisy session with Joe Loughlin of The Gathering Drum.



## What did we do?

We assembled at Delamont on the morning of Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July, in our bright pink Blitz t-shirts and to beautiful sunshine. We used the morning to receive briefings from the Delamont instructors, to find our sleeping accommodation, and get everyone familiarised with the centre.



Over the next 2 ½ days, the Blitzers were split into 4 groups and undertook a rotation of 4 exciting activities. The leaders tried to keep up – but the young folk were bursting with energy, talent and most importantly – determination!

In addition, we had evening activities – Nightline on the Monday evening, where participants had to work their way around a forest trail whilst blindfolded and Camp Fire skills on the Tuesday evening, the highlight of which was enjoying toasted marshmallows.



We also brought some additional activities with us. We set up a Creative Craft zone where some of the Blitzers got an opportunity to make a range of craft items. Then there was our Late Night Hunt played at a frenetic pace and with great enthusiasm by the Blitzers both nights.



## Here's what two of our young people said:

**Matthew** - *We had a great few days at Blitz which was over far too soon. We had amazing weather and lots of different activities to do, such as mountain biking, climbing, kayaking, and my favourite, banana boating. Alongside the activities our leaders took devotions twice a day where we explored the theme of "Who am I?". These were definitely the best 3 days of summer and I cannot wait for the next Blitz!*

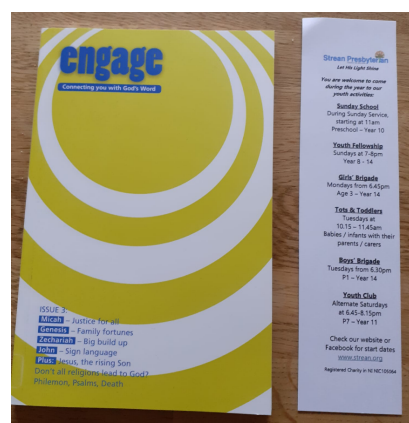


**Sara** – *Summer Blitz was the highlight of summer for my friends and I – it is every year! We had lots of opportunities to try new things like paddle boarding, kayaking, mountain biking etc. My favourite thing was banana boating. My friends and I also really enjoyed the night line as it was very funny and was a challenge for many of us. I made lots of new friends and became closer with those I'm already friends with.*

## Who Am I?

The theme for Blitz 24 was Who Am I? Jeff prepared 5 devotion sessions based on the theme, and different leaders took the early morning and late evening devotion periods.

And thanks to an anonymous and generous donation, we were able to provide each Blitzer with a 3-month bible study guide called "Engage – Connecting You With God's Word" – the purpose of which was encourage each young person to study God's Word in a structured way and find answers to lots of their questions.



## What did Blitz 24 achieve?

Blitz exceeded our expectations in so many ways. The young people were simply fantastic – listening to instructions, always smiling, being considerate of each other and our leaders, and throwing themselves into each activity with genuine enthusiasm.

Our hope, as leaders, was to re-fuel each young person in their commitment to StreaM and our youth activities, and to help them understand about how special and unique they all are in God's eyes.

## Thanks

To our fantastic leadership team of Ann, Amy, Carl, Dawne, Fiona, Joanne, Joy, Kirsty, Lauren, Michael, Robin and Zara, – who all gave unselfishly of their time to help deliver what we all agreed was by far our best Blitz yet!

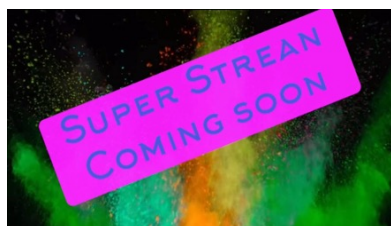
To our Bowling Club for their very generous financial donation which helped cover the cost for some of our leaders to attend.

To Martin Conroy for his photography expertise.

And to our exceptional young people who we have the privilege to work with, and who are the present and future for StreaM!

**Stephen Boyle**

## What comes next for the young people?



As well as our normal youth activities – BB, GB, Youth Club and Youth Fellowship – resuming in September, this year we have been awarded an Education Authority grant to do five youth activities over the year. **The young people have named this Super Strean, and our first event is on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August, from 2 – 4pm, taking place in the grounds of Movilla Abbey church.**

This is an exhilarating Colour Run followed by refreshments. Registration by QR Code as places are limited and the cost will be £5 per child/young person. This will include their entry

Here are the details... Look out for the QR Code on our website and via our youth leaders.

Look out for other Super Strean events later this year.

## *HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB 2024 - 'KNIGHT SCHOOL'*

What a fun week we had during our "Knight School" Holiday Bible Club. We undertook intensive training with 80 beginner knights registered.



Each day we looked at a different quality knights needed for battle; endurance, courage, loyalty, hope and honour. The boys and girls learned about some brave knights from the Bible; Moses rescuing the Israelites from Pharaoh, Queen Esther showing courage and standing up for what she knew was right; The Disciples showing loyalty to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (until the sleep took over); Joshua never giving up hope in the City of Jericho; and finally the honour of the ultimate knight, Jesus.

There were crafts each day, building up the full armour of God.

**Our memory verse taught us the importance of having God's armour on each day.**

**Ephesians 6 v 10 "Finally be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might."**



We also met the Watt family again, and watched each day to see if Sir Bad-guy-liesalot would win the control of the castle or if our hero, King Arthur and the Triangle Table would thwart his evil plan.

The team of over 50 people served together each day, all extending God's welcome to each child through their words and actions.

**Our key verse from day one sums up the feelings of the team over the 5 days, "Do not get tired of doing good things" Galations 6 v 9.**



**Quotes from children:**

"I loved hearing all the stories every day, some of them I had never heard before."

"The puppets were so funny every day, I loved hearing the stories they told to help me understand the Bible stories."

"My leaders were really kind in my group and helped me with my craft."

"I loved being with my friends and singing some new songs."

"Sir bad guy was really funny but I'm glad he didn't win the battle with King Arthur"

"I can't wait to come to more things in the church, it is so much fun."

**Quotes from parents/carers:**

"She wanted to know if it was on again next week."

"He has been getting up so early, eager to get here."

"He has really come out of himself."

"She has been buzzing, telling us all about it."

**KIRSTY PATTON**

## 2024 SEPTEMBER START DATES

Weekly activities (unless indicated otherwise)

**G.B.** - Monday 2 at 6.45pm

**B.B.** - Tuesday 3 at 6.30pm

**P.W.** - Thursday 5 at 7.30pm (1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month)

**Youth Club** - Saturday 7 at 6.45pm (alternate Saturdays)

**Discovery Kids Sunday School** - Sunday 8 at 11am

**Craft Class** - Monday 9 at 10am

**Tots 'n' Toddlers** - Tuesday 10 at 10.15am

**Football & Fellowship** - Wednesday 11 at 8pm

**Small Groups** - Wednesday 11 at 7.30pm/ Friday 13 at 12.30pm  
(week of 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month)

**Badminton** - Thursday 12 at 7.30pm

**Men's Fellowship** - Thursday 19 at 7.45pm (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month)

**Youth Fellowship** - Sunday 22 at 7-8pm

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The following activities continue throughout the year:

**Crèche** during the Sunday morning service at 11am

**Midweek Prayer** at 7.30pm (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month)

**Indoor Bowls** - Thursdays at 10am

**Ladies' Coffee** at Hillmount, N'Ards at 10.30am (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month)

**Men's Breakfast** at Clandeboye Golf Club at 10.30am (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month)

### USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Minister: Rev. Jeff McWatters 077 9955 2804 or 9181 3374

E-mail: [jmcwatters@presbyterianireland.org](mailto:jmcwatters@presbyterianireland.org)

Clerk of Session: Mr Wallace McKee 07985 085527

Church Co-ordinator: Barbara McCartney [office@strean.org](mailto:office@strean.org)

Church Office: Tel No 9181 6225 9.00am - 12.45pm Monday - Friday

Website: [www.strean.org](http://www.strean.org)

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