

## Please Pray

For health needs and bereavement pain in the staff team and wider family. Pray for healing and comfort.

For the ongoing need for a cook at Castlewellan.

That staff would get breaks and family time through the busy season approaching.

For group leaders who plan, promote & organise their breaks with us.

That in the midst of daily challenges and problems, we would place our trust in God and seek His glory in all we do.

## Give Thanks

For the lovely, multi-cultural atmosphere in the Castlewellan staff team.

For the years of service of Belinda and Dave at Castlewellan as they step back a bit.

For the continued encouragement of bookings and guest experience in our centres.

For the completion of long term works and the additional resource they represent to visitors.

For ability to continue receiving groups despite the recent water damage.

That our calling is to faithfulness; He gives the increase.

## Imperfectly Perfect

**Maintenance projects** are piling up; there is turnover on the team; a number of staff are facing health and family challenges: An imperfect situation.

Long stretches of duty without a break; the busiest year in recent history; no stable support for duty cover: An imperfect situation.

A new manager just in post; other planned retirements imminent; a long term key catering vacancy remains unfilled: An imperfect situation.

These were the situations facing our three centres last summer. What to do?

Surely the wise thing to do was to scale down? Suspend all our development work. Turn away groups and don't look to new areas for ministry opportunity. Let's put our work into 'freewheel' and we'll spend our time searching for staff.

*If you are waiting for perfect conditions to act in ministry, you'll wait forever!*

At Quinta, the team pulled together, supporting each other in the challenges and, as you'll read elsewhere, got on with the work. They also set to planning new develop-

ment projects, and have seen their efforts blessed by the generosity of donors and benefactors.

Cloverley continued to accept those bookings, knowing that staffing them would be a challenge and only possible through the support of others in the Group. God blessed that step of faith with the provision of Nigel—who will provide duty management cover during our busiest periods.

At Castlewellan, despite the very real operational risk posed by our catering situation, the team expanded to

take on a new schools worker. Whilst holding firmly but gently to a requirement for gospel input to any school residentials, we have seen all available space this Spring term booked up. We have made it through in the kitchen so far, thanks to the sacrifice of folk associated with our ministry.

If we had scaled down across the Group, I believe we would have the same staff vacancies now, but we would have real reason to question whether our ministry was still in God's plan. As it is, we have felt a strong sense of affirmation through blessings & growth.

Maybe your ministry has reached an hiatus. Maybe a key post is vacant and you think you should slow things down until it is filled. Don't make it all about a person. Trust God & His calling—not to be a recruiter, but a servant.

*"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*

PERFECTLY imperfect

## Changing Rooms

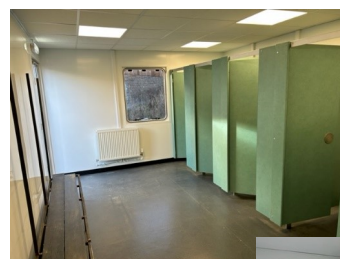
**You're probably familiar** with the concept - a team of tradespeople, volunteers & celebrities descend upon a project, and with limitless goodwill from local suppliers, transform a building in the matter of a few days!

Well, it wasn't quite like that at Quinta, as the team invited the camera crew/photographer to the official opening of the new Pool Changing Rooms. This project now occupies ignominious folklore at Quinta, having been the longest live project at three & a half years!

Mind you, given that COVID and all its baggage interrupted progress for a substantial part of that time, the delay is hardly surprising.

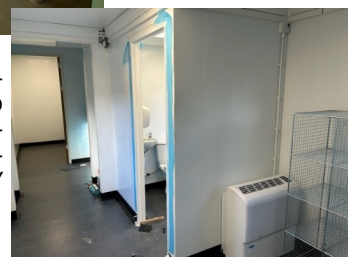
The finished article is something Nick Knowles or Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen would be very proud of. The team has converted and fully kitted former mobile

classrooms into bright, well equipped and warm changing rooms to enhance the swimming experience at The Quinta.



No longer will swimmers have to make the dash back to their accommodation unit after a swim.

We hope you enjoy using this facility



and we are looking forward to the BAFTA nomination for longest running DIY show!

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www.quinta.org  
www.cloverleyhall.org  
www.castlewellancastle.org

space to grow



Castlewellan Castle

Vacancy for Cook able to lead a kitchen

No late nights; Weekend working on rotation; Full or Part-time considered.

## Goings & Comings

The past 12 months has seen a huge change in the staffing team at Castlewellan.

Most recently, Dave Archer has retired from the cooking team, and Belinda Ross is working up to her last day in housekeeping very soon (though we do hope to see her back on an ad hoc basis for a long time to come).

Both were fairly local appointments—Belinda just down the road and Dave about 12 miles away. However, we've had to go a little further for their replacements...

In the kitchen, we are delighted to welcome Serhii (Sergey) Kovalchuk from Kyiv in central Ukraine. Serhii had his own coffee shop in the capital before leaving and is now living in Newcastle with his wife and family.

We already had a fair mix of accents going on in the kitchen, so Serhii has introduced an additional challenge to interpretation. He understands English - just not English in our various accents and speed of delivery!

Natalia Mukhina has been working along with Belinda, 'learning the ropes' (another colloquialism which doesn't translate!) of housekeeping in a 190-bed centre.

Natalia is living just outside Castlewellan after fleeing with her family from her home city of Mariupol, on the Russian border. Natalia can understand Ukrainian, but her spoken language is Russian.

The language barrier has certainly given us some new challenges - bi-lingual Employment Contracts; recipe and

## Showers of Blessing

Six months ago I was writing about the shortage of water at Quinta. Now Nicky shares a slightly different experience at Cloverley:

In December (a week before Christmas), a pipe burst above room 15, the water came pouring through the ceilings into the dining rooms and right through to the basement!

Is it not marvellously wonderful that as believers we can hold fast to the promises of our Lord? *'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.'* Despite the drying out process taking longer than two months and the challenges of ensuring groups that were booked in were still able to come, we have certainly experienced God's blessings.



It is a tremendous privilege to be part of God's family; the genuine support and encouragement received from each guest has sustained us. We look forward to having everything back to normal next month! Above all, we are humbled that our great God chooses to continue to use Cloverley as one of those special places for His children to draw aside to be refreshed.



ingredients explanations; local colloquialisms which are easily misunderstood. The various translation apps have become essential workplace equipment, but they too can get it wrong, sometimes with hilarious consequences.

But these are exciting times. Serhii & Natalia are already very involved in church in Northern Ireland, and they are enjoying working in a Christian environment. We are learning new skills and broadening our understanding of God's family. We share in their concern for their country of birth.

Meanwhile, we wish Dave & Belinda, and their families God richest blessing and our appreciation.



Serhii treating the staff to a meal of Ukrainian Borscht