

## Prayer Update Spring 2026

It has been a busy and encouraging season at Friendship House, with many opportunities to connect with children, young people, and adults across the Sandy Row community.

Our youth and children's work continues to be a key area of engagement. The P7–Year 10 group has seen consistent numbers each week, and while behaviour can be challenging and engagement with material is sometimes limited, we are thankful for the regular contact with up to fifteen young people. These relationships take time to build, but they remain central to all that we do.

Robert reflects, *"It is both a privilege and a challenge to walk alongside these young people week by week. Even when progress feels slow, we trust that God is at work through each conversation and connection."*

We have also seen positive progress in some of our children's programmes. After trialling a different day earlier in the year, the girls' club has now returned to Wednesdays, resulting in improved attendance.



However, Homework Club had been quieter due to other local provision, so we have begun to explore new ways to serve this age group more effectively in the future. A combination of changing the style of programme, as well as Abbi now regularly attending the local school at lunch time, has seen the beginning of an upturn in attendance and engagement.



Abbi shares, *"It's a real joy to get to know the children who come along each week. We are continuing to look for new ways to reach those not yet connected, building relationships that point them to Jesus."*





At Little Seedlings (Tots Group), numbers have fluctuated. This remains an important area for building early connections with parents and carers in the community. So, before Easter, we decided to change to a less formal, drop-in-style community Café, with provision for babies and toddlers. This has been very well attended with lots of friends, old and new.



Our adult ministries; Friendship Group, Ladies Bible Study, Knit & Natter and Men's Breakfast continue to be steady and very well supported, providing a warm and welcoming environment for fellowship and encouragement.



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Louise reflects, *"These groups offer something very simple but very important—a place to belong, to be heard, and to be reminded of God's love in everyday life."*

Seasonal outreach continues to provide valuable opportunities for connection. Over recent months, this has included Christmas activities and connections with local schools, and we now look ahead to summer, where, as well as our own community events, we are delighted to be reconnecting with Woodlands Presbyterian Church in Carrick as they come to run a week of outreach in July. This will be a great encouragement and practical support to the work here.

Overall, we are thankful for the many ways we are able to connect with the community. While there are ongoing challenges, particularly around engagement, we continue to trust God in the small, consistent opportunities to build relationships and share His love.

### Prayer Points:

- Give thanks for the Children, Young People and Adults who continue to attend regularly, and for opportunities to build relationships with them.
- Pray for wisdom and perseverance in managing challenging behaviour within youth programmes.
- Pray for the development of new ideas to engage new people.
- Give thanks for new families connecting with the community Café, and pray for further growth.
- Pray for upcoming outreach opportunities, particularly around summer events.
- Pray for potential partnerships and support from visiting teams.
- Pray for renewed vision and energy for the team in the months ahead.