



As some of you may know, I'm spending my Gap Year as a PCI Voluntary Youth Worker Intern. It is an opportunity to spend a year growing in personal discipleship and developing my leadership ability. I'm working in my home church Killinchy Presbyterian and in South Belfast Friendship House.

I'd love to share some thoughts, some news about what I've been doing and some things that you could pray for as I take part in this internship.



Ignite Youth Ministry

Ignite is the Youth Ministry in Killinchy Presbyterian Church. It's a blessing to be able to connect with young people in Killinchy and build meaningful relationships with them.

Friday nights are full of loud music and energetic activities at the "Friday Night Club". It's great to see such a diverse group of young people come through our doors every week with the usual banter and craic.

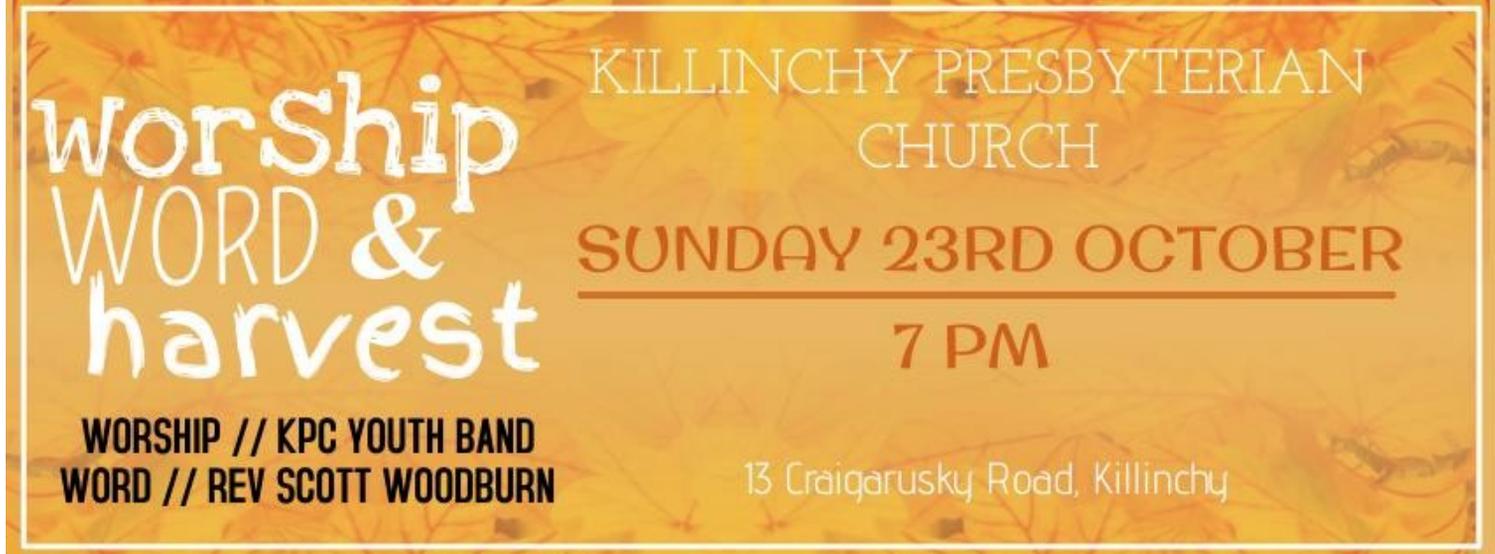


Our new Youth room which opened at the end of the summer is proving to be a huge hit and is a great place to wind-down and relax over a strong brew and tasty treats.

Sunday nights consist of an aged 11-18 Group and a 18+ Group.

Please pray for the programmes and talks that are delivered on a Friday and Sunday night and for the young people who don't know the Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We thank God for the young people who come every week and please pray for strength and energy for the leaders and volunteers involved in the Youth Ministry and organisations in this church.

From January I'm hoping to start a Youth Alpha programme for young teenagers in KPC on a Sunday morning. **Please pray for wisdom and guidance for the best way to do this and that the young people that come along will discover Jesus as their Savior and grow in their faith.**



Worship & Word - 23rd October 2016

On our Harvest Sunday, the young people in KPC (Killinchy Presbyterian) organised the evening service. Worship was led by KPC's very own worship band and the Word was shared by Rev Scott Woodburn, Minister of Edengrove Presbyterian.

Many young people from neighbouring churches such as Saintfield and Comber came and worshipped with us. It was great to see so many young people united together praising our Heavenly Father.

You couldn't have a service led by young people without some grub after, right? We had plenty of tasty treats and warm Apple tart after our time of worship.

James Johnston made a fantastic video of our service which you can watch [here](#). Thanks again James!

One of the things that stuck out to me the most was when Scott explains how in the passage a young man comes to Jesus and asks him to tell his brother to divide their inheritance. This man is demanding and wants Jesus to sort this out.

In verse 15 - "Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

Scott goes on and says "How can we live so that there is MORE of Jesus and LESS of me?"

It made me really think about what I prioritise in my life and how I could be spending so much more time with God and His Word.

Scott concluded with this Latin phrase, "Soli Deo Gloria" which translates to "To God alone, the Glory."

What are we living for? To go out with friends on a Saturday night? To get noticed and liked by other people?

I pray that everything I do and that you do, in our daily lives, is not done to make ourselves feel good or to get noticed, but for the Glory of His Kingdom.

1 Corinthians 10:31 - So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.



MAD Weekend 2016

On the 28th-30th October I went to the MAD weekend as one of the 'Crew' members. It was amazing to see over 1000 people gathered together from all across the country to listen and respond to God's Word.

It was a privilege to take part in the Sunday morning session and to share some thoughts and stories in front of such an amazing bunch of young people.

The theme of the weekend was about being "Plugged In" with talks about being Plugged into Jesus, Church and School.



On the last talk on the Sunday morning, Rick Hill spoke about shining our light among others, by having Confidence in the Name and Courage for the Way. He also said "God is as interested in you in the shadows as he is in the spotlight."

It really challenged me with this question. **Do we spend enough personal time with God?**

Everyone would admit there's times when we could be doing so much more with our time. We can be so caught up with our social lives and friends, or finishing that deadline or assignment, watching TV or catching up on Netflix, that we can forget how important it is to have that intimate connection with the living God.

I used to really struggle with this. A few years ago I would have never looked at my Bible. Once a week maybe, but that was a good week!

I felt lost, I felt no sense of direction with my life. I never had any reassurance about how much God loves me.

We need to connect with Him. Are you constantly plugged into Jesus?

One resource which has really helped me to do this is [TIDES](#), a daily devotion which comes into your inbox every morning. It provides you with a section of God's word to read, a short reflection sharing what this could look like in our lives and a simple way for you to respond.

Many young people who attended the MAD weekend gave their life to the Lord. Please pray for these young people and the life changing journey they will embark on.



Youth Ministry Course Residential

On the 11th-13th November I attended Castlewellan Castle as part of my Youth Ministry course at Union Theological College, Belfast.

It was great to be away from usual Youth Work commitments to really listen and reflect on God's word and get to know other people on the course that bit better.

Please pray that I can use the lectures each week to help me tell more young people about the amazing life that they can have with Jesus and for upcoming assignments due as well.



South Belfast Friendship House

I spend my Tuesday's in Friendship House, a place where I've felt very welcome by the staff, young people and parents in Sandy Row.

The afternoon consists of an Afterschool Club with loud and lively P1-P3's. It's been great to get to know them (and their competitiveness on Wii Sports!). Later on in the afternoon we have a Homework Club for P4-P6's where students from Derryvolgie Halls come and help the pupils with their homework.

In the evening we have 2 drop in/youth clubs for P7-Upper Sixth. I have really loved getting to know these bunch of young people and the conversations we have every Tuesday night, with the unbeatable chocolate toast and hot chocolate!

Please pray through our conversations and epilogues that the young people will know the importance of knowing and following Jesus in their lives. Especially at this time of the year, pray for opportunities for the real meaning of Christmas to be shared and for the Christmas activities planned over the next few weeks.



PCI Interns Hayley and Jack with Rick Hill on our Training Week in August.



It wouldn't be Youth Club without a messy game, dabbing and insane bottle flips..



Great catch-up with Rick and Matt in my part of the country!
#killinchy
#lunchonanisland

Over the past few months I have been so blessed with the people I have met

and the opportunities I have been able to take part in. I have really felt that I have grown in my faith and that through many challenges and situations, I have really learnt to keep my eyes focused on Jesus and ensure that what I do each day is for the Glory of His kingdom.

I hope you all have a blessed Christmas. Let's make Christmas all about Him.

I want to say a huge thank you to all of you who've supported me, be it in prayer, financially or in wisdom. Please pray for guidance for the challenges that I face and that I never lose focus on who I'm doing it for.

What a privilege it is to serve the Master.

#SoliDeoGloria



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