

Video Script



GROW
TOGETHER
GO
TOGETHER

KATHRYN HARTE - HOME MISSION TEAM

Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid. From now on, you will fish for people.' So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Each year, the Methodist Church in Ireland sets aside Home Mission Sunday to focus on local mission and to raise money to support mission initiatives throughout Ireland.

On Home Mission Sunday, stories are told of Methodists across the island who respond to the invitation of Jesus to follow him and to serve God in mission, whether that be in the ordinary of everyday life or in pioneering new forms of mission or creating new Christian community.

In the first part of this video, we'll hear from leaders and members of the Urban Junction community in Blackrock, County Dublin. A church that around 20 years ago made the decision to close its Sunday service and reopen as a Christian night base for young people. Today it is a growing, vibrant Christian community of all ages, seeking to share the love of Jesus with Blackrock and beyond.

BELINDA - URBAN JUNCTION

Welcome to Urban Junction. We're a church and community project. We're in the Methodist Church building which is in Blackrock in South Dublin and we've been here for nearly 25 years. I'm Belinda, I lead our church community here, that we call Ignite, alongside a team of three others. We're all part time employed lay workers, and we all have other jobs alongside working here, between one and three days a week. We have a volunteer intern too. It's great having this kind of team because with each other we come with different gifts and personalities for creativity and connecting with people in the community.

The first mission activity we started here was a disco called Bounce, and that's how I got involved as a teenager. We don't run the disco anymore, but mission continues to be our driving force. Our primary focus is to encourage each other to be Jesus' hands and feet every day of the week, being there for people wherever he has us, in our workplaces and our homes and our communities. And so for us, mission and relationships, they come first. And then it's our activities that we do, including how we gather on a Sunday. They're shaped around those relationships.



MICHAEL – URBAN JUNCTION

Hi, I'm Michael. I help to lead Ignite here, and I first came down to Blackrock actually in 2003 on a year out team with the Methodist Church. We see the role of our church as helping people to become followers of Jesus for themselves. We therefore encourage people to discuss what they hear and to wrestle with it rather than simply accepting or ignoring what is taught. It is their responsibility to work out their salvation in fear and trembling, not ours. Our responsibility as a church is to walk alongside each other, to support each other. Here we can belong before we believe. It doesn't matter where your faith is or what your background is, everyone is invited to belong and importantly, to take part.

BELINDA – URBAN JUNCTION

So we started a Community Café once a month. Approximately a quarter of our church community help to run it instead of our regular Sunday service. The idea is to expand our vision of what Sunday gatherings can look like and be challenged in our faith together as we step into something perhaps outside our comfort zone. As leaders, we feel it's important to be adaptable in the ways that we communicate and in how we help others to grow as followers of Jesus.

ANNA – URBAN JUNCTION

We have grown together through practices like prayer, sung worship, Bible reading, reflection, communion. I felt it was a place where we are deeply loved and welcomed and also a place where you are challenged to live out your faith confidently and the everyday. Overall, I would say that we help each other to be more like Jesus by showing genuine love to each other.

NORMA – URBAN JUNCTION

It's so open and welcome when I arrived in. There's different activities that are done. We have a 'Talls and smalls' group, which is moms and toddlers, dads, grandparents, child minders. One particular girl had an issue that she found that whom she was minding was really upset many, many times. And I used to just come along and try and support her, lessen the burden a little bit at the play time. And she was always saying, 'Thank you, Norma. Thank you, Norma.' And so one day I said, 'Thank you, Jesus. We'll say thanks to Jesus.' And in that moment, you know, since she's come and whenever I interact anywhere and with anyone else, she will actually say, 'Thank you, Jesus.' So great opportunity to bring Jesus into the community, into the group.

ALLAN – URBAN JUNCTION

We were able to start a Men's Shed in Blackrock in Urban Junction. It's now a great place for guys to come and get involved. This space is always people sitting, chatting, chipping away or hammering. Our numbers over the last two, three years have grown each year. You can see when they're leaving to go home that they feel fulfilled. They've done something or they've met and chatted.



MICHAEL – URBAN JUNCTION

Recently a young adult let us know that they had been looking for a church just like this and then found it, a home here in Ignite. And for me, this is heartening because over the years Ignite has been a home to me, a place where I know I can walk in the door and I'll be accepted and I'll find belonging. And it's heartening to know that this has become a place like that for other people too.

SIMON KILPATRICK – HOME MISSION TEAM

In 2021, the Methodist Church in Ireland adopted the vision statement 'Living wholeheartedly as followers of Jesus for the transformation of the world.'

The first disciples left everything and set out on a journey with Jesus. This small group of people spent time in his company going with Him and growing together with Him as he brought life and healing to those that they encountered in villages and towns along the way.

As Methodists in Ireland, it is important to us that we help each other to be more like Jesus. We grow together and are sent out as followers of Jesus in everyday life.

KATHRYN HARTE – HOME MISSION TEAM

Now let's hear stories from Methodists in all four corners of the island about what this looks like for them.

NEIL – BRANIEL CHURCH, BELFAST

We help each other to be more like Jesus by encouraging one another and sharing examples of where Jesus stepped in to situations and how we should follow His example. One of the things I love sharing with people is actually how Jesus met people where they were at. He didn't expect people to come in, but he went to where they were and met them where they're at. We've been encouraging each other in the past while to go and meet people where they're at and see where God is working in the community around us.

OLENA - GATEWAY CHURCH, KENMARE

Several ways we grow together as followers of Jesus are weekly interdenominational Bible studies. Monthly whole community praise night. A multicultural and a multi-generational worship service. A parish wide message and communication system and global outreach relationship. All our purpose to know God and make Him known.

JULIAN - LARNE METHODIST CHURCH

One of the ways that we have been growing in love and fellowship with God and with each other over the last year is taking up the challenge that Home Mission gave us to do 50 days of Prayer. We held special prayer meetings and gatherings throughout those 50 days. But we also used our church WhatsApp group to put on a different prayer every morning. That became a real practice for our church, where more people stepped in to help lead the prayer and where our congregation, our church community, was able to pray together every day with the prayers of each other.

And we got to September after the 50 days was over, and what is one of the things that the circuit executive decided? 'Let's keep the prayer going.' We continue to pray as a community through our church WhatsApp group where volunteers will provide the prayer every single day. It's a habit, it's commitment and it's prayer.

CAMILLE - CLARENDON WOMEN'S SHELTER, NORTH WEST METHODIST MISSION

One of the ways that we grow together as followers of Jesus is by advocating for those who are experiencing injustices in our society through mutuality, charity and solidarity with and for them. We must comfort those who are disturbed and disturb those who are comfortable in our society, and ask for help through God's holy intervention and provision.

GRAHAM - BRAY METHODIST CHURCH

We step out in mission together by serving our homeless community in the Bray Area, by serving food, offering clothing, offering love, and also offering a listening ear. Sharing God's love by bringing His kingdom close to those who are normally unloved, lost, and forgotten, by others.

ELAINE - BRANIEL CHURCH, BELFAST

We step out in mission together by serving, particularly with youth and children's, people of all different ages, older, younger, work together who show God's love to our youth and our children, and our example, and join together to show them all that Jesus can offer them and the love that He has for them.

HELEN - WHITEABBEY METHODIST CHURCH

We step out in mission together by setting up a safe place for asylum seekers to meet at 'Whiteabbey Welcome.' We offer friendship, conversation, English classes and some basic food stuffs to take away each week. Some have been helped to get employment locally. And quite a few have been given refurbished bicycles, which has helped them to get to class and to their places of employment.

CLARE - CHURCH ON THE HILL, MAGHABERRY

So we step out in mission together by being really intentional and opening up our church building and running free community events, particularly around key times of the year, such as Harvest and Christmas and Easter.

SIMON KILPATRICK - HOME MISSION TEAM

'Come, follow me and I will send you out to fish for people.'

The first disciples accepted the invitation to follow Jesus. This invitation remains the same for His followers today.

Who will you grow with?

Who will you go with?

Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid. From now on, you will fish for people.' So they pulled their boats up onshore, left everything and followed him.