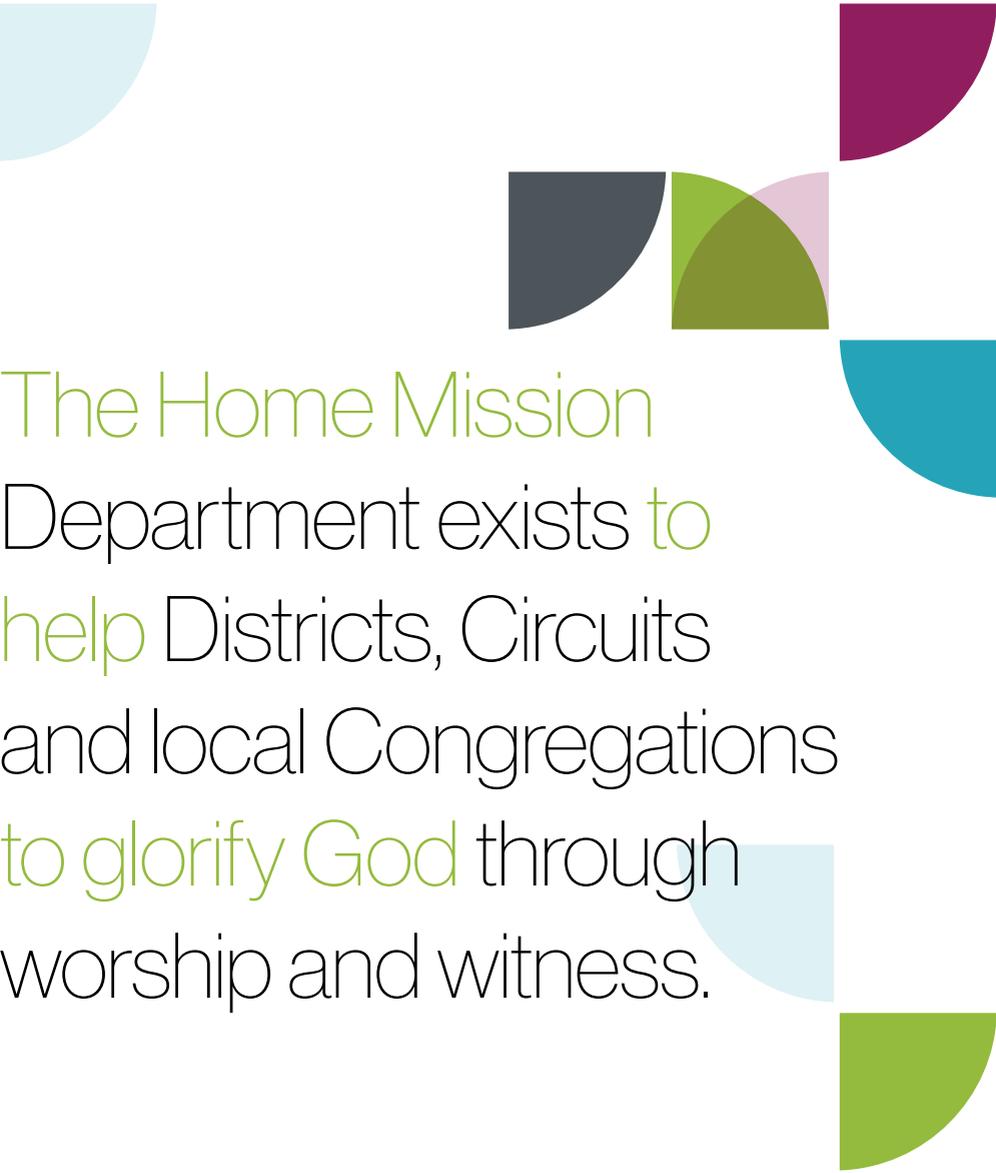




Methodist
Home
Mission
Ireland

**Choosing
Faithfulness**

Warm hearts
Tough hands
Wet Feet



The Home Mission
Department exists to
help Districts, Circuits
and local Congregations
to glorify God through
worship and witness.



God is at work in the world,
inviting all to be disciples
who live out Christian faith
in their neighbourhoods.

Will we choose to be faithful
and follow God, even if that
means putting ourselves
aside? Or will we choose
to put all our efforts into
simply surviving, even
when that means saying
"no" when God calls?

What follows are stories
of faithfulness to the God
who loves all and calls His
people out into the world.

mhm⁺



Birr Athlone and Tullamore

We may not feel confident about answering questions about Jesus, so “Why Jesus” (Nicky Gumbal of Alpha’s booklet) was preached through one Sunday in Birr, Athlone and Tullamore.

A copy was given to each person to use and, hopefully, give away to someone who really would benefit from it. There were spare copies for those who give away their own.

Rev. Irene Morrow gave some to members of Birr Historical Society after showing them around our church.

A student put up a Christian DVD of a miracle on Facebook and has been using the booklet in his attempt to lead an unchurched friend who responded to the Facebook post to the Lord.

Another young adult’s Facebook posts about answers to prayer she had received in times of trouble encouraged a close, unchurched friend abroad to try praying. To her delight her prayer was answered so she has asked for other situations to pray about! Our young adult has sent her a download of “Why Jesus?” in her own language.



Clodagh





Mission trip | Gorey

The Empire youth initiative in Gorey had their first Mission trip in 2015– to help lead a youth camp in Hungary.

This group of seven 17-19 year olds are not Methodist by background and know little of the Bible, but had responsibilities of organising games and other activities. Having already had a mission, they responded well to the worship and teaching at the camp, and since they returned home to Gorey, a new 'Wave' discipleship group has begun. Not many Irish 'non-church' young adults are interested in 'attending church', but many are open to being disciples. Just as well that's the bit that Jesus told us about!

Steven



Kids' Club | Dublin North

During June we were distributing summer kids' club fliers at a school gate. A mother took a flyer, read through it, then burst into tears...

She said that she hoped that her daughter Helen (name changed) could attend the kids' club but she didn't know if it was possible as she had just found out that, Helen, had a hole in her heart. July came and a quiet shy girl Helen arrived with her mum. She joined the other kids' and loved the week of games, songs, bible stories, craft and drama. Helen was in the 'Royal Gems' group. Each day Helen embraced it more and more. On the final day all the kids heard about the invitation into relationship which Jesus has given to us all and had opportunity to respond. As the club ended Helen and her mum were in tears. Helen's mum said that she had not seen Helen so happy for such a long time. Helen plans on attending Ripple kids' club which is run weekly from September. Ever since the club one of the teenage helpers, amongst others has been praying for Helen.

This is just some of the story...

Dave

Parent and Toddlers | Sandy Row

Trying to engage young parents and invite them into a church is a difficult task but Sandy Row Methodist Church has embraced the challenge through their new Parent and Toddler group!

After trying to run a Parent and Toddler group several years ago without success, we trusted God as we tried it once again! Running on Thursday afternoons, different from the normal morning setting of a parent and toddlers, we had great success! Parents and grandparents from all over the Sandy Row community saw this as an ideal opportunity to get out to meet other parents in the afternoon! As we run, we are meeting the needs of the local community, helping to combat social isolation, provide support and give parents confidence in mixing with others to build important friendships!

The parents have commented saying how great it is to have somewhere in the heart of the community to take the children in the afternoon between the school runs when nothing else is open for them. With increasing numbers on the roll book, we pray God will continue His good work through it!

Stuart

Urban Junction | Blackrock, Co. Dublin

Our Tuesday coffee morning had been running well for over 5 years; people were relaxed and knew the format. It would have been easy to continue on, but God was calling us to go deeper.

We suggested to the group that we'd have a small 'food for thought' time afterwards which they'd be welcome to stay for. It started slowly with only 2 or 3 staying for a slightly awkward discussion about a God question. But we kept pressing on. There are now 8 to 10 now join us each week and people are sharing freely. Some days it still feels that the barriers are just so high and the baggage carried too heavy. But we keep coming back to God's grace and know that He is slowly doing a work, we just have to be willing to step out, ask the questions and then listen.

Belinda



Yarnbombing | Mountmellick

In 2015 Mountmellick celebrated the 350th anniversary of the arrival of a Quaker community in the town. Quaker were influential in developing the textile industry making Mountmellick “the Manchester of Ireland” in the 19th century.



Early in a September morning each year, groups of people fasten tailored coverings to public railings, seats, post boxes, shop fronts, monuments and even hedgerows! These ‘Yarnbombers’ spent a year knitting and crocheting in the Methodist hall so that, for one week the town’s busy roads will announce its heritage with bright colour and humour. Now part of an international movement, the Yarnbombers also make banners for the sanctuary and leave a “Thought for the Week” on the Church message board.

Clodagh

Ploughing Championship and Balmoral Show

There were Methodist Church stands at both the Ploughing Championship in Ratheniska and at the Balmoral Show.

After many cups of tea and coffee given away and many significant conversations, Nigel, one of the people who staffed the stand in Ratheniska asks “I wonder who will fill the gap to reach the almost 300 000 people who come through the gates in 2016 with the love of Christ displayed through a mug of tea or coffee...”

Heather





Thank you for your support for the work of Methodist Home Mission in Ireland.

Pray



What's next

Continue to pray for your own church, for the churches around you and across Ireland that we would faithfully and courageously serve Jesus. Prayer Focus is available (both as a booklet and on-line at irishmethodist.org). "Pray it- Live it" is a resource to help the Church make and keep prayer a priority. You can find it at irishmethodist.org

Give



Your generosity helps the Home Mission Department to support smaller churches that are bearing significant witness, and helps and encourages new initiatives. You can give a one-off donation using the Home Mission envelope or give regularly by standing order. **Sign up to a standing order** Contact the Home Mission office for details as to how to set up a standing order.

Act



God is at work. What does a faithful response to God look like in your context?

The Methodist Home Mission Department exists to resource God's people for mission.

**More stories and resources are available online at
irishmethodist.org**

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