

## Faithfulness and thankfulness



Members of Mullingar Presbyterian Church



Members of Corboy Presbyterian Church



### *Rev Daniel Reyes-Martin* Mullingar and Corboy

The last time I wrote in the *Herald*, in early 2019, our family had just moved to Mullingar and Corboy and we were settling in, rubbing our eyes for we could hardly believe how faithful the Lord had been in bringing us here. Three and a half years on, and we continue to be so thankful to the Lord and the two congregations.

The Covid-19 pandemic for Corboy and Mullingar churches was a challenge and we had to move online for a long time. However, we were so thankful that our clerk of session, who owns a streaming company, so freely gave of his time and professional expertise.

Pastoral work became challenging when restrictions came in due to the fact that we are two churches in two counties, with members living in four counties in total. With families living so far apart from each other, it was essential for me to pastorally visit them, even if the pastoral work was limited to a brief chat, reading God's Word and praying outside their homes.

Now that the restrictions are over, we are thankful to the Lord for not only keeping his people together, but also adding to our numbers some new families, some of whom started 'attending' during the lockdowns at our online services and now meet regularly with us in the church buildings. Some new members will have been received to the Lord's Table by the time you read these lines. Our Oodles and Doodles, Bible studies, women's group, youth and children's work are back up and running with new enthusiasm by those who help in them.

*There is a...vision in Corboy Church to share Christ's Word in Longford town, the biggest in the county, with about one third of the county's population and yet, no Presbyterian witness.*

As we look forward, we ask the Lord for guidance as to the future of the double charge (Corboy, Co Longford) and Mullingar (Co Westmeath). The present setup with two churches 28 minutes apart (34km); a 'parish' that goes as far as Castlerea (Co Roscommon, 96km away)

and a membership spread out within a radius of 55km from the manse is not ideal as we seek to do more effective outreach. Included in this is the fact that there is a desire/vision in Corboy Church to share Christ's Word in Longford

town, the biggest in the county, with about one third of the county's population and yet, no Presbyterian witness. As the Lord leads us, we pray he will provide the help, resources and personnel necessary for this task. Please pray for us.

To God be the glory. "This is God's work. We rub our eyes. We can hardly believe it" (Psalm 118:23).

#### Please pray:

- Thank the Lord for keeping us throughout the time we were apart and bringing us together again, extending our church family and vision.
- Connect with us in mission, praying for what the future of the work in County Longford may look like as we seek to reach this town sharing the gospel of our Saviour and Lord.