

# Free Presbyterian Youth Council



'Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth' - Ecclesiastes 12:1

## REPORT ON 2010 SUMMER OUTREACH TO PORT ERIN, ISLE OF MAN

By Jillian Johnston (Magherafelt FPC)

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August, a group of twelve young people from Northern Ireland, and one from Scotland, travelled to the Isle of Man to help with outreach work within the church. The team was led by Rev and Mrs McMillan.

After a very long journey, we finally arrived in Port Erin- much to the relief of everyone. We started our work the next morning, knocking on the doors within the small town. We invited the residents out to special meetings which were being held in the church that week, and provided them with a small tract containing the invitation of salvation. Although the people were mostly polite, and took the invitation, we struggled in getting them to open up, so we could chat to them about their need of salvation. Despite this, we were granted a few opportunities where we were able to witness of our Lord.

Every morning Rev McMillan led us in devotions. Here we were challenged and encouraged from God's Word in the work which we would endeavour to do during that day. This was followed by a season of prayer, in which we were all most aware that we needed guidance and wisdom for the unknown challenges we would face.

On the Friday, we took the steam train from Port Erin into Douglas to do some tract distribution in the main city on the island. As there were quite a large number of us, we covered the area quickly and a good number of tracts were given out. We were able to speak to some of the locals and were pleased to see a couple who we had spoken to and received an invitation come into the Sunday evening service.

Both the congregation and the team were encouraged to see some young people attend the services. They attended every night, and we would ask that you remember them in prayer.

On the Sunday, in the town, there was a lifeboat day and raft race event. This consisted of various activities down at the beach, and provided us with another opportunity to speak with people and invite them along to the Sunday evening meeting. As we had been blessed with beautiful weather the whole week, the beach was packed, and this was our final opportunity for outreach on the island. It was met with a mixed response, but the beginning of the tract proved helpful. The tracts which we were using during our week, were specially written for us and began using a story involving Dennis Maddrell who worked on the lifeboats in Port Erin. This struck cord with some of the local people who knew him or were indeed related to him; and sustained their interest in the other information contained within the tract. We noted that there was a noticeboard containing information on some former lifeboat members including Dennis Maddrell, and someone had pinned our tract beside it. We can only pray that it was read even by someone who we missed in our distribution and it spoke to their hearts.

One day during our time there, some of the guys donned their old clothes and painted the walls of the carpark outside the church.

At the beginning of the week we met as a group of people who didn't know much about each other and even less about the place we were headed, but through the week we enjoyed each other's company and there was a great sense of fellowship among the group. We were also kept amused with Mr McMillan and his endless stories and impressions!! As a group we would like to thank everyone who made this trip possible and the congregation for their invitation. We would encourage any Christian young person to get involved in outreach within their local church and on any future trips. It was a blessing and encouragement to us all.



**The Port Erin congregation along with the Youth Council outreach team**