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STORIES OF CHURCH LIFE DONE DIFFERENTLY

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## Welcome to Assembly... on YouTube!

### Waringstown

Weekly school assemblies have been a welcome fixture in many primary schools across Ireland, often facilitated by local church clergy and staff. To respond to school restrictions and closures Waringstown Presbyterian responded with the launch of a weekly assembly on YouTube. Children's and Family Worker, Suzie Taylor' gives an insight into this opportunity for a local congregation to broaden its witness.



I remember the first time a child responded, "I want to be a YouTuber" when I asked them "What job do you want to have when you're older?" I remember thinking, really? Is that a thing?

My job title hasn't changed to "Youtuber", I'm still the Children's and Family worker – but never did I think that I would be reaching children through YouTube! It's not ideal, but in September when the pandemic situation was still ongoing, I had the idea of doing assembly videos. By making a YouTube video that could be played in the classroom I was hopeful that we could engage with children, teach them about Jesus and praise God. Teachers always email to tell me how enthusiastically the kids in their class dance and sing along to the praise songs. The thought of children worshipping God in school is definitely my motivation to keep going. I also added the opportunity for classes to get a "shout out" within the video. This was a great way to find out who was tuning in. Along with many local schools, our videos are being watched in Newcastle, Magherafelt, Belfast and Antrim.

Currently the videos are designed knowing many kids are at home, but I still seek to open God's word and give children an opportunity to praise. It's great to see that children are still tuning in and enjoying the assembly videos...and parents are getting some peace and quiet while they watch!

The hundreds of views on the videos is encouraging and random children saying, "Mum that's the girl from YouTube" as I'm out for a walk, can make me feel like a bit of a "YouTuber". However, I never want to seek any glory – the main purpose will always be to point children to Jesus and so it's His Name and goodness that I hope has an incredible and lasting impact.