



JOHN 10:1

Particles of Light across Belfast and beyond

Putting Jesus on the doorstep of Queens, Botanic Avenue, the Holy Land, Donegall Pass, schools, workplaces, shops and homes across the city and beyond. Our people bringing practical love, peace and a prophetic voice. Our people praying and proclaiming the good news of Jesus. Our people participating in and partnering with a plethora of projects. Influence in Europe, Africa and Asia. Cultural



OUR PURPOSE



Fitzroy exists:

to celebrate God's goodness in our worship

to express God's love through our lives by

- introducing people to Jesus Chris
- integrating them into His Church
- educating them in a Christ-like lifestyle, and
- enabling them to participate in Christ's mission today.

OUR MISSION FOCUS

I HAVE COME THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS. JESUS (JOHN 10:10)

One of our key purposes in Fitzroy is "to bring the whole Gospel to the whole world". This is not a task of the few but is an integral part of what all members of Fitzroy are encouraged to engage in daily. We commend all the mission work done, in the name of Jesus Christ, through Fitzroy and its members. The 10:10 Mission Group is one of four 10:10 groups in the congregation, (10:10 Worship and Prayer, 10:10 Spititual Formation, 10:10 Pastoral Care and 10:10 Mission). Our purposes and our Mission Statement are based on the Great Commission and Great Commandment:

Jesus said:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

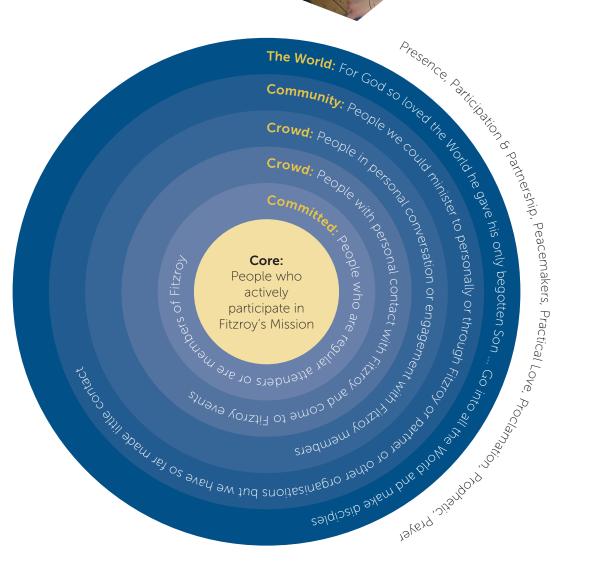
Jesus answered:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

We are all called to be particles of light in the community.

OUR COMMUNITY Co

Our Community includes everyone we, as members of Fitzroy, communicate with in a spirit of love and in the name of Jesus; those living in our neighbourhood and across Belfast; people on the island of Ireland and those we connect with around the world, particularly the poor and disadvantaged, and those suffering from injustice.



Mission is multifaceted and includes witness, service, justice, healing, reconciliation, liberation, peace, evangelism, fellowship, church planting, contextualisation and much more. We have identified seven ways in which we express our Mission in Fitzroy.

PRESENCE

Much of our mission is not carried out in explicit 'mission activities' but quietly and humbly by members of Fitzroy living out faith in daily interactions. We are 'particles of light across the city', and as a church community we seek to find ways to support each other in the variety of roles we have in our daily lives. We seek to make an impact on our friends and community by placing a high value on being present with them and loving them, aware that the first steps of faith that people take will often be as a result of these long term relationships.

PARTICIPATION & PARTNERSHIP

Jesus called his followers to work together. We partner (where we have formal arrangements) and participate (we have informal arrangements) in other organisations.

PEACEMAKERS

Jesus calls us to be peacemakers. Peace-making is a primary task and one of the most obvious ways that Fitzroy has communicated the Gospel.

PRACTICAL LOVE

The gospel is often best expressed by acts of kindness and love or by loving someone enough to provide a listening ear.



Built By: Folds of Life CHANGING LIVES, BUILDING HOPE WITH FUNDS RAISED BY FITZROY PRESBYTE CHURCH-BELFAST

PROCLAMATION

Whenever we eat the bread and drink the cup of Communion we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Peter also encouraged the followers of Jesus to "always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence."

Sunday services, the community carol service, Alpha, the gospel according to series and events are all examples of this corporately and also involves sharing faith person to person so that people have the opportunity to respond freely and in their own way to the good news of God's love in their own setting.

PROPHETIC

We have a wider missional role in the City of Belfast and a prophetic ministry for the island of Ireland and beyond. There has been a tradition in Fitzroy of being open to new possibilities in our country, and seeing new ways to be salt and light in Belfast. The prophetic aspects of our mission also extend to issues of justice, including creation care and fair treatment of all people who are made in God's image across the world.

PRAYER

All of our Mission is pointless if it is not rooted in God's purposes and clothed in prayer. Please pray for all of Fitzroy's Mission.

OUR CORE VALUES IN MISSION



Value

God at the Centre

"For where two or three come together in my name there am I with them"

Matthew 18 v20

What it means in practice

- We put God at the heart and centre of everything we do and in all aspects of our lives through Jesus Christ
- We develop a personal relationship with Jesus as our Saviour and submit to His Lordship in our lives
- programme but live out God breathed, grace filled lives where people can see Jesus at the centre of us
- Jesus will be present, bringing His kingdom, where lives are changed

A Covenant Community of Love

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another"

John 13 v34

- We accept each person as a unique individual who is loved by God as much as we are
- We enjoy a covenant community of honest relationships marked by sacrificial love, support and mutual accountability to each other through small groups
- We accept that we are broken and sinful
- We are a church family of all ages, lead with all diligence and consistency

Everyone maturing Spiritually

"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ"

Ephesians 4 v15

- We continually grow in spiritual maturity and develop a deeper Christ like character enabling the Holy Spirit to work in our lives.
- We continually develop the disciplines of servanthood and
- sacrifice as we enact God's will today and tomorrow.
- We are committed to seeing everyone else grow systematically and purposefully; helping people to think biblically



Value

Every member Ministry

"When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the Church" 1 Corinthians 14 v26

What it means in practice

- We are all actively connected, showing commitment and responsibility to our community in Fitzroy, our neighbourhood, Belfast, Ireland and beyond.
- We are a people discovering our gifting and are joyfully using those gifts to serve others within
- the church (ministry) and those who are as yet not in God's kingdom (mission)
- We live a lifestyle which supports justice, fairness and mercy in the world and promotes reconciliation across divisions

Everyone making God known

"For the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost" Luke 19 v 10

- We build relationships with others to introduce them to the community of faith in Christ where they can belong.
- We make an impact on our friends and communities by placing high value on loving those who don't know Jesus
- We know when we work together we are more effectivewe share the burden, we encourage one another, and people see our love for one another
- We choose structures that enable not yet Christians to observe our lives, and to easily join in.

JOHN CH. 10:10 JESUS SAID:

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

In the Book of Acts we read how Jesus instructed his followers to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the world. For us in Fitzroy does this mean Belfast, Northern Ireland and beyond?

FITZROY 1010 MISSION

Prayer, Worship and Sunday Tech Teams

Worship and prayer are an essential part of our life together at Fitzroy. Together they help strengthen our faith and shape our witness.

This year we aim to strengthen the diversity within the worship and prayer oversight group by refreshing the membership of the core group from within the congregation.

Here are some other practical ways where you might also be able to help or get involved.

Music

Our musicians and singers faithfully lead us in worship and are enabled by another small team of faithful volunteers who ensure song words are regularly visible on screen and the sound produced is conducive to worship.

While the teams you see from week to week may seem complete and established, this



is far from the case and we are always actively looking for instrumentalists, singers and technicians to join us.

We are a pool of singers and players and technicians with a heart for using music in worship to serve the congregation, who contribute as much time as we feel we can give, some once a month, some more often, some occasionally.

If you are a musician or singer and would like to become involved please contact, Chris Blake at cjbblake10@gmail.com (note 2 b's together!)

Technology Teams

A vital part of worship is that the congregation should be able to seamlessly hear and see in a service, either in the church or remotely via streaming. For this to happen, this needs three different skill-sets used 'live' in a service:

- sound mixing, for clear spoken words, and well-balanced music, for both live and streamed audio,
- timely projection of song words and video to help people join in spoken and sung worship
- video mixing of cameras, video inserts and words for the live stream to allow the remote viewer to take part in Fitzroy's online presence.



In addition, there are 'offline' opportunities, such as updating the website, producing visual announcement slides or producing video clips. Most of the people currently active joined with no previous experience, and have been trained for one or more tasks - if you feel you could contribute, please contact:

Chris Clotworthy at cclotworthy@googlemail.com (2 c's together)

Prayer

This year we want to encourage everyone to share in our weekly Zoom prayer meetings on Tuesday evenings. These online sessions are usually led by Steve and cover a range of global and local issues. You can join from the comfort of your own home. Each session starts at 7.30 pm and runs for about an hour. Please contact Steve at steve@fitzroy. org.uk or 07740 443274 for more information on how the sessions run and for joining instructions for this year.

If anyone has a specific prayer request they can also text our confidential telephone prayer line - 07552 619765 - at any stage requesting prayer support. All requests are treated on a

confidential basis and only shared among members of the Fitzroy prayer network.

Earlier this year a talented small group of individuals created an all-age prayer room during Holy Week which was complemented by music and worship each evening in church. Many found this experience helpful and we plan to develop this combined approach to worship and prayer throughout the coming year.

Prior to the pandemic, Prayer Ministry was normally available immediately after each Sunday morning service. This autumn we will be reviewing how prayer ministry should operate as we return to face-to-face meetings.

If you would like to support any of this work - or have ideas about other ways to help strengthen our worship and prayer life in Fitzroy please contact Norman McKinley.







Sunday Morning Children & Youth Activities

During the Sunday morning service, there are activities for children and young people.

Crèche is offered all year round for children too tiny for more structured activities. Presently, there are just about enough volunteers to cover Creche each week, but Caitlin Stockman who coordinates Creche would be grateful of a few more.

Preload (lower primary) and **Download** (upper primary) meet most weeks and are currently seeing healthy numbers of children after the disruption of the pandemic. Preload (led by

Holly and Owen McMurray) and Download (led by Lorraine Thompson) look at a variety of well-known Bible stories, as well as engaging with other topics where faith plays a part.

Bible Class (led by Dave Thompson) is for young people up to 16 years old, and doesn't meet quite as often as the other groups, to allow the young people to attend a whole church service more often. Bible Class looks at what the Bible is, how to read it and consider what it is saying to us in our lives. It is also an opportunity for the young people to ask questions and discuss what is important to them.





Welcome Teams

The Welcome Team exists to ensure a warm welcome is given to each person who comes to Fitzroy on any Sunday. Fitzroy has many different people coming into the building; there are people who are coming in for the first time to those who have been walking in through our doors for years.

As a congregation we all arrive to church carrying a variety of experiences, emotions and circumstances. Each person requires a warm welcome, a friendly smile and an opportunity for a conversation.

This vital pastoral role in undertaken by 12 teams, each providing cover for one month. The teams open up the building, ensure all the entrance doors are manned to give a warm welcome to all as they arrive and then oversee the closing up of the church.

Being part of the Welcome Team is a fun way to get to know others in the team and also to get the opportunity to chat to people as they enter and leave church. The reason we work on a monthly rota is that it gives each team the opportunity to identify new people and hopefully be that familiar face and point of contact for them if they come back the next week. It also bonds the team together.

Though if anyone needs a week off during their month there are of course plenty of people who will swap. There is a designated leader within each of the 12 teams.

We do have some teams that require more helpers so if you are interested please do be in touch.

Louise van der Linde belfastvandals@gmail.com 07964421686



Friday Clubs and Evolve Fitzroy Youth Ministry (FYM)

Our aim is to provide young people with a foundation of who Christ is, how He works in their lives, and how they should respond to Him. We plan programmes and activities for young people that are fun, experiential and designed to stimulate discussion and interaction. We couldn't do this without a lot of very dedicated volunteers. Please pray for us as we help to mould the next generation of the people of God.

Frenzy - P4-P7 Friday 6:30 - 7:30pm

Every Friday evening the Alexander Hall comes alive with the sound of our Frenzy children enjoying their energetic and fun filled



programme. Children love the games, team challenges and special events. We want our children to encounter Jesus and this remains the core of every Frenzy event.

Youth Club - Years 8-14 Friday 8:00pm - 9:30pm

One of the key elements of Friday night Youth Club is fun; we want this event to be the best night of the week for our young people! The joyful and energetic atmosphere allows young people to relax and feel more comfortable. At Youth Club they can enjoy a vibrant and varied programme of games, activities and special events. We work hard to ensure it is a safe environment to experience fun, friendship and to explore faith.



Evolve - Years 8-14 Sunday 7:00 - 8:30pm

Young people live in a world charged with instability and confusion. In FYM we seek to equip them with the knowledge and skills they need to defuse the explosive pressures that they face. Ultimately we want young people to know fullness of life in Christ. Evolve is our Sunday night youth group and it aims to support and help them do exactly that. We explore what the Bible says about a range of issues and topics. This is a fun, creative and interactive event where friendships are also enriched and celebrated. If you would like more information about any of these events or if you would like to know more about how you can get involved as a volunteer please contact the church office 028 9031 9710.



Small (Home) Groups

Meeting in small groups is an important source of support and learning for anyone connected with Fitzroy. The groups meet to study the Bible, deepen our understanding of how to apply it to our lives and to build friendships and support across the Fitzroy community.

During 2020 – 2022 due to the Covid restrictions, the small groups were not able to meet apart from virtually or outdoors. In 2021 a survey of small group activity since March 2020 was carried out to find out how this important form of connection across the congregation was taking place.

The survey noted that there are 9 formal groups with around 110 people involved, and 8 of the 9 had managed to meet during Covid. Each group chooses its own study focus which covers a range of topics and themes such as Bible study: Hebrews, James, 2 Timothy, Psalms; or theological commentaries such as Paul Distilled, following Fitzrov's chosen Lent materials, Pete Greig's How to Pray, PCI online studies. The groups were connecting using phone calls, Whats app, Zoom or outdoor walks.

Going forward there are plans to extend the range of small groups as well as experimenting with the models and methods they use. We aim to share resources and connect leaders informally to learn from each other.

Groups do not need to meet in someone's home as we can provide one of the Fitzroy halls/ rooms to enable socially distanced meetings. If you are interested in starting a new group or joining an existing group you can directly contact one of the existing groups for advice or contact Steve, Elma Greer or Trisha Eaton.

No.	Name	When	
1	Brian & Diane McDowell	Tuesday, twice per month	
2	Muriel McCleery	1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month	
3	Mateer/Miller/Alexander	Every other Wednesday, space for some new people	
4	Paul & Carole Clark	2nd Monday of each month, mornings	
5	Graham & Eileen McGeown	1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month	
6	Patricia and Chris Blake	Alternate Tuesdays	
7	Heather & Joe Carey	Every other Wednesday	
8	Philip & Rosemary McElroy	2nd & last Tuesday of each month	
9	Livingston/Spence	Every other Wednesday	

The list above are the groups that are currently active



Catering and Hospitality

There are lots of ways to get involved with catering and hospitality at Fitzroy and it can be as big or as small a commitment as you like. No need to have any great catering skills: if you can make a cup of tea, we'd love to have you!

Hospitality at Fitzroy is really important. It's a way of reaching out to people and showing we care, as well as a great way of socialising and meeting one another.



Activity	Description	Contact
Tea and coffee after church – Sunday mornings	Join the rota to make and serve tea and coffee after church in the Welcome Area. Once a quarter is fine!	Caroline McDowell Caroline_bloomfield@yahoo.co.uk
Events catering	This could be helping cater for a church lunch, a funeral or even a wedding	Gillian Fitch Gillian.angilli@gmail.com
Thursday morning coffee and chat	Aimed at older members of the congregation, a lively group meets in the Welcome Area on Thursdays for coffee. Helpers needed to set up and serve.	Sheena Trinder Sheena.trinder@virginmedia.com
Open House Lunch	Hosted once a month by a family or homegroup, either in church or in someone's home, open house lunch is aimed at newer members of the congregation.	Sheena Trinder Sheena.trinder@virginmedia.com
Cook Club	Join the group which cooks meals together in the church for specific events	Sheena Trinder Sheena.trinder@virginmedia.com
One World lunches	Regular bread and cheese lunches to raise funds for Tear Fund and Christian Aid	
Informal support	Join a list of people who on occasion could cook a meal for someone who is ill or bereaved	Janice Stockman Janice.stockman@hotmail.co.uk

Here are some of the ways you can get involved



Epic Pop-Up Conversations

Over the last 10 years there have been many changes in the Fitzroy congregation and community with exits and entries of members and friends. As a 'gathered congregation' Sundays tend to be a big day for the Fitzroy community with worship, teaching, fellowship, community. A lot gets packed into a couple of hours.

People have been asking for other opportunities to engage more meaningfully with each other and go deeper in their faith. For this reason it is planned to hold occasional Epic Pop Up conversations during the year as a way of responding to this need.

The aim is to provide everyone with the opportunity to engage as a community on the relevant issues that impact on our lives, in this place, at this time. The post Covid impact, the cost-of-living crisis, and the general uncertainty in the world impacts on people's daily lives in practical, emotional and spiritual ways

As Christians we seek to discern and live out God's purpose. We need safe opportunities to explore this in a deeper way to find direction, strength, and support.

The format for the Epic Pop-Up conversations is to focus for an hour on a relevant topic. We will invite a 'thought leader' to share their thinking and experience on their topic for about 15 minutes. An Elder will host the following discussion which will last around 40 minutes and then the group will share their personal takeaways and insights for a final 10-15 minutes.

Tea/coffee is obligatory along with some social time at the beginning and end. We aim to create an informal, inclusive and interactive experience.

Pop Up topics in the past have included 'My Music My Faith', 'Hospitality and Spirituality', 'Art and Creativity', 'Grief and Loss', 'Living with Stress and 'Towards the Finish Line'. Future topics are planned to include money, sex and sexuality, climate, and mental well-being. These offer a combination of pastoral care and spiritual development.

Trisha Eaton and Anne McMurray are taking this forward over the autumn of 2022 – spring 2023. If you are interested in being involved, or to find out more please email:

Trisha - trishaeaton42@gmail.com Anne - anne@annemcmurray.com

Young Adults in Fitzroy

On 7 November 2021 the Young Adults met for Pizza, salads and desserts after church. It felt good to be in the Welcome area again, chatting, laughing and sharing stories with friends after Covid and too much Zoom. There was an opportunity a few weeks later to meet with Session and look at some plans for the year ahead. Sunday morning breakfasts were planned as well as the idea of an Alpha group.

The breakfasts happened bi monthly and again provided a good meeting place. It's amazing how pancakes, bacon and maple syrup with freshly brewed coffee or bacon butties with fruit juices or porridge with exotic toppings can entice students and 20's out of bed on a Sunday morning. We sometimes tried to fit in an interview on a current faith issue or someone's faith journey. The breakfasts plan to start again this autumn with even more interesting menus and discussion topics. Watch out for dates!



The Alpha group happened over the course of 10 weeks from 27th April to 29th June 2022 on Wednesday evenings. The course was mainly aimed at ages 18-30 ish and over the 10 weeks about 15 people came with 6-10 people on any given night. The evenings included dinner, tea and coffee, a short video and discussion led by either Sophie or Sarah. The discussions were open and honest with people exploring what faith meant to them and what it could mean in the future. This course allowed discussion around the big topics of Christianity in a safe space.

As a follow on from Alpha, to keep the energy up, Steve has kindly offered to host an evening once a month at the manse for

this same group to come and ask questions and be able to explore big topics like forgiveness and sin. This monthly event will be open to people from the same age group as Alpha who are exploring what faith means to them. This age group is growing in Fitzroy and it's very exciting. It's a formational age for faith development and many of these people have missed opportunities to talk about faith over the last few years due to Covid restrictions and lack of connection. This group is also looking forward to contributing to plans for a short series of evening services.

One of the group said 'Fitzroy 20's happens mostly in a fun scattered sort of way'. So watch out as some of those plans for various social events emerge!

If you'd like to hear more or be part of this group then contact Sophie on 07919 842 132. You can have your name added to the Whats App group and become part of this new adventure!



Practical Parenting Workshops...

...are a space to meet parents and church members who are keen to support the work of parenting (and grandparenting) in our Fitzroy Family.

Parenting is a joint project - they say it takes a village to raise a child and certainly those of us who are in parenting know the benefits of receiving the support and encouragement of others. Support both for the adults and the babies/toddlers/children/teens/young adults/ etc!!!

We mostly meet on Sunday mornings for breakfast and chat

and then our children are cared for by church members and parents meet to discuss topics/ hear a speaker/chat/laugh/pray..... and drink a whole cup of coffee or tea, hot.

We aim to build a learning and caring group that supports and shares the ups and downs of this amazing privilege, as we seek to raise our children to be independent and resilient with a developing faith.

Do come along - you will be most welcome. You can contact Roz: rozmci@yahoo.co.uk.

PSALM 36 V 5-9 A PSALM OF DAVID NIVUK

- ⁵ Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens,
 - your faithfulness to the skies.
- ⁶ Your righteousness is like the highest mountains.
 - your justice like the great deep. You, LORD, preserve both people
- ⁷ How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!

and animals.

- People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
- ⁸ They feast in the abundance of your house:
- you give them drink from your river of delights.
- ⁹ For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

Fitzroy Climate Group

We are a group who thrive on time outdoors, care deeply about creation and who are gravely concerned about the climate crisis

We are exploring how, as a church, we can respond to the climate emergency and live more sustainably. We try to find more ways to bring creation into our worship, enjoy fellowship outdoors and learn more together.

We are a diverse group of different ages, interests, skills and knowledge, trying to live out our faith in actions that help, rather than harm the environment.

Some of our activities include:

- Enjoying picnics, nature walks and vegan food together
- Visiting Jubilee Farm and tree planting
- Sharing ideas on sustainable living and helping with a clothes swap

- Visiting youth groups and visiting Botanic Gardens
- Responding to the environment strategy for Northern Ireland Document and attending the COP26 Call for Action rally
- Contributing to services, prayer week and the Fitzroy website.

But there is much more that we want to do!

Get a copy of Rachel Fullerton's excellent booklet from Fitzroy called, 'Wee changes, Cracker Impact,' for some great ideas in how to care for God's Creation. Whatever your climate interest is, be it plant-based food, political activism, the prevention of single use plastic or gardening, please consider joining us.

Please contact Rhea or Peter Marshall (p.g.marshall@gmail.com) or Rachel or Mark Fullerton (rk.fullerton@icloud.com).





Memory Lane

In 2021 some of us felt there was a need for a short traditional service for some of our older Fitzroy members and others in the community. We have introduced

a 20-30 minute peaceful service followed by refreshments and chat. It is also suitable for someone living with dementia and their carers.

We believe that a church community can learn from people living with dementia and their carers. We are making small changes to ensure that people remain connected to each other and to their faith. We also believe that helping people to connect with God in a peaceful place is special. We have also provided

a carers' afternoon tea and will be exploring how music helps us connect with different times in our lives.

Anyone is welcome to come long to the Memory Lane Service 2:30pm on the first Friday of each month. Just come along when you can.

If you would like to help us in our activities or would like more information contact greerelma@ gmail.com or phone 07538 407652.

Church Weekend 2023

After a few years break, the Fitzroy Family Church Weekend is back! We will be heading off to Ganaway Activity Centre (Millisle) 3rd - 5th March 2023. This will be an inclusive weekend for everyone of any age with the focus on helping people connect after the disruption of the pandemic.

The planning group are in the process of developing a flexible and informal series of activities for the weekend that will help people, meet, talk and play together. We haven't settled on a theme yet -but we are thinking a lot about helping people talk about how their faith developed, changed and is sustained. Ganaway offers plenty of opportunity for running

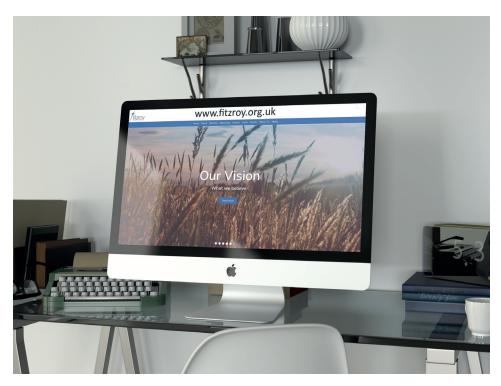
around and high adrenaline activities, but also spaces to chill out and relax. There is well spaced out accommodation (for those who prefer a quiet night!), as well as a nice coastline to walk along (weather permitting at the start of March!) Details for the weekend and a booking form will be available in October - for now, save the first weekend in March!

Fitzroy Web-Site

The main aims of the church website are to provide information on the church's vision, purpose and beliefs, to make available details of the church's activities and to have a presence for the church on-line.

There are links on the web-site to various functions within the church such as worship, the youth ministry and the church's missionary activities and interests. There is an extensive archive of sermon audio recordings and links to more recent video recordings of church services. Information on how to make contact with church personnel and a list of church leaders and elders is available.

Details of how to contribute to the work of Fitzroy are provided.
Church members need to register in order to access certain



sections of the site which are not accessible to the general public The web-site is designed to be updated by the people who have responsibility for the different areas of church ministry. The

two main site administrators are currently Peter Greer & John Eaton who can be contacted by e-mail at the web-site address:website@fitzroy.org.uk

Coffee and Chat

In July 2021, just as some Covid-19 restrictions were lifting, a few of us decided that we had had enough of Zoom meetings and would trial a Thursday morning Fitzroy get together in the Welcome Area.

We didn't know if anyone would be brave enough to come but 15 mask-wearing, handsanitised Fitzers arrived, took their appropriately spaced seats and were served tea, coffee and scones.

The Welcome Area is such a wonderfully bright place and on that first morning together we enjoyed the chat and we all felt our spirits lift.

Since then we have met each Thursday at 11:00 and the company and chat make Thursday morning one of our favourite times of the week. Most of the people who come along are of retirement age but all are young at heart.

We would welcome any adult of whatever age. It is a joyful group to be part of and should you fancy dropping in any Thursday, please, come and join us.

If you need any more encouragement or information, please, contact Patricia Blake, Jane Matthews, Helen Miller or Sheena Trinder





Babies and Toddlers Group

Babies and Toddlers group meet on Wednesday Mornings from 10.30am-12pm. We meet in the Alexander Hall and completely transform it with toys, slides, Wendy houses, ride-on cars and tractors.

There are puzzles and crafts for the children and often Mums enjoy these too!

We have a toast time for the children and coffee, tea and toast for Mums and Minders. On special occasions we have treats and party food.

The morning finishes with a Rhyme time, which is probably the children's favourite time of the morning. Toddler Group continues to be a lovely mix of ladies, both our own and international.

Every New Mum, Granny, Minder or Dad is welcome to join us. Anyone who wants to help with play, craft or making toast is also very welcome.

Contact Janice Stockman – 07740681160.





Fitz Olde Gitz

What's in a name? Older or wiser, now that's the question! If you think that you might enjoy this group, then you are very welcome. Every so often a walk is organised. Usually, it includes coffee or even lunch. The exercise, fresh air and craic are good!

Recent adventures have taken us to; the north Antim Coast, the north Down Coast and Rathlin Island. If you would like to find out more or join one of our adventures please contact Willie Auterson on william.auterson@gmail.com

Knitting and Sewing Groups

Many ladies in Fitzroy love to knit and crochet, so we have been coming together to knit and chat for many years now. We often just knit our own things, but have also knit for many projects.

As well as blankets and baby blankets we have knit:
Pencil cases for our children in Onialeku Primary School
Baby hats for Vietnam
Men's hats for sailors
Teddy Bears for our toddlers'
group, asylum seekers children
Ladies and Men's hats for homeless organisations
All kinds of knits for Fitzroy craft fairs

We currently meet about once a month/six weeks, in the afternoon. But projects and requests for knitted items go onto the Fitzroy Ladies WhatsApp Group.

If interested in joining us contact Janice Stockman 07740 681 160.

We also have a Fitzroy sewing group, who have sewn all kinds of things to raise money for Fitzroy's primary school in Uganda and also reusable sanitary pads and wee bags to take to the pupils and teachers.

During lockdown the ladies made hundreds of face masks for local community groups and our own congregation.

This Autumn we have craft evenings starting, on Tuesday nights. You can come and bring your own craft or learn a new one. There will be knitters.

sewers, crocheters on hand to help. You can even just come for the coffee and chat!

For details contact Helen Millar 07759 343 092.





Fitzroy Wheelers

Masquerading as cyclists, the Saturday morning coffee club welcomes all.

The mission is for all ages and abilities who have a bicycle in the shed, to dust off the cobwebs and come along. Whether it's the Lagan Towpath, Comber Greenway or Newtownabbey Way there's something for everyone. Tailor the ride to a distance of your choice by joining for a leisurely 12 miles, or stretching it to 40!

Summer 2022 scheduled eight bi-monthly outings, where we enjoyed a bit of exercise and time to chat along the way to deepen friendships.

Join the Wheeler's WhatsApp group for notifications on scheduled rides, latest updates, and any impromptu runs.

Contact Steven Gregg at steve. gregg@btinternet.com or mobile no 07740741970





PSALM 27 A PSALM OF DAVID NIVIIK

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation –

whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life –

of whom shall I be afraid?

²When the wicked advance against me

to devour me,

it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.

³Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;

though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

⁴One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek:

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD

all the days of my life,

to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble

he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent

and set me high upon a rock.

⁶Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me;

at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;

I will sing and make music to the LORD.

⁷Hear my voice when I call, LORD; be merciful to me and answer me.

⁸ My heart says of you, 'Seek his face!' Your face, LORD, I will seek.

⁹ Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger;

you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me,

God my Saviour.

¹⁰ Though my father and mother forsake me,

the LORD will receive me.

¹¹ Teach me your way, LORD; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.

¹² Do not hand me over to the desire of my foes,

for false witnesses rise up against

spouting malicious accusations.

¹³ I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD

in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

Clonard-Fitzroy Fellowship

The Fellowship challenges us to consider:

Is society in Northern Ireland at ease with itself?
Do we want our children and grandchildren to grow up in a society that is as divided as it is now?

As followers of Christ, are we prepared to do something positive to bring people together?

Since 1981, the Fellowship has enabled people who worship at Clonard Roman Catholic Monastery and Fitzroy Presbyterian Church to get to know each other, explore the scriptures, discuss social issues and generally help to heal the divisions in our society.

The following examples illustrate the range of activities that the Fellowship has undertaken in the past:

- Presentation on the Irish
 Football Association's
 programme to "Give
 Sectarianism the Boot" and tour
 of Windsor Park soccer stadium,
 Belfast
- Presentation on the aims and history of the Gaelic Athletic Association and conducted tour of Croke Park GAA stadium, Dublin
- Theological talks from Professor Stephen Williams (Union College), Dr. Con Casey (Jesuit), William Crawley (broadcaster)
- Viewing of the film documentary "Fourteen Days" – how Fr. Alec Reid of Clonard helped turn the atrocities of 1988 into the Good Friday Agreement
- Shared church services, some of which involved Catholic Cardinals and Presbyterian Moderators
- Group discussion of our personal experiences of sectarianism
- Explanation (by each of the local political parties) of their policies to promote community cohesion



As soon as COVID precautions permitted, the Fellowship resumed its activities in May 2022 with the event shown in the photograph. Rev Jonny Frazer (Garnerville Presbyterian Church) and Fr Ciaran O'Callaghan (Clonard Monastery) outlined how they met, became friends and developed the series of podcasts entitled "The Presbyterian and the Priest".

If you would like to be informed about forthcoming Fellowship events or contribute your own suggestions please contact Chris Williamson by e-mail to chris. Williamson253@gmail.com or by text or telephone to 07598 402 288

Mornington Community Project

Mornington Community Project has had a presence on the Lower Ormeau Road for the past 30 years. It started with a partnership between the Crescent Church and a women's group on the Lower Ormeau Road. The aim was to provide a safe space where local children could attend the Rainbow club rather than walking through troubled streets to the Crescent.

Today Mornington has grown and exists to improve the lives of residents in areas of high deprivation, cultural/ethnical diversity and division in Inner South Belfast. Our vision is 'a thriving community with a strong sense of belonging for all; where people are resilient and hopeful'. Our mission is 'to provide safe, welcoming spaces where we work with others to create opportunities for people to enhance their quality of life.' We aim to help the community to tackle a range of local issues including: poverty, underemployment, low educational attainment



transgenerational trauma, poor mental and physical health, division and exclusion. Showing Christ's love practically!

We deliver the following:
A Nurturing Family Support
programme which engages
vulnerable parents,
grandparents and carers and
encourages a whole new
nurturing approach to family
life through parenting support /
advice, a weekly drop-in service to
reduce isolation and 1-1 or home
visiting support.

Tus Gael Bilingual out of schools project that provides care to 16 children (in partnership with An Droichead Cultural Centre) as an affordable childcare option to allow local families to access employment/training throughout

the year. This service also employs 3 local people.

The Women's Project works with women on a cross-community basis and offers social support. The Social Enterprise programme provides space within our building for local charities and businesses at fair rents and the catering kitchen offers space for food start-ups to test their products and prepare foods for sale. The kitchen and cafe area can be rented out for Pop up cafe events and other training events. The new outdoor space is an addition to our renting space opportunities.

Get involved - As a volunteer with the Nurturing Team, After Schools Team, Social Enterprise Team, Become a Board Member, Be part of a Sub Group for Fund Raising, Building/Health and Safety, Pray, Support us financially.

For more information contact Heather Carey at heather@careyandjohnston.com

South Belfast Foodbank

South Belfast Foodbank is a partnership of local churches and organisations who have come together to help fight poverty in our community. It is part of the network of Trussell Trust foodbanks

The congregation of Fitzroy plays a significant part in supporting the work of the foodbank in prayer, volunteering time, food and monetary donations.

The foodbank has been in operation since 2014 in various centres throughout the area. After having to adapt our service to home delivery during lockdowns we are happy to say we are now back to our face-to-face with 2 centres open and more to follow. We contact those that have been referred by registered Referral Agencies eg AdviceNI, MLAs, Churches, Social Workers, Health Visitors, local charities etc to offer a 1:1 appointment to come and choose their own



food, toiletries, household and baby products. The food parcel provides 3 days of nutritionally balanced food.

This allocated time gives our trained volunteers time to come alongside those in need, really listen to their problems and where appropriate make onward referrals eg to get help with heat, clothing, debt advice etc. It also gives opportunities to pray with people.

The foodbank aims to support the person throughout their crisis providing food but also helping to address the root cause of the problem. We hope one day not to be needed but until then we will do our best to support those in need.

If you would like to know more, please contact your Foodbank Church Champion
Brenda Johnston - brenda@ southbelfast.foodbank.org.uk

³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in...

Matthew 25:35



Botanic Primary School

Fitzroy enjoys a close relationship with Botanic Primary School, and provides regular talks at assemblies and RE lessons to P5, P6 and P7 each week in a way that we can champion, support and serve our local primary school.

Over the course of the year children learn about colourful characters in the Bible, the life of Jesus, the fruit of the spirit, big issues such as the media, peer pressure, bullying and some lessons focused on preparing P7 children for their move to secondary school.

Cleopas

The ministry of Cleopas began in 2010 in response to a deep and apparent need among Christian leaders to be offered a place of retreat and refreshment. I am Roz Stirling, the founder and Director of Cleopas, and a long time member of Fitzroy.

In Mark 6, Jesus sent his disciples out on a challenging mission. When they returned from their exploits they were bursting with energy, full of stories of what they had seen and done. Immediatley, Jesus said to them, "Come with me to a quiet place and rest."

Did he not want to hear their stories? I imagine he did, but he also knew that the first priority was that they be spiritually and mentally restored by him.

It is this same priority that led to the birth of Cleopas. Having worked in Chriatian Ministry roles for most of my adult life, I continually observed the consequence for leaders who failed to grasp the importance of time apart with Jesus for personal restoration. I myself was one such leader.

It is thrilling to look back and see how the early vision became a reality, working with leaders from diverse backgrounds and getting the conversation started among churches, christian organisations and denominations about the necessity for planned and supported soul care for leaders.

The ministry focus has widened considerably over the years. Opportunities now exist for anyone looking for that time apart for spiritual retreat and restoration. Details are available on www.cleopas.net

Thank you to Fitzroy for their care and support of me and this ministry over the years.



Homeplus

Homeplus is an independent charity that seeks to help mainly homeless people, but also refugees and asylum seekers in Belfast. Many of the rough sleepers have complex needs and have little or no family support. Homeplus have a centre in University Street and an outreach van that goes out every evening.

As well as providing a hot drink and food, clothes and sleeping bags are also distributed. Perhaps the greatest service to the homeless is having someone who cares and wants to listen to their story. "It's hard when people walk by and ignore you all the time, or throw a few coins at you as if you're not worth anything."

A Fitzroy volunteer has offered this advice for connecting with a rough sleeper, "Can I buy you a hot chocolate or get you a sandwich?" Perhaps carry a £5 voucher from Greggs to give to a needy person.



Homeplus receives support from the Public Health Agency and other funding organisations, but also really appreciates help from volunteers and donations from the general public. If you would like to find out more about contributing or volunteering or have other questions about Homeplus please contact:

Natalie Gilbert nataliegilbert109@gmail.com

Janet Willis jwillis422@yahoo.co.uk

Or contact Homeplus directly on 028 9031 1836.

Women's Aid - Belfast & Lisburn

In the UK, a woman is killed every three days due to domestic abuse. But it's not just women who suffer. Over a 12-month period ending in March 2020, 2.3 million adults aged 16-74 became victims of domestic abuse, according to the Office for National Statistics. Those numbers include 1.6 million women and 757,000 men. Fitzroy has been involved in helping the local women's refuge for over 10 years by passing on towels (new and nearly new), new toiletries and underwear, along with

monetary collections at Easter and Christmas, to enable Christmas Presents and Easter Eggs to be purchased. All of these are very gratefully received by women and children who have had to leave their homes very quickly as a result of abuse and violence.

Currently Roberta Clotworthy is Fitzroy's link person, and organises the collections. There are also opportunities for painting or gardening at the refuge!

Contact: roberta@fitzroy.org.uk





- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains where does my help come from?
- ² My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.
- ³ He will not let your foot slip he who watches over you will not slumber;
- ⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
- ⁵ The LORD watches over you –

the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

- ⁶ the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.
- ⁷ The LORD will keep you from all harm –

he will watch over your life;

8 the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and for evermore.

4 Corners Festival

The 4 Corners Festival seeks to inspire people from across Belfast to transform it for the peace and wellbeing of all. It features innovative events designed to entice people out of their own 'corners' of the city and into new places where they will encounter new perspectives, new ideas and hopefully meet new friends.

The Festival takes place annually in February, and we celebrated our 10th birthday in 2021. It comprises a range of events featuring discussion, music, prayer, drama, poetry and story-telling in venues across the city of Belfast. Each year follows and explores a theme, and literally gets people moving, very often to a part of the city that they may never have been to. A highlight each year is the Wonderful Wander that usually meanders from one 'corner' of the city to another, from one community to a different one.

It has featured contributions from many respected writers,



musicians, artists and theologians as diverse as Gary Lightbody, Pope Francis, Damian Gorman, Archbishop Justin Welby, Anthony Toner, Ken Haddock, John Paul Lederach, Dr Heather Morris, Pàdraig O'Tuama, Brian Houston, Ruth McGinley, to name but a few.

Fitzroy plays a major role in the organising and running of the Festival with Steve and others from the congregation on the board and committee, and it has often been used as a venue for

events. The Friday evening music and chat evening is another highlight of our week.

We are always looking for people to help out as volunteers at events across the city through the festival week as 'meeters and greeters', stewards, coffee & tea making and serving and other random bits and pieces that inevitably need done, so if you feel that you could make a contribution please get in touch, dgsproule21@icloud.com

School of Music - Donegall Pass

The Former School of Music on Donegall Pass was originally gifted to the Education Board by Crescent Presbyterian and then recently gifted back to us. It is a wonderful opportunity to engage with a loyalist community often overlooked by the Church.

We have spent years seeking ways to use it missionally that will benefit the people of Donegall Pass, speaking to stake holders and even visited every door.

It has been a slow process for many reasons but we are exploring creative ways to bring renewed light and energy to the heart of the Pass that will radiate out into the wider city of Belfast.

We are currently waiting responses to grant applications to do repairs needed to open up again. Artists and other creatives are at the moment core to the forward drive of this project with local partnerships vital in all we might plan and hope for.



One World lunches

Simple bread, cheese and soup lunches are provided by volunteers two or three times per year after the morning Church service. Everyone is invited. After the lunch there is an opportunity to give a donation to support Christian Aid and Tear Fund with the work that they do for people in need around the World.

When possible, relevant leaflets and information are made available! Anyone wanting to participate with preparing, serving or clearing up afterwards will be welcomed enthusiastically.

Mission Support

Prior to Jesus' ascension into heaven he commissioned his followers, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts Ch.1v8

This commission is given to all of us who know Jesus in a personal way, but over the years some people from Fitzroy have gone beyond N. Ireland to, 'the ends of the earth!'

Carol McFarlane has been serving with London City Mission since 1994. Mark & Hannah Lyttle have just recently moved to Africa.

The Mission Support Group liaises with them and tries to keep them in the hearts and minds of Fitzroy. We can also offer support to those who are contemplating such a calling.



Thank you to the many people in Fitzroy who support them in practical ways and in prayer. Carol, Mark and Hannah send out regular updates and if you would like to be added to their mailing list please contact George Mullan qmullan14@hotmail.com.

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts Ch.1v8

FITZROY'S INVOLVEMENT IN GLOBAL PROJECTS

Onialeku Primary School - NW Uganda

Fitzroy has been connected with Onialeku Nursery and Primary School, through Fields of Life, since 2014. We tithed our Halls Building project and funded a Primary School building that was opened in 2015. We have since funded a fence, girls washroom, a well and text books. Our most recent fundraising will see a new nursery school building open by the end of 2022. Members of Fitzroy also sponsor around 60 pupils.

Onialeku is in the suburbs of Arua, and this school in the grounds of the Elim church is a lifeline to hundreds of young children who otherwise would have little access to a good standard of education. Some of our sponsored children have been enabled to move on to secondary education.

Fitzroy has also sent teams to Onialeku, a student team in 2015 and Church teams in 2017,18 and 19. We hope to return to Onialeku in the near future to spend time with the children and staff.

There are some photographs of the school on the wall outside Steve's office, appropriately called the Onialeku Room adjacent to the upstairs hall in Fitzroy. Fields of Life focus on education in East Africa. They have partnered in the building of over 100 primary schools, some secondary schools and more recently a vocational training centre. They have also drilled hundreds of water wells.

For more information on Fields of Life check out www.fieldsoflife.org







Saphara

How challenging it is to get children back to 'normal' school life even here in Northern Ireland. In India so many poor families have been forced into such deep debt by the past 2 years that they can't afford for their children to go back to school, expecting them instead to earn a small wage to keep the family afloat.

For girls things are even more bleak with many being married off at 13 or 14 or sent off to big cities to 'work', but often being abused and exploited. Thanks to many Fitzroy folks' generosity we have raised £60,000 for our Back to School fund, enabling 600 children to go to school for a full year.

The Girl Champions programme has restarted with a training conference for 16 women teachers in September, which I was so pleased to host. These tribal women often feel totally worthless and so helping them to understand how much they are

loved by God and build up their self-belief is a great privilege. With this confidence they can go back to their schools to create inclusive supportive groups amongst the adolescent girls where they too can grow in emotional resilience.

A key part of this is to understand that menstruation is a normal part of life and does not make them unclean or a 'curse' and to give them access to washable sanitary pads made by local women.

Recently we launched a new NI cross-community schools programme, Be the Change Award, with 150 sixth form students from 12 schools involved last year. Our focus, rather than taking young people to India, is working with local newcomer children from refugee and asylum seeker families. We had 150 primary school children at Stranmillis College for Newcomer Children Week in June hosted by the sixth form students. A wonderful time was had by all!



Thanks for all your support, Christine Burnett

PS if you would like more information about the schools and girls from very poor communities that we support in India contact me at christine.burnett@saphara. org.

FITZROY'S INVOLVEMENT IN GLOBAL PROJECTS

Light in the Darkness - Colombia

Maria Elena Moore a member of Fitzroy has lived in N. Ireland for many years. She grew up and worked as a teacher in Colombia and returns to S. America whenever she can to visit family members.

A few years ago while on a visit Maria Elena started up a Saturday open air lunch club in the public square of the City of Duitama in Colombia for homeless and vulnerable people, including many refugees from Venezuela.

Duitama has a population of 100 000+. Maria Elena finances this club and it is carried on in her absence by some friends and volunteers.

On occasions there can be up to 300 people and depending on financial resources lunch can consist of soup and sandwiches or hamburgers, at a cost of about £1 per person. Hot food and a chat with someone who cares are very





welcome. The government offers no assistance to these vulnerable people. When in Duatama Maria Elena takes the opportunity to share with children in poor remote areas the Good News of Jesus' love for them. Many of these children have no access to education. She gathers them together in the open air for stories, games and food. Maria Elena has also ventured into the dangerous

high mountains on horseback to seek out very poor families to give out food, clothes, hats, toiletries and the message of Jesus' Love.

Thank you to everyone who has donated knitted goods or given financial support to help support this work. "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

If you would like to find out more or support this, 'love for our neighbour' project please speak to Maria Elena or contact her on mariaelenamoore@hotmail.co.uk.

Biblica

Biblica's Mission is to provide the Bible in accurate, contemporary translations and formats so that more people around the world will have the opportunity to be transformed by Jesus Christ.

There are almost 7,000 languages spoken in the world, including sign languages. The Bible, in whole or part, has been translated into more than 3,324 languages including complete Old or New Testaments in 2,189 languages, and the complete text of the Bible in 804 languages. That still leaves 3,627 people groups that are yet to receive any of God's Word in their own language.

Imagine not being able to read David's Psalm 139 in our own language!

Biblica is best known for being the translation sponsor of the New International Version. It is a global Bible ministry. The Vision of Biblica – The International Bible Society, is to see the Bible used by God to redeem the lost, restore the broken and inspire the Body of Christ to be a community of hope for the world. Light and Life to all who hear and believe!

This goal of having the Bible in the heart language of all people is not a task for one organisation. Through a collaborative impact alliance called illumiNations; Biblica, The Bible Societies, Wycliffe and others have the chance to work together to bring God's Word to every language and every nation during this current generation.

Michael and Gillian Fitch serve in leadership roles in Biblica and illumiNations and encourage you to pray and advocate for the one billion people who still do not have a Bible in their heart language and also to be a part of the illumiNations movement.

Further information is available at biblica.com; biblicaeurope.com, progress.bible and illumiNations. bible/pray.





- ¹ You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.
- ² You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- ³ You discern my going out and my lying down;

you are familiar with all my ways.

- ⁴ Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.
- ⁵ You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.
- ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,

too lofty for me to attain.

- Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?
- ⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

- ⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,
- ¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.
- $^{\rm 11}$ If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me
- and the light become night around me,'

- ¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you;
 - the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.
- ¹³ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
 - your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
- ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place,

when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book

before one of them came to be.

17 How precious to me are your thoughts, God!

How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ Were I to count them,

they would outnumber the grains of sand –

when I awake, I am still with you.

People to pray For



People to write to ...

People to bless ...

bless...



Random acts of kindness to carry out ...



Mission activities to pray For...

Things to proise and thank God For...

Activities to participate in...

Opportunities to proclaim Jesus good news ..

Ways to be a peacemaker...

I have come that you might have life, life in all its fullness. John 10:10



Prophetic words For BelFast...



