

# Alastair & Elise Donaldson

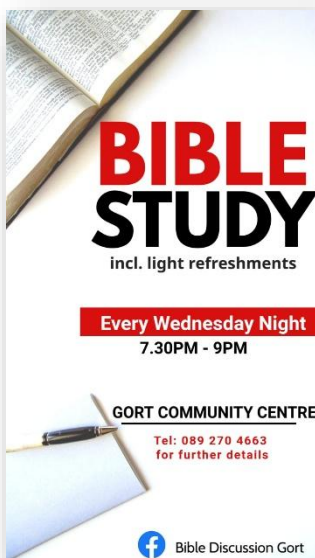
October 2025



*Our family*

***'And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.'* (John 3 v14-15)**

It seems like only yesterday we sent our last prayer letter in July. Life is moving fast for everyone and our family can certainly attest to this. We are settling well into our new home which we moved into at the end of June. Peterswell is a lovely little village. There is nothing much in it anymore. We reside in the former public house / guesthouse, and the post office and shop are also closed as with many other rural areas. All that is left are some houses and a Roman Catholic church. We have got to know some of our neighbours well. Please continue to pray for gospel opportunities in the village and adjoining school community.



We are continuing to get to know people in Gort through the Bible study and day-to-day contact. This study now happens weekly and we have been working through the Gospel of John. Recently we have had a young couple join us who seem to be searching for Christian community, and we are looking forward to getting to know them better. Another young mother has started coming also and she seems quite mature in the faith. Praise God for opening doors and introducing us to new friends without much intervention from us. He is always able.

Josiah and Edith are both doing well and getting involved in various community and school-based activities. During the summer, Josiah spent five days and nights at his first ever residential Christian camp. It was also his first time away from home apart from grandparents etc. The camp was run by Bible-Centred Ministries (BCM) at Castledaly

Manor, Westmeath. It was a wonderful time for him and other children in terms of faith. We missed him so much – as did Edith – and the look upon his face when we picked him up expressed similar. We were thankful to the Lord for helping our little boy to grow.

We are so thankful for every one of our kind and generous supporters – individuals and church congregations. We are getting to know some of you still and have recently been able to Zoom with a couple of churches during their Sunday services. Additionally, we will be visiting some in person before the year end. We so enjoy keeping up with supporters and introducing others to the work. Sometimes

this is difficult. Life as mission partners can be very busy and even more so as co-vocational ones. But we trust the Lord with our schedule and the doors he's opening.

Towards the end of October, we are planning a family outreach for two afternoons in Gort Community Centre. This will be our first attempt to reach a broader demographic – particularly young families. We have the Community Centre hired, a flyer drawn up (need to distribute) and one of our supporter churches sending four to five helpers. Please pray for encouraging conversations with families over the next few weeks and that on the days in question (mid-term break from school) some families might come.

As a family we continue to attend and serve within Calvary Church Loughrea. Alastair recently preached the concluding sermon of a series on Malachi. Elise serves mostly within Sunday School, with our children actively involved also. She does this approximately twice a month. We are deeply blessed to have a relationship with the Pollock family and wider church family in Loughrea. On occasion some folk from Loughrea have come to Bible study in Gort or encouraged us in other ways. Alastair enjoys visiting some older church members in their homes whenever possible. On a monthly basis, the church uses an event space at a local social farm to run an evening where a topic of interest within Christianity (and its place in the world) is discussed. Already this season we have considered spiritual warfare, with future topics such as sanctification and children and social media on the agenda.



*Josiah and Edith in Gort*

Increasingly, we sense that the Lord is directing Alastair to be in Gort full-time as we prayerfully seek further gospel developments at this stage of the work. To enable this to happen, it will require another door to open which we have been praying about for some time. If it all worked out, it would mean Alastair could spend his days (or most of them) pastoring people and getting further involved in the community rather than stacking shelves. As you know, we have both worked in a few outside jobs this past year and, while they have been helpful in several ways, our time is at a premium. Ultimately the Lord knows best, and either this desire will work out or something infinitely better.

It has been lovely having this opportunity to share a little further with you all. If you're interested, we usually host a Zoom prayer meeting on the last Thursday of each month at 8.30pm. If you'd like to attend this, please get in touch.

***'We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.'* (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3)**

**Amen!**

**Alastair and Elise Donaldson** Gort, County Galway, Ireland

**Crosslinks** 116-118 Walworth Road, London, SE17 1JL | [pletters@crosslinks.org](mailto:pletters@crosslinks.org) | 32 Montgomery Road, Belfast BT6 9HL | +44 (0)20 8691 6111