

North Belfast Centre of Mission

May 2020



Karen Webb



Stephen Whitten

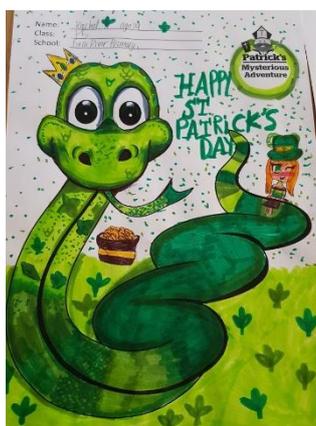
I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust"
Psalm 91:2

Connect Base

We find ourselves in very strange times indeed and never have the words of Psalm 91 rung so true. When we can not see the way ahead, we know in whom we can trust. We have been able to keep the Connect Base open during lockdown, although with reduced hours. This has meant that we can continue to support families in crisis through our project, Baby Basics. This newsletter will hopefully let you know what we are doing during this time and how you can continue to pray for us in the North Belfast Centre of mission.

Updates

Baby Basics - when it seems at times that the world has gone mad, babies are still being born and families need support more than ever for this miracle of life and hope. Many of the health professionals we receive referrals from have been redeployed to the NHS hospitals or have been asked to work from home with no face to face client contact. We still get referrals & Heather Gibson continues to come in each week to support us in this valuable ministry, we are so grateful to her. To help us continue to support families, the Belfast City Council has given us a weekly grant to buy baby essentials to keep our stocks up. Normally we would be getting donations from churches, which due to the virus has not been able to happen. We are so thankful for this grant and praise God that He continues to watch over us.



Schools - Our schools work has had to stop due to the lockdown. So, no assemblies, TLG or after school's club - however, we have been able to make a short film to help children understand Corona Virus better. This video features puppets well known to the children in the area and has now been shared on numerous school websites. It can be found on Youtube using the following link:

<https://youtu.be/Vvs44zENp7Y>

Just before lockdown, we were able to receive and judge our St Patrick's Snake competition. Here is the overall winner of the colouring in competition - Well done to Rachel P5 Forthriver Primary. Sadly, our St. Patrick's event had to be cancelled, but we're so grateful to the schools for joining in with the competitions.

Transforming Lives for Good (TLG) has encouraged their coaches to continue remote coaching with our pupils with permission from parents and the schools. Stephen and Karen are working through the options to see if they might be able to take this up. Stephen has been able to speak to some of the children he has been coaching when he is out with his dog in the local park, keeping social distancing of course.

Community Garden - Stephen is working away at the community garden, keeping the weeds at bay. This has given him amazing opportunities to talk about faith with some of the local men who stop and chat, when they see him working there. With social distancing rules, we can't have people coming into the garden to work with Stephen, but at least they can see we are still around. This picture shows Stephen attempting to tackle the Japanese Knot weed!



Rural Deanery - We had started a Faith Pictures course in Lent with the local churches and had 20 people coming along to discuss sharing their stories of faith, with lockdown these sadly came to a stop. Most of those taking part have no access to the internet so we couldn't go online. However, we have put together some kid's activity packs for children in 2 of the local parishes, Glencairn and Ardoyne. We have also recorded an online Family service and shared it with parishes who don't have the capacity to record one of their own. Some of the other parishes have asked us to be part of their online services, and this has been a real privilege. We are so glad to be part of family of believers who do indeed trust God, even in the difficult times.

Prayers

Thank you...

- For the people we have had the privilege to help through Baby Basics.
- For the grant from Belfast City Council which is supporting Baby Basics.
- For the positive response to our online videos during Covid 19 pandemic.

Please...

- For the young mums in difficult circumstances receiving resources from Baby Basics.
- For the parishes we work and minister with, for their leaders and congregations.
- For our physical & spiritual health and daily devotions.

Financial Support

We're thankful to God that He has provided Connect Base for the people on the Shankill Road and surrounding area. We're also thankful for all those who pray for us and who support us financially, which of course means we're able to be here when people come to the Base. It also means we are resourced to go out where God is leading us.

If you would like to make a regular or one-off gift to support this work, please complete and return the form below or visit churcharmy.org/donate

We don't take your support for granted, so thank you so much for standing with us. We want to pray for you so please let us know how we can.

May God bless you

Karen & Stephen



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