

## Stockethill Church – One Church *Four* Congregations

Below is a little bit of information about the four different congregations that make up our church and some ways in which you could be praying for them.

### **MONDAY EVENING CONGREGATION**

This is the newest of our congregations – in fact it has only met twice and so it may be a bit early to even call it a ‘congregation’! We meet on a Monday evening in Cairncry Community Centre for a service that is aimed at families with young children. There’s a small team of 5 running the service and so far we’ve had 15 people come along. We start with a cup of tea or drink of juice and enjoy doing a craft together before eating a meal. That is followed by a time of worship which includes a song with everyone shaking or tapping their own instrument and the Bible passage being acted out by the children. So far it is very encouraging so please pray for this new venture.

### **WOODHILL COURT CONGREGATION – First Sunday of the month at 10.00am**

The congregation that meets in Woodhill Court is the longest running of the four and perhaps the most familiar to those who are used to a traditional Church of Scotland service. It lasts for half an hour or so and is followed by a cup of tea or coffee for those who want to stay. Ian and Helen have the main responsibility for this congregation and have recently been joined by Kara who helps at the services. Since COVID the number attending has dropped sharply and the congregation are reeling from the death of some long standing and well-loved members. Please do pray for them, and if you’d like to come along one Sunday they’d be delighted to see you.

### **STOCKET GRANGE CONGREGATION – Third Sunday of the month at 10.00am**

The congregation that meets in Stocket Grange has seen some new people join since COVID as well as having lost some dear members. Matthew and Sian Edwards oversee and run this congregation. The service follows a simple structure with much of it being read together by those attending, making it an accessible and meaningful act of worship. As with the Woodhill Court congregation, familiar hymns are accompanied by recorded music. The service lasts around 45 minutes and there’s always a cup of tea and something tasty afterwards. Please pray for this fellowship as they face the death and frailty of members and seek to welcome new people in.

### **COMMUNITY CENTRE CONGREGATION – Every Sunday – 10.30 in the Centre; 11.00am online**

The congregation that meets in Cairncry Community Centre is the largest of our four congregations and is the only one which meets weekly. There are currently around 40-50 people who attend regularly, although on any given week you’ll find about 30+ in the hall. Another 10 or so people also watch the service being broadcast on YouTube and one or two listen in over the phone. Since our return from the COVID lockdown the numbers attending have been lower than before and there are some people who haven’t returned and are very missed. The service is preceded by a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit and there is usually a good deal of chat. Normally Sarah leads us in worship with her guitar before the sermon. There’s always an opportunity for people to write prayer requests and often an opportunity to receive individual prayer. Recently we have seen a number of new people at the service. Please pray that they would be able to find their place amongst us.

### **AND THOSE WHO CAN’T ATTEND....**

As is clear from what is said above, there are those from each of our congregations who have not returned since COVID. For many it is a case of not being able to because of the circumstances they find themselves in. We try to create the opportunities for people to stay connected through the online and on phone services, the daily prayers and the monthly letter. It would be wonderful if we could do more to either help people attend our services or provide other opportunities to meet. Please pray for those who are housebound or unable to come for whatever reason.