CENTRE MINISTRIES

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Called...according to His purpose.

Please Pray

For a sustained period of good weather to dry everything out and allow outside tasks to progress.

For God to lead us to His person for the role at Castlewellan.

For the filling of vacancies in Cloverley booking calendar this year.

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

That God would be seen & glorified as groups gather to worship and study on our sites.

Give Thanks

For the beauty of our surroundings which allows our guests to merge sight and sound as they hear teaching about the Creator, and then view His handiwork.

For our staff and their sense of calling to this ministry, diligence to their work, and co-operation with their colleagues.

For the recent planning approval for the Activity Barn at the Quinta. May this exciting venture attract the necessary funding and go on to serve the church for generations.

For the Cross - which changes everything.!

Just this week a young friend and his wife have been contemplating an opportunity to leave his job, with career prospects and generous remuneration, to take up a role with a Christian charity.

During conversations, and then on hearing he had accepted the new role, the idea of 'calling' came into my mind.

Over the years I have listened to many folk talk about their calling. Some using the lack of what they perceive as a clear call, as a reason to do very little. Others changing direction on an almost monthly basis.

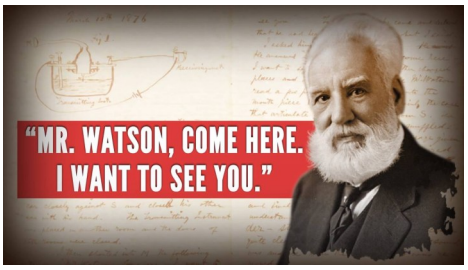
In Scripture, 'called' is one of the most frequent descriptions of the Christian. But the Bible does not attach this term to a career path, or a cause, or a magic code to unlock our future.

Biblical calling is, firstly, something done for us. As Dave Harvey puts it, it is God's summons to the Saviour, and to His service.

150 years ago this month, Alexander Graham Bell made the first telephone call. His summons to his assistant Mr. Watson is infamous.

Watson never assumed that the first call to him was really about him. He did not jump up & start shouting about how he had received the first ever phone call. No, Watson saw the bigger picture. The first phone call happened not because of the person being called, but because of the inventor.

The creator called; the recipient responded.



God's call to the Saviour says more about Him than it does about those He has called. He doesn't use a wooden or Bakelite device, but a message - the wonderful gospel of a suffering & risen Saviour.

The first call is the most important call. It isn't about what we do or where we go, but about Whom we follow.

The first call is grounds for a second. With our identity in Christ established, the second plots the course for our lives. It is the summons to His service.

Unlike Alex Bell, God's call is continual. Throughout Paul's letters we are urged to live according to our calling.

There's work to be done for a God who enjoys His work: ***"God saw all He had made, and it was very good."***

Within the vast panoply of service, there is a personal assignment. We are fearfully & wonderfully custom-made to fill a place & fulfill a destiny. Wow!

How can we discover such a high calling?

What have you been given? Our talents are not accidental - they are our kitbag for the road God wants us on.

What have you gained? Life with all its joys & troubles, successes and failures, breakthroughs and tragedies shapes our calling.

What makes you go? Vocation often follows passion. "*God made me fast, and when I run I feel his pleasure.*" (Eric Liddell).

Bell said, "come here". Jesus says, "follow me". Answering the call to Jesus means coming to Him & learning who we are in Him. But Jesus is on the move, so coming to Him always results in following Him.

King of Heaven, we will answer the call,
We will follow, bringing hope to the world,
Filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim
Salvation in Jesus' name.

© Getty / Townend

We need You!

Castlewellan Castle has a very exciting job opportunity for the right person or couple.

With the impending retirement of our head cook, we need someone who could lead our cooking team, organising menus & ordering, to ensure our guests are fully catered for during their stay.

Conscious that this person may not currently be living in the immediate vicinity of Castlewellan Castle, we are making available the option of a small flat within the Castle to the right applicant.

In addition, we are hopeful that we might attract someone who may be able to provide some duty cover for the Manager, remaining on call for guests in his absence.

The job may suit a couple who are looking for part-time work, or an individual seeking closer to a full-time role.

If you, or anyone you know, would be interested, please contact us or visit www.crnet.org.uk/jobs-volunteers.

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If you would like to receive a regular copy either by e-mail or post, or would like to be removed from the mailing list, please contact us.

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

space to grow

To support this venture, contact manager@quinta.org or visit Quinta Christian Centre on their Website, Facebook or Instagram.

Building space... for Ministry, Movement & Life-changing Moments

Hopefully you've heard that we are exploring plans to build a new **Activity Barn at Quinta**. This is something we have been prayerfully considering for several years. Both at Centre level and among our Board of Trustees, we have been seeking God's will and guidance as we consider embarking on such a significant project.

We are delighted to share some exciting news: **we have now received full planning permission**. After a lengthy process, we praise God that we've reached this important milestone.

From the beginning, our vision for the Activity Barn has not been to host larger specialist events, but to **serve the guests who already come to Quinta and better support them in their ministry**. As many of you know, our current sports hall—while well used—has its limitations. With one wall largely made of glass, it isn't always suitable for the wide range of activities groups would like to run. When larger groups use it as a meeting space, there is also nowhere else for indoor sports.

And of course... how often does it rain at Quinta? Contrary to popular belief, it isn't always sunny! Even when the sun is shining, the ground often remains wet, making outdoor activities difficult. The Activity Barn would completely transform what we can offer indoors.

The main arena would be a **50m x 30m flexible space**, able to operate as one large hall or be divided into **three separate courts**, allowing multiple activities to run at the same time. This could include indoor basketball or football, space for inflatables, or activities such as combat archery. For groups wanting to be more adventurous, there would even be room to bring in external activities like climbing towers, crate stacking, or bumper balls. In a space of this size, the possibilities are almost endless.

Alongside the main arena, there will also be a **two-storey section**. Downstairs will include a large open-plan space with a kitchen area and toilets, while upstairs will provide a meeting room and several breakout rooms—ideal for teaching sessions, small groups, or leadership meetings.

So when might the Activity Barn become a reality?

That largely depends on the generosity of those who believe in the ministry of Quinta.

The estimated cost of the initial build is **£500,000**, and we are incredibly grateful that **£250,000 has already been pledged by two strategic partners**. This remarkable start means we are already halfway there—but we now need to raise the **remaining £250,000** to make the Activity Barn a reality.

This is where you could play a vital part.

If Quinta has ever encouraged you personally, or your group, strengthened your ministry, or impacted the lives of young people you serve, would you consider helping us take this next step?

Your support—whatever the size—will move this vision closer to becoming a place where countless young people can grow, learn, play, and encounter God.

There are several ways you could be involved:

- **Make a one-off gift** towards the building project
- **Commit to regular monthly giving** to support this and future development
- **Fundraise on our behalf**, perhaps through a sponsored event, challenge, or coffee morning
- **Invite others to partner with us** by sharing this vision within your church or network.

Every gift brings us closer to opening the doors of the Activity Barn and expanding what God can do through the ministry at Quinta.

Would you prayerfully consider how you might be part of this?

Together, we can turn this vision into a space that will serve groups, churches, and young people for many years to come.

Thank you!

Faithfulness in Every Season

Since the start of the year, Cloverley Hall has been a vibrant tapestry of faces—from missionaries and school children to church families. It is a privilege to serve each guest, and we are constantly amazed at how God has created us all in His image, yet made every individual so beautifully unique. As we look ahead, we are excited to welcome "newbies" to the Hall, while continuing to cherish those who have supported this ministry over the past 58 years. God's faithfulness over nearly six decades is deeply humbling; it encourages us to keep our eyes fixed on Him as we move forward.

We see this divine faithfulness reflected in the daily "hands-on" work of our team. Throughout March, our catering staff are expertly managing three different booking tiers—Essentials, Standard, and Premium—with their usual grace and skill. We truly see God's hand in this; He equips us and places us exactly where He desires, enabling us to work alongside Him in the tasks He has set before us.

Nowhere has that sense of "calling/faithfulness" been more evident than in the service of one of our longest-standing colleagues. This Wednesday, we say a bittersweet farewell to Shirley, who is hanging up her tabard after 22 remarkable years at Cloverley Hall. Whether she was in the kitchen or working through the house, her work ethic was unmatched—she was always the one to stay until the final task was finished. Her dedication extended into countless weekends, always serving with a smile and that unmistakable chuckle that could brighten the busiest of shifts.

Shirley, we thank you for your decades of service. As you move into this next chapter, we know those lovely grandchildren will keep you just as busy as we did! We wish you a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement.