

God's perfect timing



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Community outreach worker in Donabate and Balbriggan

Work in Donabate and Balbriggan has looked very different in the past year!

With the help of Donabate Presbyterian Church, in January 2020 we started meeting weekly for Sunday services in a community centre right in the heart of Balbriggan. During these early weeks, we grew closer as a church family, people in the town were popping in to see what church was like (or at least the tea and coffee afterwards!) and there was a sense of momentum as we continued to meet in each other's homes for Bible studies and fun evenings together.

Then a global pandemic struck. If we'd known coronavirus was coming, perhaps we would have postponed planting a church in Balbriggan! But of course, it was God's perfect timing.

We moved the Donabate and Balbriggan church services online using Zoom. This allowed us to continue our weekly rhythm of meeting together and seeing each other's faces as we worshipped God. The inclusion of a catch-up chat afterwards (affectionately known as the 'big hello') allowed us to hear how everyone was doing and feel connected.

Despite the limitations, we've seen God bless us in unexpected ways. For single parents and shift workers, Zoom services actually provided a way to worship with the church family more easily. As a church we started to contact each other more as our lives slowed down. We relied on each other, phoned, texted and met for lots of

walks. The rhythm of Bible studies and church services on Zoom created a sense of structure to the week for many people and gave us all something to look forward to.

From May we were allowed to gather again. We were so excited about being able to meet in person, because we know this is the best way for community to grow. We hope to be able to run some social events over the summer that will allow us to get used to being together again and help us to continue growing as a community. We also hope to focus on outreach

to the town and use these events to invite friends and neighbours to experience what the church community is like. Please pray for us.

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Please pray:

- Pray God will sustain us as we make the transition back to in-person services.
- Give thanks for the community centre staff who are so kind to us.
- Pray for us as we share the good news of Jesus with people in Balbriggan, that God would open hearts to the gospel.
- Pray also for guidance for our elders as they lead the churches through this challenging time.