A PRAYER JOURNAL FOR THE METHODIST CHURCH IN IRELAND

God is our Adventure

PRAYER FOCUS 2019/2020
INTRODUCTION

We’re so pleased that you are holding this new prayer journal in your hand, because for the last 18 years this book has been a wonderful devotional resource for Methodists, both in Ireland and abroad. *Prayer Focus* helps us to see the bigger picture of Methodism beyond our own circuit. As you turn each page, you will encounter people and places that you wouldn’t normally meet or visit – some that are thousands of miles away. We are an extended family, doing God’s work in the places that he has called us to be.

The Apostle Paul coveted the prayers of the early Christians. He knew that their prayers made a tangible difference to his ministry, opening new doors of opportunity to spread the gospel, while also bringing strength and encouragement to press on. Likewise, the people in this prayer journal need and value your prayers. One of our Pioneer Mission Leaders encountered spiritual attack on many occasions and his ministry was sustained by joining his own prayers with the faithful and intentional prayers of others.

*Prayer Focus* is not just information on all aspects of the Methodist Church in Ireland and its Partners overseas, as helpful as that is for focused and informed prayer. The journal also contains appropriate prayers that can be used in private or public worship. Most of these prayers have been contributed by those well connected to each circuit, district and department and so they represent the heartfelt longings of each setting.

Can we ask you to be an advocate for *Prayer Focus*? This can be as simple as making sure there is a copy in your pulpit and spare copies in the porch. Bring it to your prayer meetings and small groups. Let people know that you use it and value it.

As the President reminds us that ‘God is our Adventure’, we trust that this prayer journal will be a companion in your adventure of faith this year.

“...and pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” (Ephesians 6: 18)

“...Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.” (Max Lucado)
I commend this year’s Prayer Focus to you with an urgent appeal for its use. Our Church is going through a huge upheaval. Your prayers are vital as we do so.

A rather cynical social commentator once wrote, “It’s life that defeats the Christian Church. She’s always been well equipped to deal with death.” We are moving away from that sad scenario as we prayerfully rediscover the adventure of living with God at the centre of our Church life and that God himself is our greatest adventure.

I pray God’s blessing upon you as you use this material. I pray God’s blessing upon your church family as you pray using this material. I pray God’s blessing upon our Connexion as we prayerfully rise to the challenges ahead of us. I pray God’s blessing upon all those we’ll pray for as the Lord leads us all forward, upward and onward.

I once had the joy of being in the presence of David Spriggs, as he advocated the need for prayer and evangelism to be at the forefront of the Church’s ministry. In Dangerous Praying he wrote: “When I see God fulfil his promises or achieve the almost impossible, it seems to me that prayer does indeed deserve to be described as a great adventure.” May God bless all your adventures with him this year, not least your adventures in prayer.

Sam

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. (1 Peter 3: 15)

During my final year at school my faith came alive. When I’d finished my A-levels, I packed a suitcase and asked God to take me somewhere to serve him. To cut a long story short, I ended up working in a Butlin’s holiday camp in Scotland.

My first week there I bumped into a man in a tweed jacket and a dog collar. He was the camp chaplain, he told me, and his job was to lead a weekly service in the little church on site in return for a free holiday. “Of course, when people come to Butlin’s the last thing they want to do is come to church or talk to anyone about God,” he said.

That was the July chaplain. A few weeks later the August chaplain arrived. He and his wife had come to faith during the 1949 Revival on the island of Lewis and the first thing he did was encourage me to start a prayer meeting for chalet maids. “When people come to Butlin’s they’re out of their normal routines;” he told me, “they’re often wanting to talk about faith.”

In 1 Peter 3: 15, the apostle encourages believers to be ready, courteously and respectfully, to answer questions about their hope in Christ. My Butlin’s experience reminds me that such questions are much more likely to be asked when we are clearly up for a chat. So, day by day, may we walk in the Spirit, expecting that opportunities to share the hope that is within us will naturally and regularly come our way.

Lynda
PRAiERY

Gracious God, we ask that the members of the General Committee would be alert to your guidance, and that they would make wise and Spirit-led decisions which encourage and equip the Church to reach outwards and serve others. May they rise to the challenges before them with hope, faith and perseverance. Give them confidence, as your people, to live and speak for you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONNEXIONAL TEAM

Its purpose is to serve the Methodist Church in Ireland by enabling, coordinating and implementing the Church’s vision for mission and discipleship, that the Church might be a growing, vibrant, faith-filled community of disciples.

The Connexional Team is made up of the President of the Conference (Sam McGuffin), the Lay Leader of the Conference (Lynda Neilands), the Secretary of Conference (Heather Morris), the President-Designate (Tom McKnight), the Lay Leader-Designate (Hazel Loney), the Director of Ministry (John Alderdice), the General Secretary of the Irish Methodist Youth and Children’s Department, (Gillian Gilmore), the Chair of the Connexional Finance Committee (Harold Baird), the Chair of the Church Development Board (Tom Clarke) and the District Superintendents (Philip Agnew, Andrew Dougherty and Stephen Skuce).

PRAiERY

Lord God, we ask that the Connexional Team would know your wisdom and inspiration in all of their work. Keep them alert to your voice. Use them, we pray, to encourage, support and challenge the whole Church. We long to see many people coming to faith in Jesus, growing in that faith as disciples, and being used by you for the transformation of the world. We ask that you would use this Team to that end. All for the glory of Jesus, Amen.

STATIONING

A 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.

That Stationing Sub-Group is made up of the President of the Conference, the Lay Leader of the Conference, the Secretary of the Conference, the President-Designate of the Conference, the District Superintendents and the Director of Ministry.

PRAiERY

God, throughout time you have led your people. We pray that all involved in stationing, circuits, ministers and the Stationing Sub-Group, would know your clear guidance. We hold before you the ministers who will move and their families, and the circuits who will experience a change of minister, that all might know your peace and expectation as you lead us forward. Be at work among us, we pray. Amen.
SOUTHERN DISTRICT

The Southern District incorporates 17 circuits and almost 40 societies, stretching over 14 counties, with a community of just over 5,000 people. This diverse district includes urban and rural societies, covering a huge geographical area.

District Superintendent: Andrew Dougherty
District Lay Leaders: Ruth Mathews, Gillie Hinds

PRAYER

Father God, we pray for the District Superintendent, District Lay Leaders and members of the District Advisory Committee, that they may bond as a team. Endue them with wisdom and courage, empowering all to serve you with strength. Help them to encourage, challenge and support the district as societies experiment in creative mission initiatives, endeavour to impact the communities in which they serve, and make disciples. Despite geographical challenges, might the District discover fresh ways of working, training and worshipping together. Protect the District Superintendent as he travels far and wide and give him insight and discernment as he meets with ministers, leaders and members, to listen, learn and respond. As we continue to adventure with God, awaken in every member of the district a spirit of prayer, that you may continue to move, and bring about a multiplication of the sheep; that your name will be glorified. Amen.

DUBLIN SOUTH CITY, COMPRISING CENTENARY, RATHGAR, DUBLIN KOREAN CHURCH AND TALLAGHT

Centenary is a city church in the centre of Dublin, seeking to ‘receive God’s love and share it with others’. Dublin Korean Church seeks to be a place of welcome for Korean and other Asian expatriates and students living in Dublin. Rathgar continues to strengthen its local ecumenical ties and to open its doors to the local community. Tallaght is a welcoming society, rich in diversity, Spirit-led, prayerfully seeking to witness God’s love to one another and to their community.

Superintendent Minister: Andrew G. Kingston
Minister: Yongnam Park

PRAYER

Father God, we pray for Andrew and Yongnam as they and their families settle into city life and seek to serve you in this newly-formed circuit. Might the diversity of the circuit enrich relationships and enable imaginative mission. Inspire the strong to continue to support the weak, to bless and be blessed. May all, by your Spirit’s prompting, support the mission programme of the circuit with personal witness, earnest prayers, and sacrificial gifts. Amen.

MOSES, an adventurer, worships God (after crossing the Red Sea) and prays at the tent of meeting

Exodus 15: 11 – “Who is like you, O Lord, majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?”
Exodus 33: 13 – “… teach me your ways, so I may know you and continue to find favour with you.”
DUBLIN CENTRAL MISSION, COMPRISING ABBEY ST, BLANCHARDSTOWN, LUCAN AND CAVAN CHURCH PLANT

A welcoming family, rich in diversity, one in Christ, prayerfully seeking to love and serve.

Superintendent Minister: Laurence Graham
Minister: Tawanda Sungai
Abbey Street Pastoral Assistant: Avril Carroll
Abbey Street Youth Worker: Conor Falls
Care of the Older Person CEO: David Reynolds
Director of Care, Mount Tabor Nursing Home: Najamol Natheiran
Director of Sheltered Housing: Caroline Casserly-Farrar
Financial Controller: Karena O’Sullivan

PRAYER

Lord God, we thank you for all the work of Dublin Central Mission. We pray for Allt an Óir, Margaretholme and Mount Tabor where over 100 older people live in comfort and security. We lift up to you the witness and ministry of our churches in Blanchardstown, Lucan and Abbey Street and we intercede also for the hundreds of people who avail of our social outreach centre in Abbey Street for addiction support groups, English classes and services to homeless people, etc. This year, we pray that you would guide the leaders of Dublin Central Mission as building works are planned. Amen.

CAVAN CHURCH PLANT

PRAYER

We thank you, God, for the infant society in Cavan which began services of worship in July 2018. We thank you for the enthusiasm of the congregation, the deep spirituality shared in the meetings, and for the two local preachers in training. We pray for a suitable space to rent for services of worship. Amen.

DUBLIN NORTH, COMPRISING SUTTON CLONTARF AND SKERRIES

A diverse church family seeking to glorify God, grow in faith and share his love with those in our communities.

Superintendent Minister: Ivor Owens
Church Development and Youth Pastor: Dave Gardener
Youth Volunteers: Carissa Smith, Amy Bergvall

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we thank you for each member of our societies, both young and old. We ask that all of us would know your guiding hand; that together we would share your love and give practical help to those who so desperately need to know that you live and that you died for all. Fill us with a real Christ-like compassion to act and help, that those around us would see Jesus and experience his love, to the glory of God. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

DUBLIN WEST (TALLAGHT)

A welcoming society seeking to serve the wider Tallaght community.

Superintendent Minister: Andrew Kingston

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your faithful followers in this society. Bless them in their fellowship together; may they walk more closely to you day by day, gaining confidence in their faith. Grant them such a sense of your presence and support that they may be emboldened to serve you and demonstrate your love to their friends and neighbours. We pray that their lives will be so Christ-like that your name will be honoured in West Dublin. Amen.

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 Chaplain, Wesley College: Nigel Mackey Youth Pastor (Part-time): Andrew Mullen Lay Pastoral Assistant (Part-time): Arun Kumar

PRAYER

We thank you, God, for the one infant and three teenagers baptised this year and for the seven young people received into membership in April. We pray for the new Mainly Music, Parent and Toddler and Alzheimer’s Café outreach groups that they will continue to grow and develop. We pray for opportunities to connect in meaningful ways with the local community, particularly with the many groups that use the premises each week. Amen.

WORLD MISSION PARTNERSHIP (WMP)

Vision: sharing Christ around the world, together.

General Secretary: Laurence Graham
Lay Treasurer: Ian Patterson
Ministerial Treasurer: Peter Murray
World Mission Officer: Tim Dunwoody
Admin. and Communications Officer: Laura Kerr

PRAYER

Father God, thank you for our world that you have created and for each person created in your image. Your creation shows us the vastness of who you are. Thank you for the hope that you have given us through your Son Jesus Christ. Thank you for the work of your Church across the globe, and for the privilege we have within the Methodist Church in Ireland to be a part of a World Mission Partnership that seeks to share that message of hope and the good news of Jesus across the world. God, we ask that you would guide the WMP staff and committee as they seek to create and maintain two-way relationships within your Church. Would you encourage us to participate in your Kingdom by giving, and by responding to seeing you at work with our partners around the world. Amen.
leaders and ministers as they lead this circuit. Bless and inspire each member as they worship you in their everyday lives and activities. May they be excited to see you using them in your mission in South-East Leinster, Amen.

URBAN JUNCTION, BLACKROCK
Superintendent Minister: Heather Morris
Leader: Simon Kilpatrick
Missional Community Leader: Belinda Briggs
Teaching Ministry: Michael Briggs
Voluntary Youth Intern: Tara Redmond

PRAYER
Loving God, we thank and praise you for the family and community from all backgrounds at Urban Junction. Thank you for the mix of ages and how they interact and care for one another. We pray that you continue to work in the lives of everyone, pushing us to learn and grow in faith alongside one another. Amen.

METHODIST WOMEN IN IRELAND
Mission Statement – “To know Christ and make him known.” There are approximately 1,900 amazing ladies meeting around this island under the banner of MWI.
All-Ireland President: Joan Strong
General Secretary: Liz MacBean
General Treasurer: Barbara Fennell
World Mission Secretary: Pat Jamison
World Federation President: Alison Judd
World Federation European Area President: Louise Wilson

PRAYER
Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for your faithfulness to MWI. We are so grateful for your wisdom and guidance as we sought to move forward within the new connexional structures. We thank you for those women who came forward to take up new positions, and seek your guidance and blessing on Joan, our new President, as she seeks to lead and share with MWI. May you enable us all “to know Christ and make him known.” We thank you that we can say that “God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9: 8. Amen.

IRISH METHODIST YOUTH AND CHILDREN’S DEPARTMENT (IMYC)
IMYC is responsible for youth and children’s work in the Methodist Church in Ireland. www.imycd.info
Team Leader: Gillian Gilmore
Youth: Lisa Best, Gemma Barclay
Children: Janette McCormick, Nicky Blair
Training and Development: Leanne Hill
Safeguarding: Amy Anderson

PRAYER
Loving God, we place into your hands a generation of young people and children connected, and not yet connected, to our church communities. Thank you that you know each one by name. We pray for those who walk with young people and children as they navigate life and faith, and, in particular, those involved in the Walk with me mentoring programme; give them wisdom as they serve young people through our local churches. Give wisdom, boldness and creativity to the staff of IMYC as they seek to support, and resource the work among young people and children, Amen.

TEAM ON MISSION (TOM)
TOM is the gap-year programme of the Methodist Church in Ireland for 18 to 25-year-olds. The mission has been, and always will be, to answer the call of Jesus – to love God and others and to make disciples, through work among young people and children across this island.

PRAYER
Loving God, we praise you for young leaders willing to live whole-heartedly for you. We bring TOM 31 before you and ask that as they serve you this year you will work in them to strengthen their faith in you and through them to impact and challenge those whom they meet to live a life of love for you. Give them safety in travel, grace in relationships they meet to live a life of love for you. Give them safety in travel, grace in relationships with one another and passion and enthusiasm to run the race ahead of them, for your glory. Amen.

JEHOSHAPHAT prays in time of trouble
2 Chronicles 20: 6 – “O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not the God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you… we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.”
PROPERTY BOARD
The Property Board offers advice and guidance in the planning of property-related issues. It has a responsibility to protect the interests of circuits and the Connexion through scrutinising and assessing plans and proposals.
Chair: Keith Irvine
Secretary: John Beacom
Lay Treasurer: Paul Cummings
Ministerial Treasurer: Andrew Kingston

PRAYER
Lord, may all with responsibility for property be diligent stewards of the resources you have placed into our care. We thank you for those who care for and manage our properties. We pray for the Estates Manager as he settles into the role. We pray for the new Executive members as they take up their responsibilities. Help us to have in our hearts that our buildings are a means to mission, worship and service. Amen.

METHODOLOGICAL HOME MISSION
The Home Mission Department exists to help districts, circuits and local societies to glorify God in every aspect of their lives.
General Secretary and Ministerial Treasurer: Mark Forsyth
Lay Treasurer: Simon Kilpatrick
Office Administrator: Linda McGuffin
Project Worker: Kathryn Harte

PRAYER
Lord, we thank you for the work of the Home Mission Department as it supports the whole Church in mission. We pray for your blessing on Mark and Simon as they take on new roles, that they might be blessed with inspiration, enthusiasm and discernment. What we pray for them we pray for the whole Connexion, that as we step into God’s great adventure we all might know your inspiration, be enthusiastic disciples, and might have courage to follow you wherever you lead us. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

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: 18 October 2019
Prisons Week NI: 13-19 October 2019
See www.prisonweek.org

PRAYER
God of justice and grace, we pray for our healthcare and prison systems and all who work in them. We uphold those who search for hope and healing, that they may find the comfort and peace of the Saviour. We pray that all who face the challenges of change may find the grace and enduring love of Jesus. Bless the various chaplaincy ministries, in the knowledge that what is done for others is done for you. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

THE METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS (MCCA)
MCCA is made up of eight districts that cover over 25 countries in the Caribbean and mainland Latin America, serving through at least seven languages. Methodism has been in the Caribbean for 259 years. MCCA includes islands hit in recent years by hurricanes Matthew, Irma and Maria.

PRAYER
Father, thank you for the MCCA. We thank you for the growth of the Church in the Haiti District and the strength and faith of MCCA members in the region. We pray that you would continue to strengthen the work of the MCCA in reaching out to local communities, especially to young people who face the challenges of high rates of unemployment, teenage pregnancies and HIV/AIDS. Help MCCA to reach out to disaffected youth in love, that they will continue to offer the hope of Christ as Saviour, Redeemer and Friend. God, help MCCA to wisely develop its hurricane-preparedness procedures. Continue to use MCCA for your Kingdom purposes and the expansion of the gospel of Christ in the region. Amen.

OTHER SERVING MISSION PARTNERS
Although there is particular interest in Methodist Mission Partners from Ireland, there are many others who go out from the joint mission partner programme of the Methodist Churches in Britain and Ireland.

PRAYER
Father God, thank you for all those who are serving you in various parts of the world as Mission Partners with the Methodist Churches in Britain and Ireland. Thank you, God, for their faithfulness and witness, wherever you have placed them. We ask, Father, that you continue to walk with them as they serve you, so that they may know your presence at all times. We pray particularly for the Lacey family serving in Colombia. Be with Chris and Vera in their work and pour your blessing upon them and their daughters. Amen.
chaplains. May those who minister in these roles sense your life, your light, your hope and your purpose amongst those with whom they live and work. We pray for all involved in caring for, educating, and forming the lives of students: may they know strength and patience, wisdom and inspiration. Finally, we pray for the students of this land, that they would know your grace and peace. Amen.

MINISTRY OF HEALING COMMITTEE
The Committee exists to promote and facilitate the ministry of healing across the Connexion.
Chair: Colin Duncan
Secretary: Chris Mathison

PRAYER
We acknowledge before you, heavenly Father, that Jesus is the healer and our healing ministry is his work. We ask for the healing of all who are broken and sick, that Jesus may bind wounds and make whole bodies, minds and spirits. We pray for all who are called to, and engage with, this ministry in its various aspects. Amen.

EAST JERUSALEM YMCA (EJ-YMCA)
EJ-YMCA works amongst those with disabilities, offering vocational training, personal development and advocating for social change.

PRAYER
God of love, justice and forgiveness, open our eyes, minds and hearts to Palestine and Israel; places that must ache your merciful heart. Lord our comforter, we ask you to keep the families of detained children in your precious care; give them strength, comfort and the patience needed. Healing and loving God, we put in your hands those children affected by the violence. Thank you for the East Jerusalem YMCA staff who offer counselling to the children; we pray for strength and resilience for them. We ask you, God of light and love, to help us to seek justice for all who love mercy and walk humbly with you, Lord. Amen.

KILKENNY AND CARLOW
Two churches seeking to serve and share God with the wider community.
Superintendent Minister: Paul Maxwell

PRAYER
Loving Father, we thank you for the ongoing ministry and mission in Kilkenny and Carlow. We thank you for the faithful people who worship in the churches and for the new families who have joined in recent years. We thank you for the Food Pantry in Carlow and for the connection with Carlow Women’s Aid. Help the members of the circuit as they seek to be salt and light in their communities. Amen.
NORTH TIPPERARY, COMPRISING ROSCREA, CLOUGHJORDAN, BORRISOKANE AND SHINRONE

Our hope is to help others in the community connect with Christ as we support one another with love and grace. Through this, our discipleship is strengthened, and it makes the world a better place.

Superintendent Minister: Steven Foster

Retired Minister Assisting: Tom Kingston

PRAYER
Lord of all life, we thank you for journeying with us, as we have reached out to our Christian neighbours, and formed a genuinely ecumenical Christian community of all denominations, stepping forward together in your name. As we look to the challenges of the future under our new superintendent, may we know and feel your presence, and your guiding hand, in all we do for the extension of your Kingdom in our circuit. Amen.

PORTLAOISE, COMPRISING PORTLAOISE, ATHY, MOUNTMELLICK AND BALLYHUPAHAUN

To connect people to Jesus Christ. Letting us grow closer to the Lord Jesus Christ, and to one another in unity. Knowing families are valued and settled in the church. Encouraging children and youth at JAM and CHAOS.

Superintendent Minister: Clodagh Yambsu

Retired Minister Assisting: Des Bain

PRAYER
Abba Father, thank you that your blessings never end. Rain your blessings on members and families in this circuit. Give them hope whatever they face. Bless the JAM and CHAOS, Lord, as they continue to grow. Help them to keep the faith and let them know that faith will keep each of them. Amen.

MISSION PARTNERS (WMP)
The Rev. Dr Barry and Mrs Gillian Sloan.

Since January 2019 Barry is serving in two roles: as Director of Evangelism at national level in the United Methodist Church of Germany, and as Europe Partnership Co-ordinator of the Methodist Church in Britain. Gillian (Full-time) and Barry (Part-time) are involved in “INSPIRE”, an interdenominational fresh expression of Church in Chemnitz.

PRAYER
Loving God, giver of life and renewer of hearts, we ask you to bring to fruition the seeds that are sown into hearts and lives through the ministry of INSPIRE, Chemnitz. Continue to lay your hand of blessing on Gillian and Barry and their efforts to share the gospel of your life-changing love. Take their strengths, and their weaknesses, and turn them into your opportunities for wonder, renewal, reconciliation and rebirth.

We ask also that you guide and bless Barry in his ministry in the wider European context. In Christ’s name and for his glory. Amen.

DAVID’s prayer of thanksgiving when the people gave willingly for the building of the temple
1 Chronicles 29: 10, 11 – “Praise be to you, O Lord, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the Kingdom, you are exalted as head over all... now, our God, we give you thanks and praise your glorious name.”

NEHEMIAH seeks God in exile
Nehemiah 1: 5, 6 – “O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his command, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel.”
BIRR, ATHLONE AND TULLAMORE
Three small Midlands churches, building bridges into their communities.

Superintendent Minister: Clodagh Yambasu
Probationer Minister (Non-Stipendiary): Nigel Gill
Retired Minister Assisting: Irene Morrow

PRAYER
Thank you, Lord God, for encouraging Birr, Athlone and Tullamore by allowing them to continue as a circuit and by unexpected financial blessings. Thank you that the future is bright. Please lead and direct the new minister and his family and the circuit in every part of their lives. May everyone deepen their experience of you as their heavenly Father, know you as Lord and Saviour, be empowered by the Holy Spirit and impact the lives of all they meet. Amen.

GALWAY AND BALLINASLOE (UNITED METHODIST AND PRESBYTERIAN)
The Lord God is at work in Galway! We give thanks to our Lord for his continued presence with us.

 Superintendent Minister: Steven Foster
Minister: Helen Freeburn (Presbyterian)

PRAYER
Our Father, we pray for continued growth in faith, growth in our relationships one with another and growth in outreach; for our new Church Council members, and all in leadership; and for new ministries like Men’s Breakfast and our monthly prayer gathering. We ask your blessing on the development of small groups; on our Sunday School, Ignite Youth Group, student work and new initiatives this Summer. We seek your help and guidance in solving some problems with the church building and planning a building project. Amen.

CORK SOUTH AND KERRY, COMPRISING CORK, YOUGHAL, KINSALE, KILLARNEY, KENMARE AND MILLSTREET
A large circuit, geographically, with six churches and fellowship groups in Castleisland, Gneeveguilla and Cahir.

 Superintendent Minister: Karen Spence
Minister: Andrew Robinson
Retired Minister Assisting: Geraldine Gracie
Manager Ardfallen Grove Sheltered Housing Manager (Part-time): Cathy Murray
Lay Assistant (Youghal): Ross Barrett

PRAYER
Loving God, we thank you for the vibrancy, life and witness within the churches on this circuit and for a willingness to respond to your Holy Spirit as you lead and guide. May they continue to be faithful stewards of the resources you have entrusted to them. May they seek to share the Good News of Jesus within their communities. Amen.

WDR PARTNER
DABANE WATER WORKSHOPS, ZIMBABWE
In uncertain circumstances, Dabane continues to help local people access clean water and develop livelihoods.

PRAYER
Heavenly Father, we pray for the work of Dabane in Zimbabwe, for peace at the national level and for a favourable operating environment. May the staff remain committed and dedicated as they contend with the unstable economic situation. Bless the families who support them and grant both the national and organisational leaders wisdom to govern with responsibility. Touch the hearts of our friends and partners and guide Dabane to support rural communities in ways that will address the problems of impending drought. Amen.

FAITH AND ORDER COMMITTEE
The Faith and Order Committee gives consideration to the Church’s view on various issues related to our theological understanding, worship and Church order.

 Joint Chairs: Sam McGuffin, Lynda Neilands
Convener: David Turtle

PRAYER
Lord, in the wilderness you led your people with pillars of cloud and fire. As the Faith and Order Committee continue their work, by your mighty Spirit lead and guide them as they consider difficult matters. Give the collective wisdom, insight and discernment needed for the tasks the committee is dealing with and use its members to assist our Church to walk in your ways of grace and truth. Amen.

ONE MISSION
Several departments and organisations within the Methodist Church in Ireland who are explicitly concerned with mission have covenanted to work together. The “One Mission” team are organising “ALL IN 2019” to be held on 16 November.

PRAYER
Heavenly Father, we thank you for the various departments in our Church who work together as “One Mission”. We praise you for opportunities to collaborate, to learn from and encourage one another in work and ministry. God, may you continue to inspire our Church and the departments so that we may be a truer reflection of you. Amen.

SAMUEL responds to God’s call in the night
1 Samuel 3: 10 – “Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.”
LIMERICK (CHRIST CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN AND METHODIST)
Including the Central Building Community Project. Connecting Community Life.
Superintendent Minister: Andrew Dougherty
Mission Worker: Sean Roys
CB Art Gallery/Coffee Dock Manager: Sara Cross
PRAYER
God of life, we give thanks for your creative spirit of change and renewal. Help us to be fully open to you and more willing to follow where you lead. As we continue to learn that Christ can overcome our fears and worries with love and grow in us a habit of courage, strength and confidence, help us to see all the opportunities that you offer and the generous gifts you send. Empower us with open hearts and curious minds. God of life, help us to live in your liberating Spirit of solidarity and deep, refreshing peace. Amen.

WEST CORK, COMPRISING BANDON, BALLINEEN, CLONAKILTY, DRIMOLEAGUE AND SKIBBEREEN
Introducing people to Jesus and making disciples through the church.
Superintendent Minister: Greg Alexander
Minister: Denis Maguire
PRAYER
Heavenly Father, we give thanks for growth, both in numbers and in spiritual life. We pray for the ministry of each church on the circuit in reaching out to the wider community with the good news of Jesus. We especially pray for the Lay Witness Weekend in Bandon in October. May every member of the circuit grow closer to Jesus. Amen.

THE METHODIST CHURCH GHANA
The Methodist Church Ghana (MCG) has 20 dioceses/districts with a Christian community of 850,000. The MCG has had a fruitful partnership with MCI for many years through the work of Mission Partners and support for many projects in Ghana. The Presiding Bishop is The Most Rev. Dr Paul Kwabena Boafo and the Lay President is Mr Bernard Clement Kwesi Botwe.
PRAYER
Heavenly Father, we thank you for The Methodist Church Ghana and the work of Christian ministry. We bless your name for the fellowship among the various dioceses and the social intervention in the rural communities. Grant the leadership of the Church the grace to continue in her teaching ministry toward effective Christian discipleship. Holy Spirit, continue to revive your work among the membership; may they be focused on prayer, on evangelism and on love of one another. May the members live up to their vision of being a vibrant and Spirit-filled Church for the holistic transformation of society. May all through these ministries demonstrate Christian faith and love, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

WDR PARTNER
WENCHI METHODIST HOSPITAL, GHANA
The hospital continues to serve a population of more than 190,000 in central Ghana. It is a growing institution which witnesses to God’s love through the practical care of its clients, staff and partners.
PRAYER
Loving God, we give thanks for Wenchi Methodist Hospital and its recent expansion to include a new Urology Ward and a Physiotherapy Block. We praise you for the opportunities given to train three medical officers to specialize in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, General Surgery and Orthopaedics. May each member of staff be a blessing to every patient they treat. Lord God, we pray for Bernard (Administrator) as he mentors the person who will succeed him; may the succession be a smooth transition. Pour out your blessing on Wenchi that it may continue to be a hospital where people are treated with respect, kindness and love. Amen.
The North-Western District is comprised of 25 circuits and has 27 ministers. The coming together of our district enables us to focus once more on what is most important – sharing the good news and enabling many to become followers of Jesus Christ. Covering a large area of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and including all of the border, our district is impacted by the uncertainties of the outworking of Brexit. In rural, village, town and city congregations, we show and share the love of God. In some places we see wonderful growth, in other places we wonder if our best days are in the past.

**PRAYER**

Our Father, we pray that we may be the friends of all and the enemies of none; that we might have the courage to share the good news with all; that we might be people of hope and expectation; and that we may be blessed to experience many more responding to the gospel. We praise you for all that is past and trust you for all that's to come. Amen.

**ISAIASAH’S prayer of response to God’s call**

Isaiah 6: 8 – “Here am I. Send me!”

**PRAYER FOCUS**

**DAY 10**

**LISBELLAW, MAGUIRESBRIDGE AND TEMPO**

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

Superintendent Minister: Louise McKee

**PRAYER**

Living God, we give you thanks and praise for the three churches within this circuit. We ask that you empower and inspire their congregations and their surrounding communities through the power of the Holy Spirit. Help them, as they continue to explore the gifts you have given them, to use them freely to serve you and others. Create within them a passion for your Word, and a thirst for your holy presence, so that their lives, words and actions may carry the scent of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

Wanting to grow closer to God, to one another in unity and closer to those beyond our churches, through more consistent prayer and more time given to one another.

Superintendent Minister: Eleanor Hayden

Probationer Minister: Daphne Hanna

Lay Pastoral Assistant (Part-time): Ian Graham

**PRAYER**

Faithful God, we give you praise and thanks for your consistent, enduring grace to your servants on the Upper Erne Circuit. Now in this time of change, we pray that you would clearly lead and encourage all involved in leadership on the circuit. We particularly pray for our new minister Daphne; may she quickly feel at home. May she enjoy the blessing of “open doors” to both friendship and ministry. Amen.

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

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

Superintendent Minister: Lorna Dreaning

Minister: Sam Livingstone

**PRAYER**

Father, we thank you for the ongoing work on the Enniskillen circuit. We praise you for our leaders and the vision they have; may you give us a broader vision for our circuit. Help us to look beyond the church walls and continue to give us opportunities to reach into the community with the message you have put in our hearts. May we be faithful in our work for you and we ask that you would send the help we need to enable us to do more for you. We ask for your blessing on our youth and Sunday School and for the changes coming to the circuit. May your will and work be done in your way and to your glory. Amen.

**SPRINGFIELD AND CHURCH HILL WITH DERRYGONNELLY**

We seek to follow God wherever he leads us; sharing his love on this journey as we travel it together.

Superintendent Minister: Sam Livingstone

Lay Pastoral assistant: Roy Dreaning

**PRAYER**

Our loving heavenly Father, we thank you for our continued love. We thank you for the three churches on this circuit. Open the eyes of our hearts, Lord, to what you have called each of us to do. Fill us with your Holy Spirit fire that we may be inspired and encouraged to go out and tell others about your wonderful saving grace and love for us. In the most wonderful name of Jesus we pray. Amen.
FIVEMILETOWN, COMPRISING FIVEMILETOWN, CLABBY AND CREEGH

A three-church circuit who seek to serve God by showing his love to others, to share his good news in all that we do, in reaching out and connecting with the communities around us.

Superintendent Minister: George Bowes

**PETTIGO AND IRVINESTOWN**

Seeking to share the Good News of Jesus Christ to bring hope, encourage personal faith and use their gifts to build up the ministry of the Church and serve the community.

Superintendent Minister: Janet Rossall

**PRAYER**

Loving God, we pray for the congregations in this circuit and for the circuit leadership. We ask that, through our worship and prayer, we may seek to know your vision for us. Fill them with a deep vision for the life of your Kingdom. May there be continued blessing on the one community along both banks of the Termon River and enable Pettigo Methodist Church to live out its mission at home as well as abroad. Bring renewal within the membership of Irvinestown Methodist Church. May the church use its resources and opportunities well in your mission. Amen.

**BALLINMALLARD AND TRILICK**

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

**PRAYER**

We thank you, Jesus, for your grace, protection and loving care for our large circuit, spanning five counties. Help us to always trust and rely on you, and you alone, for direction, guidance and strength. Thank you for the heritage of ministry on our circuit, and help us, Lord, to grow in grace and to join you in your mission. May we share your love and gospel in word and deed to the society around us, to the neighbour, the lonely, the hurting, the stranger and those in need. Amen.

**NORTH CONNACHT AND LONGFORD, COMPRISING SLIGO, MANORHAMILTON, COLLONEY, BALLINA, LONGFORD, DRUMSHANBO AND BOYLE**

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

Superintendent Minister: Jeremy Nicoll

Minister: Christiaan Snell (Church of Ireland Minister), (Part-time)

**PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, we ask your guiding hand upon our new Youth and Children’s Leader, Naomi, as she encourages our young people to seek and follow Christ. Give her wisdom and discernment as she leads them. We pray that you will guide and empower our leaders and Ballinamallard and Trillick congregations as we continue to step out in faith with our outreach events. Help us to reflect the true nature of Christ to our community, giving unconditional love to others as God has commanded. Amen.

**PHAKAMISA, SOUTH AFRICA**

Phakamisa serves local impoverished communities through pre-school education as well as offering support for caregivers of orphans and those affected by, and infected with, HIV/AIDS.

**PRAYER**

God, we pray for the mission work that you have entrusted to Phakamisa. Bless the staff who are called to serve in this mission. Grant the leadership at Phakamisa wisdom and passion in doing your work. We pray for the health of the local people with whom they work; the care-givers and the children. God, we know and believe that if you are with us nothing is impossible. Dear God, we need your breakthrough to meet the challenges with which the organisation is faced. We ask all this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Zola Masikawe teaches healthy cooking options in Phakamisa.
PRAYER

THE BOARD OF MINISTRY, LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Conference agreed that a new Board of Ministry, Learning and Development would be piloted. This Board will incorporate the work of many boards and committees focused on Ministry, ordained and lay, with the aim of inspiring and promoting the ministry of the whole Church. This will include oversight for Theological Education, Training and Development.

Board Chair: David Best
Director of Ministry: John Alderdice
Principal: Janet Unsworth
Learning and Development Officer: Grace McGurk
Operations Administrator: James McClure
First Year Students: Leah McKibben, Peter Morris, Philip Patterson
Returning Students: Susan Gallagher, Tanita Lee

PRAYER

Lord, you call all your followers to serve your Kingdom mission in the Church and in the world. We give thanks for the opportunities to grow and learn together, to develop the gifts you have given, and to creatively explore new ways of sharing your good news. We pray for those engaged in Ordained Ministry Formation and for all the various courses being run from Edgehill House. We ask for wisdom for those who lead, teach and resource the college and the ministerial training programme. We give thanks, too, for the changes at Edgehill bringing all the Connexional departments on to the one site, enabling greater collaboration to serve God’s mission in this world. Amen.

LOCAL PREACHERS

Local Preachers are men and women who have sensed God’s call, trained and been accredited to preach God’s Word and lead his people in worship. They are an intrinsic part of the life and mission of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

We are grateful to God for all our Local Preachers, in training, active and retired; women and men who have responded to his call and trained for service, both locally and connexionally. We continue to value our relationship with the Edgehill College training staff and appreciate their contribution to the training of Local Preachers. Local Preachers continue to demonstrate competence, call and character as they serve the Methodist Church in Ireland.

Ministerial Secretary: Mervyn G. Ewing
Lay Secretary: Tom Wilson

PRAYER

We thank you, Father, for those women and men whom you have called to the office of Local Preacher, who give willingly of time and talents to serve. Bless them as they prepare and lead worship. Empower them to proclaim boldly the loving gospel of forgiveness, encouraging your people to be courageous in mission. Assure them of your presence in their own lives and bless those who support them. In grace, call others to this service. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

SABBATICAL COMMITTEE

Sabbaticals are a gift from the Church to its ministers. They enable ministers to receive space and time for renewal for themselves and for their ministry.

PRAYER

We pray for all who are preparing for and taking sabbaticals during this Connexional year; that they may rest in you, be renewed in spirit and re-energised for ministry. Lord, guide and direct the Sabbatical Planning Groups; we pray for all who cover for the ministers’ absence, that they may rejoice in the opportunity to serve you. Amen.

WDR PARTNER

CHURCH LAND PROGRAMME, SOUTH AFRICA (CLP)

CLP works to affirm, learn from and journey with those who are systematically excluded and impoverished in their struggles related to land and justice.

PRAYER

God of life and hope, we thank you, Lord Jesus, for the Church Land Programme and for their resilience in the fight for justice and humanity. Thank you for the way they guide communities through housing struggles, with dignity and wisdom. God, may you continue to guide CLP as they work to empower, educate and support their community in the fight against injustice. Thank you for Graham Philpott and the staff team; may you bless and keep them safe as they journey from community to community. Holy Spirit, continue to guide and prompt them in their work. In your name. Amen.

PRAYER FOCUS

DAY 12

Young adults from MCI on retreat with peers from CLP in South Africa.

Probationers with Janet Unsworth and John Alderdice.

Mervyn Ewing.
METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Preserving the past to inform the present and shape the future.
President: Ian Henderson
Vice-President: Norman Taggart
Secretary: Jennifer Stutt
Treasurers: Derek and Trudy Reid
Archivist and Editor: Robin Roddie

PRAYER
Heavenly Father, you are Lord of the past: thank you for those who have provided an inheritance of faith. May that faith be personal and deepen within us through the years. You are Lord of the present: may we know your presence and peace in our lives each day. You are Lord of the future: so, wherever we may go or be led, you are there before us and are with us as we journey on. Amen.

PRAYER FOCUS
DAY
13

METHODIST RESIDENTIAL AND NURSING HOMES
Eastwell, Margaretholme, Kirk House, Ailt an Óir, Mount Tabor, Embury Close and Ardfallen Grove all 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.

PRAYER
Our heavenly Father, we pray for the residents and staff in the Methodist Nursing and Residential Homes. We are grateful for the support the staff bring in a caring and professional way. We ask that in times of difficulty you would give both staff and residents your courage, in times of despair bring your strength and in times of loneliness may they know your presence. We praise you for all that is past and we trust you for all that is to come. Amen.

METHODIST CHILD CARE SOCIETY
Ministerial Secretary and Treasurer: David Sweeney
Lay Treasurer: Margaret Copeland

PRAYER
Dear Lord Jesus, you showed great compassion and care towards those who were needy. Help us, who have been blessed with plenty, to generously support the Society as it helps those families who have very little. We pray that you will grant wisdom to Dave and Margaret regarding the finances of the Society and decisions about payments to families. May those who receive help know your love and your blessing. Amen.

THE METHODIST CHURCH TOGO
The Methodist Church in Togo, West Africa, is a relatively small but vibrant part of the Christian community in that country.

PRAYER
Heavenly Father, we pray for those in leadership roles in the Methodist Church in Togo, that they will be responsive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, as they undertake an extensive review of the work and mission of the Church. May there be a willingness to seek to advance the gospel by all possible means and to introduce change where that is necessary. Amen.

THE PHILIPPINES CENTRAL CONFERENCE
The United Methodist Church Philippines Central Conference is part of the United Methodist Church Connexion worldwide. The Church is committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

PRAYER
O loving God, we lift before your throne of grace the Philippines, the President of this Republic, and all those into whose hands the responsibility of governance is entrusted. Incline their hearts to your wisdom that they may rule with justice; may their actions unite their country. May we all be aware of your compassion, O God, which calms our troubled hearts and our struggling brothers and sisters in the Philippines. O God, we ask that you will listen to us and forgive us and heal broken lands. May we dare to hope and persevere in faith! In your most holy name and presence. Amen.

DAVID seeks forgiveness
Psalm 51: 1, 2 – “Have mercy on me O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgression. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.”
Psalm 51: 10-12 – “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.”

Alice Cambridge (1762-1829), preacher and evangelist, who was endorsed in her role as preacher in 1791 by John Wesley but subsequently excluded from membership by the Irish Conference for doing so. She was one of very few females who preached to both sexes in early nineteenth-century Ireland.
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

POLAND

The Methodist Church in Poland comprises 50 congregations served by 25 pastors. The Church is growing overall and there are some new congregations but also a number of older congregations which are somewhat static.

PRAYER

Father God, we thank you for the pioneering work of those who planted the Methodist Church in Poland in the 1920s. We pray now for the faithful members and leaders who stand on their shoulders. We pray for new congregations recently planted and reaching out while we also ask that you would help some of the longer-established congregations to discern your guidance as they look for fresh ways of connecting with new people. Amen.

THE METHODIST CHURCH ZIMBABWE

The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe has eight districts with a total membership of about 130,000. The Presiding Bishop is the Rev. Dr Solomon Zwana, with Mr Brown Sanyauke as the Lay President.

PRAYER

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the mission of The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe over the past 128 years. Over these years, we thank you for the Methodist Church’s contribution in the education sector and, also, in the spiritual life of the nation. We pray that the Methodist Church and the other Christian denominations will take a leading role in praying for peace and stability, in light of the prevailing political tension in the country. Amen.

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.

Co-Chairs: Bishop Alan Abernethy and the Rev. Dr Heather Morris (Bishop Michael Burrows is Acting Co-Chair while Bishop Abernethy is on sick leave).

PRAYER

Loving God, as we journey together in our covenant relationship, we pray that your Holy Spirit will enable us to learn and grow together in a spirit of unity and mission. In all things, may we seek first your Kingdom. Amen.

MINISTERS WHO ARE UNDERTAKING SPECIALIST WORK

Derek Johnston, who serves as Lead Chaplain with Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

Gary Mason, who works with “Rethinking Conflict”.

Phil Meadows, who is Director of the Inspire Movement.

John Wonnacott, who serves as the Specialist Palliative Care Chaplain in the Macmillan Unit, Antrim Area Hospital.

MINISTERS WITHOUT PASTORAL CHARGE

Shirley Krakowski, David Rock

MINISTERS WHO HAVE PERMISSION TO SERVE WITH OTHER CONFERENCES

Methodist Church in Britain:

Mark Liddicoat, William Mullally, John Purdy

RETIRED MINISTERS AND MINISTERS’ WIDOWS

A full list of retired ministers and widows may be found in the Minutes of Conference.

Chairperson: Ken Wilson

Secretary: Ken Lindsay

PRAYER

Lord, we thank you for the fellowship shared in the monthly meetings of the retired ministers and their spouses. Thank you for all those who come to address the meetings and stimulate thinking. Thank you for the churches and ministers who so generously host the group. Some are prevented by distance or infirmity from sharing in the meetings. Others, while retired in name, are still too “active” to devote time to gather. Many who, for various reasons, cannot attend, faithfully send their apologies each month, and they are remembered as the group meets. Thank you, Lord, for this vital, continuing fellowship. Amen.

PRAYER FOCUS

DAY 14

Bishnu Maya Bk is a member of one of Kopila’s self-help groups.

WDR PARTNER

KOPILA-NEPAL

Working with Kopila-Nepal is WDR’s longest continuous partnership. They work with single mothers of Dalit and unscheduled castes, some of the most discriminated-against people in the world.

PRAYER

Father, your love is offered to all, irrespective of social or economic status. Forgive us when we exclude, judge and discriminate. Thank you for Bina and her team as they challenge social exclusion in Nepal. May you bless their efforts to right wrongs as they come alongside women in desperate situations. May there be hope, yes, but also tangible change. We pray for the women’s small business initiatives, their education and for the organisation’s efforts in advocacy with local authorities. May justice prevail. Amen.

The DISCIPLES ask for help

Luke 11: 1 “Lord, teach us to pray.”
Superintendent Minister: Richard Johnston
Minister: Alison Gallagher
Deacon: Marlene Skuce
Pioneer Mission Leaders: Paul Gallucci, Paula Gallucci
Retired Ministers Assisting: Noel Fallows, Geoff Hewitt
Mission Director: Liam Milligan

PRAYER
God of new beginnings, we offer joyful thanks to you for all that is past, and we look to you for all that is to come. May we live each day in your presence; teach us to value all the good times and help us to cope when we have problems. Show us all how to care better for one another and let the beauty of Christ touch us, so that each day we may reflect his perfect love. Amen.

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
Probationer Minister: Marina Hassard

PRAYER
Heavenly Father, we thank you that you are a God who continues to bless and guide your people. We pray for a boldness to step out in faith so that we would be a circuit that is guided by your Holy Spirit in the work to which you have called us. Help us to be a church that reflects the love of Christ in all that we say and do. Guide and direct each of our churches on this circuit as we seek to share the gospel with those in our communities. Amen.

THE METHODIST CHURCH KENYA
The Methodist Church, Kenya, which was founded in 1862, has 13 synods (districts) with a total Christian community of almost 800,000, with Uganda, Tanzania, D.R. Congo and Southern Sudan as Mission Churches under the Kenyan Conference. The Presiding Bishop of the Church is the Rev. Joseph Ntombura Mwaine and the Conference Secretary is the Rev. Michael Benjamin Simba.

PRAYER
Father, we praise and thank you for new mission frontiers in the north of Kenya and other countries; for the continued impact on society as the Methodist Church Kenya partners with other Christians to fulfil the mandate to go out and make disciples for Christ. We thank you, Lord, for the vision for evangelism and social work in and beyond the borders of Kenya. Bless Kenya as a nation; bring peace and security. We pray for continued renewal by the power of your Holy Spirit. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

THE METHODIST CHURCH OF INDIA
The Churches of South India, now in its eighth decade of existence, and North India reach out to the most vulnerable and underprivileged, such as the lowest caste Dalit community. They seek to become agents of transformation, truth and justice in a pluralistic society and a sometimes hostile environment.

PRAYER
We give thanks for the joyful witness of the Church of North India and the Church of South India, both united churches proclaiming the love of God in a unified and integrated way. We ask your blessing on the 2017-20 Triennium of Evangelism declared by the Church of North India and the Gospel Conventions that will take place in each diocese during this time. We echo the prayer of the Church of South India, “May she be given grace to be a real MITHRA (friend) to understand the beauty and significance of the small, frail and vulnerable, and be a movement of protest and resistance that gives DISHA (a new direction) for those disabled, excluded, and condemned to the margins.” Amen.

North West Methodist Mission.

WDR PARTNER
CHRISTIAN AID IRELAND
Through WDR, MCI partners with Christian Aid Ireland to co-fund two partners; the Church Land Programme (South Africa) and Soluciones Practicas (Bolivia).

PRAYER
God of reconciliation and grace, you promise us a world where all is new, where love is born when hope is gone, where broken relationships are restored to wholeness. May we live as people who know your story of love, and may we have the vision to imagine what could be possible if we dared to live this story. God of abundant life, may we be witnesses of love, hope and peace, and co-creators of your life in the world. Amen.
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.
Superintendent Minister: Eleanor Hayden
Lay Pastoral Assistant: Gareth Hayden
Pastoral Visitor: Derek Gillespie
PRAYER
Almighty and loving God, through your
grace you have welcomed us into your
family and united us in Christ. We rejoice
in the community to which we belong and,
above all, for the fellowship here in which
we can work out our membership through
words and concrete actions. Help us, we
pray, through the love and service we offer
to one another and the world, to show what
our membership means. Help us to discover
new ways in which we can make known
your love. Teach us that we belong together,
though Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
DONEGAL, BALLINTRA AND INVER
A three-church circuit that promotes the
message of Christ’s love to young and old
and seeks to do so in worship, through
fellowship and practical help.
Superintendent Minister: John Montgomery
Retired Minister Assisting: Ian Henderson
PRAYER
Father God, thank you for your faithfulness
to us as a circuit over the past year. Your
love to us is steadfast and unchanging. Help
us, Lord, to rest in that love, knowing that
you are in charge. We pray that we would
take everything to you in prayer. May your
face continue to shine on us and on those
with whom we come into contact. Amen.
DUNKINEELY AND ARDARA
Two churches in South West Donegal who
follow Christ’s example of prayer and
service, reaching out to all ages.
Superintendent Minister: John Montgomery
Probationer Minister: Des Davis
PRAYER
Father, we thank you for your faithfulness
to us as a circuit over the past year. Your
love to us is steadfast and unchanging. Help
us, Lord, to rest in that love, knowing that
you are in charge. We pray that we would
take everything to you in prayer. May your
face continue to shine on us and on those
with whom we come into contact. Amen.
PORTADOWN, COMPRISING THOMAS
STREET, EDENDERRY MEMORIAL,
EPWORTH, MAHON, BATTLEHILL AND
DERRY ANVILLE
The Portadown circuit consists of three
churches in Portadown and three in the
surrounding area, each one reaching out
to its community.
Superintendent Minister: Alan Wardlow
Ministers: Sharon Connor,
Darrin Thompson
PRAYER
Thank you, loving God, for the life and
witness of the Portadown Circuit; for the
enthusiasm and love for you evidenced
in church activities and community
engagement. We pray for your blessing
on each of the societies on the circuit, that
their life might speak of your love. Lord, we
pray that through your Holy Spirit you will
renew and revive them. Kindle in them the
fire of your love. In Jesus’ name. Amen.
DISTRICTS IN THE CONNEXION

SOUTHERN DISTRICT
Dublin South City, (Centenary, Leeson Park, Dublin Korean Church and Rathgar)
Dublin Central Mission (Abbey Street)
Dublin North
Dublin West (Tallaght)
Dublin South (Dundrum)
Dublin (Sandymount Christ Church – United Presbyterian and Methodist)
South East Leinster
Kilkenny and Carlow

NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT
Enniskillen
Springfield and Church Hill
Lisbellaw, Maguiresbridge and Tempo
Upper Erne
Fivemiletown
Pettigo and Irvinestown
Ballinamallard and Trillick
North Connacht and Longford
Londonerry, Inishowen, Limavady and Strabane
Castlederg
Omagh and Fintona
Donegal, Ballintra and Inver

NORTH EASTERN DISTRICT
Coleraine
Newtownabbey Mission (incorporating North Belfast Mission, Rathcoole, Glengormley, Whiteabbey, The Church of the Good Shepherd Monkstown, Greencastle, Mossley)
Ballyclare
Carrickfergus (Whitehead and Greenisland)
Larne
Antrim
Ballymena
Cullybackey
North Belfast
Belfast South and Central
Belfast (Greater Shankill, Woodvale, Shankill and Glencairn)

Waterford
Portlaoise
North Tipperary
Galway and Ballinasloe
Birr, Athlone and Tullamore
Cork South and Kerry
West Cork
Limerick
Adare and Ballingrane

Dunkineely and Ardara
Portadown
Newry
Charlemont and Cranagill
Dungannon
Cookstown and South Derry
Armagh
Aughmacloy and Monaghan
Lurgan
Glenavy and Moira
Maghaberry
Tandragee and Richhill
Banbridge and Donacloney

Belfast (Ballynafeigh, Knockbreda, Belvoir and Cairnshill)
Belfast (Mountpottinger and Bloomfield)
Belfast (Cregagh and Glenburn)
East Belfast Mission
Belfast (Sydenham)
Belfast (Knock and Dundonald)
Belfast (Finaghy and Seymour Hill)
Bangor and Holywood
Donaghadee
Newtownards, Movilla Abbey and Comber
Glastry and Portaferry
Ballynahinch
Dundrum, Newcastle and Downpatrick
Lisburn and Dromore (including Magheragall, Broomhedge, Priesthill and Trinity)
NEWRY, COMPRISING NEWRY, BESSBROOK AND WARRENPOINT
A circuit who are seeking God’s guidance as to the way ahead.
Superintendent Minister: Sharon Connor
Minister: Annie Deche

P R A Y E R
Loving and gracious heavenly Father, we praise your holy name, and thank you for the faithful witness and service of the members of the three churches, Bessbrook, Newry and Warrenpoint, on the Newry circuit. As they continue in their desire to serve you and their communities, may they be strengthened and equipped, by the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit, for the task of fulfilling their calling in making the glorious in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit, for the task of serving the present age so that they might fulfill their calling in making the glorious proclamation of the gospel known in each location. Amen.

CHARLEMONT AND CRANAGILL INCLUDING MOY AND TULLYROAN
Superintendent Minister: Harold Agnew
Retired Minister Assisting: Maurice Laverty
Lay Pastoral Assistant: Kenneth Twyble

P R A Y E R
Lord we pray that this circuit’s adventure with you will be great. As they go about their daily business at home, at school or at work, make them a blessing. Make them a blessing to each other, to their families, to their neighbours and everyone they meet so that in their example your love will shine through and your name be glorified. In Jesus name. Amen.

GLENEAVY AND MOIRA, COMPRISING GLANEAVY, MOIRA AND CRAIGMORE
Superintendent Minister: Robert Loney

P R A Y E R
We pray that we would use our new 5,000 square foot multipurpose facility in Moira in a way that will glorify God and reach the lost for Christ. We rejoice in the new faces that are coming through our doors in these past months. We pray for the Glenavy congregation who are a light for the gospel in a very challenging and radically-changing community, being the “friends of all and the enemies of none”. Bless the members of Craigmore as they experience numerical and spiritual growth, especially in Sunday School and youth work. Pray for all our leaders that we will glorify God as we bring the good news to others. Amen.

GLOBAL RELATIONSHIPS
Pray for the work of the Global Relationships Team (Methodist Church Britain) as they work with God in partnership across the globe and strengthen global and local links.

P R A Y E R
Almighty God, guide us with love in your Spirit as we relate to Churches and organisations around the world. Help us as we seek to listen and learn from our friends; open our eyes to your love expressed through different cultures, languages and actions. May we encourage and assist our World Church Partners as they fulfil your calling and connect with the Church in our places of worship and service. Amen.

THE LAY WITNESS MOVEMENT
The Movement is a fellowship of ordinary people of all ages and backgrounds who share their personal experience of Jesus. Members are willing to visit churches, by invitation, for a weekend of praise and personal witness to what it means to be a follower of Christ in today’s world.
Steering Group: Shirley Alexander, Phill Clarke, Laura Griffith, Bruce Mullen, Tom Wilson

P R A Y E R
Father, we thank you for the blessings received in the recent mission in Florencecourt; we pray that the congregation would continue to be blessed as you lead them forward. We ask your blessing upon the teams and congregations during the Weekends planned in Bandon and Banbridge this year and we pray that other congregations would pray about holding such a mission. Amen.
DUNGANNON, COMPRISING DUNGANNON, LAGHEY, CASTLECAULFIELD AND NEWTOWNKELLY

This is a closely-knit, four-church circuit where faithful congregations meet each Sunday to worship and pray and where the premises are in constant use as they seek to serve others and glorify God.

Superintendent Minister: William Newell

PRAYER
Dear loving heavenly Father, we give thanks for the many opportunities you have given us to work and witness for you. We pray that we may be effective agents for the Kingdom of God in our weekly worship and through our regular meetings for fellowship and prayer. We pray for the leaders and members of the various organisations and groups that meet in our premises; may they know your blessing, so that the name of Jesus will be glorified. Amen.

COOKSTOWN AND SOUTH DERRY
Superintendent Minister: Rowan Zeelie

PRAYER
Loving Father, we lift to you the Methodist churches in Cookstown and Magherafelt. We pray for the new leadership in Magherafelt that you will give them a vision and boldness to be your presence in their town and to connect with the different communities; we pray that they will continue to seek the guidance of your Holy Spirit in pursuing your vision. Show your church new ways to offer glimpses of your Kingdom to the people of Cookstown; thank you for the faithfulness of their leadership in keeping their eyes firmly focused on you in all that they do. Amen.

ARMAGH, COMPRISING ARMAGH, KILLYLEA AND KILLYMADDY
Superintendent Minister: Louise Donald

PRAYER
Gracious Father, we praise and thank you for your extravagant love revealed through giving us your Son Jesus, so that all may know the reality of a relationship with you. May your Holy Spirit cause us to hunger and thirst in our hearts for more of Jesus and may we be daily showered with the living water that refreshes and enables us to boldly proclaim God’s love where he has placed us. Help us make the difficult choices to transcend all barriers imprisoning us and to become channels of God’s healing grace. Amen.

AUGHNACLAY 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: Rowan Zeelie
Retired Ministers Assisting: Ken Lindsay, Ken Robinson

PRAYER
Heavenly Father, we thank you that you are a faithful God. As we reflect over our past, we give thanks for your faithfulness and guidance. As we look forward, we ask that your vision would be our vision, your pathway would be the one in which we would walk, and as we move forward together that we would see your name being glorified, your Kingdom extended, and our societies becoming brighter lights in our darkening world. Amen.

MINISTERS SERVING WITH THE ARMED FORCES
Royal Navy: Richard Rowe
Army: Stephen Hancock
Royal Air Force: Colin Weir, Philip Corrigan, John Mbayo

PRAYER
Gracious God, thank you for those who have answered your call to serve as chaplains to the Armed Forces. Guide them and give them sensitivity as they minister to those who need their support and comradeship, many of whom have limited awareness of the spiritual dimension to life. Help the chaplains to witness for you, not only by their words but also by their lives. Keep them safe as they share the risks inherent in military service. We pray for their families as they face frequent changes and occasional periods of separation; may they know your presence and peace. Amen.

FAID is a Christian school in Beirut, Lebanon, which caters for children who are deaf or hard of hearing, irrespective of religion, ethnicity or wealth.

PRAYERS

Dear God, we thank you for showing your love and support for the people, young and old, who make up the family of The Father Andeweg Institute for the Deaf in Lebanon. We especially pray for Syrian deaf refugees and their families; give them the hope, strength and guidance they need to find a future in these very dangerous times. Be with the staff and keep them safe as they embark on a new outreach programme to help refugees in the camps. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Acts 4: 29, 30 – “Now Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”
MAGHABERRY (THE CHURCH ON THE HILL, COVENANT CHURCH)
The Church on the Hill is a covenant church between the Methodist Church and the Church of Ireland serving the expanding village of Maghaberry.

Superintendent Minister: Harold Agnew
Minister: Clare Kakuru (Church of Ireland)
Retired Minister Assisting: Ken Lindsay

PRAYER

We thank you, God, for the blessing of our new church extension and the opportunities we have to use our facilities to serve the wider community. We thank you for our growing church family. We come from many different backgrounds, but we are united in our love for God and one another. We pray that we would continue to work together to build faith and build community as we share God’s love with those around us. Amen.

TANDRAGEE, RICHHILL AND MARKETHILL
Superintendent Minister: Nick McKnight

PRAYER

Father, may we seek to build up people and not buildings. May we be shaped by spiritual gifts, not programmes. May we be more concerned about getting the Church out among people, than people into a church. May we cherish our identity in Christ, not our identity as Methodists. May we know that we are loved by you more than we could ever love you. Amen.

BANBRIDGE AND DONACLONEY

Banbridge circuit consists of three churches: in Banbridge town and two rural churches in Donacloney and Blackskull.

Superintendent Minister: Harold Agnew
Minister: Andrew Gibson

PRAYER

Lord, we thank you for closer relationships across the circuit; may these continue to be developed over this coming year. We pray for the Lay Witness Weekend in Banbridge planned for November; bless the team coming and all the arrangements being made. May your Spirit move during this weekend. We thank you for the four churches in Donacloney continuing to work together; planning events and services. Finally, we give you thanks for the Good News Club in Blackskull which is growing rapidly. Bless the children and leaders who attend weekly. Amen.

CONNEXIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Connexional Finance Committee reviews the accounts for each department in receipt of an allocation from the Comprehensive Assessment and establishes the amount to be allocated to each department in the succeeding year. The Committee recommends to Conference the total amount to be collected as Comprehensive Assessment. The Committee also reviews the Report and Accounts for the Methodist Church in Ireland and recommends to Conference that they should be approved and that the President and the Secretary of Conference sign the Report and Accounts.

Chairperson: Harold Baird
Secretary: Bill Parkinson
Chief Financial Officer: Gillian Laney

PRAYER

Loving God, we pray for your guidance for the Connexional Finance Committee and for all the volunteer treasurers in the societies, circuits, missions and Connexional departments. We pray for understanding when the Committee meets to identify the financial needs of each department and that the resulting Comprehensive Assessment will be manageable and equitable, thus enabling the mission of your Church at Connexional and local level to be worthy of you, our loving God. Amen.
NORTH-EASTERN DISTRICT

The North Eastern District consists of 25 circuits and 79 societies and has 52 ministers.

The new district in the east of Northern Ireland offers a wide variety of contexts for mission and discipleship. From holiday areas, rural communities, towns and cities, the challenges are as set out in the Home Mission’s eight missional commitments. Whilst there are many green shoots of growth in the district, there are also societies that are struggling to keep going. The role of the new District Superintendent is designed to encourage and enable local churches. As we look to this coming year, there is a need to pray that each circuit and society will build on the foundations that have already been laid; seek to be creative under God to see how to grow and develop in discipleship and mission; and be ready to step out in faith as the Spirit leads. The President’s theme, “God Is Our Adventure”, reminds us to expect much from our great God.

District Superintendent: Philip Agnew
District Lay Leader: Tom Wilson

PRAYER

Father God, as we step out in faith this year, enable us to hear what your Spirit is saying to us as a district and as individual circuits and societies. Grant us a renewed confidence in the good news of salvation and enable us all to trust that, as you call us, so you equip and enable us. Help us to be a people of prayer, to be salt and light in our communities, and to be your people for this day and generation. Amen.

Philip Agnew.

COLERAINE, PORTRUSH, PORTSTEWART AND BALLYMONEY

Located on the scenic North Coast, the circuit is a popular destination with visitors all year round. The four circuit churches seek to faithfully serve Christ and make him known to all.

Superintendent Minister: Thomas Stevenson
Retired Ministers Assisting: Lee Glenny, Jo Sweeney
Serving on the Circuit: Jono and Beth Griffin – The Surf Project

PRAYER

Loving God, we pray for the ongoing work and witness of our four circuit churches. We pray for both residents and visitors to the circuit, that your living Spirit will bring refreshment and renewal to body, mind and spirit. Loving God, pour out your power, wisdom and courage as we seek to serve you faithfully, that you may be glorified in all things. We also pray for The Surf Project and thank you for the many lives that are being blessed and impacted through it. We pray for continued strength and protection for The Surf Project team in all they do. Amen.

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 be a light and a sign of God’s love to communities in which it is based.

Superintendent Minister: Billy Davison
Ministers: Sam McGuffin, Pauline Lorimer, Ruth Patterson, Pauline Whan
Probationer Minister (Part-time): Sam Campbell
Retired Ministers Assisting: Ivan McElhinney, Ellen Whalley, Richard Russell

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the relationships that we share as churches on this circuit and with the communities in which we serve. As we work together, help us not to look to the past but to the future, focused on you and on your leading, so that we will be faithful and effective witnesses to your love for all, through the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. Amen.

Tom Wilson.

Prayer Room in the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Daisy Stratton, Joan Purdy and Bunny Wilson, Greenisland Methodist Church.

Pastoral Assistants: Mary Henderson (Rathcoole), Chris Boucher (Glengormley)
Youth Worker (Part-time): Elaine Gowdy (Mossley)
Youth Pastor (Part-time): Joshua Russell (Glengormley)
BALLYCLARE, COMPRISING BALLYCLARE, BALLYNUR AND DOAGH

Three Methodist churches who seek to worship and experience God as we love him and reach out to others in that love.

Superintendent Minister: Stephen Thompson
Retired Ministers Assisting: Elizabeth Hewitt, Desmond Curran, Mary Hunter (Presbyterian)
Music Director (Part-time): Pamela Hoy

PRAYER
Heavenly Father, we invite you. Holy Spirit, to continue to call us. Lord Jesus, help us listen to your voice and claim our authority through you. Our Father, we welcome the challenge of mission. We denounce all darkness: strip it of its temporal claim and pour out your living waters of peace, joy, love and hope. We claim our right to seek to gather the lost and the vulnerable, to be missionary disciples totally in love and hope. We claim our right to seek to work alongside you in the mission to the world. They partner with local authorities to rescue victims, restore survivors, restrain criminals and repair justice systems, to protect the poor from everyday forms of violence. Through WDR, MCI partners with IJM in their fight for justice.

PRAYER
Father God, thank you that IJM saw over 3,500 people freed from violence in 2018. We praise you because you are a God of justice and this work is done through you alone. Father, we ask that you comfort the perpetrators who continue to exploit your people – may they recognise their wrongs and turn away from their crimes. We lift our prayers to you. Amen.

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION UK (IJM)

International Justice Mission is the largest anti-slavery organisation in the world. They partner with local authorities to rescue victims, restore survivors, restrain criminals and repair justice systems, to protect the poor from everyday forms of violence. Through WDR, MCI partners with IJM in their fight for justice.

PRAYER
Father God, thank you that IJM saw over 3,500 people freed from violence in 2018. We praise you because you are a God of justice and this work is done through you alone. Father, we ask that you comfort the perpetrators who continue to exploit your people – may they recognise their wrongs and turn away from their crimes. We lift our prayers to you. Amen.

LARNE, COMPRISING LARNE, CRAIGYHILL AND CARNLOUGH

Three societies on the Antrim coast, each with different identities and needs, yet sharing a common calling to follow Jesus, and a common mission to make him known.

Superintendent Minister: Ruth Patterson
Probationer Minister: Chris Skillen
Retired Minister Assisting: Henry Keys

PRAYER
Lord, we surrender the life of this circuit into your hands, praying that you would be glorified in every aspect of its life and work. Fit your people to be your disciples in their day; give them words and call them to actions that will speak of you in ways that their neighbours can hear and understand. Amen.

ANTRIM

It is very noticeable that many people are either put off by the church or just not interested. One of the problems is how we see ourselves as a church and how we act. Words, thoughts and deeds are the commentary on our hearts and how as a church we are showing the genuine character of Christ. Please pray as we journey through spiritual formation that we will be renewed in purpose.

Superintendent Minister: Michael Gregory

PAUL’S prayers for the churches

Ephesians 1: 17 – “I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation, that you may know him better.”

BALLYMENA

We continue to bless the people of Ballymena with a safe place for various community organisations to meet, seeking to develop the work in the area of health and wellbeing.

Superintendent Minister: Michael Gregory
Retired Minister Assisting: David Cooper
Living Rooms Co-ordinator: Elaine McDonald

PRAYER
Father, we pray for your guidance as we seek to work alongside you in the mission to the people of Ballymena. May we be open to your leading, aware of the movement of your Spirit and ready to act when we are called to do so. As we live for you, may our witness be in all we do and say, at work, at home and at play, and may you be glorified and honoured. Amen.
PRAYER
Lord, thank you for your love for us and the confidence it gives us to step out in faith for the cause of your gospel. Fill our hearts with more and more love for the community around us and lead us by your Spirit into all the ways that you would have us share the message of your salvation with them. Amen.

METHODIST AND CHURCH OF IRELAND CHAPLAINCY AT QUEEN’S UNIVERSITY, BELFAST
Chaplain: Barry Forde (Church of Ireland)
Lay Workers: The Ministry Team, Hub Café Staff and Residential Centre Staff

PRAYER
Lord, God, we pray for the work of University chaplaincy in the city of Belfast: for the witness of working in covenant with the Church of Ireland; for ministry amongst staff and students across four campuses; and for the thousands of young adults from all over the world. You are sovereign Lord over every tribe, language, race and creed. May the ministry of the chaplaincy, and all ministries in the city, reveal your love, compassion and hope to these young lives, and may countless students come into the Kingdom, and then go out into the world to live and bear witness to your praise and glory. Amen.

NORTH BELFAST, COMPRISING CAVENHEAD, JENNYMOUNT, JOANMOUNT, AND WELL.COM PIONEER MISSION
Demonstrating Methodist life and witness in North Belfast on a safe area of social, economic and spiritual deprivation. Developing good community relationships as we reach out into the local area, seeking to meet need at all levels. Well.com offers pioneer mission, combining mental health and spirituality; the First Step Prayer Centre offers prayer ministry, interceding for, and reaching out to, the community.

Superintendent and Pioneer Minister (Jennymount): Alan Lorimer
Minister (Joanmount, Cavendish): Alan Conly
Probationer Minister (Part-time) (Jennymount): Sam Campbell

PRAYER
Loving God, in an area of social, economic and spiritual need, enable us to have that passionate love that impels us to reach out. Equip us in the power, fruit and gifiting of the Holy Spirit to be salt and light and a true blessing wherever we are. We thank you for answers to prayer and ask that you would teach us to go deeper in you that we may always pray in the Spirit. May your gospel of forgiveness transform this community. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us. Amen.

PAUL’S prayers of blessing for the church at Rome
Romans 15: 5 – “May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
Romans 15: 13 – “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

JUNIOR MISSION FOR ALL
The 2019 JMA Project focus is the King George VI School in Zimbabwe. JMA is a resource from World Mission Partnership, designed to engage children with God’s global mission.

PRAYER
Loving God, thank you for the children and young people in our churches today. As your helpers through JMA, may we share your love by our prayers and our giving, so that all your world family may know that you care for them. We ask that you guide us as we mission with King George VI School in Zimbabwe. Help us to ‘never give up’. We pray that, through our work with young people, your Kingdom will come, that your will may be done on earth and that your Kingdom will continue to grow. Amen.

WDR PARTNER
OPEN SCHOOLS WORLDWIDE (OSWW)
OSWW desires to help uneducated children in Africa who are at risk of abuse and exploitation, by providing bridging educational resources and training to mission-motivated local volunteers who help them.

PRAYER
Lord, our hearts unite in prayer for the Open Schools’ Literacy, Numeracy and Life Skills Programme, faithfully delivered by a dedicated volunteer core in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya and Ethiopia. We pray for compassion, patience and wisdom for the volunteers as they relate to children often traumatised by abuse and dire poverty. May they have eyes of faith to see each child as you would and open hearts to convey your love, grace and peace. We pray for good health for the children, for protection as they walk to a safe place to learn, for a love for learning and for seeds of righteousness to guide them to Christ. We pray for those who manage Open Schools, who so passionately yearn to serve the millions of unschooled children around the world. Guide them through every challenge and let them be a beacon for you. Amen.

An OSWW class at the Mooiplas settlement, South Africa.

Proud, a pupil at King George VI School, playing the marimba.
SOUTH AND CENTRAL BELFAST, COMPRISING BELFAST SOUTH, DONEGALL ROAD, SANDY ROW AND BELFAST CENTRAL MISSION, GROSVENOR HOUSE

This new circuit continues to seek its role in God’s mission within this rapidly-changing part of Belfast. Belfast South, based on the Lisburn Road, hosts a wide range of organisations and events aimed at the diverse community around this major arterial route. Donegall Road continues to work in partnership with South City Community Group, providing debt advice and community support in an area of profound deprivation. Sandy Row seeks to reach out to their needy community on the edge of the bustling and prosperous city centre. The Grosvenor House congregation meet in the city centre; the monthly Seed initiative, exploring what being Methodist means in the 21st Century, is based there. The Belfast City-centre Chaplaincy reaches out to those who live and work in the city centre; whilst The Church of the Resurrection at Queen’s University is a joint Methodist and Church of Ireland congregation which is the home of the Methodist/Church of Ireland Belfast Student Chaplaincy project, reaching out not only to QUB but also to Stranmillis University College, Ulster University in the Cathedral Quarter and Belfast Metropolitan College. Belfast Central Mission, operating out of Grosvenor House, continues to provide a wide range of social care projects for all ages across Northern Ireland and hopes to open their new dementia care facility at “Copelands” in Millisle in March 2020.

Superintendent Minister: David Campton
Minister and Honorary Chaplain to Methodist College: Emily Hyland
Minister in Part-time Appointment: June Parke

Universities’ Chaplain: Barry Forde
(Church of Ireland)

Non-Stipendiary Probationer and Lead City Centre Chaplain: Andrew Irvine

BCM Chief Executive: Nicky Conway
BCM Chair: Rowdy Black
BCM Head of Finance and Business Support: Gillian Murray
Agape Centre Administrator: Jo-Anne Crossley
BCM employs around 190 other staff and has over 130 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.

The City Centre Chaplaincy has a team of volunteer chaplains drawn from a wide range of denominations.

PRAYER

God of grace, three in one and one in three, unity in diversity, we praise you for the diverse communities in which we call you to serve you and thank you that you love all people, regardless of their background or baggage, their age or stage in life, their health or wealth, their language or nationality, their political perspective or sexual preference. May we be as open to others as you are to us, drawing on your grace and wisdom, your resources and strength as we seek to reach out to those around us in your name. Amen.

GREATER SHANKILL, COMPRISING SHANKILL, WOODVALE AND ST ANDREW’S CHURCH OF IRELAND/ METHODIST

Churches serving the Greater Shankill community through witness, service, worship and mission for all ages.

Superintendent Minister: Colin Duncan
Retired Ministers Assisting: Jim Rea, Brian Fletcher

PRAYER

Lord, thank you for the years of worship, mission and witness across this circuit. We lift the Greater Shankill community to you. We pray for a unity of spirit with our sister churches in the area. We pray for our mission, outreach and work amongst young people. Lord, we cry out for a revival and spiritual awakening which will bring healing, reconciliation and wholeness to this community and across its divisions.

BALLYNAFEIGH, COMPRISING BALLYNAFEIGH, KNOCKBREDA, BELVOIR AND CAIRNSHILL

A circuit in the suburbs of South East Belfast seeking to deepen fellowship within the circuit and to reach out to the surrounding community.

Superintendent Minister: Maureen Hassard
Minister: Edward Kirwan
Pioneer Mission Leaders: David and Jill Hines
Youth and Community Worker: Heather Bailie
Retired Ministers Assisting: Heather Bell, Peter Mercer

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the year that has been, with the many events where we have sought to come together as your people and to share your love with those around us. We thank you for all those whose vision, hard work and dedication helped this to happen. We ask for continued strength and resolve to become a more loving and caring group of people in this small part of your Kingdom. Amen.

PAUL’S PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCHES

Colossians 1: 9 – “For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way, bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience…”
EAST BELFAST MISSION
Partnering with God in our community.
Superintendent Minister: Brian Anderson
Chief Executive: Andrew Irvine
Finance Officer: Emma Shields
Community Worker: Sandi Gallagher
Church, Family and Community Worker: Kim Cooper
Homelessness Services Manager: Aidan Byrne
Employability Manager: Hazel Jones
Irish Language Development Officer: Linda Irvine
Catering Manager: Mike Smyth
Area Retail Manager: Michael Sloan

East Belfast Mission continues to touch the lives of 1,000 people per week with its various programmes. Many in the East Belfast area are living with various forms of poverty. There is an increased number of homeless people and a general lack of hope in the community.

PRAYER
We thank you, God, for the ongoing work of East Belfast Mission. At this challenging time, we pray for the leadership team: bless them and those in the area whom they seek to serve. We pray for the EBM worshipping community that through their worship and witness they will, with God’s help, make a difference on the Newtownards Road. Amen.

MOUNTPOTTINGER AND BLOOMFIELD
Two churches striving to work together and with others to share God’s love in East Belfast and beyond.

Superintendent Minister: Kenneth Connor
Minister: David Sweeney
Retired Minister Assisting: Desmond Curran

PRAYER
Loving God, we thank you for the continued witness in these two churches. We pray for the staff of the circuit, clergy and lay, as they work together in offering guidance and teaching your ways. Be with each and everyone as they seek you and may they know in their lives the great adventure of living with you. Amen.

CREGAGH AND GLENBURN
A city circuit seeking to connect with 500 church families living in the Cregagh and Castlereagh communities of East Belfast.

Superintendent Minister: Kenneth Connor
Minister: Cheryl Patterson

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the ways you have guided and encouraged our circuit. We ask your blessing on the opportunities you have given us, in our churches and in the community in which we serve. Help us to witness to all the generations who come together to enrich our life and worship. Thank you for the opportunity to work with other churches and organisations. Lord, equip us for the path you have laid before us and may all we do be to your glory. Amen.

SYDENHAM
To be a people who worship, witness to and work for God.

Superintendent Minister: Robin Waugh
Community and Family Worker: Emma-Jayne Speers

PRAYER
Heavenly Father, we thank you for the presence and encouragement of your Holy Spirit, evident through our worship, weekly programmes, special events and outreach. We pray for each individual person gathered within our fellowship. Guide us as we seek to continue building a caring church family and also to increase our involvement in ministry within the surrounding community. Direct us in the wise and effective use of our resources. May Jesus Christ be glorified in all that we do. Amen.

KNOCK, COMPRISING KNOCK BRANIEL AND DUNDONALD
The three societies in our circuit are in three distinct areas along the eastern periphery of Belfast. As staffing on the circuit has been reduced we seek to work more closely to support the varied work of God across our circuit.

Superintendent Minister: Stephen Sheerin
Minister: Britt Gilmore
Retired Minister Assisting (Braniel): Jo Sweeney
Pastoral and Family Worker (Knock): Lesley Moreland
Circuit Youth and Family Worker: Michael Anderson

PRAYER
Almighty God, we thank you for all who give of their time to serve you in this circuit. We pray for Michael Anderson as he builds relationships with young people in the three churches. Loving God, we pray for those with Dementia/Alzheimer’s Disease; in the days when memory has gone be with them in their fears; bless their families who also suffer. Surround them with your tender love and care and grant them peace in their hearts, we pray. Amen.

FRONTIERS IRELAND
Frontiers Ireland is a mission organisation that focuses on pioneer church-planting and discipleship in the Muslim world. MCI engages with Frontiers Ireland through the World Mission Partnership.

PRAYER
Father, we thank you for the movement of your Holy Spirit in lands such as Algeria, Indonesia and Iran, which has one of the fastest-growing Churches in the world! Thank you that you continue to use ordinary people like us to be part of your global plans and purposes. We pray that the name of Jesus will be praised and magnified across many more Muslim-majority countries this year. Raise up and send out new workers from across Ireland to go with your heart of love to all Muslim peoples. Amen.

PAUL’S praise for God’s compassion
2 Corinthians 1: 3, 4 – “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.”
Global Mission Fellows Programme: Carlos Nacpil III (Philippines), Nyasha Manjeya (Zimbabwe)

Team Members: Dan and Sarai Plotz (USA)

**PRAYER**

Our most precious and loving God, we at The Surf Project thank you for this beautiful place in which we live. We thank you for the new season that awaits us and the onset of Summer, bringing renewed life and growth to the land. We pray for strength and protection for all the people who will be involved in our Summer events – the team members, volunteers, children, young people and church families; may you fill us with joy and love as we serve others through this ministry. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

**PAUL AND PAULA GALLUCCI**

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit, who leads us all to show and share Jesus in our everyday life. Continue to help Paul and Paula, with the people of Limavady Methodist Church, to live as missionaries there; to love one another like family and serve as Jesus served. We pray that your Holy Spirit would take their everyday walk together with you and make it effervescent with your love; that the whole town are stirred up because of Jesus (Matthew 21: 10). Amen.

**BREATHE**

Breathe is the name of a small group of people aiming to hang out in the inner-city area of South Dublin, asking the question, ‘What is God up to here – how can we join in?’ They have regular gatherings (in varying forms) in Dublin, coffee mornings at the YMCA creche, Breathe Tank gatherings (teaching evenings with a meal), and one-on-one discipleship and mentoring presence.

**PRAYER**

Almighty God, we pray for the Breathe community. May you bind them together with your Spirit and encourage them to see you at work in their homes, workplaces, families, friends, and neighbours. Jesus, help them remember your unfailing love and boundless mercy. Give them strength to overcome addiction, hard life situations and trying times. We pray for them to be a light in dark places. May you build them up and spur them on today and in the days to come. Amen.

**PLAY IT BY EAR**

Play it by Ear is a Christian drama company which provides performances, workshops and scripts for churches, events and community groups. Chris Neillands and Ross Jonas are passionate about resourcing churches to use drama to share God’s love. Find out more at playitbyeardrama.com.

**PRAYER**

Creator God, we thank you for how the ministry of Play it by Ear has grown and all the new opportunities Chris and Ross have had to use their gifts to your glory. Bless them as they work with so many different groups from across Ireland, the UK and beyond. Give them vision and provision as they plan for the future of Play it by Ear. Amen.

**BELFAST CITY-CENTRE CHAPLAINCY**

Belfast City-centre Chaplaincy seeks to place embedded chaplains into businesses in Belfast City centre.

**Leader:** Andrew Irvine

**PRAYER**

Gracious God, we bring before you Belfast City-centre Chaplaincy. We thank you that you are with each one of the chaplains as they serve you. As they seek to go to those who need them most, we pray that you would guide them into the relationships that you would have them make and build. We ask that you would open doors for them into the secular places of the city, that they would be warmly received as they come to love, serve and minister the gospel of Jesus Christ. We pray, Father, that you would give wisdom to those charged with leading the Chaplaincy, that it might grow in the ways and in the time you ordain. In the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.

**DAVID AND JILL HINES**

**PRAYER**

Loving God, we pray for your blessing on the Hines family, that they would be able to discern your way forward and that you would bless them as they bless their community. Amen.
FINAGHY AND SEYMOUR HILL

On the edge of south Belfast, two churches grow closer to God in prayer and look outward to witness to the community.

Superintendent Minister: Colin Gracie
Retired Minister Assisting (Part-time): Robert Wallace

PRAYER

Eternal God, your truth stands forever sure in a world of change. Keep us strong in our love for you and for those around us. We thank you for the growth in prayer and the new expressions of worship, such as Messy Church and the Praise Nights, in Finaghy. We pray that you will strengthen the youth and children’s work in both societies. Give us the boldness to follow your Spirit’s prompting to develop new ways of building your Kingdom. Keep our vision clear and our hearts warmed, we pray, in Christ’s name. Amen.

WDR PARTNER

WDR works with its sister agency All We Can to co-fund two partners; The Srijan Foundation (India) and SUNARMA (Ethiopia).

ALL WE CAN

PRAYER

God of grace, we look upon a world torn apart by injustice, selfishness and greed. Amongst the pain and conflict, we pray to the Prince of Peace. Amongst the brokenness, we turn to your healing Spirit. Amongst the darkness, we look to the Light of the World. Use us, that we might be the means of grace for our neighbours, local and global. May we build a kingdom of peace. May we be emboldened by your Spirit. May we shine with your love. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

EUROPEAN METHODIST COUNCIL (EMC)

EMC is the consultative council that brings together representatives from Methodist, Wesleyan and Uniting Churches across Europe. EMC meets annually in September for worship, prayer, learning and sharing in God’s mission. It links with other bodies throughout Europe and the world, such as the World Methodist Council. It carries out its work throughout the year through the Executive Committee and working groups looking as issues around theology and mission.

Support Officer: Kathryn Harte

PRAYER

Thank you, God, for the EMC and for the opportunity that it gives to Methodist leaders around Europe to come together in fellowship, worship and mission. We pray for the EMC as they gather each September and for the ongoing work throughout the year. At a time of such uncertainty for Europe may the EMC provide opportunity for a shared voice and witness of the Methodist people in Europe. Pray for the new chairs of EMC as they lead and guide the Council. Amen.

THE 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 action. It has Northern and Southern Executives.

Chairs: David Clements, Steven Foster
Secretaries: Hazel Baird, Liz Parkin
Treasurer: Bill Parkinson

PRAYER

Sovereign God, enable us as your Church to speak and act prophetically in our world today. Cause our actions to reflect an appreciation of your good creation and love for our neighbours across the waters and across the decades. Let us be enthusiastic and committed agents of reconciliation and healing across class divides, when faced with cultural difference, in listening to the other’s hurt, along our border and in our troubled politics. May your Kingdom come. May your will on earth be done. Amen.

THE CONTAINER MINISTRY

William Carson and the team of volunteers are busy at the Lurgan Warehouse sending containers across the world.

PRAYER

Dear Lord our God, we ask for your continued blessings upon the Container Ministry of our Church, as it provides strategic support to partner Churches and charities worldwide. Bless the dedicated team of volunteers who source, receive and dispatch the resources which are needed. Thank you for the churches, individuals and agencies which donate the needed materials; assure them that, for many, they are agents of change and hope. Thank you that no container has been lost. Continue to provide smooth passage by sea and land and give speedy clearance at the docks and customs. May this charitable work continue to promote the cause of Christ’s gospel. Amen.

PAUL’S prayers for the churches

Ephesians 1: 18, 19 – “I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the glorious inheritance of the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.”

With Srijan Foundation’s help, Kushboo supports and empowers women in India.

PRAYER FOCUS DAY 26

The volunteers at the Container Ministry.
PRAYER
Father, thank you for creating us in your image and likeness; may we see people as your image-bearers and love them unconditionally. Jesus, thank you for setting us an example of how to treat other people; help us to model your words and actions, and be your hands and feet in our communities. Holy Spirit, open our eyes to new opportunities in worship and witness; may we be ready for the new adventures you call us into this year. Amen.

DONAGHADEE
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: Tom McKnight
Retired Ministers Assisting: Bert Montgomery, Daphne Twinem

PRAYER
Heavenly Father, we pray for the members of Donaghadee as they strive to be a welcoming fellowship in the town. As the church embarks on plans to make the buildings more accessible, may everyone involved be guided by God’s Spirit, to facilitate a warm and caring welcome for all. May the spiritual life of the congregation be deepened through a new commitment to prayer. May that commitment lead out in service and witness to the town. Amen.

NEWTOWNARDS, MOVILLA ABBEY AND COMBER
Three societies endeavouring to live out their faith locally.

Superintendent Minister: Colin Milligan
Minister: Michael Spence (Movilla Abbey)
Lay Pastor: Nicky Hazley (Comber)
Youth Pastor: Laura Ewing

PRAYER
Loving God, you became human and dwelt locally. Help your church as it seeks to be your body in Newtownards and Comber. May your people welcome the sojourner and care for all. We pray for the new superintendent, Colin; for the inter-generational Life Groups in Movilla and for the congregation in Comber as it plays a full part in inter-church life and community outreach there. We ask these things in the name of the incarnational Christ. Amen.

GLASTRY AND PORTAFERRY
Sharing the grace of Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Spirit on the Ards Peninsula.

Superintendent Minister: Jordan Litchfield

PRAYER
Almighty Father, thank you for the many ways you are at work among and through the people of Glastry and Portaferry. May your joy be their strength so that they may be encouraged in the work of loving, praying and bearing witness to your amazing grace in the communities in which they are placed. Holy Spirit, fire the imaginations of your people and stir boldness within them, so that they will discover fresh ways of shining your light. Lord Jesus, with all your people across the Ards Peninsula, renew us in your image so that others also will want to experience your grace. Amen.

PAUL’S PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCHES
Ephesians 3: 16, 17 – “I pray that out of his glorious riches he will strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.”

BANGOR AND HOLYWOOD, COMPRISING BALLYHOLME, CARNALEA, HOLYWOOD, PRIMACY, QUEEN’S PARADE AND WESLEY CENTENARY
We are six church families seeking through our worship and witness to reflect the love of God in our neighbourhoods.

Superintendent Minister: Fiona McCrea
Ministers: Gary Millar, Mark Durrell, Amanda Durrell
Retired Minister Assisting: Roy Cooper
Lay Pastors: Melanie Douglas, Elizabeth Doyle
Youth Worker: Claire Stewart
BALLYNAHINCH
Worshipping God, bearing witness to the love of Christ and forming communities of wholeness by the Spirit.
Superintendent Minister: Ruth Craig

PRAVER
Loving heavenly Father, we thank you for the work you are doing in Ballynahinch and for closer links with other churches in the town as we seek to show your love to all. We pray for the churches as they work together to run Alpha courses and ask that we might continue to forge strong links with the community through The Edge, The Hub and other community organisations. Bless and unite us all that we might work together for the good of your Kingdom and demonstrate Christ’s love in all that we do. Amen.

DUNDRUM, NEWCASTLE AND DOWNPATRICK
The circuit consists of three small congregations, two on the coast and one in the market town of Downpatrick, of mainly elderly people who try to show God’s love in serving their communities.
Superintendent Minister: Thomas Clarke
Retired Ministers Assisting: Samuel Burch, Mervyn Ewing

PRAVER
Lord, we ask that the members may feel your support and guidance as they strive to meet the changes that must come to the circuit. May they have open minds and be aware that changes are made to ensure the circuit’s continuing presence in South Down, to enable good stewardship of the Connexion’s resources and to develop further your work with all our neighbours. Amen.

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 together 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.
Chairperson: David Rock
Secretary: Wendy Johnston
Treasurer: Mark McElhinney

PRAVER
Father, we ask that you will prepare hearts and minds that the words shared will be words that challenge, encourage and bless those gathered, that they may live in the power of the Spirit. Amen.

WORLD METHODIST COUNCIL (WMC)
The WMC is a forum for some 80 Methodist, Wesleyan and related Uniting and United Churches, representing over 80.5 million people from 133 countries. It seeks to engage with, empower and serve the member Churches by encouraging Methodist unity in witness, facilitating mission in the world and fostering ecumenical and interreligious activities.
President: Professor Jong Chun Park (S. Korea)
Vice-President: Gillian Kingston (Ireland)
General Secretary: Bishop Ivan Abrahams (South Africa)

PRAVER
God of all nations and all peoples, we praise and thank you for the vision and witness of the World Methodist Council as it seeks to provide a forum for “the people called Methodist” around the world. We thank you for the comfort and solidarity it offers to small Methodist communities in difficult situations and labouring with few resources. Grant us the gift of unity in our rich diversity and the grace to love as we have been loved. May the light of that love shine in the darkness of poverty and injustice, enabling your will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Professor Jong Chun Park, Gillian Kingston and Bishop Ivan Abrahams.

THE METHODIST CHURCH UPPER MYANMAR (MCUM)
MCI continues in partnership with MCUM. This has involved two-way visits, dialogue, prayer and funding of Church growth activities in Myanmar.

PRAVER
Heavenly Father, we pray for our brothers and sisters in the Methodist Church, Upper Myanmar. We pray specifically for the socio-economic development and missio-evangelical improvement and extension of the nine districts and two Area Councils of the MCUM. We think of the Conference and President, the Rev. Mr Hrangkaptluanga, and all the ministers and leaders; we pray for your blessing as they seek to build your Kingdom in Myanmar. God, grant your wisdom and protection for all the missionaries and their missional task in each of the district mission fields. We pray also for peace and stability in Rakhaine State, and for those who are suffering and trapped in ethno-political conflict and violence across the country. In your name we pray. Amen.

Worship in Myanmar.

Colossians
Colossians 4: 12 – “He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.”

EPAHRAS prays for the Colossians
THE METHODIST CHURCH
SIERRA LEONE

‘But I have prayed for you, that your faith will not falter, and when you have been converted strengthen your brethren.’  
(Luke 22: 32)

PRAYER

We pray for the Methodist Church, Sierra Leone, and ask, Lord, that you will raise men and women to lead by words and actions that speak of your love. Give wisdom and strength to the Bishop, Secretary of Conference, Lay President and Chairs of Districts as they lead your Church in challenging times. Help them to hear you clearly and follow you closely. We pray for the members of the Church; may your Holy Spirit be the operating agent in all the diverse members. We humbly offer our prayers in the precious name of Christ who prayed, and still prays, for his Church. Amen.

BIBLE SOCIETY NORTHERN IRELAND

WMP continues to partner with the Bible Society NI to provide Scriptures for refugees in Austria, audio Bibles for Listening Groups in Togo, and to help migrant workers in the Gulf States engage with God’s Word through Bible Storytelling workshops.

PRAYER

Lord, we thank you that your Word is reaching people who are in need of hope and comfort. We ask that many would be drawn to you as the Bible is read, heard or watched. We pray for the ministry of Bible Societies around the world as they translate, publish and distribute the Word of God, and for the many ways they work to help people engage with Scripture. Thank you that lives are changing everywhere as people respond to the Bible message. Amen.

NATIONAL BIBLE SOCIETY OF IRELAND (NBSI)

PRAYER

Loving Lord God, we thank you for the work of the NBSI, to support Bible translation, distribution and engagement. With the recent positive developments in the NBSI, we pray for renewed focus, and an ability to both guard the historic vision and to cultivate broadened horizons and embrace new opportunities. We pray for the wider work of the United Bible Societies, and for the various international projects which seek to connect people to Scripture in a variety of contexts. In this season, we pray for your Spirit to infuse, inspire and fill afresh. Amen.

STIPENDS AND ALLOWANCES BOARD

The Board sets the stipends and allowances for ministers and vocational lay workers. It has responsibility for the Ministers’ Children’s Fund, the Ministers’ Medical Fund, the Disability Fund, the Retirement Funds and the Augmentation Fund. Their responsibility is to balance circuit resources with the needs of ministers and their families.

Chair: John Buchanan
Lay Secretary: Stephen Knox
Ministerial Secretary: Emily Hyland
Secretary and Treasurer to the Retirement Fund: Jeremy Nicoll

PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, that you provide for all our needs. We thank you for all the generous circuits who contribute towards stipends and the General Assessment. Be with the Stipends and Allowances Board as they strive to do their work as fairly as they can so that in every situation adequate provision is made. We thank you in Jesus’ name. Amen.
LISBURN AND DROMORE, COMPRISING BROOMHEDGE, DROMORE, MAGHERAGALL, PRIESTHILL, SEYMOUR STREET AND TRINITY

We are six church families making every effort to be an expression of God's grace and mercy in our neighbourhoods by living fruitful lives.

Superintendent Minister: David Turtle
Ministers: Thomas Clarke, Ross Harte, Alan Craig
Retired Ministers Assisting: Tom Deacon, James Williamson
Pastoral Assistant: Shirley Carrington
Pastoral Visitor: Billy Bryson

PRAYER
God, we are conscious of your leading as we have sought to live lives worthy of your calling. You are God who is found in the city and in the country, in the small gathering and in the large congregation. We praise you for all that is good and pray for those who struggle today as their faith is challenged. Enable and empower us by your Holy Spirit to serve your purposes in this generation. May we not be afraid to take Jesus into every aspect of our lives. We pray this in and through Jesus Christ who is the Lord. Amen.

MISSION ASSOCIATES
Mission Associates are those sent by other organisations to serve overseas, but who are partly supported by World Mission Partnership.

Our mission associates are Frank and Erika Jimenez and family, serving in the Middle East, and Stephen McCann, serving in Ibiza.

Our mission associates are Frank and Erika Jimenez and family, serving in the Middle East, Stephen McCann, serving in Ibiza, and the Farmer family serving in South East Asia.

PRAYER
Lord God, you invite us to be part of your global mission. Thank you that you choose to use us, and we think particularly of those you have called to serve overseas. God, we pray for Frank and Erika Jimenez and their children; we pray for your protection, peace and presence as they build their lives in the Middle East. God, we thank you for Stephen McCann’s faithfulness in serving you and for the relationships he has built in Ibiza. We pray also for the Farmer family in Myanmar. Continue to guide our Mission Associates and use them so that people may come to know you. Amen.

WDR PARTNER
METHODIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF SERVICES (MDRS), GHANA
Through WDR, MCI partners with MDRS in the fight against poverty, disease and ignorance. MDRS is part of the Methodist Church in Ghana.

PRAYER
We thank you, Lord Jesus, for your continual presence with us, the people called Methodists. We confess we have filled our lives with substitutions for Jesus, substitutions that are far from satisfying. You have commissioned us to spread the news of your love, a difficult requirement. May what we have in our cups be spilled out and emptied, in order that they might be filled with new wine, living water. May we receive your infinite love for us, through the teaching of your life and your Word. Thank you for deepening links between the Methodist Churches in Ghana and Ireland. Thank you for the Livelihood Project and for those who are involved in it. We pray that our labour in social ministry may draw many souls to Jesus. Amen.

The Jimenez family.

Farmers in Ghana loading wood for carbonation in a kiln.
PRAYER

In the ever-increasing changes and challenges in education, we pray for wisdom and discernment for the officers and members of the Board of Education as they reach and make decisions; the strengthening of grace and patience in principals and teaching staff and all who contribute to a positive experience in the education of young people; the inspiration and empowering of faith among pupils and students, to discover balance in their lives, to find time for all that is important, especially in their relationships, their homes, their study and their classes; to find time for all that is important, especially in their relationships, their homes, their study and their classes; the continuing dedication of governors as they give freely of themselves in service and in support of the work of principals and as they contribute to the well-being of staff and to the smooth running of schools and colleges. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.

Principal: Ivan Pearson
Chairperson: Andrew Dougherty / Andrew Kingston from November
Chaplain: Yongnam Park

ST ANDREW’S NATIONAL SCHOOL, Bray, Co. Wicklow

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

PRAYER

Lord, we pray for the children in these, and in all, national and primary schools, as they grow and learn to be their guide. As they develop physically, academically and spiritually, be their inspiration. As they engage socially, be their encouragement. Bless, also, all their teaching staff, school communities and governors as they facilitate the education of impressionable young lives. May they be good examples of how to live lives that honour you. Amen.

GURTEEN COLLEGE

Gurteen College provides agricultural education for trainee farmers, courses up to degree level in equine management and practical experience for veterinary nurses.

Principal: John Parry
Chair of Governors: Victoria Baker
Treasurer: Robert Armitage
Secretary: Lucy Bateman

PRAYER

Creator and sustainer of the universe, thank you that Gurteen is one of the top agricultural colleges in Ireland, and so at the forefront in teaching how farming should be done. As students go and practise what they have learnt, may they influence others in treating the land with respect and preserving it for future generations. Heavenly Father, reveal yourself to all at Gurteen and to all who work in agribusiness in Ireland as the giver of life in all its fulness, through Jesus. Amen.

Principal: Scott Naismith
Chaplains: Emily Hyland, Ian Gibson

METHODIST COLLEGE

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 with us”.

Principal: Christopher Woods
Chaplain: Nigel Mackey

PRAYER

Grant, Lord, to all who study in Methodist and Wesley Colleges and those who teach them, the grace to love that which is worth loving, to know that which is worth knowing and to value what is most precious to you. Give them all a true sense of judgement and the wisdom to see beneath the surface of things. Above all, may they search out what is pleasing to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The MULTITUDES IN HEAVEN worship in song

Revelation 4: 11 - “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

Revelation 7: 10, 12 - “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb... Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

Revelation 15: 3, 4 - “Great and marvellous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”