



MISSION CORE

Welcome to the Mission Core Team section of Ballydown Presbyterian Church's website. As an integral part of our church's outreach and spiritual guidance efforts, the Mission Core Team is dedicated to embodying and advancing the church's mission both within our local community and beyond. Our team is composed of devoted individuals who are passionate about serving others, sharing the Gospel, and fostering spiritual growth. The information shown below will give you a brief insight into all the mission projects that are being currently supported and how you can get involved in making a tangible difference in the lives of others.

Our mission is not just a directive but a calling — one that we all must pursue with commitment, love and faith.

ECM Ireland

ECM (European Christian Mission) Ireland is an organisation dedicated to spreading the Christian faith and fostering community development throughout Europe. ECM's mission statement is to 'equip, connect and multiply followers of Jesus through church planting and discipleship across Europe'. In the last 10 years, ECM has been involved in 158 church planting projects. ECM is currently working in over 90 projects all across Europe. This mission organisation operates on the principle of partnership, working alongside local churches and communities to promote spiritual growth, social welfare, and educational advancement. Through initiatives such as church planting, leadership training, community outreach, and support for disadvantaged groups, ECM Ireland aims to address both the spiritual and practical needs of the communities it serves. Underpinned by its foundational Christian values and beliefs.



ECM - Stuart Rowell

Stuart and his wife Ellsye have had a colourful mission and ministry experience over the years, working in Vienna, and Eastern Europe. Stuart currently spends much of his time travelling through Eastern Europe (which he loves) and is an encourager, giving Pastoral care and taking time with ECM missionaries. His role is especially helpful to those in isolated situations where Christian fellowship is limited and where a listening ear, a bit of advice from someone who understands, and some good laughs over a coffee, are a real blessing. His support and interest will encourage many.



ECM - Novica and Tamara

Novica and Tamara are dedicated missionaries serving in Serbia under the auspices of the European Christian Mission (ECM) Ireland, an interdenominational evangelical missionary organisation. Their work is focused on spreading the Christian faith, supporting local communities, and engaging in various forms of social and spiritual outreach. By aligning with ECM Ireland, they contribute to the organisation's broader mission of recruiting and supporting missionaries across Europe, aiming to foster spiritual

growth and address community needs. Through their service, Novica and Tamara exemplify the commitment to sharing faith and providing tangible support to communities, reflecting ECM Ireland's vision of building a different Europe rooted in Christian values.

Pray for : -

- ECM as they seek to equip missionaries and first-culture workers. Pray for them, as they connect with others and work to build God's kingdom across Europe.
- Please pray for those considering working with or beginning their journey with ECM in the next few months.
- All our missionaries who will be busy with all the outreach events and activities. That the people they are reaching will be open to hearing the gospel.

You can find out more at :- [HOME - ECM Ireland](#)



Mark Moorhead = Scripture Union

Mark is Scripture Union's Schools' Ministry Manager and oversees a team of 11 Schools Workers who work in ten districts across Northern Ireland. The overall aims of SU's localised Schools Ministry Projects is to Engage pupils with the Bible; Equip Christian staff members and pupils to share their faith, and to Empower the local church to consider how they can support schools in pastoral, practical and spiritual ways.



Pray for : -

- Please pray for Mark as he manages the team and seeks to offer individualised support for staff.
- Pray for the development of SU's Schools Project - in particular pray that doors will open to allow the appointment of a worker to serve the area in which Ballydown is situated.
- Pray that local churches would be inspired and moved to support schools in their locality in pastoral, practical and spiritual ways.
- Give thanks for local SU Groups and opportunities Ballydown PCI already has to open the Bible in assembly halls and in RE lessons.

You can find out more at :- www.suni.co.uk

Exodus

Exodus South Down, based in Banbridge, works to create a Discipleship community around local young people; those who are journeying with Jesus or those yet to be introduced to him. Through regular programming at their centre, schools work, mentoring, Discipleship workshops and their international mission teams we walk with young people to help them follow Jesus the best they can, becoming lifelong Disciples & Disciple Makers. It will be busy for the exodus leaders and teams during the summer months.



Pray for : -

- Pray for all the young people involved in and leading outreach teams or mentorship.
- Pray for Bob and the team in South Down
- Pray for relationships to be built with young people through teams and the “Christian Night base” in Portstewart

You can find out more at :- [Home - Exodus \(exodusonline.org.uk\)](http://exodusonline.org.uk)

Open Doors – Global



Open doors originated in 1955, when a young Dutchman started smuggling Bibles to the persecuted church in Communist Europe. He became known as brother Andrew, and his work led to more than six decades of support for the persecuted church. Open doors help Christians in over 70 Countries, from training leaders to raising awareness about global persecution.

Pray for : -

- Pray for safety and protection for all the Open doors staff.
- Strength and help for those facing imprisonment or exile because of their faith.
- Believers who may feel isolated in their faith as they cannot meet safely for fellowship.

You can find out more at :- [World Watch List 2024 · Serving Persecuted Christians Worldwide \(opendoors.org\)](http://World Watch List 2024 · Serving Persecuted Christians Worldwide (opendoors.org))

Phil & Rachel

Phil and Rachel have been serving among the mainland Chinese for many years – they lived in China with their young family for 5 years where Phil taught in a local university. (Ben is now 10 and Erin is 7). This provided a situation where Phil could also quietly interact with and support local house church leaders in their bible teaching. Rachel had also lived and worked there when single for 7 years before that, actively engaging with students she was teaching and taking opportunities to reach them with the gospel, whilst also supporting those who already believed. When she returned to China as a wife and mother, she got involved in ministry to families.

They moved from China, to serve the mainland Chinese in a city in the UK in January 2020. Phil had been invited by a mandarin speaking fellowship to work more closely with them. They were keen to find a suitable person to support them as they tried to grow in their faith and receive more consistent bible teaching.

Rachel was keen to use her experience of student work by working with the Returnee Focus team in the UK. She can see the huge potential for influencing China for Christ, by sending back graduates

ready to witness to their families, friends, neighbours and work colleagues. As a result she seeks to take opportunities to minister to mainland students in various ways, as well as working more nationally with believing mainland students, helping to prepare them to return home and thrive in an increasingly difficult environment.

So, although their current ministry is based in the UK, they are still very much involved in cross-cultural mission! They really value our prayer support and send regular updates to help us pray for the ministry.

Pray for : -

- May God use this time with students whilst in the UK, to see many come to faith and so go back to China to build the church there.
- That those who become believers in English speaking churches here would connect with the returnee team here so that they are prepared for living as a believer back home.
- Pray for Rachel's interactions with students at international conversation café, mandarin bible study, local church referrals.
- That the Chinese church members (all first-generation believers) would be built up in faith to reach out to others
- For Phil as he continually prepares sermons and bible study materials – that these would be helpful to the congregation
- That Phil and Rachel would know God's strength and wisdom in facing the various challenges of engaging meaningfully with those from another culture.

You can find out more at : - [Returnees - OMF United Kingdom](#).

Cowans PCI

Stephen and Angelina have been serving amongst the Samburu and Turkana people in Samburu County in northern Kenya since 1989. They serve with PCI's partner in Kenya, the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) and are based in Tuum with other strategic outposts at Seren and Wuaso Rongai.



Their work over the past 30 years has built a strong foundation, introducing the Bible and Jesus to the Samburu and Turkana people. This has been done in many practical ways, as well as preaching. Cultural thinking is still very strong, and only a few families would seek to put Biblical values above cultural expectations.

Their work is predominantly relational. They have built trust with communities taking interest in their animals. Gospel community has been established in many villages. Stephen and Angelina are teaching life skills, challenging young people to understand the changing world, while always teaching the central message of Jesus across cultures and generations. This work is people-centred and recognises the value of people's animals as the main livelihood. The geographical isolation has helped them.

Pray for : -

- Pray that the communities they work in won't become further isolated as new infrastructure is introduced.
- Pray for the expanding youth ministry and camps.
- Pray for communities facing changes in lifestyle and environment.

You can find out more at : - [Home - Presbyterian Church Ireland \(presbyterianireland.org\)](#)

Tearfund

tearfund

Tearfund is a Christian charity dedicated to alleviating poverty and advocating for environmental and social justice globally. Founded in 1968, it operates with a dual focus on emergency relief and long-term development projects, aiming to support communities in overcoming poverty and injustice through sustainable solutions that empower individuals and promote self-sufficiency. Tearfund's approach is holistic, integrating practical aid with spiritual and emotional support, emphasising the importance of local churches and community groups in driving positive change. The organisation also campaigns on issues such as climate change, economic injustice, and disaster risk reduction, seeking to influence policy and practice at both national and international levels. Through its work, Tearfund demonstrates a commitment to transforming lives, advocating for equity, and stewarding the environment, grounded in its Christian faith and values.

Pray for : -

- Pray Tearfund would be equipped for effective emergency responses to emerging crises.
- Pray for the local churches Tearfund partners with.
- Pray for changes to economic, climate and social policies to aid those who need support the most.

You can find out more at : - [Tearfund](#)

Hope+Light

Their greatest goal is to raise awareness of the huge problem of human trafficking and demonstrate how we can work together to end it.

Hope and Light was founded in 2018 by Laura, a wife, mum and teacher. Laura writes: -'What initially started as one connection has now developed into many projects across several countries in Asia, each giving women an alternative to the work they are trapped in. We are offering them freedom, teaching them skills and providing them with safe work. Most of all we seek to show these women that they are worth so much more, that they are valued, and that they are loved. We want them to grow in strength and dignity, find freedom and spiritual hope along the way.'

Across the various projects with which we partner, teams are addressing issues of slave labour, child labour, sexual trafficking and prostitution in women, child sex trafficking, debt bondage, illegal adoption and baby selling. We believe that poverty is the leading cause of this exploitation, and that jewellery, bag and scarf making is one way of protecting those who want to provide for their families.

When you buy Hope and Light products, you are supporting women who have acted with purpose to escape exploitation, leaving economic temptations behind to work in safe, dignified environments. We have personally visited each project in Asia to ensure that the girls are paid fairly and receive the highest levels of care.'



Pray for :-

- Pray for a positive impact from anti-trafficking awareness classes and packs being distributed.
- Pray for the women working with the charity to create products for a fair wage.
- Pray for freedom and healing for the victims of trafficking, exploitation and illegal adoption.

You can find out more at :- [Hope & Light \(hopeandlightshop.com\)](http://hopeandlightshop.com)

Ballydown Mission Core Group: - Jim Bell, Marcus Mark, Amy Hampton, Sarinda Campbell, Paul Matthews, Alistair Copeland, Lindsay Moorhead, Gladys Montgomery and Corinna Willis.

If you would be interested in joining, please speak to any of the group.

Ballydown Presbyterian Church: Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105146)