

Vision

**2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.**

As we come out of 2025 and into 2026, I want to take this opportunity to say a massive **thank you** to each and every one of you who pray for and give financially to the ministry of Stauros. Each one of you are a vital part of this mission and we could not do the ministry we do without your support.

Your generosity in praying and giving is more than a gift — it's a seed of hope, and as you stand with us, and because of your faithful support, lives are being touched, needs are being met, and the love of God is being shared in ways that will echo into eternity.

'May the Lord reward you for your kindness'. Ruth 2:12

Roy Blown

The Journey Through Christmas

"... and they shall call His name Immanuel, God with us". Matthew 1:23

As we journey through this Christmas season, it is good for our hearts to be reminded of what we are truly celebrating. It's so easy to get caught up in the lights and tinsel.

Everywhere you turn, society and clever marketing can make us feel that need to spend just a bit more money to buy that extra gift, and then on the other hand there are those of us who don't know where money is going to come from to celebrate Christmas at all! Whatever our circumstances are, we feel the pressure and before we know it, our to-do lists, the busyness of life, families, work and even church family activities, can feel overwhelming!

It would benefit us all to slow down, still our hearts and minds, and spend time in the presence of the One we are celebrating - JESUS our lovely Saviour! This is our God, who chose to become flesh and dwell among us. Entering into the darkness of the world to bring His light and love. He chose to step into our time and space as a baby with such quiet humility in that little town of Bethlehem.

The very place of His birth is not lost on us. Bethlehem, literally means, "The House of Bread".

John 6: 33 & 35 says, "For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst."

In Phil Wickham's Christmas hymn, *Manger Throne* he writes,

♪ You could have marched in all Your glory

Into the heart of Rome
Showed them splendour like they'd never known
But You wrote a better story

In humble Bethlehem
Creator in the arms of common men

You will die for our redemption
And You'll rise so we can live.



♪ Glory be to You alone
King who reigns from a manger throne ... ♪

How true are these words! We will never comprehend the virgin birth or how our Saviour has come to save us from our sin through his life, death and resurrection here on earth, but I'm so thankful that He did! Isaiah 61 says, "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound"

This is Jesus promise to each and every one of us. Whatever we are struggling with, Jesus is ready to meet us there. He is ready to climb into our painful and sometimes shameful places!! For He alone is, "Our Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" – Isaiah 9:7

Thank God for "Immanuel"! May we seek Him as we walk through this season and into a new year!!

South Belfast Stauros Meeting

The Stauros meeting runs every other Thursday night in the Village Café, beside Newtownbreda Baptist Church. We are so grateful to our home church for allowing us to use the cafe for the meeting as it is an ideal location. At our last meeting of the year (11th Dec) we had our Christmas celebration. The Halliday life group came and blessed us with delicious food and generous gifts. Our night finished off with some games (we won't mention those that cheated!!). It was lovely to hear the fun and laughter in the room. We are so thankful for our brothers and sisters in Christ who attend the meeting; they really are family to us. It's a joy to watch friendships and relationships grow in the group but more importantly it is a privilege for us to watch their relationship with Jesus grow as the weeks and months go by. Each fortnight different people come to share their testimony or something that God has laid on their hearts to share from His word. God really uses those who come to share! Please pray for all who attend the Village meeting. We all have our struggles, but what a privilege to be able to pray and support each other as we do life together. **Ricky & Maggie**



Christmas Carol Service

We celebrated our annual Christmas Carol Service on the 13th of December at the T3 Conference Centre at Vic-Ryn, Lisburn, which was very well attended. We sang Christmas Carols and shared the Christmas message through scripture readings. Pastor John Taylor brought God's word, sharing that the Gospel message is for everyone, and that Christmastime is the ideal opportunity to share the hope we have in Jesus. Chontelle, one of our volunteers, shared testimony of how God stepped into her life so powerfully rescuing her from a lifetime of addiction, pain, shame and deep trauma. Afterwards we enjoyed a time of fellowship with one another and had an amazing supper, thanks to Carol

and Grace Kirkland (and Reuben too) who again, went above and beyond to bless everyone with their kindness and baking skills!! In all it was a great evening, reminding us that we have a Saviour who not only made the heavens and flung the stars, yet came down to live underneath them and show us His amazing love.



Update on the Building

The work is progressing well in the annex. As with any building work it's never as quick as you'd like it to be, however, we are making headway. Our bedrooms at the front of the house are all painted, doors are hung, and we now just need carpet and furnishings to complete them. Some of the bathrooms have been tiled. The sanitary ware will be fitted very soon. Likewise, our kitchen is also ready to be fitted out any time now that the doorway and hatch has been completed into the dining room. New windows have been installed in the counselling rooms and the plastering has been completed in them, as well as many of the other rooms within the annex.

All in all, work continues to progress and we are excited to see each new stage.

Please continue to pray that this work will be completed soon, so that we may start utilising the amazing space we have to further the work we do within the ministry.



New Volunteers

My name is Chontelle Turner, and I first became acquainted with Stauros back in 2017 when I contacted them for help for my brother, who was battling a heavy addiction to alcohol. Little did I know back then, that only a few years later I would be needing that same help and support myself.

In 2021 I found myself drinking regularly just to cope with everyday life, and I began drinking more and more which often led to a few days of binges. Things finally came to a head after a very bad fall, in which I knocked myself unconscious. It was then that I finally realised I had a serious problem and reached out to Stauros for help.

Alcohol was always a big problem in our family, and I lost both my parents and sadly my brother due to it. I have no doubt whatsoever, that if I hadn't have reached out for help when I did, I would not be here today either!

I have been free from alcohol now for over 4 years, and I decided to become a volunteer for Stauros because it is both my passion and desire to offer others the same help and support I was given, and to see people like me, liberated and walking in the freedom that Jesus Christ so graciously paid for on the cross.

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” – John 8:36



My name is Ryan Dawson, and I'm from Ballymena. I first came to know the Stauros Foundation in 2023 when I met Roy, who walked with me through my journey out of a fourteen-year dependence on prescription drugs. Through the support of Stauros, the guidance of Roy, and the help of Teen Challenge, I am grateful to be celebrating fourteen months in recovery. I now volunteer with Stauros and I'm part of Green Pastures Church in Ballymena.

Since returning home from Teen Challenge, I believe God has given me a deep compassion for the broken and addicted, and through my own life experience, I hope to offer others a glimpse of the same hope I received. I look forward to God using me, even in a small way, to support others on their path to recovery.

My name is Michelle Bradley, and I have recently joined the Stauros family as a volunteer. My journey with Stauros began during a difficult time, when a close family member was struggling with addiction. During that season I got support from Stauros, as did my loved one; the gentleness, understanding and prayerful presence offered, made a deep impact on me, as at that time, it was one of the few ways I could see and feel God's love.

Addiction is all consuming, it not only affects the person struggling but often the whole family. It affects every part of life, planning becomes difficult, relationships get stained, friends and even other family members, unsure of how to respond, drift away. The support I received from Stauros became invaluable to me.



Because of my own experience, I believe the Lord has given me compassion for others walking a similar path. He has really put it on my heart to serve those struggling with addiction and in particular families who are affected by it. Having experienced the frustration, loneliness and fear that addiction brings to families, I hope to offer empathy, friendship, prayer and a listening ear to those who feel overwhelmed or alone.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God” - 2 Corinthians 1: 3-4

I have been really blessed through this ministry and look forward to being part of the work God continues to do through Stauros - bringing hope, encouragement and the love of Christ to those on an often long and challenging journey.

Stauros Meetings

Community support groups called Stauros meetings are held in:

- **Banbridge** on Alternate Thursday evenings at 7:30pm
Discipleship Bible study every Friday at 12:15pm
Contact *Woody Price* – 07824 485435
- **South Belfast** on Alternate Thursday evenings at 7:30pm
Contact *Ricky Wallace* - 07714 736630 or
Maggie Wallace - 07714 736619
- **West Belfast** every Tuesday morning 10:00am
Contact *Kim Cooper* - 07971 633978
- **Dromore, Co Down** on 2nd & 4th Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm
Contact *Cheryl Eagleson* – 07875 391824
- **Enniskillen** every Wednesday evening at 7:30pm
Contact *Brendan Jones* – 07798 660050
- **Lurgan** on Alternate Wednesday mornings at 9:30am
Contact *Pamela Brown* – 07824 485434
- **Nutts Corner, Crumlin** on Alternate Monday evenings at 7:30pm
Contact *Pamela Brown* – 07824 485434
- **Bolton, England** on Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm
Contact *Paul Murphy* – 07824 485437
- **Isle of Man** every Tuesday in **Ramsey** at 4pm and every Thursday in **Douglas** at 6:30pm - Contact *Gordon Buist* - 07624 453731



Thank you

We are so conscious that firstly we need to keep the Lord at the centre of this ministry, but also, we need God's people to support us. We are so grateful for each and every one of you who pray for this ministry and also for those who are in a position to support us financially. Every donation really does help; therefore, please contact us if you are in a position to partner with us financially and we will help you set up a Standing Order.

Your prayers and support are not in vain. God continues to provide in ways that we could not imagine and we truly are overwhelmed by His goodness. God Bless you and keep you. "We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly". 1 Thessalonians 1:2

Want to know more? Please contact us:

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Telephone: 028 9082 5058 Email: info@stauros.com

www.stauros.com

The Aims of the Stauros Foundation

1. To promote the gospel of Jesus Christ
2. To evangelise, help and offer fellowship to those suffering and recovering from addiction, to their families and to anyone else who feels they could benefit from our straightforward and practical approach
3. To educate society in general, and the Christian church in particular, about the dangers of all drugs used in a social or recreational way
4. To encourage a witness of abstinence from the social or recreational use of all drugs, including alcohol
5. To promote a society free from drug dependence

Stauros, with Gods help, seeks to befriend the individual and to identify the areas which keep him or her in bondage to their substance of choice.

Prayer Points

- Pray for the completion of our renovation work that we can expand the work of Stauros effectively.
- We are so blessed with faithful donors but we ask that you pray with us that God will raise up a new generation of steadfast givers.
- Pray that we will continue to see people come to true faith in Christ, freedom from addiction and transformed in their daily lives.
- Pray for all involved in the ministry of Stauros, that in all things we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

