

## A diverse church family



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**T**he Lord has taught us many things recently. We've read through the story of Joseph in Genesis, then turned our attention to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew and now we're learning about the story of Ruth. In all the places we've been in the Bible this year, we have been struck by the way God has shaped history for his glory. We are thousands of kilometres and years away from Egypt, Moab or Galilee here in Balbriggan, but these stories have reminded us about God's plans and the ultimate King, redeemer and rescuer: the Lord Jesus.

Like everywhere, Balbriggan needs Jesus. A town where many people are new to the country, a town with the youngest population in Ireland and a lot of needs.

Our church family is hugely diverse. More than 25 nationalities are represented. It's a cliché to say, but we never cease to wonder at the way we have become a family despite being from different sides of the planet. It's through the gospel of Jesus that this is possible.

Our week is quite simple: we meet for worship on Sunday afternoons and a relaxed Bible study on weeknight evenings. We try to make a habit of catching up with our church family throughout the week in coffee shops, play parks or homes. Thankfully we're all quite local to town so we're always bumping into our church family in Lidl or on the Main Street.

We enjoyed hosting a kids' club in the summer, a picnic in October (yes really!), a Christmas carol service, international

potluck and some family Easter events in March.

We thank God that he has grown and sustained us in Balbriggan for four years of weekly services. During this time, we have been particularly blessed by Christians moving to Balbriggan from

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different countries. Although they may be coming as nurses, English students, childcare workers and refugees, we see them as missionaries of Jesus to Ireland.

The flip side of this is that we feel their absence when they have to move on. Recently we just said a sad goodbye to our Ukrainian families who have been relocated to another town.

We give thanks for the support and prayers of the wider Church, without which it wouldn't be possible for us to do what we do.

### Please pray:

- For our church family to grow in love for each other and that God would give us courage to constantly reach out to our neighbours and friends to share the good news of Jesus.
- For many of the lone parents and those who are the only believer in their family, that God would sustain and encourage them. Pray for breakthroughs of the Spirit in the lives of their families.
- For godly leaders to develop among us and that we would remain rooted in the gospel.