

A NEW WAY AHEAD

Thankful for new things in 2016

- For a *new* building for church which is brighter and fresher and has been a great fit for us.
- For *new* people coming to church, girls club, Pulse youth group.
- For *new* team member, Charis Tully, who hopes to be involved in Schoolwork in Waterford.
- For outreach into a *new* housing estate in the summer with a *new* team from Germany.
- For *new* school and pre-school starts for Anna and Eoin and good settling in, as well as *new* friendships forming with parents.
- For a *new* leadership team at Pulse Youth Group, including 4 junior leaders from the group.
- For increased involvement of church members in Carol Service in planning and hosting.

In truth these 'new things' are a development on foundations that have been already laid, relationships that have been built over time, gospel seeds that have been diligently sown. We are ony taking the next few steps on the long road. Traveling in the same direction, as we seek to play our part in making disciples of all nations. (Matt 28.18-20)

We begin 2017 resolved to a new way ahead with our prayer updates. We hope to freshen things and also to be more frequent via email.



In the year past it has become obvious in various ways that we need to make adjustments to enable us have the strength needed to keep on serving here. In the summer, whilst on holidays we had some space to reflect on 6 years serving in Waterford and acknowledged that gospel work can be hard and slow and we need to be equipped to endure. We sensed God leading us to

-Go slower in life and go deeper in Him, being strengthened in our faith.

- Continue to **share life with others and build genuine friendships** where we receive encouragement from others as well as giving it.

-Since the summer we have felt both the benefit of making moves in this direction and also seen the need for it: as we parent our children through various transitions in their lives with steadfast love, as we engage with youth who are troubled and stormy, as Colin works in a busy pharmacy and as we serve together with our team mates and seek to encourage one another and support some who are suffering from the effects of stress. We are trying to find a new way, yet really we are continuing to learn these lessons to help us stay true to our same goal: to see Christ exalted and His gospel spread. ***Please pray for us, and the team, as we try to find new ways ahead to be strengthened to serve.***

We finish with heartfelt thanks for your continued support and partnership which enables us to be sustained in serving Christ here.

Colin, Ally, Anna, Eoin, Conor Holmes
 43 Green Oaks, Ferrybank,
 Waterford City, X91 HY8W
colin.holmes@ecmi.org
alison.holmes@ecmi.org

