

DARLINGTON METHODIST CIRCUIT

February 2012

As many of you will know, we took some of our young people to Northern Ireland on mission last summer. We went to help lead a children's holiday club but while there, God had a few other ideas. We were able to spend an evening with the Coleraine House of Prayer, linked to the International House of Prayer movement (www.ihop.org).

Coleraine House of Prayer is a regular intercessory worship event in Coleraine on the Causeway Coast of Ireland that has been running and developing since May 2000.

A diverse community of worshippers get together to worship and seek the God who loves to be found! (Periodically they run Coleraine House of Prayer 24/7, non-stop for a whole week). Each event is broken down into 1 or 2-hour sessions led by different musicians, singers and worship leaders.

Sessions vary from contemporary to traditional, from loud to quiet and include both musical and non-musical forms of worship. The agenda is very straightforward – they simply make time and space to worship and Engage with God – nothing more, nothing less.

We usually think of worship as the corporate act of singing songs or standing in a church. This is true, but it is also a lot more than that – it is a lifestyle. A.W. Tozer describes it as an “..everlasting preoccupation with God.” In other words every choice that we make; our every word and action should flow from a constant desire to please Him.

Scripture also clearly shows us that worship can be the greatest weapon we possess. There are many Biblical accounts of worship being used to change situations, and transform the landscape. In the 21st Century it has lost none of its power. It is we who have often failed to grasp fully the potential that there is when a body of believers begin to place Jesus at the centre of their attention and to cry out to Him again.

I wonder how that might look in Darlington – to make space to rediscover the pleasure and power that there is when we interact with our heavenly Father; when we really fulfil the purpose for which we were designed...

Mark McKnight
Children & Youth Worker
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