

North Belfast Centre of Mission

Feb 2020



Karen Webb



Stephen Whitten

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:7

Connect Base

We are now into our 4th year in the Connect Base on the Shankill Road and we are thankful for the Spirit of God within us which does NOT make us timid. The Base has changed so much since we first came here in August 2016. One major change is that the Base has become a hub for Baby Basics in this area and regularly has people in packing baskets and sorting donations. We are so thankful and continually amazed by all God is doing through and with us.

Updates

Baby Basics - In 2019 we gave out 250 packs to families in crisis. This is an increase on the previous year, and we are seeing more agencies referring people to us. It is sad that we have to provide this service because people are in such dire need - but we are blessed that the Churches are being so generous in their donations to us. At Christmas the Dept of Justice for Northern Ireland chose Baby Basics Shankill for their charity and we were delighted to go and receive 4 carloads from Stormont in early December. We also welcomed the health professionals for a Christmas Lunch.

(LR: A. Harbinson; Jill Hamilton; Karen Webb; Peter May)



After School Drop In - our 'Afterschool Drop in' in Ardoyne is growing in numbers and we are delighted to have a great group of volunteers from Holy Trinity and Immanuel Parishes. The Drop in began in November and we are already up to 18 children registered. The volunteers spend time playing games, making toast and helping with homework. Every session finishes with a wee devotional which is interactive and allows us an opportunity to share our faith with the kids.

Schools - we continue to take part in assemblies in the local area, often with the puppets. And our TLG project (Transforming Lives for Good) is still mentoring a number of children in

2 different schools. The children often have difficult backgrounds or just need extra help, attention and one to one time with an adult. It is such a privilege to be the safe adult for these children and gives us opportunities to be in the schools on a more regular basis.

Community Garden - The Community Garden is coming on well - with Stephen's vision and the hard work of a few keen gardeners, we are able to see the garden form and shape. The clearing has been done and the place is now getting ready for planting and building. We were delighted to have the local councillor; Nicola Verner arrange for some road sweepers to come and clear the tarmac. This made such a difference - we are now looking forward to Grub in the Garden during Holy Week in April, but before then, we are arranging a number of days for the youth of the area to come along and do some furniture painting and building.



Rural Deanery - we continue to be a resource for the local churches and now run an All-age service on the first Sunday of each month in Glencairn estate, right next to the Community Garden - this gives us opportunities to build relationships with the people living in the estate.

Prayers

Thank you...

- For the people we have had the privilege to help and for the growing ministries.
- For our amazing Baby Basics volunteers who regularly come in, to sort and pack.
- For our ministry in this area - the lives God touches and reaches through the various projects.
- For the new community garden in Glencairn estate.

Please...

- For those pupils being mentored through TLG.
- 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 families
- For us as we travel around.
- For our 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, by emailing karen.webb@churcharmy.org or Stephen.whitten@churcharmy.org

May God bless you

Karen & Stephen



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