

2020 BEACH SPECIAL



CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE ACTIVITIES AT www.thebeachteam.org



DIA DUIT! HELLO!

We are so disappointed that, due to coronavirus, we are not able to meet up with you all this summer. In fact 2020 was to be our 50th year since we first started providing free fun and games for all the family on the beaches.

So, sadly, there will not be our usual UBM tug of wars, sand modelling competitions, Holiday Specials, family fun events or teen's events!. We will miss you!

However the exciting thing is you will still be able to join UBM online, as we have put together a series of online 'Holiday Specials' for all the family to enjoy. Please see the box on the right for details of how to access these.

Coronavirus has affected all of our lives in one way or another- whether a risk to our health, finances, jobs, education and so on. If you or a loved one have been significantly impacted for any of these reasons we sincerely sympathise with you, and we want you to know that our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

UBM want to act responsibly by adhering to the government guidelines. The current social

distancing measures in place mean that we cannot safely run our usual activities on the beach. We wish all our holiday centres who have been so supportive of UBM over the years a great recovery as hopefully things begin to ease.

We still want, in these strange days, to share with you the good news of Jesus which we believe brings hope in the midst of uncertainty and fear.

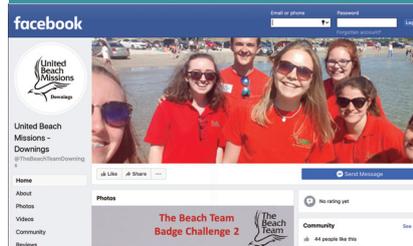
As Christians coming from diverse backgrounds and different churches from all over Ireland and beyond we believe that even in the storm of the covid crisis there is a message of hope from God's Word the Bible. Just as when Jesus climbed into the boat of those frightened disciples (see Kid's corner) the wind ceased and there was a great calm, He is still breathing His peace into people's lives in these days of uncertainty.

Please take a look at the stories inside of two people from County Cork and County Clare, Louise and John, who have found strength, comfort and a changed life in following Jesus.

Finally have a great summer holiday. Enjoy the articles, solving the puzzles or perhaps sending away for the free giveaways. We hope to see you in 2021. Stay safe and God bless you.

HOW TO FIND US!

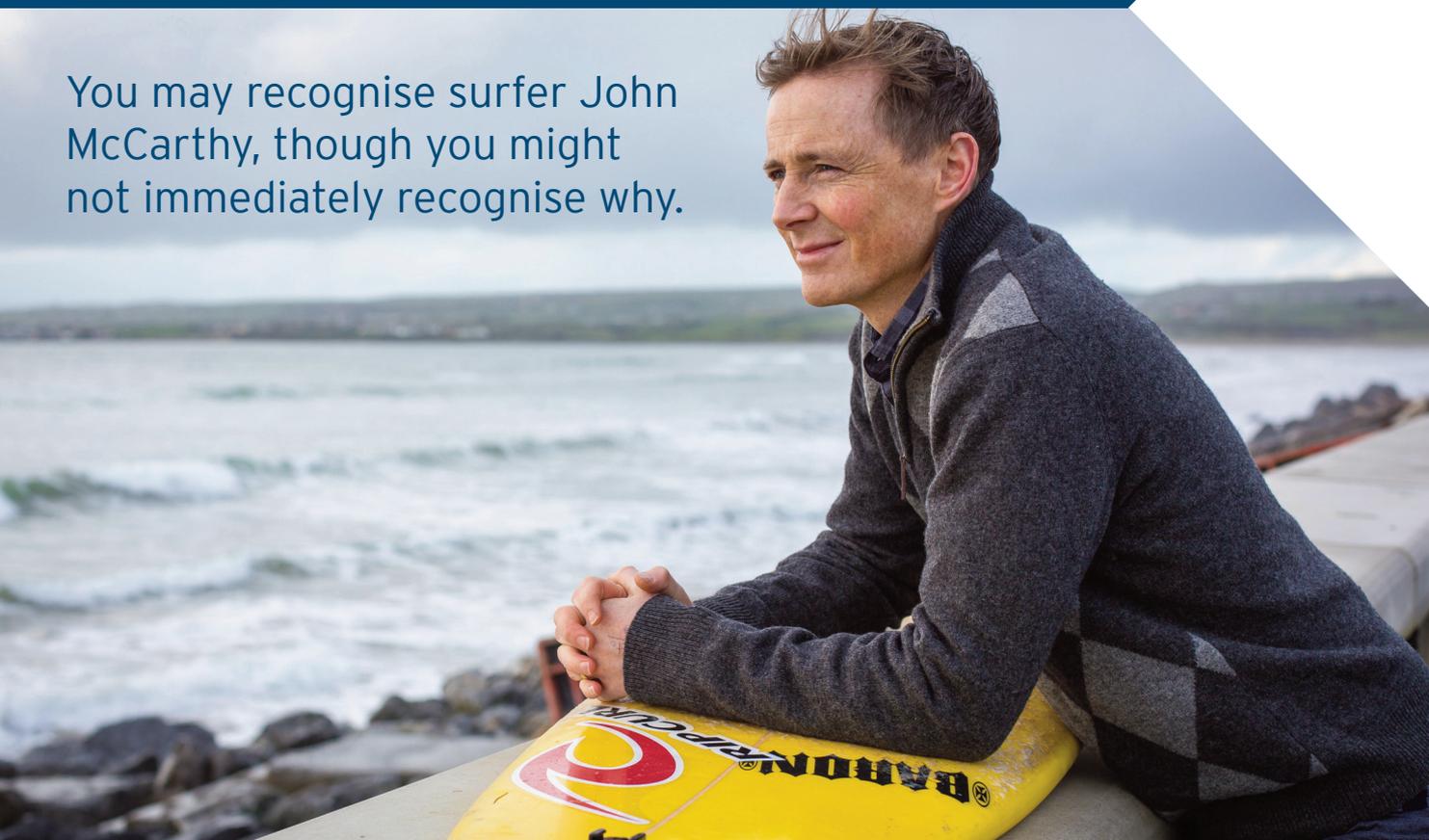
Visit our website www.thebeachteam.org and follow the instructions. Or visit our Facebook pages www.facebook.com/TheBeachTeam followed by the name of the centre where you have met UBM eg. www.facebook.com/TheBeachTeamDownings



If you have any questions about the work of UBM please contact us through our website. We will be delighted to help you in any way.

THE CREST OF A WAVE

You may recognise surfer John McCarthy, though you might not immediately recognise why.



Check out www.thebeachteam.org/JohnMcCarthy to see amazing footage of John as he surfs next to the Cliffs of Moher and to hear one of our UBM leaders Steve Wright interview John about his amazing surfing and spiritual journey.

An AIB television advertisement showed John surfing 'Aileen's Wave' below the Cliffs of Moher. He was one of the surfers who pioneered surfing this wave. In 2006 he won a bronze medal for Ireland at the European Surfing Championships.

In that same year, McCarthy's life took a change of direction when he had a life-changing encounter with His Saviour Jesus Christ and today he runs a website speaking of the hope he has found in being in relationship with God.

What attracted you to surfing?

I took up surfing seriously at the age of thirteen. I had tried many sports, basketball, hurling, tennis, tai-kwan-do and boxing, but I wasn't that successful at them. Surfing was very different to land based sports and it was something new that I could do with my friends and I got good at it quickly. I started competing on the Irish Surf Team from the age of fifteen

and I travelled to European and World surfing championships.

How did you become a Christian?

I thank God that my parents brought me up in a house where God was talked about, and praying was normal. I often thought about God in my teenage years and prayed. However, when I went to college I didn't think about God very much at all. I can definitely say I went away from God.

On the face of it life was going well but inside there was an unease. If I had stopped long enough at that time I'd probably have seen things about my life that I didn't want to confront.

By my late 20s my life was unravelling as I was binge drinking heavily and my personal relationships were floundering. There was definitely a question hanging over me. That question was, "John what is your life going to look like". Friends would

come to Lahinch for the weekend to surf and if the wind turned we'd just go to the pub. There was a day I sat down in the pub and I thought to myself "I can't do this." There was a void in my life but I didn't know what it was and began searching.

I was backpacking in Australia and I bought a book on world religions, read about Jesus, and from there bought a bible. I just started to open up to the idea that maybe God was the answer.

At the very end of a surfing contest in Easkey in Co Sligo I had an accidental meeting with Steve Boal, who I could tell had a lot of joy from God. Steve was involved in ministry to surfers at the time and he could tell that I was hungry to learn the simple teachings of Jesus. In 2005, Steve and I travelled to a conference in England organised by Christian Surfers International. I was bemused by the sight of long-haired, guitar-playing surfers praising

God, but when I attended the event the following year, June 24, 2006, something special happened. I really felt the call of God on my life. I could not physically see Him, but, in my mind's eye, Jesus Christ was on the cross. I knew I was guilty and that Jesus went to the cross not just for the sins of the world, but for my sins.

There and then I felt God say, 'John, I have died for your sins, come'. I heard a voice inside saying, "I need Jesus" and I just went with it and I have never looked back. I had such a thirst in my soul and I surrendered my life to Christ.

How did this encounter with Jesus change your life?

When I gave my heart to Jesus my life really

changed, I really experienced God's peace in my life and I just knew that Jesus was with me. It was the turning point in my life. I was inspired with a mission to dedicate myself to God. It's as if someone came along in the morning and paid off your mortgage: you're now debt-free and you want to tell the world. My new-found purpose recalibrated my relationships. Old friends said "He's born-again, so it's a new John."

Does God influence the way you see surfing?

Yes, very much so. Surfing used to be by far the most important thing in my life. It's easy to make things like our favourite sport into a god or the most important things in our lives. I've learned that can be a very unhealthy approach to life. When

we put God first in life everything else makes sense and it gives a healthy perspective to other things in life.

What is your favourite bible story quotation/bible story and why?

The whole of God's message is in one line in **John 3:16** and it says: '*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*'

It's great news that God knew us before we were in our mother's womb, that he loves us so much that Jesus came to pay for our sins, so that we could have life in God.

If you would like to know more about John and his journey of hope, we encourage you to visit www.cliffsofhope.com

FAITH WITH MEANING

Louise O'Brien, from County Cork, recalls family holidays in Kilkee and speaks about finding meaning and purpose in day-to-day life.

Louise, how do you spend your days? I'm a wife, a mum and I work part time as a carer.

Did you do anything different before having children? Yes. I studied accounting and finance in college and so when I graduated, I worked in a custody bank for several years.

Do you have a favourite Irish beach? Well, it has to be Kilkee as I have been going there since I was born! Every summer my parents, brothers and sister, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins would relocate from Limerick and spend many weeks of the summer break there.

I loved the beach and rockpools as a child and my favourite spot was the bandstand. When I was older, I enjoyed walks on the Dunlicky cliffs and also the Pollack holes.

As a regular visitor then, do you have any recommendations for good things to see and do there on both wet and dry days? As I mentioned above, the Dunlicky is a beautiful cliff walk and always good to do (unless it is stormy or really pouring with rain!) Then I would recommend lunch on the main street. If you have access to a car, the lighthouse in Loophead is a really great place for kids and adults to visit.

Did you ever meet the beach team growing up? What do you remember most about it/them?

Yes. I have very fond memories of the beach team in Kilkee. There was something very special about the many teams over the years. Their love for God and their connection with the children and adults they met on the beach. I stayed in touch with some of the team and built a good friendship.

I remember the team games we played on the beach as a teen, and when they did Bible stories, it was a great way to ask questions and learn from God's word. All this led me to follow Jesus.

Would you still claim to follow Jesus now? Surely growing up in Ireland means you always did anyway?

Yes, I would still call myself a follower of Jesus. It is true that I grew up knowing about God, learned about Him in school and believed He existed. I also went to Mass every Sunday with my parents and had a really good childhood. I was brought up well and I am thankful to my parents for that.

However, as a teen, I started reading the Bible and found that I had more and more questions about what I really

believed and why. I would like to say that I found a deeper meaning to my faith. I have a reason to live my life for Him. Life can be so hard at times, and knowing the real love of God can give the needed courage and strength to live every day for Him.

Can you give some examples of this, perhaps from your day to day life? I would say having Jesus in my life is something I never take for granted. It does not make life easier - there is obviously plenty of suffering and hardship in this life - but I could not imagine getting through it all without having a purpose and meaning for me to live on this earth.

Knowing that God loves me and even gave his own son, Jesus, for me - an unworthy person - is the best thing that anyone could ever know. Knowing the truth of the Bible gives real peace in my heart and it cannot be found or bought anywhere else.

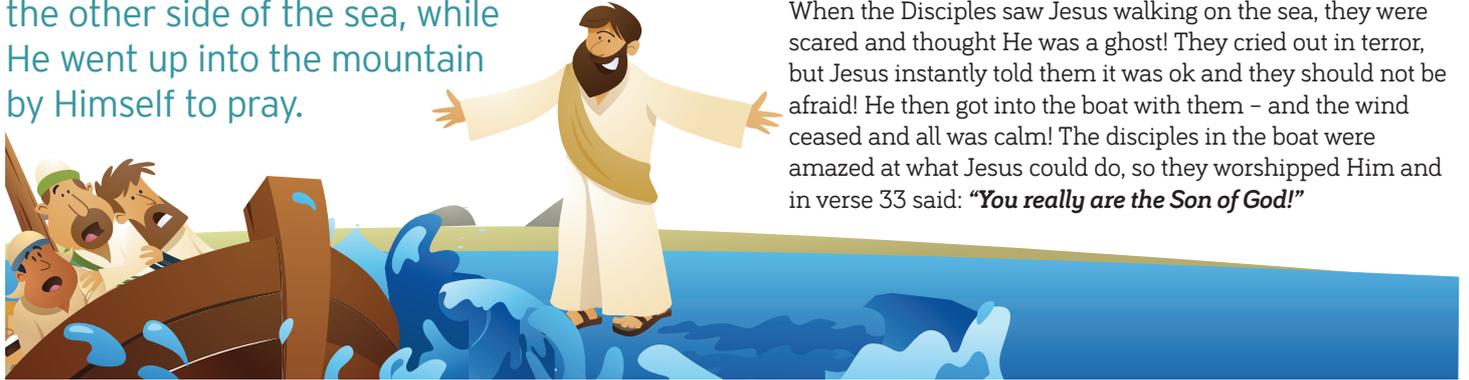
What would you say to any adult reading this now who is considering trusting Jesus for themselves?

All I can say is that we were all created by God to love and to know Him. No one else in this world can do that for us. The message of the gospel almost seems too good to be true but it says in the word of God that if God is for us, who can be against us? Nothing can ever separate us from the love of God no matter what life throws at us.

To be forgiven for everything we have done wrong - and to know Jesus in our hearts - means that we will spend the rest of eternity with Him. Nothing else in this world and life will give us that amazing peace and assurance.

KIDS CORNER

There is a story in the Bible, in Matthew 14 verses 22-33 about how, one day, Jesus told His Disciples to get into a boat and to go to the other side of the sea, while He went up into the mountain by Himself to pray.



When the boat was far from the shore, there was a storm and the boat was tossed around by the rough waves. It was the middle of the night and when Jesus saw the storm, He knew they would be having trouble rowing the boat, so He went to help them. The Bible tells us in Matthew 14 verse 25, that in order to get to the boat, Jesus actually walked on the water. The Bible doesn't say He swam, Jesus walked ON the water!

When the Disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea, they were scared and thought He was a ghost! They cried out in terror, but Jesus instantly told them it was ok and they should not be afraid! He then got into the boat with them - and the wind ceased and all was calm! The disciples in the boat were amazed at what Jesus could do, so they worshipped Him and in verse 33 said: **"You really are the Son of God!"**

LIKE TO KNOW MORE?

This story of long ago on Lake Galilee showed that Jesus really cared, and He still cares for us today.

This was supremely demonstrated by Him dying for us, paying the penalty for the wrong of which we are guilty - so that if we put our trust in Him we can be forgiven and know the certainly of being with Him in heaven when we die. He also promises to be with us every step of the way - in the storms and in the calm. **That's the good news of Jesus - the great news! - that everyone needs to hear.**

Please use the form below to let us know how we can help you find out more about the Christian faith.

- YES, I would like the free book 'Real Lives' where people from different backgrounds tell their story of how Jesus Christ has transformed their lives
- YES, send me details of activity holidays for teens
- YES, tell me about a free Bible correspondence course for adults
- YES, my kids would like a free Postal Bible Club (Include names/ages of children)

Name:

Date of birth (if under 16):

Address:

Send to: The Beach Team, 86 The Fairways, Castletroy, Limerick or 218 York Street, Belfast, Co. Antrim, BT15 1GY or email: irishoffice@ubm.org.uk



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WORD SEARCH

Have a go at our swimming word search below!

A E X T K J P H C B N W K J R
 F K B J E F Y N I O L B P O A
 S O R B C A P T Z Z U F J B E
 N R I Q B X M A B T I Z R Z W
 H T G N F R O N T C R A W L M
 Q S L Y D E E E E E R F O M I
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WORDS TO FIND

Swimwear	Back	Dive
Butterfly	Stroke	Olympic
Freestyle	Front	Water
Goggles	Crawl	Relays
Lengths	Team	Pool
Life Guard	Swim	