



STORIES OF CHURCH LIFE DONE DIFFERENTLY

Re-thinking the summer

Abbey Presbyterian Church, Monkstown, by Rev. Alan Carson

Summer season

It's amazing how quickly things - in life and in Church - become routine, and before long "the way we always do things." Pre-Covid, summer in Abbey meant certain things - no business meetings, a PCI team helping with a holiday club and youth outreach, and a well-deserved rest for leaders, before a Community Fun Day for all ages to welcome folks back and highlight Church organisations and programme for the year ahead.

Summer 2020

Then in 2020. Covid. Nothing. We got back to in-person services during the summer, worked to develop live-streaming, and brought into the mix a couple of evening drive-in services - something which brought folks back in a way they were comfortable with and that was a visible witness given our prominent site at a busy road junction.

So what then for 2021?

June. Meetings! Given the opportunity to meet in person, we believe it is really helpful for our sub-committees, committee and session to gather, review, pray and plan. Having started a practice of bringing all leaders together periodically, this is an opportunity to thank folks for their adaptability and on-going work and to recognise both where we are and reflect on where we are going.

July. Adaptation! We have adapted our plans for a holiday club, which will be pre-recorded and on-line early in July. We will then follow up with an in-person fun event that everyone can come to in the grounds of the church and an informal holiday club service on the Sunday.

August. Regathering? Our intention is to have a series of informal events simply to bring people back together. These will be aimed at families with children, young people, and seniors. We want to focus on relationships and start conversations that will help us re-frame our programmes, remove the fear of change, and see where God leads us.