

Open Night



Tues 21st April 6:30pm-9:30pm.
Come and go as you please.
Tea & Coffee
Presentation @ 7:30pm.

Placement – David Holmes second year student

As part of the Preparation for Ministry course at the IBC I started a six month placement at Haypark Community Church in October 2014. Haypark is a church-plant (in south-east Belfast) being led by Patrick Davidson and supported by Newtownbreda Baptist and Baptist Missions.

My wife Kayla (1st year student also at IBC) and I feel God is leading us into missions in the future and so I wanted a placement that would let me experience what starting a church is like. Haypark has proved to be an ideal fit. I've been involved in preaching, taking midweeks and in the steering group as they run the church-plant.



At the moment there are two lessons that stand out. The first is that preaching the gospel simply, is still preaching. The aim of Haypark is to make their services understandable to someone who has just come off the street and knows nothing about God and the Bible. Crafting sermons to fit this mould has been a challenge. Yet it has also been a blessing. Looking at the Bible, through the eyes of someone who may never have read it before, has encouraged me in my preparation and I hope those who then had to listen to me!

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The second thing was the necessity for a strong sense of community in a church-plant. I don't think newcomers come back to Haypark for the preaching. They come back for the community. After each service everyone stays behind for 20, 40, 60 or even more minutes, chatting and getting to know each other. This has been and I foresee will continue to be a crucial factor in Haypark's success. This has allowed people from an unchurched background to not just see a great sense of community but to see a great God as they sit under his word week in, week out. Without the IBC this is an opportunity I probably wouldn't have had.

Both the theological and practical things I have learnt over the last two years have been invaluable in making my placement (I hope) a success.

Placement – Alannah O'Neill second year student

The option to complete a placement in my second year at college was an excellent opportunity to experience work in the area of Christian counselling and care. After exploring options with the placement advisor, an opening came with the Chaplaincy Service at the Hospice.



I have been blessed to work under the leadership of both of the Chaplains who serve the Hospice. In many ways they have been mentors enabling me to learn skills in the role of a Chaplain in a supported and encouraging environment. I have had the opportunity to work in Day Hospice, the in-patient unit, and to prepare and take the daily service. I have had the experience of talking about God and sharing in individuals' faith journeys at an often unique point in their lives. It is an immense privilege to be able to serve in this role and to provide spiritual care for individuals and their families.

The theology course at IBC has given me a solid and secure biblical base to work from. It has given me confidence to take on opportunities such as leading prayer times, sharing the Bible with individuals and speaking to people about matters of faith. I have learnt that it is good to have courage and also to be an encourager in the hospice environment, and to have a Christian witness that is strong and secure but is also loving and compassionate.

Finally, I started the placement with an open mind and heart about the future. Instead, my placement experience at Hospice has really confirmed a call for me that Chaplaincy is the particular area of ministry I would like to enter into once my course at IBC is finished.

BIO: Alannah is married to Nathan and they have two kids Amy and Peter (pictured above).

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