

## Edenderry Ministries

Annual Reports for 2021

### **Introduction:**

In this season, when the use of the word 'unprecedented' has risen to unprecedented levels, it is understandable that much of what had been the normal pattern of ministry has been derailed or dormant. The past two years have left us all struggling just to make it through unscathed, often causing us to live with fears and anxieties and asking 'what if'?

As we emerge from the effects of the Covid pandemic, beginning to look to the future and face the immense challenge of desiring to see the lost brought to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, we are resolutely reminded that our confidence must rest solely in Christ. This has always been the case, it's just that in 'less-troubled times' we can deceive ourselves into thinking that we are not utterly dependent upon Him. The New City Catechism (following the Heidelberg Catechism) begins asking, *"What is our only hope in life and death?"*, and answers, *"That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our Saviour Jesus Christ."* As we look to the future of this ministry, this reality must be central to our thinking, and the words of Jesus in John 15:5, our inspiration, *"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."*

Since we last reported we have said farewell to Hazel Irwin whose two-years on staff made a significant impact on so many of the elements of the work of EM. We are grateful for all that God enabled Hazel to do while working as part of the team and delighted that she is still giving up her time to be involved in projects close to her heart. We wish her well in her on-going work with REACH.

Rev Robin Brown, Chairman

### **Nightlight January 2021**

Nightlight commenced in 2006.

Nightlight has not been operating since March 2020.

However during 2021 we were still engaged in reaching out to people on the streets.

On the 1st July 2021 we were still able to open up our premises at the first of July bonfire night where we engaged in conversation with people and gave out Christian tracts.

The week before Christmas we were also able to talk to people as they walked past the front of the church; we gave out tea, biscuits and Christmas Christian tracts. This was helped by the fact that many were queuing up to get into Hoys butchers, where they picked up their Christmas orders. We pray that God will speak to many as they read through the tracts.

Points to consider:

- 1 Is it still possible to meet people? (How many people are still out and about on the streets of Portadown?)
- 2 New licensing laws were brought in last year allowing Nightclubs to stay open to 3:00am in the morning.
- 3 With an absence of over two years, how many members are still willing to go out on a Friday and how many could stay out to after 3:00 am? (Some may still be isolating and some may not want to return and some may be doing different things.)
- 4 If we are able to commence, how many could we have on each team and how many teams?
- 5 Is there a different way and time of witnessing on the streets of Portadown?

There is still a great need in Portadown with many having no time for God and unknowingly heading for a lost eternity.

Please pray for wisdom for the future for how best we can serve God in Portadown.

Brian Dawson.

### **The New Hope Thrift Shop**

The shop situated in Carleton Street (open Thursday to Saturday) traded for the last 8 months of 2021, being closed for the months of January to April due to Covid 19 restrictions being in operation.

This closure adversely affected the trading patterns when the shop was opened due to the uncertainty of the Covid virus which affected people's spending patterns.

Despite all of the foregoing, a surplus was reported for the year and the Directors agreed to make a contribution to the work of Reach who have an extensive Ministry in the local schools.

All items sold in the shop have been donated and without the donation of items the shop would not be viable.

Second hand furniture items are especially welcome particularly "pine furniture".

It is amazing when an attractive item is donated how quickly its worth is identified by a customer and purchased.

It is not unusual for an attractive item to be donated and sold on the same day.

The key to the operation of the Thrift Shop are the Volunteers and Delivery Drivers.

Currently there are 9 Volunteers operating at different times and a number of Volunteers operating on a "call off" basis and two delivery drivers.

The key to the continuity and operation of the Shop is Sarah McKibbin and without her input and commitment it is doubtful if the Shop could operate.

The Trustees are indebted to these volunteers for the time given and are genuinely thankful for their input, which ensures the Shop operates.

Robert Dowey

### **Kids Club OTT (Ordinary Totally Transformed)**

The work of Kids Club in the Garvaghy Road area had largely been put on hold since mid-March 2020 due to the corona virus pandemic. In June this year the committee met to discuss the future of Kids Club. At this stage Hazel Irwin stepped down from her role as leader in charge. Hazel started working for Edenderry Ministries on a two-year contract in 2016. This job initially got her involved with the work of Kids Club, however she continued to serve faithfully within the ministry for a further three years. Hazel helped the team through many challenges and changes and we would like to thank her wholeheartedly for giving so much to this work. At this meeting Judith Buchanan and Anna Acheson set an aim to start Kids Club up again by October.

By September, a group of over 10 faithful Christians were gathered together to be leaders at Kids Club. However other issues arose and the start date was pushed back to December.

Between August and November child protection and Covid safety measures were put in place with the help of Robert Dowey and George Russell on behalf of Edenderry Ministries. We would like to thank them for the essential help they provided at this time and the work they continue to do with us. In November the work of Kids Club was also publicised by posting leaflets through letterboxes, putting posters up in the local community and using the Kids Club OTT Facebook page.

Although Kids Club had taken place regularly on a Friday night for over 15 years, this was no longer possible. Therefore Kids Club started back on Wednesday 1st December in the Ashgrove Community Centre with 11 children attending. Altogether by the end of 2021, there were around 25-30 children registered at Kids Club with 11-16 attending weekly. We were extremely grateful to see some familiar faces and also to welcome new children in.

Throughout December we used CEF resources to learn about the Christmas story together. We learnt a memory verse (1 John 4 v 14) and a song (One Way - Hillsong), discussed the story in small groups, played games and completed crafts. At our final Kids Club in December, we were able to give each child a "blessing bag" which had been donated by Portadown Emmanuel. These contained a box of sweets, crisps, biscuits and a CEF calendar.

We are grateful for the continual prayers and support from Edenderry Presbyterian Church. Please pray that the leaders would be encouraged in this work and that children would continue to come to Kids Club and would come to accept the Gospel message.

Anna Acheson

## **Basketball**

Sadly, due to the Covid, we have been unable to meet to play basketball. Thomas the leader of the team appreciates and understands that it is not possible at present. They express how they miss the fun and fellowship that we would enjoy each week. We take the opportunity each week to bring a biblical thought for the day - we call it, "Take Five." Often they express thanks for the short message and prayer.

I have recently been in contact with Thomas, the basketball captain and he would like to resume playing. He is to contact the members of the basketball team and will let me know if they wish to commence again soon.

He understands that we still need to comply with the Covid safety regulations.

If you feel that you would like to join us to help on Monday evenings or come to play, please phone me on 07767827127.

Robbie Chambers.

## **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Report for 2021**

When the classes of 2021 eventually commenced, the downward trend of decreasing attendance continued.

Prior to lockdown consideration was given to how best to promote ESOL to attract additional students.

Three meetings were held in August and September 2021 with the class teachers to ascertain strategies to attract more students. This resulted in the production of an attractive flyer professionally produced and distributed to the Food Bank, New Hope shop, Stephen Smith (Portuguese Church) in Foundry Street, advertised on Facebook and the Church Website.

The classes ran for nine weeks up to Christmas 2021. But the numbers attending continued to be small with an average of three students per night over those weeks. Given the small numbers and the sporadic attendance it was felt by the leaders that ESOL had run its course. ESOL could be revisited at a future date in the event a demand exists for such classes.

June Dowey.