

2023  
-2024

# Prayer Focus



THE METHODIST CHURCH  
IN IRELAND

CONNEXIONAL PRAYER  
GUIDE



2023  
-2024

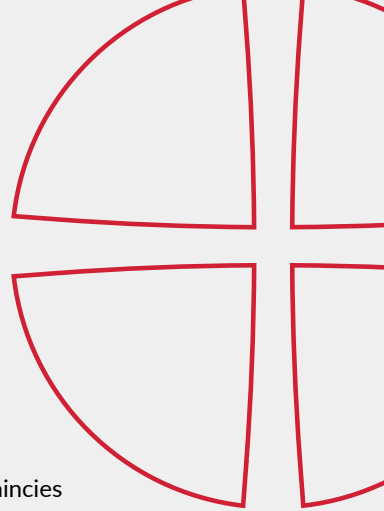
# Prayer Focus



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## WEB PRAYER RESOURCES



Visit the **Connexional Prayer Hub** at [www.irishmethodist.org/prayer](http://www.irishmethodist.org/prayer) for resources to help you pray together as a church.

Visit [www.irishmethodist.org/prayer-focus](http://www.irishmethodist.org/prayer-focus) to:

- Download a pdf of this prayer guide
- Sign up to receive the monthly Prayer Focus e-mail



# Welcome to the Prayer Focus: Connexional Prayer Guide 2023/24

We are a people of prayer, empowered and led by the spirit to take up the challenge of *“Living wholeheartedly as followers of Jesus for the transformation of the world.”*

The Prayer Focus: Connexional Prayer Guide 2023/24 is designed to help Methodists pray for the life of the Connexion. Use it as part of your own daily practices or as part of your small group or worship gatherings.

In this guide you will find:

- Daily suggestions for prayer.
- More in depth guides about how to pray for specific areas of church life.
- Monthly prayers, provided by our President that we can pray together as Methodists throughout the 2023/24 Connexional Year.

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your prayers. You will be praying alongside hundreds of Methodists across the island and beyond who long to see God’s transforming power at work in our world.

*The Home Mission Team*

# President's Diary

## 2023-24

*Please keep David, Pamela and the whole family in your prayers throughout the year.*

*The Lay Leader, Tom Wilson hopes to accompany the President on engagements as often as is practicable. Please also pray for Tom & Louise throughout the year.*

### SEPTEMBER 2023

3RD KINSALE  
10TH LONDONDERRY CIRCUIT / NEWCASTLE  
17TH CULLYBACKY  
24TH SLIGO

### OCTOBER 2023

1ST ARMAGH  
8TH DÚN LAOGHAIRE  
15TH CENTENARY, LEESON PARK & DUBLIN KOREAN  
22ND TULLYROAN & CRANAGILL  
29TH GLENGORMLEY

### NOVEMBER 2023

12TH LARNE  
19TH LUCAN & BLANCHARDSTOWN / RTÉ RECORDING  
26TH BALLYNAFEIGH CIRCUIT / NEWTOWNKELLY

### DECEMBER 2023

3RD DUNGANNON  
10TH JOANMOUNT  
17TH SEYMOUR HILL  
24TH SEYMOUR STREET

### JANUARY 2024

7TH SEYMOUR STREET  
14TH TANDRAGEE & RICHHILL  
21ST BANGOR & HOLYWOOD CIRCUIT  
28TH SYDENHAM

### FEBRUARY 2024

4TH GLASTRY & PORTAFERRY  
11TH KNOCK  
25TH BIRR, ATHLONE & TULLAMORE

### MARCH 2024

3RD NEWTOWNARDS  
10TH NEWTOWNABBEY  
17TH AUGHNACLOY & MONAGHAN  
24TH BALLYNAHINCH  
31ST SEYMOUR STREET

### APRIL 2024

7TH WEST CORK  
14TH DUNDONALD  
28TH BALLYCLARE

### MAY 2024

5TH DONEGAL, BALLINTRA & INVER  
12TH SEYMOUR STREET  
19TH CREGAGH ANNIVERSARY  
LAGAN VALLEY &  
SOUTH DOWN CIRCUIT  
26TH GLENBURN / DONAGHADEE

### JUNE 2024

2ND MOUNTPOTTINGER  
9TH CONFERENCE SUNDAY



Rev David Turtle  
President 2023-24



Tom Wilson  
Lay Leader 2022-24

# A word from the President and Lay Leader



*“Take My yoke upon you” is part of the invitation which Jesus issues to all who are weary and burdened. ‘The Message’ renders the Lord’s words recorded at the end of Matthew 11 as, “Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”*

Over many years Prayer Focus has assisted the Connexion to walk in a rhythm of grace in relation to prayer. Who can tell the influence there has been on the work of the Kingdom in having God’s people pray for the mission and work of MCI across the island and beyond in a structured way. That influence for the Kingdom is not restricted to those prayed for, but also the pray-ers themselves. Often, we might view regular prayer as a burden rather than an opportunity, and yet Jesus makes it clear that (alongside other practices which make us receptive to God’s grace) keeping company with Him in a rhythm of prayer is part of what leads to life lived freely and lightly.

Like many of the prophets, Jeremiah ministered in challenging times and yet remembered, *“Lord, you are the hope of Israel.”* – Jeremiah 17:13 (NIV). Let’s each lay hold of hope as we lift before the Lord the many people and places where God’s work continues, births and grows.



David

Rev David Turtle  
PRESIDENT

Tom

Mr Tom Wilson  
LAY LEADER



## THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF CONFERENCE

The General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Ireland fulfils the function of chief executive of the Church, reporting to, and held accountable by the Governance Board. The Secretary of Conference is responsible for ensuring that the direction which the Conference has set is implemented across the life of the Church.

**Secretary:** Heather Morris  
**Operations Manager and HR Manager:** Gillian Skillen  
**Safeguarding Officer:** Nicky Blair  
**Head of Finance:** Nicola Robinson  
**Accountant:** Sharon Brown  
**Finance Officers:** Maureen Crothers, Jacky Brown  
**Estates Manager:** Simon Kinghan  
**Facilities Manager and IT Support:** Wayne Mulholland  
**Executive Assistant:** Ruth Campbell/Clíodhna Smyth

## STATUTORY TRUSTEES

We thank God for the Statutory Trustees and for their wise stewardship of the resources which God has entrusted to us.

**Chair of Trustees:** Tom Millar  
(John Clarke from 2024)

## THE PRESIDENT, LAY LEADER, PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE AND LAY LEADER-DESIGNATE

You will find the President's Diary for 2023-24 on page 5. The Lay Leader hopes to accompany the President on engagements throughout the year as often as is practicable. Please pray for the President and Lay Leader throughout this year as they undertake various engagements.

**President:** David Turtle  
**Lay Leader:** Tom Wilson  
**President-Designate:** John Alderdice  
**Lay Leader-Designate:** Elaine Barnett



## THE GOVERNANCE BOARD

While the Conference remains the ultimate governing body of the Church, the Governance Board is the body charged with the day-to-day governance and oversight of the Church. The members of the Board act as the Charity trustees for the Methodist Church in Ireland (in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland).

**Chair:** Tony O'Connor





## CONNEXIONAL TEAM

The Connexional Team has responsibility for holding God's mission at the front of the whole Connexion's attention and for co-ordination and alignment of vision across teams and Departments.

**Facilitator:** John Alderdice

## STATIONING

The Sub-group of the Connexional Team is responsible for discerning, consulting, and then bringing proposals to the Conference as to the appropriate matching between ministers and circuits. The Stationing Sub-Group is made up of the President of the Conference, the Lay Leader of the Conference, the Secretary of Conference, the President-Designate of the Conference, the District Superintendents, and the Ministries Team Leader.

## CONNEXIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Connexional Communications Team work together to help societies, circuits and districts of the Church achieve their mission objectives. The Team oversees the continual development of the Connexional website, social media channels for all departments, and produce various print and digital media for use across the Connexion. The team are available to offer advice and support.

**Press and Communications Manager:** Stephen Mayes

**Communications Officer:**  
*Vacant at time of print*

## THE CONNEXIONAL SAFEGUARDING BOARD (CSB)

The CSB was established at Methodist Conference 2020 to guide and promote safe practices for the Methodist Church in Ireland for all ages.

The principal aspects of the work are training, resourcing and advising the Church in Safeguarding procedures, policies and practice.

**Chair and Convener:** Lindsay Conway OBE

**Connexional Safeguarding Officer:** Nicky Blair



## SOUTHERN DISTRICT

The Southern District comprises almost 50 societies and 15 circuits with a community of around 4000 people. The District Superintendent and the District Lay Leader seek to be available and to travel widely, often together, offering encouragement, and support. Listening and interacting is very important and guidance is also given wherever appropriate.

It has been a joy to witness the depth of faith within the societies and to see the positive effects within their communities of committed Christians living wholeheartedly as followers of Jesus. Their work and witness within their local areas have helped to transform their world.

### PRAY

*Pray for this faithful witness to increase throughout the Southern District, that it will encourage and strengthen all who proclaim Christ as Lord to share the good news of the salvation He offers.*

**District Superintendent:**  
Andrew Dougherty  
**District Lay Leader:** Gillie Hinds  
**World Mission Partnership Champion:**  
Lorna Kingston

## DUBLIN SOUTH CITY, COMPRISING METHODIST CENTENARY, RATHGAR (BRIGHTON ROAD), DUBLIN KOREAN CHURCH AND AN SOLAS (TALLAGHT METHODIST CHURCH)

As a kaleidoscope is turned the designs of light through coloured glass are generally very beautiful. Dublin is an increasingly diverse city. The kaleidoscope of nationalities brings a richness of experiences and cultures to society in general and a vibrancy and depth to worship and Bible study in the four Societies on the Dublin South City Circuit in particular. Sadly in Ireland there are also occasionally expressions of fear or hostility, and even hatred and violence.

**Superintendent Minister:**  
Andrew G. Kingston  
**Minister:** Yongnam Park  
**Chaplain & Church Development  
Worker:** Brian Hickey  
**Facilities Administrator:** Don Black



International students with Chaplain Brian Hickey (third from left) on Little Sugarloaf Mountain

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## DUBLIN CENTRAL MISSION, COMPRISING ABBEY ST, BLANCHARDSTOWN AND LUCAN

This vibrant and diverse circuit also includes Ailt an Oir and Margaretholme Independent Living Complexes and Mount Tabor Nursing Home. 'Welcoming, Serving, Supporting'.

### Superintendent Minister:

Laurence Graham (Abbey St)

**Minister:** Tawanda Sungai  
(Blanchardstown and Lucan)

**Abbey Street Pastoral Assistant:**  
Avril Carroll

**Abbey Street Centre Manager:**  
Graham Caswell

**Homeless Ministry Co-Ordinator:**  
Mary Kilgarriff

**CEO:** Suzanne Corcoran

**Director of Finance:** Karena O'Sullivan

**Director of Care:** Colin Morgan

**Head of Services:** Paul Hanna

**Head of People:** Radek Warchola

**Care of the Older Person Chaplain:**  
Michael Jones



## PIONEER MISSION – BREATHE

“Breathe” is the name of a small group of people aiming to hang out in South Dublin city, asking the question “What is God up to here – how can we join in?” We are about being rather than doing. We want to be fully present in our workplaces, our homes, our neighbourhoods.

Breathe is a living, walking, working, sleeping, eating, laughing, crying community who believe God is still breathing in this world.

### Pioneer Mission Leader:

Anne Baenziger

### PRAY

*Pray for our community to be a light to those around us as we seek to see God in our everyday lives!*

## METHODIST CHURCH IN TOGO (EMT)

In recent years, members of MCI's Southern District have been developing relationships with the Methodist Church of Togo (“EMT”). Through World Mission Partnership, they have also been able to send funds to support work in Togo, including theological training for ministerial students, and a youth education programme.

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## CHRIST CHURCH, SANDYMOUNT, DUBLIN

Christ Church is in the middle of a pretty seaside village in South Dublin. Sharing the same grounds is Mount Tabor Nursing Home, offering general and specialised 24 hour nursing care to 46 residents.

**Superintendent Minister:** Andrew Dougherty  
**Minister:** Michael Jones

## PRISON AND HEALTHCARE CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE

To support and promote Christian chaplaincy ministries of healing, care and restoration among vulnerable people.

**Chairperson:** John Warren  
**Secretary:** Derek Johnston

Healthcare Sunday is normally a Sunday near to St Luke's Day, 18th October 2023.

Prisons Week NI is  
8th-14th October 2023.  
– see [prisonsweek.org/about](http://prisonsweek.org/about)

## PRAY

*Thank you, Lord,  
that you are still at work touching  
and changing lives. May you  
continue to pour out your healing  
and transforming love upon those  
who are vulnerable.*

*Bless the various chaplaincy  
ministries being exercised in your  
name, in the knowledge that  
whatever is done for the least of  
these is done for you.*

## SOUTHEAST LEINSTER, COMPRISING DÚN LAOGHAIRE, BRAY, WICKLOW, ARKLOW AND GOREY

The South-East Leinster circuit covers a large geographical area, from Dún Laoghaire in County Dublin, through County Wicklow and down into County Wexford. This is an area of population growth; as housing becomes more expensive in Dublin, more people are living along the coast and commuting into Dublin.

**Superintendent Minister:** David Nixon  
(Dún Laoghaire)

**Ministers:** Mark Forsyth (Bray and Wicklow), Fadzanayi Jongoro (Arklow and Gorey)



*The newly refurbished sanctuary in Bray*

## URBAN JUNCTION

Urban Junction is a youth and community project in Blackrock providing educational, social and Christian faith-based activities for children, young people and adults. Our church community is called Ignite.

**Superintendent Minister:** Andrew Dougherty

**Missional Leader:** Simon Kilpatrick

**Centre Manager:** Belinda Briggs

**Teaching Ministry:** Michael Briggs

**Community Development Worker:**

Isaac Harris (supported by Mission Ireland)

**Serge Volunteer Intern:** James Wells

### PRAY

*Pray for Quantum, an after school club for children. Pray for a sense of belonging, care and home away from home and for opportunities to build positive relationships with parents too.*



## PERSECUTED CHURCH (CHURCH IN CHAINS)

Church in Chains is an Irish charity which encourages prayer and action in support of persecuted Christians worldwide. Their work has a special focus on China, Egypt, Eritrea, India, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Syria, Turkey and Uzbekistan. Church in Chains shares points for prayer through World Mission Partnership, to help Irish Methodists pray for the persecuted church.

## WDR PARTNER: KING GEORGE VI CENTRE

KGVI, located in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, provides rehabilitation and boarding facilities for nearly 300 students with physical disabilities and those who are deaf; as well as many without a disability. Students range from 3 to 20-years-old and many are orphans or come from low-income families. In a country where having a disability can carry great stigma and exclude people from opportunities open to others, KGVI helps the young people gain skills for life so that they have a much greater chance of finding their niche and contributing to society and enjoying life. Their motto is "Never Give Up".

# World Development & Relief

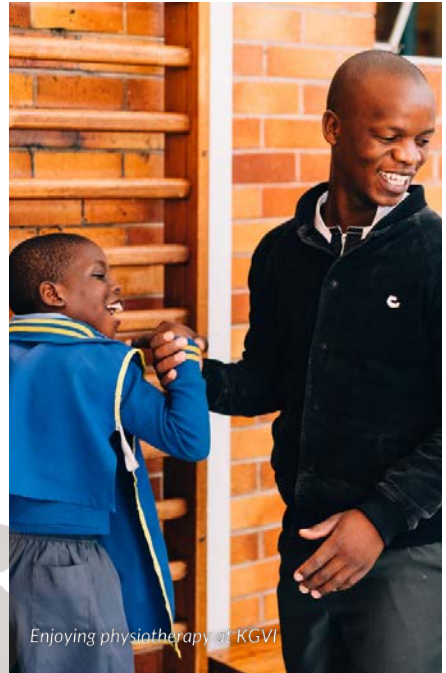
Tackling global poverty with people, not projects.

Through World Development & Relief, Irish Methodists walk alongside thirteen long-term development partners to see transformation in this world as, together, we tackle global poverty.

MCI's development work addresses issues around water, agriculture, vocational training, healthcare, education and rights. Partners are active in Ghana, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Lebanon, Nepal, Palestine, Philippines, Zambia, Bangladesh and Honduras.

WDR believes that relational partnership is the most effective way to achieve lasting change. We work in three-year funding cycles and are in regular communication with our partners. Partner organisations are led by people of integrity and knowledge and with a heart for justice. They are the leaders in our partnership as they are best placed to identify solutions to the problems they face.

**Convener:** Paul Maxwell  
**Team Leader:** Tim Dunwoody  
**Communications & Fundraising Coordinator:** Laura Kerr



## YOUR WDR PARTNERS:

### PHAKAMISA:

South Africa | Education and economic empowerment

### CHURCH LAND PROGRAMME:

South Africa | Land and housing rights

### OPEN SCHOOLS WORLDWIDE:

Ghana & Zambia | Literacy and numeracy

### METHODIST DEVELOPMENT & RELIEF SERVICES:

Ghana | Water management and agriculture

### WENCHI METHODIST HOSPITAL:

Ghana | Healthcare

### DABANE TRUST WATER

WORKSHOPS: Zimbabwe | Water management and agriculture

### KING GEORGE VI CENTRE (KGV):

Zimbabwe | Disability and education

### DANCHURCHAID (with sister agency

All We Can): Bangladesh | Education with Rohingya refugees

### INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION:

Philippines | Protecting people in poverty from violence

### MENNONITE SOCIAL ACTION

COMMISSION: (with sister agency Christian Aid Ireland):

Honduras | Sustainable agriculture and advocacy

### KOPILA-NEPAL:

Nepal | Women's rights, psychosocial support and empowerment

### EAST JERUSALEM YMCA

REHABILITATION PROGRAMME:

Palestine | Physical and psychological disability

### FATHER ANDEWEG INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF:

Lebanon | Education, rights and life skills

## In the year ahead, pray for:

- Your WDR partners; for wisdom, energy and safety
- Our church; may we be a generous and informed people
- WDR committee and staff; that God will continue to guide decisions and inspire plans



Website:

[irishmethodist.org/world-development](http://irishmethodist.org/world-development)

[Facebook.com/methodistwdr](https://Facebook.com/methodistwdr)

[Twitter.com/methodistwdr](https://Twitter.com/methodistwdr)

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## DUBLIN SOUTH (DUNDRUM)

We exist to glorify the Father, Son and Holy Spirit by being loving, vibrant witnesses in our local communities and personal living.

### **Superintendent Minister:**

Stephen Taylor

### **Wesley College Chaplain:**

Nigel Mackey

**Youth Pastor:** Andrew Mullen

**Family & Children's Worker:**

Rachael O'Donoghue

## IRISH METHODIST YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT (IMYC)

The Methodist Church in Ireland believe that children and young people matter. We love them, we have a heart for them, and we carry a mission imperative to engage them.

The IMYC team exist to empower and equip the church in this mission imperative. They endeavour to love and serve children and young people and those who lead them, desiring to help them take their place in God's mission through the local, connexional and world Church.

**Team Leader:** Gillian Gilmore

### PRAY

*Please pray for the staff team as they seek to serve the Connexion.*





## METHODIST HOME MISSION

Methodist Home Mission serves the Church to inspire and empower followers of Jesus to step into the mission of God.

We partner with District Superintendents, circuits, and local congregations as they encourage mission in their contexts.

The role of the Home Mission Team is:

- To resource and challenge the Connexion as it implements mission strategy.
- To work in collaboration with others to create and enable a culture of initiating, experimenting, and developing new models of Church.
- To resource and encourage the Connexion in prayer.

### Chairperson of the Home Mission

#### Advisory Team:

Mark Forsyth

#### Team Leader:

Kathryn Harte

#### Pioneering and Planting Specialist:

Simon Kilpatrick

## DUBLIN NORTH, COMPRISING CLONTARF AND SUTTON

Two churches blessed with a wonderfully diverse membership, seeking to follow God, to know God's will, grow together in faith and share his love.

**Superintendent Minister:** Ivor Owens  
**Church Development and**

**Youth Pastor:** David Gardner  
(supported by Mission Ireland)

## THE CONTAINER MINISTRY

The Container Ministry continues to provide strategic support to partner Churches and charities worldwide. Staffed by volunteers, the Container Ministry supplies materials and equipment which have been requested by partner Churches. These resources are largely donated by Church members, businesses and public bodies. Accountable to World Mission Partnership, the ministry is an agency of change, hope and joy through the containers and pallets they send around the world.



Boardwalk Collective - Pioneer Mission



## KILKENNY AND CARLOW

Kilkenny Methodist Society has been sharing the heart of God in the heart of Kilkenny City for many years, for the past couple of years focusing on William St. where the church sits.

Carlow Methodist Society celebrated its 125th year on this site in April 2023 and has become a vibrant faith community in the county town.

The Food Pantry (Food Bank) operates out of our cellar and reaches hundreds of families each year with special weeks for Christmas and Back to School in September. There are over 200 Ukrainian people living currently within the immediate vicinity of our church and we have opened the doors for various initiatives.

Partnering with local NGOs such as Carlow Women's Aid and the Be Kind Project has allowed us to share God's heart for the community of Carlow.

**Superintendent Minister:**  
Katherine M Kehoe

## MINISTRY OF HEALING COMMITTEE

The Committee exists to promote and facilitate the ministry of healing across the Connexion. Join us in praying for the Lord's wisdom and guidance as we engage and resource the ministry of healing across the Connexion. Our vision is to see Methodist societies across Ireland equipped as spaces where the Holy Spirit brings spiritual, emotional and physical healing to those in the surrounding neighbourhoods.

Please pray that as a Committee, we will remain open and obedient to God's purposes for this much-needed ministry.

**Chair:** Mark Durrell

**Secretary:** Chris Mathison

## METHODIST WOMEN IN IRELAND

*"To know Christ and make Him known."*

There are approximately 1,900 members around the island who meet under this banner.

**President:** Olive Rowe  
**Secretary:** Moira McMurray  
**Treasurer:** Heidi Hogan  
**Missionary Secretary:** Elizabeth McWatters

### PRAY

*Pray that God's Spirit would move among women in our churches to unite them together under the umbrella of MWI to fulfil our motto "To Know Christ and to Make Him Known."*

## WDR PARTNER: WENCHI METHODIST HOSPITAL

Wenchi Methodist Hospital serves as a referral centre for 19 health facilities within Wenchi Municipality, Tain and Banda Districts (west-central Ghana). Wenchi provides quality, affordable healthcare to local people and those who travel for many miles to be treated; over 180,000 people.

## UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE CHAPLAINS

### University College, Dublin:

Brian Hickey

### Trinity College, Dublin:

Andrew Kingston & Andrew Dougherty

### Dublin Institute of Technology:

TBA

### Dublin College of Surgeons:

TBA

### Dublin City University:

Tawanda Sungai

### University College, Cork:

Andrew Robinson

### University of Limerick:

TBA

### University College, Galway:

Helen Freeburn

### Queen's University Belfast:

Danielle McCullagh (CofI/MCI)

### Ulster University:

#### Belfast and Jordanstown Campuses:

Ms Gail Mercer

#### Coleraine Campus:

Samuel Livingstone

#### Magee Campus, Londonderry:

Peter Morris



*Danielle McCullagh, Chaplain and Dean of Residences at The Hub; the CofI/MCI Chaplaincy at Queen's.*



## **WATERFORD, ST PATRICK'S CHURCH AND GATEWAY CENTRE**

**Superintendent Minister:**  
Sahr Yambasu

### **PRAY**

*Lord, go before us like a pillar of fire. Lead us to stretch out our hands to the lonely, the hungry, the needy and the poor in spirit. Unite the community of Waterford in your everlasting, steadfast, tender, unchanging love.*

## **NORTH TIPPERARY, COMPRISING BORRISOKANE, CLOUGHJORDAN, ROSCREA AND SHINRONE**

Three active congregations engaged with the wider communities in which they are associated and seeking to live wholeheartedly as followers of Jesus Christ for the transformation of those communities and the world.

**Superintendent Minister:**  
Denis Maguire  
**Retired Minister Assisting:**  
Tom Kingston

## **PORTLAOISE, COMPRISING PORTLAOISE, ATHY AND MOUNTMELLICK**

Portlaoise Circuit consists of three societies in the towns of Portlaoise and Mountmellick in County Laois, and the town of Athy in County Kildare.

Our church development worker, Beverley Barbour, continues to spearhead a programme of mission activity, helping the people called Methodist to live wholeheartedly as followers of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We have recently launched 'our lovely horsebox' (or coffee dock), situated in the grounds of Portlaoise Methodist Church, from which we offer refreshments and a chat to weary rail passengers.

**Superintendent Minister:**  
Denis Maguire  
**Church Development Worker:**  
Beverley Barbour



*The Coffee Dock in Portlaoise*



## **CORK SOUTH AND KERRY, COMPRISING CORK, YOUGHAL, KINSALE, KILLARNEY, KENMARE AND MILLSTREET**

A large circuit geographically, comprising six churches aiming to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to their local communities.

### **Superintendent Minister:**

Andrew Robinson

**Minister:** Alison Gallagher

**Manager Ardfallen Grove Sheltered**

**Housing:** Geraldine Fitzpatrick

## **BIRR, TULLAMORE AND ATHLONE**

Three small Midland churches, where the people called Methodist are building bridges into their communities, seeking to live wholeheartedly as followers of Jesus for the transformation of those communities and the wider world.

### **Superintendent Minister:**

Denis Maguire

**Minister (Part time):** Nigel Gill

**Retired Minister Assisting:**

Irene Morrow

## **FAITH AND ORDER COMMITTEE**

The Faith and Order Committee includes Officers of the church and others from the Connexion, both lay and ordained. It gathers several times a

year to reflect on issues related to Methodist theological understanding, worship and church order. Other matters may also be assigned to it by Conference for consideration. The Committee sees its task as that of serving the Church.

**Joint Chairs:** David Turtle, Tom Wilson  
**Convener:** Gillian Kingston

## **PIONEER MISSION – GALWAY**

We are seeking a new expression of Christian community in East County Galway. 'Confounders' is the title being used, reflecting a trust in a confounding God that is reflected in a confounding people, active in mission as much as meetings. While it's very early days yet, it's all about building up relationships wherever possible and seeing what God is doing.

**Pioneer Mission Leader:** Steven Foster

### **PRAY**

*Please pray for open doors,  
a sensitivity to what God is  
doing and boldness.*

## LIMERICK, CHRIST CHURCH

A congregation in the centre of Limerick, worshipping in an historic building - Moving closer to God.

**Superintendent Minister:**

Andrew Dougherty

**Minister in Training on Placement:**

Ruth Mathews

## ADARE AND BALLINGRANE

A small country circuit in West Limerick with two rural congregations. Adare village is a tourist attraction with its historic thatched cottages and other heritage buildings.

Ballingrane is the birthplace of Philip Embury and Barbara Heck, cousins who were very instrumental in the start of Methodism in New York City.

**Superintendent Minister:**

Andrew Dougherty

**Minister in Training on Placement:**

Ruth Mathews

## PROPERTY BOARD

The Property Board supports local churches in managing and adapting Connexional property for local mission.

**Chair:** Thomas Clarke

**Secretary:** Kenneth Connor

**Treasurer:** Mark Forsyth

## PRAY

*Creator God, made in your image your people have always sought to use their gifts and the resources that you have provided to build places to meet to live out lives of discipleship. Help the Property Board to give leadership to our Methodist people to build and maintain places where discipleship is strengthened, and communities formed that seek to live wholeheartedly as followers of Jesus for the transformation of the world. Amen.*

## WEST CORK, COMPRISING BANDON, BALLINEEN, CLONAKILTY, DRIMOLEAGUE, SKIBBEREEN AND GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP

Introducing people to Jesus and making disciples through the Church.

**Minister:** Jeremy Nicoll

**Minister:** Susan Gallagher

## MISSION PARTNERS SERVING IN AFRICA

In conjunction with the Methodist Church in Britain, Irish Methodists support a number of Mission Partners serving in Africa:

**Rachel and Sylvester Deigh** (Sierra Leone)

**Michael Tetey** (Togo)

**Hans and Mary Van den Corput** (Nigeria)

**Claire Smithson** (Kenya)

**Wendy Kilworth-Mason** (Rwanda),

**Jonathan and Isabel Hill** (Zimbabwe)

**Malcolm Oliver and Gina Siatwinda-Oliver** (Zambia)

**Keith and Ida Waddell** (Zambia),

**Annekathrin and Matthias Buchold** (South Africa)

**Daniel and Grace Pratt Morris-Chapman** (Uganda)



*Rachel and Sylvester Deigh (Sierra Leone)*

## MISSION PARTNERS SERVING IN EUROPE, SOUTH AMERICA, AND ASIA

In conjunction with the Methodist Church in Britain, Irish Methodists support a number of Mission Partners serving in Europe and the Middle East, including:

**Fiona Kendall** (Italy)

**Matthew Laferty** (Italy)

**Ray and Karen Borg** (France)

**Angleena Keizer** (Israel / Palestine)

**Sarah Lowe** (Sri Lanka)

**Chris and Linda Haines** (Honduras)



*Fiona Kendall (Italy)*

# Irish Methodist Youth and Children's Team



The Methodist Church in Ireland has affirmed a strategy for Children and Young People. The task of reaching and walking with the 'next' generation is a whole church mission, and our prayer is that together we can journey in this strategy and vision well.

The IMYC team exist to empower and equip the church as they live out this strategy over the coming years.

The audacious goal is that by 2028 there will be a substantial increase in the numbers of young people who are wholehearted followers of Jesus for the transformation of the world.



**There are four key priorities:**

1. Every Circuit strategy – that each circuit would develop a strategy to enable them to be intentionally discipling and actively reaching young people and their families.
2. New Faith communities – that new faith communities would be pioneered with the primary goal to reach young people and their families.
3. Leaders who are young – that there would be an intentional passing on of leadership, engaging and releasing the under 25s into leadership.
4. Theological resourcing – that we will be a church that is engaging and informing on cultural issues so that young people have safe spaces to process and question.





## PRAY FOR:

- All of us as a Connexion, that together we would work towards the realisation of this strategy.
- The vital work of local churches as they engage with young people and families.
- The staff team of IMYC as they seek to accompany and empower the church in mission.



## PRAY

*LORD, we thank you for our children and young people across this island.*

*We thank you for the gifts you have placed within them and pray that these would be unleashed within them in all fullness and to your glory.*

*May home be a place of safety for them to grow and learn. May school be a place of peace as they explore their greatest potential.*

*May church be a place of welcome where they thrive as they grow in you.*

*LORD, in all the uncertainties and complexities of life, protect and nurture our children and young people. Still their storms of anxiety that in you they will find fullness of life.*

*May we celebrate the wholehearted faith of our children and young people and rejoice as we see transformation in our world.*

*Amen.*

Website:  
[irishmethodist.org/imyc](http://irishmethodist.org/imyc)

[Facebook.com/imycd](https://www.facebook.com/imycd)  
[Instagram.com/imycd](https://www.instagram.com/imycd)  
[Twitter.com/imycstaff](https://twitter.com/imycstaff)



## **NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT**

The 24 circuits in the North-Western District have a lot of differences due to being spread across much of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and ranging from rural communities to towns and cities.

But we are united in our desire to share the good news of Jesus and help people become his followers. We don't find this easy but are committed to sharing and living out the gospel so that others can discover God's love.

**District Superintendent:**

Stephen Skuce

**District Lay Leader:** David Best



## **ENNISKILLEN: COMPRISING ENNISKILLEN, KNOCKNINNY, FLORENCECOURT, LETTERBREEN AND BLACKLION**

Seeking to be biblical, God-honouring and Kingdom-expanding servants.

**Superintendent Minister:**

Gregory Alexander

**Minister:** Lorna Dreaning

## **SPRINGFIELD, CHURCH HILL AND DERRYGONNELLY**

The Springfield, Derrygonnelly and Church Hill circuit comprises three small societies close to Enniskillen. They are rural and seek to maintain and advance their witness in their areas. Each church has a different emphasis, and yet they work together for the advancement of the gospel and the glory of God.

**Superintendent Minister:** Gregory Alexander

**Lay Pastor:** Roy Dreaning

## **UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, POLAND (UMCP)**

MCI's North Western District is linked with the United Methodist Church in Poland, a small but growing church of around fifty congregations. Ministers from both countries have exchanged visits, to share their experience and explore ways that we can learn from each. Through WMP, MCI has sent funds to support church construction and youth ministry in Poland.

## **BIBLE DISTRIBUTION AND TRANSLATION (BIBLE SOCIETY NI)**

Bible Society in Northern Ireland is part of a global fellowship – United Bible Societies – and seeks to reach everyone with God's Word in a language and format they can access and afford. Through World Mission Partnership, Irish Methodists are supporting Bible distribution in Cuba, and Bible translation in Portugal.

## LISBELLAW, MAGUIRESBRIDGE AND TEMPO

Seeking to glorify God through worship, strengthening community relationships and deepening our experience of God in daily life.

**Superintendent Minister:**

Richard Rowe

**Lay Evangelist:** John McConnell

## UPPER ERNE, COMPRISING BROOKEBOROUGH, LISNASKEA, NEWTOWNBUTLER, DRUMADY, CORLESPRATTEN, AND TULLYBOY

Through prayer and reading of his Word, grow deeper with God. Through loving actions, share God's grace to those beyond our church families in local communities and in homes where Christ is not yet known.

**Superintendent Minister:** Richard Rowe

**Retired Minister:** George A Bowes

## PETTIGO AND IRVINESTOWN

Seeking to share the good news of Jesus Christ, to bring hope, encourage personal faith and use our gifts to build up the ministry of the Church and serve the community.

**Superintendent Minister:** John Beacom

**Retired Minister:** John Corrie

## THE METHODIST CHURCH, UPPER MYANMAR (MCUM)

Many Irish Methodists have a connection to the Methodist Church in Myanmar, through Mission Partners, MWI and World Mission Partnership. In recent years, MCUM members have suffered greatly as civil war rages in Myanmar. Through World Mission Partnership, Irish Methodists have been able to send support to their brothers and sisters in Myanmar – although this has become increasingly difficult, because of restrictions put in place by the ruling military junta.

## WDR PARTNER: OPEN SCHOOLS WORLDWIDE (OSWW)

OSWW bring hope to impoverished communities by delivering a life-changing literacy and numeracy programme to out-of-school and at-risk children across Africa and beyond. This basic education can help children reconnect with local schools and break out of the vicious cycle of poverty. OSWW trains local volunteers who teach classes wherever the children are: under a tree, on the edge of a dump or in the shelter of a shack. Through WDR, Irish Methodists are supporting OSWW work in Ghana and Zambia.

## FIVEMILETOWN, COMPRISING FIVEMILETOWN, CLABBY AND CREAGH

Three churches seeking to work together as disciples of Jesus Christ in faith, love and unity, as they reach out to the communities around them, sharing his love and grace.

### **Superintendent Minister:**

Mark Liddicoat (PT)

**Minister:** Clodagh Yambasu (PT)

## WDR PARTNER: DABANE TRUST WATER WORKSHOPS

Dabane is a non-governmental organisation in Zimbabwe, largely in the arid and semi-arid regions of Matabeleland. They work alongside local rural people to access water (often through the use of sand dams) and manage the use of this precious commodity. Dabane also helps locals to establish vegetable gardens. These activities help secure food and water longer term.

## LOCAL PREACHERS

Local preachers contribute significantly to the ministry and mission of the Methodist Church in Ireland. Men and women from all walks of life, who are passionate about preaching, bring their own experiences, personalities, gifts, and graces to help build Christ's Church, complementing the local ministry team.

As part of the Ministries Team of MCI we are grateful to the staff at Edgehill House and their considerable contribution to the training of Local Preachers.

### **Connexional Local Preachers'**

**Coordinator:** Laura Griffith

**North Eastern District Local Preachers'**

**Coordinator:** Louise Wilson

**North Western District Local**

**Preachers' Coordinator:** Anne Scott

**Southern District Local Preachers'**

**Coordinator:** Heather Brown

### PRAY

*Heavenly Father we thank you for those who have obeyed your call on their lives to become Local Preachers. We especially pray for those who are "in training". Be with them as they study. Give them patience and space to learn and grow in their knowledge of You and as they gain experience in preaching and leading worship. In your name we pray. Amen.*

## THE MINISTRIES TEAM

Each person has a calling to live wholeheartedly as a follower of Jesus, for the transformation of the world. In this calling, we use the gifts and talents that God has entrusted to us. Our vision is to support the Methodist Church's priorities for lay and ordained ministry – promoting and enabling the ministry of the whole Church - by equipping people across Ireland to develop their ministry in a wide variety of different roles and contexts.



**Director of the Ministries Team:**

Revd Dr Janet Unsworth

**Learning and Development Officer:**

Grace McGurk

**Learning Resources Officer:**

Lindsay McAlinden

**Operations Administrator:**

James McClure

**The Ministries: Learning and Development Committee Chair:**

Mike Anderson

**The Ministries: Policies and Procedures Committee Chair:**

Robin Waugh

**First Year Ordained Ministry Formation Students:**

Julie Craythorne, Brian Donaghy

**Returning Ordained Ministry Formation Students:**

Cheryl Bruce, Jennifer Gault, Norman Henry, Ruth Matthews, Jackie Whittle

## PRAY

*Please pray for the work of the Ministries Team as we seek to equip and enable people to develop their ministry in local contexts. Pray for those undertaking specific training for lay and ordained ministry. Pray for wisdom and discernment as we seek to develop new forms of training. Please also remember the Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee and The Ministries Learning and Development Committee as they carry out vital work throughout the year.*





## **BALLINAMALLARD AND TRILLICK**

Seeking to grow in faith, love, and unity and to follow Christ as he leads us into mission.

**Superintendent Minister:** John Beacom  
**Youth Worker:** Naomi Armstrong

## **NORTH CONNACHT AND LONGFORD, COMPRISING SLIGO, MANORHAMILTON, COLLOONEY, BALLINA, LONGFORD AND DRUMSHANBO**

To share the love of the Lord Jesus Christ and his gifts in the church and community.

**Superintendent Minister:**  
Stephen Skuce  
**Minister:** Daniel Randall, Christiaan Snell (Church of Ireland)

## **METHODIST CHILD CARE SOCIETY**

The Society is the means by which we can reach out to families within the Methodist Connexion in Ireland who are experiencing financial hardship.

**Ministerial Secretary/Treasurer:**  
David Sweeney  
**Lay Treasurer:** Margaret Copeland

## **METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Preserving the past to inform the present and to shape the future.

**President:** Fergus O'Ferrall  
**Vice-President:** Edmund Mawhinney  
**Secretary and Associate Archivist:**  
Jennifer Stutt  
**Treasurers:** Derek and Trudy Reid  
**Archivist:** Robin Roddie  
**Editor:** Stephen Skuce

## **METHODIST RESIDENTIAL AND NURSING HOMES**

All Residential and Nursing Homes exist to provide a caring, sheltered environment for older people of any denomination, where a sense of independence can be maintained, and support is provided as it is needed.

**Dublin Central Mission:**  
Ailt an Oir Independent Living  
Margaretholme Independent Living  
Mount Tabor Nursing Home.

**Dublin:** Eastwell  
**Cork:** Ardfallen Grove

**Belfast Central Mission:**  
Kirk House  
Copelands

### **PRAY**

*Pray that all the residents of these facilities and their loved ones may know that they are in the right place, and that the staff and volunteers might be blessed with strength and compassion.*



**CASTLEDERG, COMPRISING  
CASTLEDERG, LISLEEN,  
CAVANDORAGH AND  
AGHYARAN**

To connect people to Jesus Christ and to bring the community together in his love.

**Superintendent Minister:**  
John Montgomery  
**Lay Evangelist:** Norman Henry

**PRAY**  
*Pray for our young people as they move through the education system bringing them into new environments, meeting new people, learning new subjects, and sitting exams.*

**LONDONDERRY, INISHOWEN,  
LIMAVADY AND STRABANE  
MISSION**

With 7 congregations and two centres in the city supporting homeless men, and very vulnerable women and children, the circuit seeks to show and share God’s love with all.

**Superintendent Minister:**  
Stephen Skuce  
**Ministers:** Marlene Skuce, Peter Morris, Ruth Watt (PT)

**OMAGH AND FINTONA  
COMPRISING OMAGH,  
FINTONA, DRUMQUIN, MAYNE  
AND TOGHERDOO**

We want the life and work of our five churches to bring glory to God, who always invites us to become involved with him in his work, rather than for our own satisfaction or gain.

**Ministers:** Rev Eleanor Hayden, Rev Leah McKibben

**PRAY**  
*Loving God, we thank you for the privilege of meeting together, for all the joy, the support, the encouragement and the inspiration that comes through sharing fellowship. We praise you for everything we have experienced in our times of worship, reflection and sharing our faith. Continue to give us the ability to hear your voice and discern your will, to recognise the gifts you have given us. Give us wisdom to see new opportunities, courage to grasp them and commitment to see them through to fulfilment. All to the Glory of God.*

## DUNKINEELY AND ARDARA

We are two small churches in Southwest Donegal, a very beautiful part of the country. Most of our people work on the land or in the fishing industry in Killybegs. There are also quite a number that work in the care field and of course there are other professions. The area attracts a lot of holiday makers.

**Superintendent Minister:**  
Desmond Davis

## DONEGAL, BALLINTRA AND INVER

Each of our churches seek to worship God in church and out of it. We enjoy worship together for All-age services and worshipping across the Christian traditions in Holy Week, Advent, and monthly Contemporary services. We are seeking ways to engage more with the local community to share our joy of a life with Jesus. To God be the glory.

**Superintendent Minister:**  
John Montgomery  
**Retired Minister:** Ian Henderson

### PRAY

*Pray as we seek new ways to engage with and serve our local communities – inside and outside our churches.*

## PORTADOWN, COMPRISING THOMAS STREET, EDENDERRY MEMORIAL, EPWORTH, MAHON, BATTLEHILL, DERRYANVILLE, TULLYROAN AND CRANAGILL

Portadown Circuit consists of three churches in Portadown and five in the surrounding area, each one reaching out to its community.

**Superintendent Minister:**  
Alan Wardlow  
**Ministers:** Darrin Thompson, Tommy Stevenson (PT), Albert Griffith (PT)  
**Retired Ministers Assisting:**  
Shaun Cleland  
**Youth Workers:** Ryan Craig, Daniel Friel

### PRAY

*Please pray that God will lead and direct us as we seek His renewal and how to serve better the present age.*

## THE COVENANT COUNCIL

The Covenant Council is the joint working body which oversees the implementation of the Covenant made between the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in 2002. While the introduction of Interchangeability of Ministry in 2014 has allowed for a deepening of the mutual recognition of ministries, the Council continues to examine the opportunities, as well as the challenges, that this presents for engaging with each other and co-operation in mission.

**Co-Chairs:** Bishop Michael Burrows, The Rev. Dr Heather Morris





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## **DUNGANNON, COMPRISING CASTLECAULFIELD, DUNGANNON, LAGHEY, MOY AND NEWTOWNKELLY**

A close-knit circuit which meets faithfully and has embraced technology as a means of worshipping together and spreading the gospel. There are many organisations within the circuit which met regularly and the premises are always in constant use. In everything we seek to serve others and glorify God.

### **Superintendent Minister:**

William Newell

**Lay Evangelist:** Andrew Witherall

## **NEWRY, BESSBROOK AND WARRENPOINT**

We have recently welcomed a Ukrainian family who are living in the old manse in Newry. In this small way of witnessing and showing love, care and compassion we are trying to live wholeheartedly for the transformation of the world in our small corner.

### **Superintendent Minister:**

Dave Sweeney

### **Retired Ministers Assisting:**

Louise Donald, Graham Hamilton

## **RETIRED MINISTERS' FELLOWSHIP**

**Chairperson:** Billy Davison

**Secretary:** Ken Lindsay

### **PRAY**

*We give thanks that the group had its usual 6 meetings in the past year. We pray for the meetings normally held in the mornings of the third Tuesday of each month from October to March. Thank you, Lord, that the December meeting, addressed by the President, also attended by spouses, widows and widowers, and followed by Christmas dinner, is especially well attended. We also think of those who are no longer well enough to attend, and for those "retired" ministers who are still active in ministry and find it difficult to attend. We give thanks for Alan Meara's many years of faithful service as Secretary and latterly as Chairperson. Amen.*

## **WDR PARTNER: DANCHURCHAID**

The stateless Muslim Rohingya minority are a forgotten people. 930,000 refugees from Myanmar survive in inadequate camps in Bangladesh. This emergency has now transitioned to the need for a longer-term development vision and programme. WDR partner DanChurchAid (DCA) works with displaced Rohingya refugees and marginalised host community members in the world's largest refugee camp, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Work includes education and livelihood skills training.

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## AUGHNACLOY AND MONAGHAN

A cross-border circuit made up of a society in Monaghan town, along with the Tyrone societies of Aughnacloy and Ballynanny.

### **Superintendent Minister:**

William Newell

### **Retired Ministers Assisting:**

Ken Lindsay, Ken Robinson

### **PRAY**

*Heavenly Father we thank you for your faithfulness and guidance and as we look to the future we pray for a godly vision as we move forward in your name to see your Kingdom extended. Amen.*

## COOKSTOWN AND SOUTH DERRY

The Cookstown and South Derry Circuit consists of Cookstown and Magherafelt Methodist churches. Like many churches around the world, the past year has been a year of uncertainty, but we have always been certain of God's presence and leading through it.

### **Superintendent Minister:**

David Clements

### **Retired ministers assisting:**

Bobby Loney, Brian Sweeney

### **Minister in Training on Placement:**

Jennifer Gault

## ARMAGH, COMPRISING ARMAGH, KILLYLEA AND KILLYMADDY

The circuit comprises two rural church communities and one church in the city, situated between Armagh's two Cathedrals, close to the site where John Wesley preached.

### **Superintendent Minister:**

Mark Liddicoat

## THE LAY WITNESS MOVEMENT IRELAND

The Movement is a fellowship of ordinary people of all ages and backgrounds who share their personal experience of Jesus. Members come together in teams to visit churches, all by invitation, for a weekend of praise and personal witness to what it means to be a follower of Christ in today's world.

(Contact may be made via the website, [www.laywitnessireland.org](http://www.laywitnessireland.org))

**Steering Group:** Shirley Alexander, Phill Clarke, Laura Griffith, Bruce Mullen and Tom Wilson



**GLENAVY AND MOIRA,  
COMPRISING GLENAVY, MOIRA  
AND CRAIGMORE**

A circuit across 3 counties, including Craigmore, Co. Armagh, Glenavy, Co. Antrim and Moira, Co. Down.

**Superintendent Minister:**  
Philip Gallagher  
**Retired Minister Assisting:**  
Ken Lindsay

**PRAY**

*Pray that our roots in Jesus would deepen and our fruitfulness increase for His glory.*



Craigmore Community Garden



Craigmore Community Garden

**LURGAN, COMPRISING HIGH STREET, LURGAN; QUEEN STREET, LURGAN; BALLINACORR AND BLUESTONE**

A four-church circuit operating in a provincial town and rural settings in the Lurgan/Craigavon area.

**Superintendent Minister:**  
Andrew Gibson  
**Probationer Minister:** Andrew Topley  
**Youth Pastor:** Mark Hand



Lurgan High Street Reopening

**MINISTERS SERVING WITH THE ARMED FORCES**

**Royal Air Force:**  
John Mbayo, Colin Weir

**WDR PARTNER: EAST JERUSALEM YMCA REHABILITATION PROGRAMME**

Since 1948, EJ-YMCA has pursued its mission to develop and empower youth to reach their full potential in mind, body and spirit. EJ-YMCA works with young people with disabilities, offering vocational training, counselling and psychosocial support. Through WDR, Irish Methodists support the EJ-YMCA rehabilitation programme in their work to restore hope to and provide opportunities for young people.

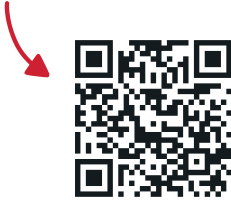
# The Council on Social Responsibility: Praying with Regard to Poverty

**In light of the cost of living crisis, the Council on Social Responsibility (CSR) in partnership with Christians Against Poverty and the Trussell Trust encourages and resources Methodists across the island to Pray, Learn and Act with regard to poverty. The CSR Report to Conference 2023 included some suggestions about how to pray as individuals and networks (e.g. Congregations, Circuit, District, Connexion).**

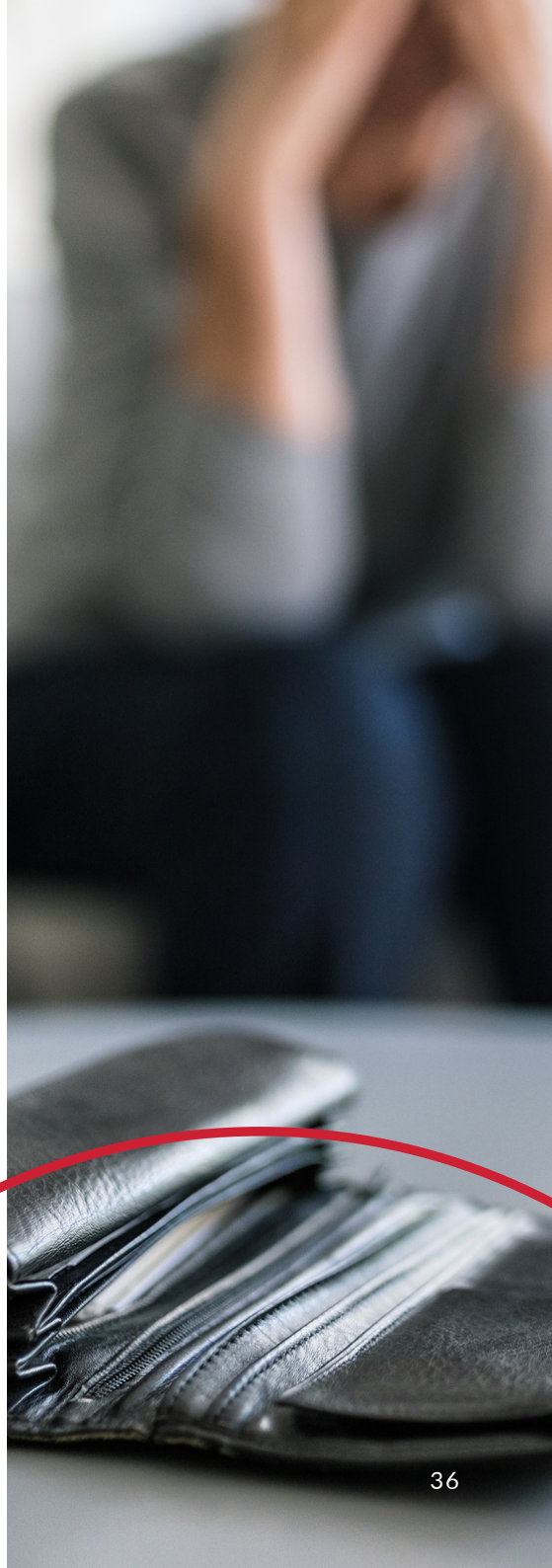
1. Pray regularly (individually or in a prayer network) for all those who are vulnerable, affected by the present cost of living crisis and are affected adversely by poverty and deprivation.
2. Pray regularly (individually or in a prayer network) for our partners in Northern Ireland Christians Against Poverty and the Trussell Trust; other similar agencies, the 5 Methodist City Missions and the Child Care Society that they may affect meaningful change.
3. Highlight poverty at least once a year in Sunday Worship (resources are available from Church Action Against Poverty), or use [breadlineresearch.coventry.ac.uk](http://breadlineresearch.coventry.ac.uk) as a Lenten Bible Study.



To better inform your prayers you can read the full **CSR Report to Conference 2023**, including suggestions for how you can Learn and Act with regard to poverty, here: [bit.ly/CSR-Report-23](https://bit.ly/CSR-Report-23)



A detailed resource bank of relevant material on poverty is also available on the MCI website at: [irishmethodist.org/cost-of-living](https://irishmethodist.org/cost-of-living)



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## **BANBRIDGE AND DONAGHCLONEY**

Banbridge and Donaghcloney Circuit consists of three churches: one situated in Banbridge town centre and two rural churches in the villages of Donaghcloney and Blackskull. Our circuit's vision statement is to be a caring, Christ-centred fellowship of believers, where the transforming power of God's Holy Spirit is evident and influences our communities and beyond.

### **Superintendent Minister:**

Dave Sweeney

### **Minister in Training on Placement:**

Mrs Jackie Whittle

## **TANDRAGEE, RICHHILL AND MARKETHILL**

Three churches that are situated in the heart of the Orchard County, Armagh, and in the heart of Jesus, that are seeking to live out and proclaim the good news of Jesus.

### **Superintendent Minister:**

Nick McKnight

**Pastoral Assistant:** Clive Webster

## **PRAY**

*King Jesus, although we cannot always see it, your rule and reign has already started in our lives and in our communities. Sometime in amazing and obvious expressions, and sometimes in almost invisible and silent stirrings, your Kingdom continues to rise among us. Help us, with all our love, all our creativeness, and all our winsomeness, to call others to a life of loving obedience in your Kingdom. Amen.*

## **WDR PARTNER: KOPILA-NEPAL**

Kopila is dedicated to the protection of human rights and the psychosocial wellbeing of single mothers and widows, particularly in lower-caste and Dalit communities, and their children. Kopila's work is wide-ranging and includes mental health and wellbeing, education, agriculture, gender equality, advocacy and economic empowerment.

## **JUNIOR MISSION FOR ALL (JMA)**

JMA is an annual activity resource designed to bring a global dimension to children's ministry in the Methodist Church in Ireland. As a Church with strong global connections, it is important that our youngest members know that they are a valued part of God's global mission. In 2023-24, JMA will focus on the work of the Methodist Church in Brazil.



## NORTH EASTERN DISTRICT

With over 70 societies, this district provides a huge variety of context and practice; from rural to urban, and from traditional to pioneer mission. We give thanks for the green shoots of growth.

Churches are facing many challenges and are seeking to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to them. As we seek to be followers of Jesus, may we be filled with the enabling power of the Spirit.

**District Superintendent:** Philip Agnew  
**District Lay Leader:** Pat Jamison

## THE METHODIST CHURCH, GHANA (MCG)

The Methodist Church in Ghana is a strong church which prioritises evangelism and social witness, including education and healthcare. Members of MCI's North Eastern District have visited Ghana, and our churches are exploring ways of supporting and learning from each other. Through World Mission Partnership, funds have been sent to support youth and children's ministry in Ghana.

## COLERAINE, PORTRUSH, PORTSTEWART AND BALLYMONEY

Located in the Causeway Coast and Glens Council Area, the members of our four societies seek to work together to witness to the love which our Lord has for all people, whether they are attached to one of our societies, or are people we meet in the wider community as we live out our lives under God.

**Superintendent Minister:** Philip Agnew  
**Minister:** Sam Livingstone  
**Retired Ministers Assisting:** Sam McGuffin, Joe Sweeney  
**Pioneer Mission Leaders in Portrush:** Chris and Hannah Agnew  
**Serving with Boardwalk Collective:** Ken McCrea, Matthew Beggs, Ruel Jade and Lewis McKelvey

## WDR PARTNER: CHURCH LAND PROGRAMME

Church Land Programme (based in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa) works to affirm, learn from and journey with those who are systematically excluded and impoverished in their struggles related to land and housing injustice. Without land or a home, it is impossible for people to get a foothold in society to improve their lives. Irish Methodists have been partnering with CLP since 2014.

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## PIONEER MISSION - BOARDWALK COLLECTIVE

Boardwalk Collective in Portrush seeks to be a contextual, missional presence in the area. Boardwalk Collective in particular exists to see children, youth, and young adults come alive in Jesus through fun and adventurous outdoor activities, and through offering a residential centre on the North Coast — a haven of retreat amidst life's noise. Life in Jesus is fun, real, open and deep, and we are invited to experience this here and now. Real Life Awaits!

**Team Leader:** Chris Agnew

**Team & Events Manager:**

Matthew Beggs

**Residential Centre Manager:**

Lewis McKelvey

**Administration & Finance Manager:**

Ken McCrea

**Global Mission Fellows:** Jade Ruel Zaldivar (Philippines), Lev Musenge Mutombo (DRC)



## PIONEER MISSION - COASTAL

Coastal is a new church community in Portrush seeking to be a missional presence in the area. We exist as a family of families on mission, seeking the flourishing of Portrush and the surrounding area, and joining God in the reconciliation of all things. It is where we live.

**Pioneer Mission Leaders:** Chris & Hannah Agnew

**Global Mission Fellows:** Jade Ruel Zaldivar (Philippines), Lev Musenge Mutombo (DRC)

### PRAY

*Pray for deepening connections with local community young people, a fun and vibrant summer camp season, and for significant hospitality moments through the residential centre.*

### PRAY

*Pray for faithfulness in the small things as we seek to be an agile missional community, for intentionality about being present in others' lives, and to prioritise his presence on the journey.*



## PIONEER MISSION - PLAY-IT-BY-EAR

Play it by Ear is a Christian drama company which provides performances, workshops and resources for churches, schools, events and community groups.

It is run by Chris Neilands and Ross Jonas who are passionate about equipping churches to use drama to share God's love.

(Find out more at [playitbyear.com](http://playitbyear.com))

### PRAY

*Please pray prayers of thankfulness and praise for how God has developed our ministry over the last few years and please also pray that God will continue to provide new opportunities as we seek to creatively communicate the hope that we have in Jesus to as wide a range of people and groups as possible.*



## NEWTOWNABBEY METHODIST MISSION, COMPRISING NORTH BELFAST MISSION RATHCOOLE, WHITEABBEY, GLENGORMLEY, GREENCASTLE, MOSSLEY AND MONKSTOWN (CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD - WITH THE CHURCH OF IRELAND)

A circuit on the edge of North Belfast seeking to equip God's people for works of service, so that God's people may grow in faith and love, and that Christ's amazing love may flow into the lives of all among whom we live and work.

### Superintendent Minister:

Karen Spence

### Ministers:

Pauline Lorimer, Sam Campbell

**Retired Minister assisting:** Ivan

McElhinney, Peter Murray

**Youth Worker (Part-time):**

Elaine Gowdy (Mossley)

## WDR PARTNER: FATHER ANDEWEG INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF (FAID)

Established in 1957, FAID is a Christian School in Beirut, Lebanon, for children who are deaf or hard of hearing, irrespective of religion, ethnicity or wealth. Their aim is to teach and prepare students for life through their education and life-skills programmes. FAID also work beyond their walls, reaching into the wider community and they have a very active outreach programme amongst the huge Syrian refugee community.

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## BALLYCLARE, COMPRISING BALLYCLARE, BALLYNURE AND DOAGH

THREE Churches ONE Big Family – To follow Christ in all we do and lead others to follow.

### Superintendent Minister:

Christopher Skillen

Circuit Secretary: Shan Munce

### PRAY

*Pray for new members joining after moving to the area from overseas especially to work in the health service. Pray for the inspirational work of those who lead youth and children's work across the circuit, and for those who take part.*



Ballyclare Methodist Church

## WDR PARTNER: INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION

WDR partner, IJM, is the largest anti-slavery organisation in the world with a

plan to eliminate slavery everywhere. They partner with local justice systems to end violence against people living in poverty. Through WDR, Irish Methodists are supporting IJM's work in the Philippines to stop online sexual exploitation of children.

## WDR PARTNER: MENNONITE SOCIAL ACTION COMMISSION (CASM)

WDR partner, IJM, is the largest anti-slavery organisation in the world with a plan to eliminate slavery everywhere. They partner with local justice systems to end violence against people living in poverty. Through WDR, Irish Methodists are supporting IJM's work in the Philippines to stop online sexual exploitation of children.

## CARRICKFERGUS, COMPRISING CARRICKFERGUS, GREENISLAND, WHITEHEAD AND ISLANDMAGEE

Straddling the East Antrim coast, the circuit covers both large town and rural communities. The four churches work faithfully seeking to serve God and share His love with the wider community.

Superintendent Minister: Stephen Woods

Ministers: Edem Dzunu

### PRAY

*Please pray that our congregations will be passionate and courageous as we seek to serve God and be a blessing to our communities, and that God will be glorified in all we do and that his spirit and power will fill our church.*

## ANTRIM

A church in the heart of Antrim dedicated to serving the community, glorifying God and proclaiming His Son Jesus Christ until He returns.

**Superintendent Minister:**

Ruth Patterson

**Minister:** Mark Durrell

## LARNE

A circuit of three societies on the beautiful Antrim Coast, centred around the historic port of Larne: an older town-centre church in Larne; a 1950s church-plant in Craighyhill; and a seaside village church in Carnlough.

**Superintendent Minister:**

Julian Hamilton

### PRAY

*Loving God, as you made the sea and all that it holds, mostly unseen; and as you created the glens of east Antrim in all their eye catching glory; will you mould your beauty and grace through the Methodist people of Larne and surrounding areas, to enliven hearts and minds in our churches, our homes, our schools and our work places, to see your Kingdom come.*

## MISSION PARTNERS: BARRY & GILLIAN SLOAN

Gillian and Barry are based in Chemnitz, formerly part of East Germany. Atheism is the dominant ideology in Chemnitz, a legacy of the communist regime which discriminated heavily against Christians. Barry and Gillian serve with INSPIRE, a fresh expression which seeks new ways of reaching those who are uninterested in – or hostile to – the traditional church. In addition to this role, Barry also serves as Europe Partnership Co-ordinator of the Methodist Church in Britain.





## BALLYMENA

Seeking to be a church at the heart of our community - a welcoming church - with open hearts, open minds and open doors to serve, to care and to share with all whom we engage.

### **Superintendent Minister:**

Ruth Patterson

### **Living Rooms Co-ordinator:**

Elaine McDonald

## CULLYBACKEY

A single-church circuit in the heart of a rural community with a mission to glorify God and share his love and good news with others.

### **Superintendent Minister:**

David Clements

## **NORTH BELFAST, COMPRISING, JENNYMOUNT, JOANMOUNT SHANKHILL, AND WOODVALE**

A new united circuit of wholehearted followers of Jesus who are seeking the transformation of North Belfast in both familiar and innovative ways.

### **Superintendent Minister**

**(Jennymount):** Alan Lorimer

**Minister (Shankhill and Woodvale):**

Alan Conly

**Minister (Joanmount):** Daphne Hanna

**Retired Ministers Assisting:** Brenda Weatherill (Jennymount), Jim Rea, Brian Fletcher (Shankhill)

### **Minister in Training on Placement:**

Cheryl Bruce

**Woodvale Community and Youth/**

**Children's Worker:** Emma-Jayne Speers

(supported by Mission Ireland)

### **PRAY**

*We pray that all peoples may feel part of this new larger circuit. We pray that by ministering to and with each other we may grow in His grace as we take the Gospel into the community in which we are placed. Amen.*

## **THE METHODIST CHURCH SOUTHERN AFRICA, NAMIBIAN DISTRICT**

Namibia contains some of the world's most isolated Methodist churches, some separated from neighbouring circuits by thousands of kilometres. The whole country is served by just five Ministers, two Evangelists and 44 local preachers, serving around 5,000 members scattered across every corner of the country. MCI President David Turtle has visited Namibia, which provided a chance to explore ways that our two churches can support each other.



**BELFAST SOUTH AND CENTRAL,  
(INCLUDING BELFAST CENTRAL  
MISSION) COMPRISING BELFAST  
SOUTH, DONEGALL ROAD, THE  
CHURCH OF THE  
RESURRECTION (QUB) AND  
GROSVENOR HALL**

A diverse circuit that works together well yet covers areas of the city that are socially and culturally very different. We are exploring what our mission is going into the future, how we can support one another in that, and our relationship to neighbouring circuits.

Also associated with this circuit are Belfast Central Mission, Methodist College Belfast, Belfast City Centre Chaplaincy, the Belfast South Network Company (Agape Centre, Lisburn Road) and the joint Church of Ireland and Methodist Student Chaplaincy. Each of these are continually exploring new ways of fulfilling their distinctive missions.

BCM employs around 260 staff and has about 70 dedicated volunteers. The Chaplaincy has its own staff team, working in different colleges across the city, staffing the Hub Café and looking after the chaplaincy residents.

**Superintendent Minister:**

David Campton

**Minister and Honorary Chaplain to**

**Methodist College:** Emily Hyland

**Associate Chaplain to Methodist**

**College:** Ian Gibson

**Minster in Part-time Appointment and**

**Chaplain to Copelands:** June Parke

**Universities' Chaplain:** Danielle

McCullagh (Church of Ireland Minister)

**Non-Stipendiary Minister and Lead**

**City Centre Chaplain:** Andrew Irvine

**BCM Chief Executive:** Nicky Conway

**Minister in Training on Placement:**

Julie Craythorne

**PIONEER MISSION – BELFAST  
CITY CENTRE CHAPLAINCY**

Established in July 2018, the Chaplaincy provides pastoral support to people working, living or enjoying recreational time in Belfast City Centre. Understanding that every human being is made in the image of God, we provide care to everyone, irrespective of their beliefs or past. We exist to embody the Kingdom of God in the City, with love and without judgement.

**Chairman of the Board:** David Campton

**Directors:** Philip Agnew, Eileen

Jamison, David Gallagher, David

Patterson

**Lead Chaplain:** Andrew Irvine



## **BELFAST BALLYNAFEIGH, BELVOIR, CAIRNSHILL AND KNOCKBREDA**

A four-church circuit in southeast Belfast, each church having different histories, situations, and worship styles, but all seeking to reach out into their communities and increase fellowship within the circuit.

### **Superintendent Minister:**

John Alderdice

**Minister:** Tanita Lee

### **Church Development Officer:**

Heather Bailie

### **Pioneer Mission Leaders:**

David and Jill Hines

### **Retired Ministers Assisting:**

Heather Bell, Peter Mercer

## **BELFAST EAST**

This new circuit brings together the 9 churches in East Belfast. While remembering that Mission needs to be the local churches' priority, the new circuit gives opportunity for collective discipleship, joint praise evenings and sharing of prayer opportunities. Identity will continue to be a key discovery this year - we are not 9 individual churches, but under Belfast East Circuit are a collective group of Methodists seeking to help build the Kingdom of God where we are, while building each other up. Our prayer is that we would be a listening circuit, to

God and each other, and then to act according to the will of God.

### **Superintendent Minister:**

Brian Anderson

**Ministers:** Robin Waugh, Fiona McCrea, Paul Maxwell, Alan Craig, Nigel Murphy

**Retired Ministers assisting:** Stephen Sheerin, Ruth Craig, Joe Sweeney, Colin Duncan

## **PIONEER MISSION – BRANIEL: YOU BELONG HERE**

Branial Church in East Belfast have felt a calling from God to move away from old habits to new ways of engaging with local community; altering how we "be church" without compromising on biblical principles. We see situations and circumstances in which God is at work and we want to get alongside Him in this.

BASE Branial (Belong, Achieve, Support and Encourage) is a brand new community hub on the church site which will be used for community engagement projects that better support the community, and in turn allow us to share the good news of Jesus with them, changing from a Sunday centred community to living wholeheartedly as followers of Jesus 24/7.

**Pioneer Mission Leader:** Neil Curran



## THE WORLD METHODIST COUNCIL

The World Methodist Council comprises of some 80 Methodist, Wesleyan and related Uniting and United churches representing over 80 million members in 138 countries. It empowers and serves member Churches by encouraging Methodist unity in witness, facilitating mission in the world, and fostering ecumenical and inter-religious activities; it recognises responsibility for God's creation at a time when climate change affects those most vulnerable. The Council offers encouragement and support to those who work for justice, human reconciliation and world peace; it works for greater unity among Christians through theological agreement based on faithfulness to the Gospel, thus honouring the prayer of Christ that all might be one that the world might believe.

**President:**

Jong Chun Park (S. Korea)

**Vice-President:**

Gillian Kingston (Ireland)

**General Secretary:**

Bishop Ivan Abrahams (Southern Africa)

**Geneva Secretary:**

Bishop Rosemarie Wenner (Germany)

## CASTLEWELLAN HOLIDAY WEEK

Castlewellan Forest Park is the venue each summer for the Holiday Week which aims through worship, teaching, friendship, and lots of fun, to encourage young and old in their faith and walk with God. Families, youth groups and single people, of all ages and denominations, gather from across this island, share their faith, their joys and their struggles and pray that God's Spirit will continue to move within them and across the land.

### MISSION PARTNER: MELISSA NEWELL

Melissa serves with La Iglesia Evangélica Metodista Unida del Ecuador. She is based in the town of Puerto Misahuallí where she splits her time between teaching English and serving the church through children's and young adult ministry, preaching and being part of the worship team.

### COUNCIL ON SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Council on Social Responsibility aims to bring theological insight to social, political and economic issues, and to provide realistic recommendations for actions. It has Northern and Southern Executives.

**Chairs:** David Clements, Steven Foster

**Secretaries:** Hazel Baird, Sara Stephens

**Treasurer:** Bill Parkinson

*For guidance on how to pray with regard to poverty, go to page 35.*

# World Mission Partnership

## Together, Growing God's World Church

World Mission Partnership works with sister churches and partner organisations across the world, to share the Good News and promote church growth.

**General Secretary:** Laurence Graham  
**Lay Treasurer:** Ian Patterson  
**Ministerial Treasurer:** Sahr Yambasu  
**World Mission Partnership**  
**Coordinator:** David Nesbitt



*Irish Methodists are supporting mission across Europe, including ministry in North Macedonia.*



*Melissa Newell presenting a gift to Heather Morris from the church in Ecuador.*



## ACTIVITIES:

- Developing relationships between MCI and our world church family, which allow us to support and learn from each other
- Promoting engagement with overseas mission, and supporting Mission Partners and Mission Associates
- Encouraging children to be involved in supporting mission, through 'Junior Mission for All'
- Providing practical resources to world churches, through the Container Ministry

## PRAY FOR:

- Irish Methodists to answer God's call to World Mission
- Guidance and wisdom for the World Mission Partnership committee, as we look for the best ways to support mission
- Our sister churches, and partner organisations
- Those serving overseas
- David Nesbitt, World Mission Partnership Coordinator

## PRAY

*Father, thank you for our global church family. Draw us closer to our brothers and sisters in other countries, and encourage us to work together to grow your world church.*

*Help us to see that we all have a role to play in world mission, and to be generous with our gifts, time and resources.*

*Keep us focused on the call to proclaim your love and message of salvation, in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

*Show us new and effective ways of answering that call, and bless the WMP staff and committee with wisdom, discernment and integrity.*

*In your name we pray,  
Amen.*



Website:  
[irishmethodist.org/world-mission](http://irishmethodist.org/world-mission)

[Twitter.com/mciworldmission](https://twitter.com/mciworldmission)

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## BANGOR AND HOLYWOOD

We are a circuit of three societies bonded together in Christ praying for God's kingdom to come.

**Superintendent Minister:** Philip Corrigan (Bangor Methodist Church)  
**Minister:** Sharon Connor (Holywood Methodist Church).

### PRAY

*Pray that Bangor Methodist Church would quickly become one worshipping church and, as we plan for the future, that we would have a clear sense of God's guidance.*

## FINAGHY AND SEYMOUR HILL

Two churches in south Belfast committed to sharing God's love with their local communities.

**Superintendent Minister:** Colin Gracie  
**Retired Minister Assisting (Seymour Hill):** Robert Wallace  
**Youth and Children's Worker (Finaghy):** Matty McCrea  
**Pastoral Visitor (Finaghy):** Bea Maxwell

## THE EUROPEAN METHODIST COUNCIL (EMC)

The European Methodist Council gives Methodist, Wesleyan, and Uniting Churches a shared voice in a changing European landscape. We work together to greater understand shared challenges and support one another so that we can all be more effective in God's mission. The Council meets twice per year - in person in the Autumn and online in the Spring.

**Co-Chairs:** Bishop Harald Rückert (UMC Germany), Doug Swanney (Methodist Church in Britain)

**Members of EMC from MCI:** Heather Morris, Jeremy Nicoll, Kathryn Harte  
**Support Officer:** Stefanie Gabuyo

## THE METHODIST CHURCH IN ZIMBABWE

MCI is blessed to have many Zimbabwean members, and by the ministry of Rev. Tawanda Sungai who was sent to serve in Ireland by the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe (MCZ). In 2023, Rev. Dr. Laurence Graham (General Secretary of World Mission Partnership) will be visiting Zimbabwe and attending the MCZ Conference, with a view to strengthening the relationship between our two churches.



## DONAGHADEE

A church community, existing to glorify God by making his love known in word and deed – in the church, the local community, and the world – through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Superintendent Minister:**

Phillip Corrigan

**Minister:** Louise McKee

## NEWTOWNARDS, MOVILLA ABBEY AND COMBER

Three societies endeavouring to live out their faith locally.

**Superintendent Minister:** Colin Milligan (Regent Street)

**Minister:** Michael Spence (Movilla Abbey), Alan Peek (Church of Ireland)

**Lay Pastor:** Nicky Hazley (Comber)

**Youth Pastor:** Laura Ewing (Regent St)

## MINISTERS WHO CONTINUE TO UNDERTAKE SPECIALISED WORK

**Kenneth Connor:** serving with Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

**Paul J Gallucci:** serving with The Big House

**Derek J Johnston:** serving with Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

**Philip R Meadows:** serving with Inspire and Asbury Theological Seminary

**John Wonnacott:** serving with Northern Health and Social Care Trust

## MINISTERS WHO ARE WITHOUT A STATIONED APPOINTMENT

Stephen Hancock, Victoria Lynch.

Steven Foster serves as a Pioneer Mission Leader in Co Galway  
Cheryl A Patterson works under the direction of the District Superintendent.

## MINISTERS WHO SERVE WITH OTHER CONFERENCES

**The Methodist Church in Britain:**

John Purdy

## WDR PARTNER: METHODIST DEVELOPMENT & RELIEF SERVICES (MDRS)

Through World Development & Relief, Irish Methodists partner with MDRS as they work with rural people in Ghana. They introduce new farming techniques to combat deforestation and mitigate climate change. MDRS also has a livelihoods training and water and sanitation programmes.

## MISSION ASSOCIATES

Stephen McCann and Gemma Barclay are part of the team leading the work of 24-7 Prayer in Ibiza. 24-7 Ibiza exists to care for the emotional, physical and spiritual needs of the community. They are rooted in the values of prayer, mission and justice and seek to make Jesus known in Ibiza.



## BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education seeks to develop, in co-operation with other Churches, a clear and shared vision of education, shaped by the core values of Christian faith and to equip and encourage church members and congregations to build close supportive relationships with their local schools.

**General Secretary and Convener,**  
**Northern Executive:** Anita Gracie  
**Ministerial Treasurer and Convener,**  
**Southern Executive:** Nigel Mackey  
**Lay Treasurer:** Ken Twyble

## LAGAN VALLEY & SOUTH DOWN

A circuit which comprises Ballynahinch, Broomhedge, Donard, Dromore, Magheragall, Priesthill, Seymour Street, the Church on the Hill (Maghaberry) and Trinity. We are nine church families in Down and South Antrim who are seeking to follow Jesus and share God's good news, love, and grace among the communities in which we are placed.

**Superintendent Minister:** David Turtle  
**Ministers:** Thomas Clarke (Acting Superintendent during David's year as President), Ross Harte, Clare Kakuru (Church of Ireland), Philip Patterson, Jackie McNair, Richard Wright  
**Retired Ministers Assisting:**  
Tom Deacon, Billy Davison  
**Pastoral Assistant:** Shirley Carrington

**Youth Pastor (Seymour Street):**  
Ashleigh O'Sullivan  
**Pastoral Visitor:** Billy Bryson

## GLASTRY AND PORTAFERRY

Glastry and Portaferry comprise a two-church circuit in the lower Ards Peninsula, an area of outstanding natural beauty.

**Superintendent Minister:**  
Jordan Litchfield

## WDR PARTNER: PHAKAMISA

Based in Pinetown (near Durban), South Africa, Phakamisa seeks to serve and uplift local impoverished communities. They do this through their early childhood development programme, skills and livelihoods training, support groups for orphan caregivers and those affected by, and infected with, HIV and AIDS. Their target groups are largely pre-school children and women.

## METHODIST COLLEGE, BELFAST

Methodist College, Belfast, founded in 1868, is one of Northern Ireland's leading grammar schools, with an outstanding reputation for academic excellence and an impressive record of achievement in music, drama, and sport.

The school's motto is "*Deus Nobiscum - God is with us*".

**Principal:** Jenny Lendrum  
**Chaplains:** Emily Hyland, Ian Gibson



## **RATHGAR NATIONAL SCHOOL, DUBLIN**

This Methodist primary school, founded in 1896, has a current enrolment of 91 children. Ivan Pearson, a native of Letterkenny in Co. Donegal, is the teaching principal. There are three mainstream teachers, Special Education teachers and ancillary staff. Andrew Dougherty is Chair of the Board of Governors while Yongnam Park conducts regular school assemblies.

**Teaching Principal:** Ivan Pearson  
**Chairperson:** Andrew Dougherty  
**Chaplain:** Yongnam Park

## **GURTEEN COLLEGE**

Gurteen College provides agricultural and related education with various courses up to degree level in a positive community environment, learning and working together to enhance life in rural communities. Praise God for the growth of the college with new Degree and Equine courses.

**Principal:** Jon Parry  
**Assistant Principal:** Stephanie Scully  
**Chair of Governors:** Roy Kingston  
**Chaplain:** Steven Foster

## **ST ANDREW'S NATIONAL SCHOOL, BRAY**

A Christian school under the trusteeship of the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Church of Ireland Churches. Our Christian ethos not only informs our lessons in religious education but also in every other area of the curriculum and in our life together as a school community of children, parents/guardians, and staff.

**Principal:** Daphne Wood  
**Deputy Principal:** Caroline Aragane

## **WESLEY COLLEGE DUBLIN**

Wesley College has begun the year with a sense of great expectation after a summer of overseas visitors, summer camps, and pre-season training for our sports teams. We are enjoying a large influx of boarders, from across Ireland and the world, and especially those from Ukraine as we seek to provide a safe and secure refuge for those fleeing the worst of the war.

It is exciting to see a full programme of trips and fixtures and to know that many of these events will be incredibly positive for the students' social, physical, spiritual, and mental development.

**Principal:** Christopher Woods  
**Chaplain:** Nigel Mackey

During the 2023-24 Connexional Year, our President will introduce a monthly theme for local churches to explore together that give attention to the practices of Jesus.

Use these monthly prayers to pray these practices throughout the year.



REV  
DAVID TURTLE

### SEPTEMBER: PRAYER

*Mighty God, as I bow in prayer, I set aside time to intentionally be with you, to become like you and to partner with you in the world. Today, I desire to become more aware of and deeply connected to you Father; to be further transformed into the likeness of Jesus; to be filled with your fullness Holy Spirit; and to do what I was made to do in my world today. Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting. As I turn my heart to you in prayer may it signal to both me and you my steadfast refusal to give myself over to either resignation which says things will never change, or self-reliance which says I can change things in my own strength. Amen.*

### OCTOBER: SCRIPTURE

*God who speaks, speak to me this day. I thank you for the gift of the Scriptures. As I read them today, Holy Spirit help me to open myself to your purposes and establish them as the text for living my life deeply and well. Use the words and the people I find in these pages to help me to see how I might be whole and at home in the God-created, God-ordered, and God-blessed world in which I find myself. Lord Jesus, use your word to reveal to me and my church family how only you can liberate us from our bondage, heal our brokenness, cleanse us from our uncleanness and bring life out of our deadness. As we hear your words may we put them into practice and so build our lives upon the rock. Amen.*



## NOVEMBER: SABBATH

*Creator God, we thank you that on the seventh day you ceased from your labour, and revealed your desire for us to know a rhythm and way of life that sets us free from the bondage of our own efforts. Forgive us that despite the central place given to Sabbath rhythms in your word and in the life of Jesus that we have seen it as an imposition rather than an invitation. Give us courage, freedom and grace to experiment in practices of Sabbath which are free from legalism, and which bring life to our souls. May it be that as we cast our cares upon Him in ceasing from our doing, we discover afresh that truly He cares for us. Amen.*

## JANUARY: SOLITUDE & SILENCE

*Loving Father, I intentionally place myself alone in your presence and recognise that you are closer than my own breathing. Help me to stay here long enough that this becomes a formative place where your Spirit has the time and space to do deep work away from others who would watch, judge or interpret what I say. Allow me to wait until I know you are the only one watching me and I can discern between your voice and the voices of the world. Give me courage to notice the things I would rather not notice or feel, and Jesus, lead me on a pilgrimage of deepening responsiveness to your control of my life and being. Loosen my rootedness in the world and plant me by streams of living water. Amen.*

## DECEMBER: SERVICE & GENEROSITY

*Lord Jesus, you have shown us the dignity of service in the Kingdom of God and revealed that in serving others we so often meet with you. We confess that we would rather suffer great cost to do grand things for you, than experience the many little deaths of going beyond ourselves, which then rest contentedly in hiddenness. Holy Spirit, assist us to find in THIS day OUR opportunities to serve others in acts that uncover the generosity of Jesus' gentle and humble heart. Amen.*

## FEBRUARY: SIMPLICITY

*Lord God, you know our tendency both to hold onto the clutter of tradition, but also to rush from one 'new' thing to the next. Give us grace to relinquish the disorder which accumulation brings to body, mind and spirit, and to embrace the opportunity to fix our unbending focus on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. Holy Spirit assist us to create margin, space and openness in our lives, churches and communities. Lord Jesus, help us to find our identity in you and to set aside competitors for our devotion. Amen.*



## MARCH: FASTING

*Father, and giver of every perfect gift, as I consider a period of fasting, help me to discern what to fast from which will best enable this to be a time of growth, renewal and healing. One of your fruit, Holy Spirit, is self-control; may you produce that in me, together with patience and peace. Strengthen me in the times when my fast is most difficult. Jesus, meet me for moments of sweet surrender to your good purposes for my life, and lead my soul to feast on every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. As others fast alongside me, together may we have a greater awareness of true wisdom that comes from you. Amen.*

## APRIL: WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS

*Heavenly Father, we desire to engage ourselves with, dwell upon, and express your greatness, beauty and goodness. Thank you for creating us in such a way in which the thoughts of our minds, words of our mouths, actions of our bodies and the movements of our hearts can bring worship to your Name. You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power! Jesus, as we worship you, may the good we adore enter our minds and hearts to increase our faith. You have invited us to be nourished and strengthened with heavenly food. Reign at the centre of our lives and our Church, by the transforming power of your Spirit. Amen.*

## MAY: COMMUNITY & CELEBRATION

*Gracious God, deliver us from the easy habit of thinking that our spirituality is something between you and each of us alone. It is so hard to admit that our spiritual wholeness cannot be reached outside of our life with others. Jesus, help us to open our hearts and spirits to what you want to say to us in this day. Allow us to see you as the One who gave himself totally, completely, absolutely, and unconditionally for others. Help us to commit our relationships to you, that they may become channels of your grace in our church fellowships and that, in your Spirit's power, we may become channels of your grace for the people of our community and our world. Amen.*



To explore these monthly practices and more visit:  
[irishmethodist.org/living-wholeheartedly](http://irishmethodist.org/living-wholeheartedly)





# Connexional Calendar

## 2023

### September

- 6 Connexional Team (10.00am)
- 6 Stationing Sub-group (2.00pm)
- 10 Education Sunday
- 13 Faith and Order Committee (6.30pm)
- 14 Governance Board (10.00am)
- 15-17 MWI Fellowship weekend in Drumalis
- 19 Stationing Sub-group (3.00pm)
- 21 Property Board (7.30pm)
- 29 Board of Education, Northern Executive (4.00pm)
- 30 MWI General Executive Meeting (10.30am) Portadown

### October

- 16 Governance Board (10.00am)
- 17 Connexional Team (2.00pm) online
- 21 World Federation meeting [WFMUW] Dublin
- 27-29 Autumn Soul

### November

- 13 Trustees Standing Committee (online)
- 19 Home Mission Sunday
- 22 Connexional Team (2.00pm)
- 22 Faith and Order Committee (6.30pm)
- 23 Governance Board (10.00am)
- 27 Trustees General Meeting (Edgehill House)

### December

- 8 MWI All-Ireland Carol Service (7.30pm) online
- 14 Governance Board (10.00am)

## 2024

### January

- 7 Covenant Sunday
- 11 Connexional Team (10.00am) online
- 18 Governance Board (10.00am)
- 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 21 Social Responsibility Sunday
- 20 MWI General Executive Meeting
- 28 Racial Justice Sunday

### February

- 4 Ministry of Healing Sunday
- 9 Board of Education, Northern Executive (4.00pm)
- 9-11 'Overflow' Young Leaders' Weekend
- 11-18 World Mission Advocacy Week
- 15 Governance Board (10.00am)
- 21 Connexional Team (2.00pm)

### March

- 1 World Day of Prayer
- 8-10 Soul Mates
- 9 MWI Central Forum
- 12 Tributes & Obituaries Committee
- 14 Governance Board (10.00am)
- 21 Trustees AGM (12.00noon) online
- 21 Property Board (7.30pm)

### April

- 16 Connexional Team (2.00pm) online
- 18 Governance Board (10.00am)

### May

- 4 MWI General Executive Meeting
- 12-18 Christian Aid Week
- 21 Connexional Team (2.00pm)
- 23 Governance Board (10.00am)
- 24 Board of Education, Northern Executive (4.00pm)

### June

- 5 Conference opens
- 24 Connexional Team (10.00am)

We do not charge for Prayer Focus but if you wish to make a donation to cover costs you may do so through your local Society or online here:

### STERLING (£) DONATIONS

[bit.ly/PF-sterling](https://bit.ly/PF-sterling)



### EURO (€) DONATIONS

[bit.ly/PF-euro](https://bit.ly/PF-euro)



*Please reference 'PF23' when making your donation.*

The Prayer Focus: Connexional Prayer Guide 2023/24 has been compiled by the Home Mission Team with design and layout by Stephen Mayes.

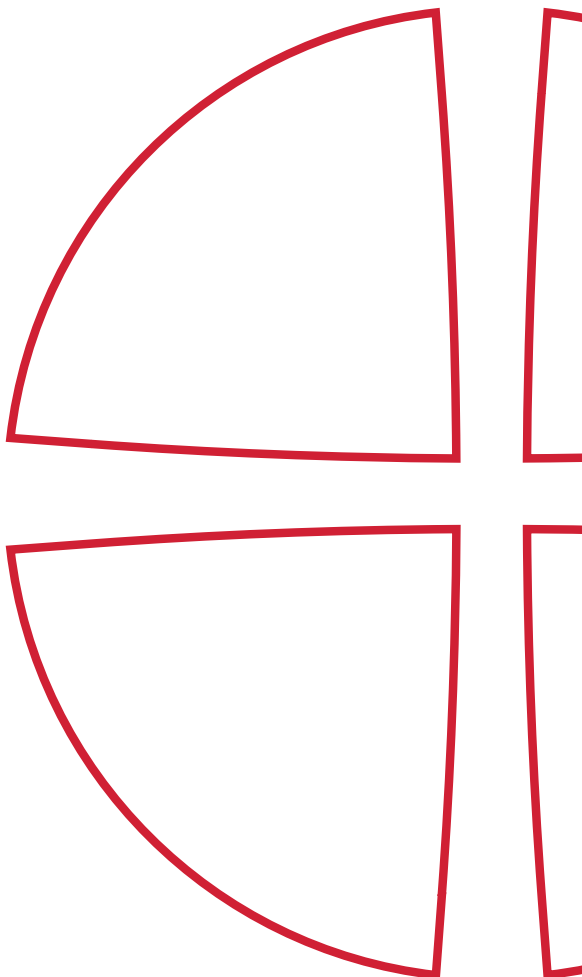
While every effort has been made to ensure information contained in this guide is correct at time of print (August 2023), please get in touch to let us know of any errors.

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LIVING WHOLEHEARTEDLY AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD