

# HILLSBOROUGH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## PROFILE OF THE CONGREGATION

Hillsborough, now Royal Hillsborough, is an historic village which is located on the outskirts of the City of Lisburn and some 12 miles south of Belfast on the main Dublin Road. The history of the village is reflected in its Georgian architecture; sites of particular interest include Hillsborough Castle, Hillsborough Fort, the Court House and St Malachy's Parish Church. The adjoining forest park and lake provide opportunities for walking and relaxation. The village also benefits from a Village Centre which shares a large site with Downshire Primary School and Nursery Unit and a recently constructed Scout and Community Hall.

Over the past thirty years, the village has grown significantly both in size and population, with almost all of the wide range of housing development in the private sector. A high proportion of the population commute for work and education.



The congregation meet for worship each Sunday morning. Pre-COVID, on the last Sunday of each month, the service followed an alternative format. Once a month there was also an evening service with a contemporary format. As Presbyterians we practise infant baptism and in Hillsborough we believe that our children and young people are part of our church family and at different stages of their faith journey. Children & young people up to Year 8 and above attend age-appropriate programmes from part way through the service of morning worship.

We are constantly striving to make Sunday worship as relevant as possible to all age groups and through it to deepen members' faith. We recognise that to do this it is necessary to strike a balance between the traditional and the contemporary. A variety of styles is used and members of the congregation have shown themselves willing to learn new material and increase their levels of participation. This is not an easy task but it is one we are always seeking to achieve. Praise plays an essential part in worship and pre-COVID, in addition to the choir we had a music group (Fresh Sounds) and a Link Band which contributed to worship on a monthly basis.

A typical week's youth activities include Ignite and Flame (Sunday), Girls' Brigade (Monday), Boys' Brigade (Tuesday), and pre-COVID we also ran DeCaf - Discipleship Cafe (Wednesday) and Spark Youth Club (Friday).

Apart from academic demands, our young people pursue a wide range of extra-curricular activities. This has an obvious impact on the planning of our church based programmes.



**HPC HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB**



**DECAF**



**FLAME**

In 2012, the congregation completed an extensive building programme. The aim of the redevelopment was to create a building which “opens its arms” in welcome to the whole community. This is pivotal to the life of the local community and provides facilities which enhance community participation. An important part of this development has been the creation of a dedicated youth suite, including office accommodation with internet access for the Youth Development Worker.

Our modern facilities enable the congregation to implement its Congregational Mission Plan which focuses on three interlinked areas: Equipping ourselves for mission; Serving God in our congregation and families; and Serving God in the community and beyond.



**GIRLS' BRIGADE**



**BOYS' BRIGADE**

The Youth Development Worker will join a team consisting of the Minister and a retired minister who visits the elderly and housebound. There is a full-time church co-ordinator as well as a part time church officer and praise co-ordinator.

The Congregation's Mission Statement is:

“We believe in God  
 We accept the uniqueness of the revelation of God in Jesus Christ  
 We rejoice in the present power of the Holy Spirit  
 We acknowledge our understanding of God is imperfect;  
 Our picture of Jesus is blurred;  
 Our response to the Holy Spirit is inadequate,  
 But our goal is to present each person mature in Christ,  
 Able to express and enjoy God.”