

North Belfast Centre of Mission

January 2019



Karen Webb



Stephen Whitten

"Be still and know that I am God"
Psalm 46:10

Connect Base

As a drop of water causes ripples across a pond, so we pray that all that God calls us to will ripple across the communities in the Shankill area. We're so thankful to God for his provision and guidance as we look at where we have come from and where we are going.

In January, we met for a Vision Day praying and asking God for guidance for our ministry here in the Shankill area. Keeping God at the centre of all we do is vitally important, but as we become busy, it is so easy to concentrate on the "Doing" rather than the "being". As you read through the updates on our various projects, it is good to rejoice in God's provision - but we do not want to lose sight of the main focus - letting people know how much God loves them! While projects are great to be part of - it is in the relationships where we truly have the opportunity to share Jesus and make disciples, while building God's Kingdom here.



Updates

Baby Basics - We have been so encouraged by the amazing donations which continue to come into the Base for Baby Basics. We invited the local Health Professionals to a Christmas lunch in December and loved hearing the stories they bring of families who have been supported and helped by the gifts they have received through Baby Basics. One young mum hadn't been able to leave the house with her new baby as she had no pram to take them out in, another family with a new born had very little clothing, or blankets and the baby was sleeping in a drawer. These are just some of the stories we hear, and we are so thankful to all who help by donating to Baby Basics and giving us the opportunity to bless others. We are also very thankful for a new volunteer, Ruth Santos, a young Portuguese woman who loves to come and help sort clothes and pack baskets with Heather Gibson.

TLG - We are so excited this year to have 15 coaches and be mentoring young people in upper primary, in 2 different schools. That's 15 children who are being encouraged and supported - who might otherwise be excluded from school. Our coaches are enjoying the hour a week they spend with their pupil and seeing some amazing conversations on faith happen. We are now having conversations with other Churches in the Diocese who are interested in taking TLG into their local schools.

Alpha - We have had the privilege of taking an Alpha course in Bushmills Parish in the autumn and are about to start another Alpha course in our local Rural Deanery here in the Shankill area. It is such an amazing tool to use with people and what a joy to see people discuss their faith questions, perhaps for the first time in their lives!

Meeting people's needs - We have been encouraged by people coming in off the street and seeing help. We are in a great position, on the road with plenty of footfall, and we never know what someone will ask for next. Recently, in one day, we had someone seeking help with moving to another part of the UK, someone who needed a fill of oil and someone else who needed swimwear for their child! Every conversation was a God moment and we rejoice in each person and opportunity.

Prayers

Thank you...

- For the people we have had the privilege to help and for the growing ministries.
- For our new volunteer for Baby Basics, Ruth Santos and for the continued help from heather Gibson.
- For health and strength.

Please...

- For the possible new TLG centres in other parts of our Diocese of Connor.
- For a deepening of our dependence on God daily.
- For Xplore young people and their commitment to you and Evangelism.
- For the young mums in difficult circumstances receiving resources from Baby Basics.
- For continued positive relationships with the Health and Community workers we meet through Baby Basics.
- For our families
- For us as we travel around.
- For our daily prayer times at 10am in the Connect Base.

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, by emailing karen.webb@churcharmy.org or Stephen.whitten@churcharmy.org



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May God bless you

Karen & Stephen

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