

# Vision

## Welcome to our Stauros winter newsletter:

And just like that, here we are! I can't believe that it is 2023. It has been an interesting 2022 in the ministry of Stauros. God as always has been faithful. Our Stauros meetings in Northern Ireland have increased from five to eight with the addition of meetings in Broughshane, Lurgan and Dromore Co Down. These meetings are community support groups for the people we minister to in the community. We would have an average of 120 to 140 people attending these meetings.

Thank you for your prayerful and financial support for the ministry of Stauros and those who serve within it. Your support is important and appreciated as we move forward in the strength of the Lord.

Praying that you and your family have a happy and healthy NEW YEAR!

*Roy Blown*

## Stauros Rally T3 House of Vic-Ryn September 2022



On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September we had our first Rally since before Covid.

It was a very exciting night and we were delighted that T3 at the House Of Vic-Ryn let us use their Conference Centre to hold the Rally.

The night begun with Ali Jackson, Gordon Buist and Sam Mooreland leading us in a time of worship.

We were totally blessed to have Nigel Foster share testimony. Nigel had been a resident with us in Ballyards Castle (Stauros residential centre) many years ago. It was a blessing to hear Nigel share of his deliverance from alcohol and the total freedom that only the Lord can bring not just in Nigel's life but the difference Nigel's salvation has made in his family. The Lord has burdened Nigel with a calling to help others, he would use



Lego as a means of helping people Connect, Relate and Build their relationship with God.

Val English was the speaker. He spoke from Psalm 18: God is our rock and deliverer. He spoke about a life trimmed, a liquid

poured, a lamp lit and a light seen. Emphasising on our light shining in a dark world. Val then shocked us all with a solo of "This Little Light of Mine". We were all blessed and encouraged. The night ended with a lovely supper, fun and fellowship. People renewed fellowship with folk they hadn't seen in a while.



# New Stauros Meeting in Dromore Co Down

As some of you know we have a new volunteer, Cheryl Eagleson. Cheryl has been involved with Stauros Foundation for around 20 years and we are delighted to have her working in the Dromore area visiting people who are struggling with addiction.

Cheryl has had a burden to have a Stauros support group in Dromore Co Down for quite a while. We had the first meeting 12<sup>th</sup> of October this year.

We had a lovely evening and the right people turned up to the meeting.

Cheryl shared from God's word by looking at a devotional from the Billy Graham Association about freedom. These were the main points: people have been searching for

freedom for thousands of years, God's answer to our loss of freedom has always been Jesus Christ, Jesus came to free us from death, sin and anything that enslaves us, and finally, God gives us freedom to choose our own path. The talk included this conclusion: God created human beings, not robots. We don't have to accept the freedom He offers us through Jesus Christ. He gives each person the free will to accept or reject His salvation. But the Bible warns that hell is a real place where real people end up when they knowingly reject the truth. Likewise, those who choose Christ are not forced to obey Him at every turn. But God makes it clear: the best life is one that's devoted to honouring Him, as the Apostle Paul explained to some of the first Christians.

Our heart is that this meeting would become a great support for the people of Dromore and surrounding area.

This meeting is for anyone struggling with addiction or family members who need support if they are living with addiction.

The meeting is held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.



# Straidhavern Meeting in Nutts Corner

The meeting continues every other Monday night at our Stauros Headquarters at 7:30pm. A variety of people attend the meeting, some who struggle themselves with addiction, others who are living with another person's addiction.

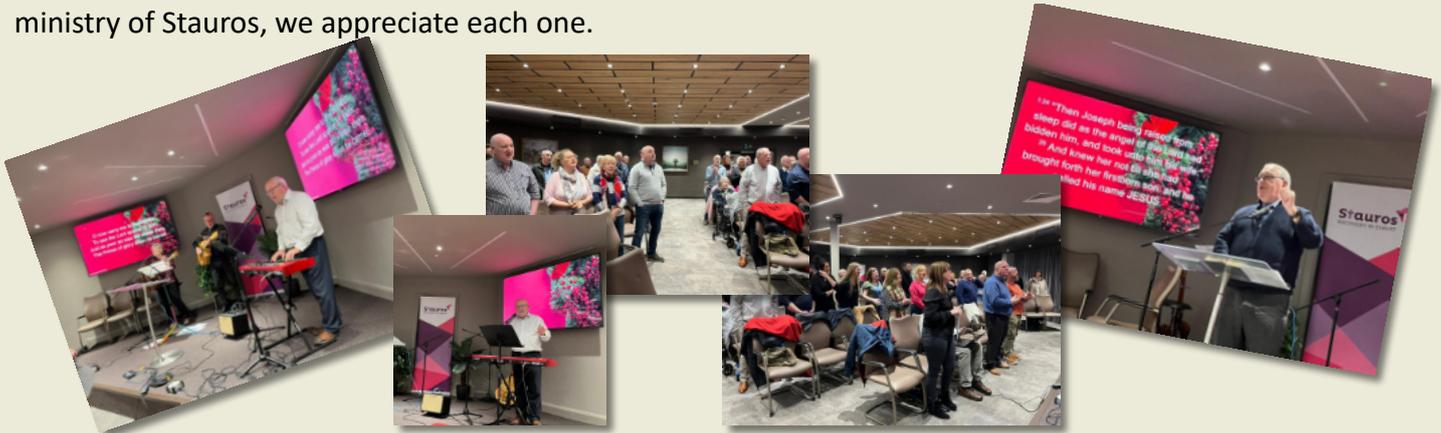
The meeting starts with a time of praise and worship led by Ali Jackson. This is followed by someone either sharing from God's word or sharing testimony of God's salvation. We then enter into a time of open prayer, praying for one another and issues that may have come up in the meeting. The meeting ends with supper and fellowship.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of December we had our usual Christmas party. We had a lovely evening that started with Chinese and ended with a few games led by Roy.



# Carol Service at T3 in Lisburn

We had our annual Christmas carol service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December. It was a great blessing to see so many attend. We sang Christmas carols and had a lovely time of worship followed by Cheryl Eagleson sharing her journey of her Christmases past. It was wonderful to hear of how God has changed her life and how it has impacted her family. We then performed a short drama showing what Christmas can be like for people without God in their lives, then finishing with how knowing God personally can bring the real meaning of Christmas. Victor Maxwell was our guest speaker. Victor has been associated with Stauros for over 30 years and was instrumental in starting the Stauros work in East Belfast. Victor spoke on the shortest sermon in the Bible that was when "Joseph called His name 'Jesus'". Many of the people who came have been or currently supported by Stauros and were impacted by the Word of God, others came who support and pray for the ministry of Stauros, we appreciate each one.



# Support Meetings Christmas Celebrations



# Staff Christmas Dinner

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of December all of our staff and volunteers met at Straidhavern Road for our annual Christmas dinner. We started the night with a lovely meal prepared by Kathy and Jenny. Kathy's husband, Brian, came to help with the clearing up. They did a great job, the meal was delicious. We just want to say a big "Thank you" to them. The meal was followed by us all singing Christmas carols, then the traditional Christmas games organised by Rachel and Graham Todd. We had lots of fun and plenty of competition. The winning team was led by Tim and Kyle Macgregor.



# 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* – 07824485435
- **South Belfast** on Alternate Thursday evenings at 7:30pm  
Contact *Ricky Wallace* - 07714736630 or *Maggie Wallace* - 07714736619
- **West Belfast** every Tuesday morning 10:30am  
Contact *Kim Cooper* - 07971633978
- **Bolton** on Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm  
Contact *Paul Murphy* – 07824 485437
- **Broughshane** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday morning in a month 10:30am  
Contact *George Macgregor* - 07824485436
- **Nutts Corner, Crumlin** on Alternate Monday evenings at 7-30pm  
Contact *Pamela Brown* – 07824485434
- **Dromore, Co Down** on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm  
Contact *Cheryl Eagleson* – 07875391824
- **Enniskillen** every Wednesday evening at 7:30pm  
Contact *Brendan Jones* – 07798660050
- **Glasgow** every Monday evening at 7:30pm  
Contact *Linda McCredie* – 07824485438
- **Isle of Man** every Tuesday in **Ramsey** at 4pm and every Thursday in **Douglas** at 6:30pm - Contact *Gordon Buist* - 07624453731
- **Lurgan** on Alternate Wednesday mornings at 9:30am  
Contact *Pamela Brown* – 07824 485434



## 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.

### Coming Events

- Staff prayer meeting on Zoom on the first Wednesday of each month.
- Northern Ireland staff meet at Straldhavern every Monday morning for devotion, prayer and fellowship.
- 13<sup>th</sup> February I.O.M Trustees meeting.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> of March UK Trustees meeting at Straidhavern.
- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of March Workers Fellowship days.
- 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of March Unlocking Addictions course at Straidhavern

### General prayer requests:

- Please pray that the Lord would continue to be the centre of the work of the Stauros Foundation.
- Pray that God would raise up either a person or a couple to take over the work in Scotland.
- Please continue to pray for staff and their ongoing work in the community.
- Pray for Gods wisdom and leading for our trustee's & board members: UK, USA and IOM.

# Thank you

We are so thankful to God in His provision that has allowed us to continue to fulfil our ministry through these difficult days, 'He is the same yesterday, today and forever'.

We want to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to you. Without your prayerful and financial support, we could not do what we do. May God richly bless you as you serve Him.



**Want to know more? Please contact us:**

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**www.stauros.com**

