



Kristina Keen

Missionary Associate to Northern Ireland

I wanted to start off my 2022 Newsletter with a praise report! After 5 months of waiting for my visa to be approved I finally received it on 23 December! I can officially travel outside of Ireland & am able to continue living here for another three years. Thank you to each and every one of you who prayed with me during the waiting process!

November

At the end of November I helped our National Youth Leader host a Youth Leader Retreat in a center 40 minutes south of Dublin. We had 22 people from across the island who are passionate about sharing the gospel with teens come along to be encouraged after two years in lockdown. Historically, PULSE (our nation wide youth ministry) hosts a mini conference for the teens across Ireland in November, but this year we felt it was important to take time to rebuild the leaders who make the youth groups possible. Many of those in attendance are starting their youth groups from scratch or taking over from a leader that experienced burnout during COVID.

The next week my friend Camille came from California to stay with me for a month and in our free time we explored Ireland! We went to the Cliffs of Moher, walked Kilkee, went to Giant's Causeway, Mussenden Temple, and went into Belfast and Derry~Londonderry.



YOUTH RETREAT- NOV



CLIFFS OF MOHER



VAL, M TO BELGIUM

December

In December we welcomed Val, a displaced missionary to Belgium who was looking for a place to serve while sorting out her own visa concerns. She has been with us almost three months at this point, and it has been great having her. This past Sunday (6 March) was her last week with us and we were able to pray for her as she heads back to Belgium to continue her work with an international bible college there.



Omagh Community Church members and volunteers collated meals for 132 people, with lots of donations from local businesses and individuals, to give to the needy for the eighth year in succession and the second in 'lockdown'. Pastor Tim Shiels is pictured with Aoife Shiels, Kristina Keen and Ellie Aspinwall, right, in Omagh Academy where the food was collated and packed for delivery on Christmas morning. AN521321

For the last 8 years Omagh Community Church has been known in our town for our Community Christmas Dinners. At the heart of the Community Dinner is a desire to provide food for those who need it but also a friendly face and some conversation for many who find themselves alone during the festive period. Following the isolation and hardship that COVID has brought, we decided to take the Christmas Dinner out into the heart of the community and deliver a hearty meal, some presents and much needed Christmas cheer to the doorsteps of those who need it.



100K FOR CHRISTMAS DAY



CHRISTMAS DINNER



NEW CHURCH SIGN

This year we decided to put on a 100k charity run in our local Asda (grocery store) in order to raise money for the meals and gifts we were delivering. Different runners from across Omagh came and took turns running on a treadmill by the entrance as a way to bring awareness and encourage our community to get involved in this outreach. Because of this outreach we were able to feed and buy gifts for 130+ individuals in our community who would have otherwise been alone. On average, there are less than 30 people in our Sunday services each week, so this outreach is us giving out 4 times the gifts and meals as there are people in our church. We were also able to get a sign for the outside of our church placed on our building to help direct people in finding us.

After we delivered the meals on Christmas Day, Val (missionary to Belgium) and I drove up to have our own Christmas Dinner with two other missionary couples here in Ireland.

January

January brought us back into the swing of things with full force. The CCI Academy (Bible College) that I work with on a weekly basis came back from their Christmas break, I was asked to join the church planting team, ADVANCE, for CCI (Christian Churches Ireland, also known as Assemblies of God Ireland), and we planned and hosted our yearly leadership conference, Planting Heaven!

We saw over 250 different leaders from across Ireland join us at our Planting Heaven conference after two years of meeting virtually. I was able to serve through leading the production side of the conference, connecting the speakers, media and worship team. In the afternoon session on the Saturday a member of my church, Nadine, graduated from our CCI Academy. What a pleasure to celebrate her.



February

In February Omagh Community Church kicked off our Alpha series, inviting questioning, curious and confused people to learn the basics of Christianity. We have seen an average of 17 people attend

each week for a meal, a video and good conversation. On 26 February (my 11th Christian anniversary) we took a day away to talk about the Holy Spirit with those on the Alpha course. Four different individuals prayed with us and became followers of Jesus! For me, there was no better way to celebrate making my own choice to follow Jesus than to be with them. I have been leading one of our breakout groups at Alpha and have been asked by some of the new believers to start a bible study with them when our course finishes. I couldn't be more delighted to walk alongside these women as we tackle big questions together.

February also brought plans for our next conference, MVMNT, an all church clean up and planning for our second PULSE Youth Leader Retreat that took place 3-5 March. MVMNT is a conference that seeks to bring every member of every CCI church together for an all day family conference. This year we are renting a 1400 capacity building for our conference, inviting the leaders of AG Great Britain to speak and making space to celebrate and encourage each age group attending.



YOUTH RETREAT- MAR



ALPHA COURSE



YOUTH RETREAT- MAR

Our church clean up was a day of hard work, clearing our top floor so we can continue turning it into a space for our children and the youth community center I was running before COVID. Our next goals are to get heaters placed in the ceilings and getting an elevator put in for those who can't climb the stairs.

Last week I hosted a second PULSE Youth Leaders Retreat, focusing on the nuts and bolts of youth ministry. We had another 22 people (many of which are different from the first retreat in November) come as we spent the weekend focusing on discipleship and building up culture.



BAPTISM AT OCC



CHURCH CLEAN UP



SUNDAYS AT OCC

I'm coming back!

I am so grateful for your prayers, support and friendship. I have yet to return to the United States since I left in September 2019 and many of you have asked me when I will be coming back.

I will be in the Virginia/ D.C. area for two weeks in May 2022 to visit family.

In September 2022 I am returning to California to apply as a Career Missionary with AGWM (I am currently a Missionary Associate, this is a "short term" missionary position), I will be fundraising to return back to Ireland & MOST IMPORTANTLY— I will be in California to catch up with as many of you as possible.

I have truly missed you and CANNOT wait to see you. When I have my dates finalized I will let you all know, but please, don't hesitate to reach out to me to make plans!

Contact Details

Email: KristinaDKeen@gmail.com

iMessage & Whatsapp: +44 (0)7926 180572

Website & Newsletter: [Linktr.ee/kristinakeen](https://linktr.ee/kristinakeen)

Give: <http://s1.ag.org/keen>



Account Number: 2A34002

