

Serving the community



Jason Sime

Community mission worker in Alexandra, Belfast

I took up the role of community mission worker at Alexandra Presbyterian in north Belfast in October 2021. My role is about helping the congregation to become more mission and outreach focused, and to find ways we can practically serve our community.

Since my appointment I have tried to focus on these two areas. I have become involved in our regular ministries, including Good News Club, Boys' Brigade, Ignite youth fellowship and the 'Wee Café'. Not only do I get the chance to work with our children and young people, but this lets

me get to know the families we are working with and to develop strategies for engaging with those loosely linked with the church. This year we have introduced 'all together' services. These services tinker with the traditional format of church to try to make it more accessible to families and those who have not been to church in a long time.

I have also sought to help the congregation serve the community. In March we had six members complete training to become Christians Against Poverty (CAP) money coaches and we hope to run the 'Money' course a few times a year. We are also working with Redeeming Our Communities with the aim of running a school uniform project in the lower north Belfast area. We hope these projects can help people better cope with

the rising cost of living without putting too much strain on our existing pool of volunteers and resources available.

In May, I organised a youth night for north Belfast with the aim of bringing smaller youth groups together for a time of praise and

Bible teaching. The event was a success with over 70 young people from seven north Belfast churches attending. The following week we ran messy church for the first time, bringing families from the area together to make crafts, learn about Jonah and have a meal together.

This summer we plan to run a holiday Bible club and a project for young people. We hope to build on connections we have made over the year and reach out to new people in our community.

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Please pray:

- Pray that God will guide our strategic thinking and that we can help lead people to him.
- Pray the work will have a meaningful impact on our community, that the new projects will be blessed by God and be successful in building his church.
- Pray for discernment for Jason as he chooses which outside organisations to commit time to as part of his role.