

Please come a little earlier

Currently upwards of a third of those attending services come into the warehouse after the service has started. We understand that on occasion there are things beyond our control such as road works or last minute difficulties with young children. However there are things within our control, such as planning to arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of the service, allowing time for parking, getting kids to crèche and Live the Adventure and getting to our seats so that we are ready to engage fully with the whole service and without causing unnecessary disruption to those around us. A few weeks ago an appeal regarding punctuality resulted in a great improvement for a few weeks at first service – so we know we can do it! Unfortunately we have reverted quickly to old habits. The same appeal

at second service had little impact. So we appeal again to all of us to play our part. In addition to arriving earlier on site, we need to remind those of us attending first service to try to be off site by 11.15 so that there is room for second service folks to park. As our numbers continue to grow so too do the number of cars on site. In an effort to try and speed up access onto the site the diggers were back on site to create additional car parking at rear of the House by removing some of the garden and resurfacing the entire area. We'll be asking anyone who stays on site for the duration of both services to park in this new area there by freeing up some spaces particularly for those attending 2nd service. Please note that in the interest of children's safety this new parking area will be closed at 9.15am until 1.00pm

India



Relevant Everyone's welcome Authentic community Life transformation

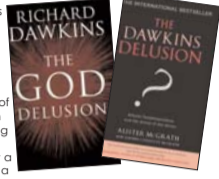
ReLife

December 2007

Sharing the message of Christmas

For many people, Christmas is one of the few times when they will consider coming to a church event. This gives us a marvellous opportunity to invite friends and family along to the Carol service on Sunday evening 23rd December. There will be an opportunity to sing many of the traditional Christmas carols and Gilbert will give a short talk on the significance and relevance of the birth of Christ. We would also like to give you a little advance notice of a couple of very different events which you could invite friends to in January and February.

Science, the New Atheism and the Christian Faith
Over the weekend of 19/20th Jan Dr John Lennox will be visiting us. On Sat morning he'll be speaking at a special breakfast in a local restaurant on the topic of his recent book: God's



Underfunder - Has Science Buried God? On Saturday evening he will address the question of the New Atheism, giving an opportunity for us to hear about some of the issues raised in his recent debate with Prof Richard Dawkins, author of the best selling book "The God Delusion". There will be opportunity for questions and interaction at both events, as well as to see a brief extract from the DVD of the debate itself. On Sunday morning at both services John will address the challenge thrown down by the New Testament to always be ready to give a reason for

the hope that we have, under the title "Reason for hope".

The Music of U2

In a different vein, but again thinking about those who are searching spiritually there will be a special U2 night. While we can't promise Bono will be there - we can assure you of a night packed not only with a variety of musicians playing U2 songs, but also with Steve Stockman, author of the book "Walk on - the spiritual journey of U2" giving us insight into the often surprising lyrics of Ireland's greatest rock band. Don't miss the opportunity these events provide to interact with others over life's biggest questions and to share the hope we have in Christ.



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CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Carol Service
Sunday 23rd December
7.00pm
A great opportunity to bring friends and family to celebrate the Birth of Christ

Christmas Eve Communion
11.00pm

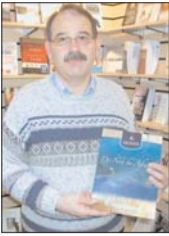
Christmas Morning Family Service
10.30am

helping to keep you in touch with what's happening around Glenabbey

Getting to know you...

Wolfgang Maier

Wolfgang Maier was raised in the south west of Germany, near Stuttgart. He became a Christian as a teenager in a coffee bar after an evangelistic outreach in Stuttgart. This coffee bar subsequently grew to form an independent church which became Wolfgang's home church. Wolfgang's wife Carol is from Belfast, and they've been married for 23 years and have three daughters ?????. ????? and ????? all of whom attend Glenabbey.



why I am here and that is to bring them the word of God. Not another religion, but a relationship with God through Christ."

What strikes you most about your reception and the spiritual needs of the area?

"The first striking thing is that only 1 in 1000 people is a Christian and most haven't had explained to them in a meaningful and understandable way what the gospel is. On the whole I find the people in West Belfast more open to talk to than those in Cork. We are very well received and haven't had any door slammed yet. The problems in the area are huge and the scars of the past and the problems with drink, alcohol and suicide have left many searching for answers and looking for hope."

How could Glenabbey talk best help you?

"The spiritual darkness in West Belfast is immense and especially in this situation nothing moves without the battle in prayer. We certainly need people to pray for us and for God's leading for He knows who is open. Maybe a small or large group of people coming together to pray on a regular basis. For those with whom we have good contact too we need to pray that God convicts them through His Word. Another way to be involved is anyone who has a heart to be involved in sharing the message of Christ with anyone, anywhere, especially women to assist after contacts have been made. If you have an evening or afternoon free and feel you want to be involved, please contact us."

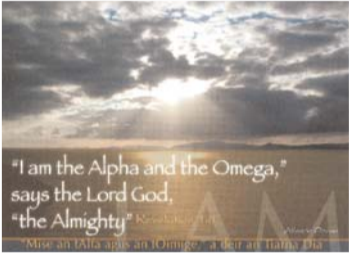
At first I wondered why God led us to West Belfast, but now I realise the great advantage I have as a German. I do not have the political baggage and we are seen as friendly foreigners. This allows me to go straight into the reason

You've been around Glenabbey for a couple of years now - but you've spent a lot longer in other parts of Ireland - tell us how this came about?

"After Bible College and Church work in the USA, we came to work in Cork with UFM International in 1994 and were working with the local Baptist church doing an outreach work in the Ballyphehane area of the city. We moved North in July 2005 after believing God was calling us to work in West Belfast."

What sort of work are you doing there?

"At present we are doing outreach in the Twinbrook and Poleglas area, and have help a few days a week from a few people who are



Naomi Duff

Naomi Duff will be back home on the after completing her specialist language tuition in preparation for her move to Chad in Africa in March 08.



We'll be giving you more details in the new year about the work Naomi is going to be involved in. Please make a point of meeting up with her over the next few months - she'll be delighted to share her vision with you and your prayer support will be crucial

The Vogans



Please pray for Mark & Nube Vogan as they prepare to return to Ecuador early in the new year. Mark is awaiting the results of medical investigations before returning. Although returning to Ecuador they will be located in a different region. Nube will be heavily involved in radio broadcasting to the local people offering spiritual and practical advice. Mark intends to be involved more in the management of the station.

The McNeils



John & Ruth McNeil who work for Campus Crusade for Christ in Africa are currently facing the major challenge of the renewal of their permit to continue living in Namibia

Saturday morning with Stuart



Over 80 men packed into Barnaby's restaurant on Sat 11/11 Nov for a special Mens breakfast with special guest speaker Stuart Briscoe. After a full Ulster fry the men were entertained and challenged by Stuart who spoke on the subject of How to be a man of God. Stuart Briscoe was the speaker at the Global Outreach conference and we all benefitted from his wisdom and challenging Bible teaching. At 77 years of age he (and his wife Jill) were an inspiration to us all.

Investing in eternity

Some people have asked recently about how they should go about financially supporting the ministry of Glenabbey. We're glad you asked! First, we encourage you to think biblically about your giving and to help you with this we point you to our "Money Matters" publication available in the foyer. Second, we encourage you to take one of our Finance Packs (which include 'Money Matters'), also available in the foyer. Third we encourage you to consider your response prayerfully, so that what you give is a decision you make in response to God.



In terms of the method of giving we have a number of 'giving points' in the building which you are free. However we encourage you to give by direct debit - all the necessary forms are included in the Finance Pack for your convenience. All you need to do is complete the forms - send one to your bank and the other to Glenabbey marked for the attention of the Treasurer. Giving in this way is treated with the utmost

confidentially, with only a few members of the finance team being aware of the details. If you are a UK tax payer we would also ask that you consider allowing us to treat your contributions as Gift Aid. This allows Glenabbey, as a registered charity, to claim back the tax you've paid on the money you give. If you pay tax at the standard rate, for every pound you give to Glenabbey, we can claim back 25% from the government. If you would like to discuss financial issues in more detail please contact Stephen Hamill or David Mairs.

Shopping to share



Thanks for sharing

... within Glenabbey

Thanks to everyone who contributed items for the Christmas Hampers. As you can see from the photograph above there's been a great response and we'll be starting to make up and distribute the hampers this week. Sharing what God has provided with others to ease their financial burden is a great way to start the Christmas season.

... with children in Albania



Thanks also to everyone who contributed to the "Samaritans Purse" shoe box appeal. We were delighted to be able to deliver a total of 137 shoe boxes packed with useful Christmas presents to the distribution centre. These particular boxes went to children in Albania. As you can see from the photograph the biggest challenge was fitting all the boxes into a car.

... with those who live here but were born in other countries

Junior and senior icons are gathering items for inclusion in hampers which they will be giving to representatives of the Polish community living within the Newtownabbey area. There are currently around 200 Poles living within Newtownabbey and we hope these hampers will be a practical reflection of the love of Christ at this reflective time of year.

