

BALLINA CENTRE OF MISSION

December 2019



Emma Rodrigues and Marian Edwards

“Behold I am doing a new thing; can you not see it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland” Isaiah 43:19

As we bring you our updates, we ask that you continue to pray for the Centre of Mission and all those who volunteer with us, helping us to meet the many needs we see in the community.

The Bus ‘drop in

Our Sunday night- “Drop In” at Penny’s car park is now mainly the youth night. Conversations there have become deeper and faith is regularly discussed. We have befriended many of the teens leading to meaningful conversations. They are struggling with many issues.



The Saturday evening is mainly the night for the older men. We chat and sometimes sing hymns and pray with them.

Millview Estate/ Greenhills Estate and Oak Lawns: We have been visiting these estates on a regular basis and running kids’ clubs on the bus for the children. We

hope to continue our work in the estates in the new year.



On November the 24th, the bus was invited to the turning on of the Christmas lights in Ballina. We had decoration making and face painting for the Children. It was lovely to see so many visit the bus.

Community Connections updates

Marian continues to help with the St Vincent de Paul food bank on Monday evenings with pastoral visiting.

Our Pastoral care varies from week to week and depends on the needs. Much of this visiting is visiting vulnerable people who may not see anyone from day to day. We have a few more local people wanting to become volunteers to work with the non-nationals. The Syrian families are very isolated and need help with daily tasks such as form filling and finding out information.

Futsal- Robson and Fabiano run Futsal in the community three times a week in Ballina and Crossmolina. We have over 120 children attend over these days.

Alpha- This week will see the end of our first Alpha which began on Thursday 26th September in St Mary's secondary school in Ballina. It has been very encouraging to have 21-25 people attend weekly and to see the Holy Spirit touch lives. Our Alpha day away was held recently at a local hermitage. This was a special day for all who attended. We hope to continue with this group and start a 'follow on' Alpha group in the new year.

Light Party- We held our usual Halloween 'Light Party' (an alternative to Halloween) on the 31st of October in the Presbyterian Church hall. We had a mixture of adults and children attend with some coming all the way from the nearby town of Castlebar.

Church Army training- Dylan (Marian's son) and Robson (Emma's husband) started training in September. Dylan left Ballina to take up a job in the Diocese of Manchester. Dylan had been helping with the Futsal and on the bus with the teenagers. We miss him but wish him every blessing in his new career.

PRAYERS

Please pray for...

- For more volunteers as the work is expanding, we need more people to help on the bus and with pastoral visiting.
- We pray for all the youth and Men who come to the bus and the people we meet

Things to be thankful for...

- God's continued provision
- Thankful to God for a successful Alpha

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 and praying for us throughout the year. It has been a good year and we are seeing God transform and touch lives. We want to pray for you so please let us know how we can, by emailing emma.rodriques@churcharmy.org Marian.Edwards@churcharmy.org

Thank you!

Emma and Marian



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