

## Philip Whelton

## Irish mission worker, Arklow Presbyterian Church

ome sunshine or rain, the children and young people rarely miss a chance to come to our weekly clubs. The Friday youth club has about 60 young people each week and a good group of volunteers. The Wednesday Bible club has around 50 children who are always eager to learn the Bible lessons and verses. A recent lesson explored Jesus healing Jairus' daughter. The

children discussed the woman who wanted to touch the hem of Jesus' robe for her healing. Several thought there was no way that could work, but one boy said, "Jesus can do anything – and he knows everything!

Jesus will know the woman has touched his robe."They were so excited to hear the rest of the story and learn what Jesus can do.

The adult Bible study is on Monday nights and has a good group of people who are interested to learn and study God's Word together. The Coffee dock continues each Tuesday morning for toddlers and parents. It is an informal setting for parents to chat while their children play. This is a brilliant way to get to know families in the community and parents find the support helpful and encouraging.

Each of these groups requires prayer, planning and preparation. There are always some who ask questions or discuss difficulties they are facing. With over 100 families involved in the weekly clubs, extra time is required to maintain contact, listen to individual needs or try to be an encouragement. Please pray that we will be effective in our preparation as well as having wisdom to reach out and help when needed. We had several young people become communicant members recently, so please pray for them as they continue their journey with Christ. Pray also for our church family, including the session as we plan programmes, continue

with outreach in various forms, and remain available to listen to those who need to be heard.

The holiday Bible club is planned again for August and there is much work to do for that. Our theme this year is 'Make Waves' and we are working on ordering the t-shirts, with registration beginning in March. Through engaging Bible lessons, fun activities,

as well as music and crafts, we will do our best to help the children understand how they can share God's love with the people around them. By the time you read this there is a good chance that the holiday

Bible club will be fully booked. We still need help for that, so we would appreciate your prayers for the right people to be available this summer.

## Please pray:

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- Pray for Philip and his team of volunteers as they plan and prepare for the various activities they run each week.
- Pray for the young people who recently became communicant members.
- Pray for the church family and session as they plan programmes, continue with outreach in its various forms that they would have wisdom, energy and encouragement.
- Pray for the holiday Bible club planned for August, that the right people will step forward to help and that it would be a time of true blessing for everyone involved.