
RANELAGH

Ranelagh Christian Church | Dublin, Ireland | Summer, 2024

Please Pray!

- Appointment of new deacons
- Celebrate Recovery
- Spiritual life of our young people
- Future plans and outreach

Greetings friends and family. I hope this newsletter update finds you well. Autumn is just beginning here in Ireland and the very first



leaves are starting to turn on the trees. We didn't have very many warm days this summer and the weather is already starting to turn cooler with the change in seasons. Both Abraham and Samuel returned to school in the beginning of September. Abraham has started First Class (second grade) and Samuel is in Junior Infants (kindergarten). Both boys are enjoying school and have good teachers this year. We have also enlisted Abraham in the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA). Every Saturday and Tuesday Abraham joins 60-80 other boys his age in playing Gaelic Football and Hurling. I've included video links that you can click on if you want to see a demonstration of both games.

Our summer was very successful and also very busy. At the beginning of the summer we were very blessed to have Shannon Rains from Lubbock Christian University come and do a one day seminar on children's ministry with us. Shannon was returning from a mission trip in Uganda and arranged her flight to stop in Ireland for a few days to present us with this information. The Broadway church in Lubbock contributed some funds that we were able to use and we rented a facility near Glendalough for the day. Shannon gave three presentations and had a period of Q&A. Between 30 and 40 members of the church came and participated in the Seminar. Photos of the day are included below. The picture at the top of the Newsletter is of Shannon, her husband

stephens.matthew86@gmail.com

353-85-873-1976

janille.stephens@gmail.com

353-85-873-1975

David, and our three boys.

We also had two separate church picnics over the summer. The first one was hosted at the home of Mick and Esther Maguire. The second was held in Marlay park. Both events were times of good food and Christian fellowship. Photos are below.

On Father's Day the church arranged for an Ice Cream van to be parked outside the church for a celebration after the service. We had ice cream for the congregation and also passed out vouchers to those passing by on the street along with some literature and information about the church. Photos are included below. It was a wonderful day of fellowship. This is the second Father's day that we have done this.

In the month of July the Ranelagh church sends several volunteers up to Camp Shamrock in Northern Ireland. The camp has been running for many decades and is collective effort of the churches in the North and the Ranelagh congregation. Three of our members currently sit on the board and many families send their kids to the camp. The camp was initially created to get boys and girls in the North out of the cities during the political marching season when The Troubles were happening. There is a girls camp, which runs for eight days, followed by a boys camp, which runs another eight days. Abraham is not quite old enough to go as a camper but I took him and Samuel up for two days during the boys camp.

Our Celebrate Recovery program is also continuing to gain traction slowly but steadily. Several of the participants are now able to lead others through the program so we are beginning to advertise the group. Currently we are sharing the program with other churches in Dublin but hope to begin advertising it in the broader community before long. A new cycle begins in January so most of our efforts are directed towards getting new individuals involved in the group for the new cycle.

Over the next weeks and months we have several things planned for the life of the church. First, as part of a general restructuring of the congregation, we are fully transitioning to a Deacon/Elder leadership team. Prior to this year the church had a group that was called "The Advisers" which oversaw the running of the church. Earlier in the year we appointed Elders and that transition has gone smoothly. Now we are appointing Deacons. Essentially all of the "Advisers" are becoming Deacons. One individual in the Adviser group decided personally not to make the transition. Practically speaking there is little change in the personnel in charge of various aspects of church life but the group is being reorganized to be more inline with the Biblical model. Please be in prayer for the church as these changes take effect. I don't anticipate any problems or significant challenges with the transition but it is a change within the life of the church.

In the month of October we are having a Congregational Townhall meeting. These are meetings where the whole church is updated on plans for the future and different ministries report on how they are progressing. Please pray for the success of this meeting and that it would be a time of practical advancement for the Kingdom.

In the month of October we are also beginning a new unit with our older teen class in the church that is specifically targeted on building up their personal devotional skills. I have created a Bible reading

stephens.matthew86@gmail.com

353-85-873-1976

janille.stephens@gmail.com

353-85-873-1975

program and lesson plan series that this group will engage in over the next one and a half years. Their Sunday morning classes will be built around the devotional times they are having during the week. We hope this will be a way to practically build their skills around bible study, prayer, meditation, and engagement in worship.

In November we will have our annual harvest festival which the church uses to raise money for its India mission. Ranelagh has long been engaged with Christian mission work in India and this event raises money for rice and other needs of the church there. This year we are also trying to get the youth of the church involved by doing an special youth donation and clothes swap/sale that they can participate in.

Thank you so much for partnering with us in the work here in Ireland. We are so appreciative of all the support we receive. May God bless you in your own churches and the work he has given you there.

Children's Ministry Seminar



Thank you for your prayers & partnership! Click [here](#) to invest in our ministry.

stephens.matthew86@gmail.com
janille.stephens@gmail.com

353-85-873-1976
353-85-873-1975

Church Picnics



Father's Day Ice Cream



stephens.matthew86@gmail.com
janille.stephens@gmail.com

353-85-873-1976
353-85-873-1975



stephens.matthew86@gmail.com

353-85-873-1976

janille.stephens@gmail.com

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