INTRODUCTION

Thank you for using this Prayer Journal. It is offered to you to help you to pray in a focused and informed manner for brothers and sisters across the Methodist Church in Ireland and those with whom we partner beyond these shores.

Heather was in a conversation recently with two people who had not met previously. On being introduced, one person responded, “Oh I know your name from Prayer Focus.” This Journal is a way of getting to know one another’s names and holding one another in prayer before God.

Of course, those who commit to ‘living with gospel focus’ will necessarily be committed to prayer. As we live in the light of Jesus’ cross we will enjoy prayer as grateful communication with our Saviour; we will be driven to our knees as we pray that our desires might be conformed to God’s desires; as we step out in faith we will rely on prayer that, in the power of the Spirit, we might be courageous.

So, we encourage you to use this Journal daily in your personal prayer times and in corporate prayer.

In this book you will find information on all aspects of the Methodist Church in Ireland so that we can pray specifically for one another. Alongside this information are prayers which can be used in private or public worship as they are. Our hope is that these will be a resource for public worship and, in particular, that there will be a copy of Prayer Focus in every Irish Methodist pulpit and prayer room. Most of the prayers for circuits, districts and departments have been written by them, so they give insight into our deepest longings as a people.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

(Philippians 4:6-7).

This Journal comes with the prayer that we will devote ourselves to prayer.

Heather, Doug and Rhoda

THREE VITAL BOOKS

Read the BOOK

BIBLE

Sing the BOOK

SONGS

Pray the BOOK

PRAYER FOCUS

A sign in Dundrum Methodist Church
PRESIDENT’S LETTER

Living with Gospel Focus – the God we look to.

Acts Chapter 4: vv 29-31 tells us about opposition the apostles faced as they went about spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. A blind man was healed and the religious authorities had Peter and John punished for healing in the name of Jesus. But how did they respond to such opposition and persecution?

They returned to their friends and shared what they had suffered for Christ. Luke says, “When they heard this, they lifted their voices together in prayer to God.” “Sovereign Lord”, they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.” He continues, in v 29, “Now Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.”

It would have been easy for the disciples to focus on their circumstances and difficulties. They could have been discouraged and even depressed as events unfolded. However, they focused on the gospel, and the certainty of God’s faithfulness strengthened them as they prayed. This illustrates my theme of ‘Living with Gospel Focus’ by fixing our gaze upon God’s love, power and grace through scripture and prayer. He calls us to focus on him and his amazing resources of power and strength for every occasion.

Billy

LAY LEADER’S LETTER

‘The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light’ Matthew 6: 22 (NIV).

The mobile device pings... a message pops up... we’re talking to one friend and texting another... These days our attention is often divided and it’s easy to be distracted. The news is often bad and it’s easy to become downhearted.

That’s why, as a body, it’s so important to draw on our relationship with God and our companionship in Christ, to be reminded of things that centre us and lift our spirits. Prayer Focus can help here. How good to have in our hands a booklet that encourages us to take time in God’s presence, to be still and breathe in his love – a booklet that provides us with content, guidance and a daily pattern for our prayers.

A small child once said to her grandmother: ‘Granny, if God lives in us and God is bigger than we are – should God not be showing through?’

Our prayer life - our talking and listening to God - is the tonic that keeps us spiritually resilient and ready to meet challenges with faith. So, may we take it daily, may our spiritual eyes be healthy, may this Church body be filled with light and may our wonderful God show through.

Lynda

The additional prayers, written by Mrs Rosemary Fletcher, are based on the President’s theme: “Living with Gospel Focus, leading to Growing Faith, Living Hope, Genuine Love.”
PRAYER FOCUS

DAY 1

TRUSTEES OF THE METHODIST CHURCH AND OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF CONFERENCE

The Trustees have oversight of the investments and other financial functions of the Church.

Secretary: Tom McKnight
Treasurers: David Mullan, Irene Dickson
Chief Financial Officer: Gillian Laney
Human Resources and Payroll: Gillian Skillen
Office Staff: Donna Ahrens, Carol Gilmore

PRAYER: Gracious Lord, we give you thanks for all those who support the work of the Church through prayer, time and finances. As the Trustees of the Methodist Church make decisions regarding the use of property and money, we ask that all their decisions would be for your glory and for the extension of the Kingdom. We ask that as a Church you would give us that sense of your mission and a desire to serve others. We ask for your blessing on the work of the staff in the Trustees’ Office and on the Secretary of Conference. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

We continue to uphold John Stephens and his wife Gillian and family, and pray for his health and healing. Amen.

PRESIDENT, LAY LEADER AND PRESIDENT DESIGNATE

President: Billy Davison
Lay Leader: Lynda Neilands
President Designate: David Nixon

PRAYER: Gracious and loving Father, we give thanks for safe travel for them as they travel in Ireland and overseas and for their families as they give them essential support as they fulfill busy schedules. We pray for David Nixon, our President Designate, that you may guide him in the coming year of preparation for the office of President. We beseech you to bless all who provide servant leadership throughout your Church so that your mission becomes more and more our mission. Amen.

GENERAL COMMITTEE

The General Committee acts as a management committee on any aspects of our life together, and also encourages and guides strategic thinking around the mission to which God calls us.

President: Billy Davison
Lay Leader: Lynda Neilands
Secretary: Tom McKnight
General Purposes Fund Ministerial Secretary: Jeremy Nicoll
General Purposes Fund Lay Secretary: John Carson

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we ask that you continue to lead and guide the members of the General Committee, that they will make wise and Spirit-led decisions which will equip the Church to reach outwards and serve others. May they rise to the challenges before them with perseverance and hope. As your people, give them confidence to live and speak for you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONNEXIONAL STRUCTURE

Conference agreed to a move to a new Connexional Structure, with three Districts and three full-time District Superintendents, who will begin this work in July 2019.

Southern District: Andrew Dougherty
North Western District: Stephen Skuce
North Eastern District: Philip Agnew

PRAYER: Lord, we pray that the new Connexional Structure will resource the work of the Church. We pray for your blessing on the nominated District Superintendents and the Connexional Team as they train and prepare. Amen.

STATIONING COMMITTEE

The Stationing Committee is responsible for consulting and then bringing proposals to the Conference as to the appropriate matching between ministers and circuits.

President: Billy Davison
Secretary: Tom McKnight

PRAYER: Loving Lord, we remember all those on the Stationing Committee. We pray that they would sense your leading and guiding as they meet, discuss, discern and consult. May they be prompted by your Holy Spirit and may there be a real sense of your guiding presence among them. We pray for those ministers and their families who will be stationed and for the circuits who will be receiving them. Be at work among us we pray. Amen.

FAITH AND ORDER COMMITTEE

The Faith and Order Committee scrutinises and makes recommendations regarding any doctrinal statements and documents to be issued in the name of the Church and considers and makes recommendations concerning any revision in orders of worship.

Joint Chairs: Billy Davison and Fergus O’Ferrall
Convener: David Turtle

PRAYER: Our Heavenly Father, we praise you that through the ages you have guided your Church. We pray that the Faith and Order Committee will experience the strong leading of the Holy Spirit as they continue to consider difficult and complex issues. As the committee do their work, give them listening ears that they may hear your voice, and so offer guidance to our Connexion which will help us to walk in your paths. Amen.
PRAYER: Lord God, we pray for the Rev. Tawanda Sungai and his family moving into the Dublin District that it is easy to talk of being your people; though much harder to live that out. Equip them and enable them to respond to that challenge, and reach out to others, not simply other expatriates and students living in Dublin. Rathgar continues to strengthen its local ecumenical ties and to open its doors to the local community. Superintendent Minister: Andrew Dougherty
District Secretary: Ivor Owens

PRAYER: Father God, we pray that Dublin Central Mission would always be a place where everyone is really seen. In Sheltered Housing complexes, Nursing Home, vibrant church congregations, in the busy community centre at Abbey Street and on the streets of Dublin city centre among homeless people, may people see Jesus in DCM’s work. As we give thanks for the Rev. Ken Lindsay’s ministry we especially pray for the Rev. Tawanda Sungai and his family moving from Zimbabwe and for Lucan Society as it joins the DCM Circuit. Amen.

PRAYER: Father God, we pray that Dublin Central Mission including Abbey St, Blanchardstown and Lucan be a welcoming family, rich in diversity, one in Christ, prayerfully seeking to love and serve. Superintendent Minister: Laurence Graham (Abbey St) Minister: Tawanda Sungai (Blanchardstown and Lucan) Abbey Street Pastoral Assistant: Avril Carroll Abbey Street Centre Manager: Graham Caswell Care of the Older Person CEO: David Reynolds Director of Care, Mount Tabor Nursing Home: Najamol Natarajan Director of Sheltered Housing: Caroline Casserly-Farrar Financial Controller: Karena O’Sullivan

PRAYER: Dear Lord, help this circuit to constantly discover new avenues of service for every member or attendee. Give new opportunities to further your Kingdom and inspire them with new ways in which they can make known your love. Amen.

PRAYER: Lord God, thank you for the ministry of David Nixon. We pray for Ivor as he adjusts to the rhythm of this circuit. Lord, we live in a country where many people are turning away from you and from the message of the gospel. Help your people in Skerries, Sutton and Clontarf Societies to be courageous in making a stand for you. By your Holy Spirit enable them to share the gospel with those they meet daily on their frontlines. Grant them wisdom, guidance, discernment, patience, love and compassion as they seek to shine your light in a dark world. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

ONE MISSION

Several departments and organisations within the Methodist Church in Ireland who are explicitly concerned with mission have covenanted to work together and have agreed: ‘Recognising that God’s mission is one, we commit our various departments to working together.’

It was the ‘One Mission’ team who organised the ‘ALL IN’ Conference last April. It is exciting to see how this partnership is growing as we learn together and share the stories of what God is doing here and around the world.

PRAYER: Father, we rejoice that you invite us to make your mission our mission. May Church departments strive together to make your name known across the world. May they pray for, and seek and embrace opportunities to share your gospel in word and deed. May they learn from brothers and sisters and share that learning so that we may be a truer reflection of you as a Church and as individuals. Amen.

DUBLIN DISTRICT
The Dublin District incorporates counties Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford. It stretches 130 kilometres from Skerries, a seaside town, to Gorey, a market town.
District Superintendent: Andrew Dougherty
District Secretary: Ivor Owens

DUBLIN SOUTH CENTENARY, DUBLIN KOREAN CHURCH AND RATHGAR
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.
Superintendent Minister: Andrew Dougherty
Minister in Part-time Appointment to the Dublin Korean Church: Yongnam Park
Retired Minister Assisting: Vanessa Wyse Jackson

Church Development & Youth Pastor: Dave Gardner
Youth Volunteers: Carissa Smith, Amy Bergvall

DUBLIN NORTH
Clontarf, 24/7 Prayer Room

ONE MISSION
The band leading worship at the ‘ALL IN’ Conference in Newry
**PRAYER FOCUS**

**DAY 3**

**IRISH METHODIST WORLD DEVELOPMENT & RELIEF**

WDR shows Christ’s love by becoming partners in change with local development organisations and empowering people and communities to deliver projects with a long-term and sustainable focus.

Convener: David Nixon
Treasurer: Jonny Best
Secretary: Beth Hand
World Development Officer: Tim Dunwoody
Administration and Communications Officer: Laura Kerr

**PRAYER:** Heavenly Father, thank you for your faithful love. Enable Tallaght church community to be a prayerful people, listening for your ‘still small voice’. May your Holy Spirit move powerfully amongst them. Give them a vision for your Church and a longing to bring glory to Christ and be a light in their community. Empower them to be your ears, hands and voices as they journey with you. Amen.

**DUBLIN SOUTH (DUNDRUM)**

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

Minister: Stephen Taylor
Chaplain, Wesley College: Nigel Mackey
Youth Pastor: Joel Herman
Lay Pastoral Assistant: Christine O’Connor

**SANDYMOUNT UNITED PRESBYTERIAN/METHODIST**

Living gratefully, simply, generously and well, where God has placed us.

Superintendent Minister: Laurence Graham
Minister: Katherine Meyer (Presbyterian)

**PRAYER:** God, you love all that you have made. Bless our joyfully boisterous and prayerfully thoughtful weekly gatherings, and then send us out to the many places where you are ever at work for the good of us all, that we may join you there. May it be so! 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: Elizabeth McWatters
General Secretary: Liz MacBean
General Treasurer: Barbara Fennell
World Mission Secretary: Mamie Davis
World Federation President: Alison Judd
World Federation European Area President: Louise Wilson

**PRAYER:** Heavenly Father, we pray for all the Methodist ladies in Ireland, and their witness. We ask your guidance on Elizabeth as President, and on the general officers as they prepare for the restructuring into three new districts. We give thanks for the success of the President’s project which enabled members of the World Federation from poorer Eastern European countries to attend our area seminar in June 2018 and ask your blessing on our new project which follows up on the World Development Sustainable Goals. We thank you for the friendships made with our sisters in Myanmar and ask your blessings on them as we continue to work with them. Lord, you have called MWI members to serve your world; may they be your ears, eyes, hands and voice, and may the living Christ journey with them. Amen.

**Celtic circling prayer**

SOUTH-EAST LEINSTER
INCLUDING DUN LAOGHAIRE, BRAY, WICKLOW, ARKLOW AND GOREY
The South-East Leinster Circuit has seen much change and transition; however, the presence and power of God have been constant, for which we are thankful.
Superintendent Minister: David Nixon
Ministers: Mark Forsyth (Bray & Wicklow); Katherine Kehoe (Arklow & Gorey)

PRAYER: Unchanging God, we praise you for your work throughout this circuit. Thank you for the ministries of Alan and Cheryl. We pray for David, Mark and Katherine as they settle into life and ministry on this circuit. Please strengthen these churches’ relationships with one another; encourage unity in their mission and enlarge their vision. Give this circuit a boldness to serve, and a passion to worship you. May your Kingdom come, and your will be done in these societies. Amen.

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

PRAYER: Father, we pray for the Men’s Shed started at Urban Junction. Thank you for all those who have joined, keen to work on DIY projects together and make new friends. We pray for the leadership as they work alongside the Council to secure a patch of ground to create a Community Garden alongside the Shed. Thank you for your faithfulness to us, Lord. Amen.

GLOBAL MISSION VOLUNTEERS
Carlos, Nyasha, Dorcas and Neo

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

PRAYER: Father God, today we place into your hands a generation of young people and children connected, and not yet connected, to our church communities. We thank you for the passion and enthusiasm that young people and children bring to our communities of faith and pray that they would be secure in, and find rest in, your love. Father, give wisdom, boldness and creativity to those who serve young people and children each week and to the staff of IMYC as they support and resource them. 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: Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for the love that you have for your people. We pray that as TOM30 journey through this year you will guide them and strengthen them in their faith in you. We pray that you will work through them to impact and challenge those they work with to live a life for you. Unite them as a team, give them safety in travel and energy for what this year holds for them, for your glory. Amen.

SOUTH EAST LEINSTER
Celebrating the Christmas story with children from Gorey Methodist Church

URBAN JUNCTION Lamp Restoration Project Complete!

IMYC STAFF TEAM
Nicky Blair, Liza Wiseman, Lisa Best, Gillian Gilmore, Janette McCormick, Leanne Hill, Gemma Barclay and Michael Sloan

TEAM ON MISSION
Natalie Cavanagh, Ben McGurk, Jodie Walker and Peter McCrea
PRAYER FOCUS

DAY 5

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Board supports and coordinates the work undertaken by our Home Mission Department, Property Board, Pioneer Mission Committee and the Prison and Healthcare Chaplaincy Committee. It seeks to encourage every opportunity for development that can enhance our witness and service through the Connexion.

Chairperson: David Twyble

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we rejoice in you, the rock of our salvation and the sure ground of our faith. We thank you that you have raised up the people called Methodists in our land and for the many opportunities before us at this time for the growth and development of your Church. We pray for the ongoing work of the Church Development Board and particularly for the Executive Committee that meets at least five times a year. Grant to all involved with the work of the Board clarity of vision, wisdom and discernment, grace and courage as they seek to be faithful in the service of your Kingdom. Amen.

METHODIST HOME MISSION (MHH)

The Home Mission Department exists to help districts, circuits and local congregations to glorify God in every aspect of their life.

General Secretary & Ministerial Treasurer: Heather Morris
 Lay Treasurer: Doug Edmondson
 Office Administrator: Rhoda Nixon
 Project Workers: Kathryn Harte and Simon Kilpatrick

PRAYER: Loving God, we pray for the Methodist Church in Ireland. Would you place in our hearts a longing for you; deepen our commitment to you that we might obey you joyfully; and give us courage to serve you and others. In the power of your Spirit we pray that we would be your disciples every day, in our homes, work and neighbourhoods, and that your life would be seen in our lives. We hold our communities before you, praying for blessing for them and that many would come to know Jesus. We remember the work of the Home Mission Department. At this time of transition would you give its workers wisdom and discernment that they might see your ways and walk in them. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

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: Colin Duncan.
 Secretary: John Beacom
 Ministerial Treasurer: Thomas Clarke
 Lay Treasurer: Keith Irvine

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 serve as Property Stewards, and on District Property Committees and the Property Board. Across our Connexion, guide all who are charged with the upkeep, maintenance and developing of buildings of all types. Help us to have in our hearts that our buildings are a means to mission, worship and service. Amen.

THE METHODIST CHURCH LATVIA (WMP)

The Church was closed down for 50 years by the occupying, atheistic Soviet regime. It is a Church whose focus is on Christ as their strength in creating a deep desire to care for the overlooked in society.

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.

PRISON AND HEALTHCARE CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE

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

Chairperson: John Warren
 Secretary: Derek Johnston
 Healthcare Sunday is normally a Sunday near to St Luke’s Day (18th October 2018)

Prisons Week NI is 14th - 20th October 2018
 See www.prisonsweek.org

PRAYER: O God our Father, we pray for the Latvian Methodist Church. We pray for men to fill leadership roles and for ministry among the youth. Holy Spirit, touch lives at Camp Wesley. May grace, love and practical help be given to those who come to the Hope Centre. You are a God who provides and so we pray for the finances needed to engage in outreach in communities. We pray for Edgars Sneiders (the District Superintendent) and for Gunta Grina Soluguba, as she ministers in Tasi regime. We thank you for those who come to the Hope Centre. You are a God who provides and so we pray for the finances needed to engage in outreach in communities. We pray for Edgars Sneiders (the District Superintendent) and for Gunta Grina Soluguba, as she ministers in Tasi and Liepaja. God, continue to move in Latvia, to save souls as the congregations taso honour you. Amen.

LATVIA (WMP)

We pray for the Rev. Dr Laurence Graham

Visitors from the Methodist Church Latvia with the Rev. Dr Laurence Graham

Property Board

Work being carried out on the Living Rooms Project, Ballymena

Methodist Church Latvia
PRAYER FOCUS

MISSION PARTNERS (WMP)
Mervyn and Raing McCullagh
Mission partners serving as programme, partnership and strategy consultants with the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL).

PRAYER: Gracious God, we give you thanks for the opportunities that Mervyn and Raing have to share in the work of NCCSL. We pray for the Council as it seeks a peaceful and reconciled society where all can live together in dignity, equality, security and with mutual respect, believing that all people can be reconciled one with another, without fear and holding no animosity, hatred or suspicion in their hearts. We pray for the present and future leadership of the Churches in Sri Lanka that they would be true servant leaders, witnessing to your Kingdom. We pray especially for Mervyn and Raing, that they would be full of God’s love for each other and all those around them as they serve you in Sri Lanka. 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 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.

MULTI-ETHNIC CONGREGATIONS

PRAYER: Jesus, teach us your way of peace. Teach us to embrace difference and cherish unity. Teach us that your Kingdom includes all people. Enable us to grow in respect and understanding. Help us to be communities of trust and acceptance. Give us grace to be open to encounter and listening. And may your Kingdom come on earth as in heaven. Amen.

WDR PARTNER
EAST JERUSALEM YMCA
East Jerusalem YMCA is a vibrant member of the Palestinian social movement and has a vision of community, based upon the universal values of human dignity, peace and justice. East Jerusalem YMCA works amongst those with disabilities, offering vocational training, personal development and advocating for social change.

PRAYER: Father, the Holy Land is far from holy. We ask for peace in Palestine and Israel so that there can be justice and equality for all. Thank you for the beacon of hope and practical help that is the YMCA. We think of its rehabilitation work with those who suffer disability; for its rights work with those who are oppressed and experience discrimination; and for its livelihoods work with those who are dependent upon others. Protect and inspire Nader Abu Amsha as he leads the team. Amen.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE CHAPLAINS
Queen’s University Belfast: Barry Forde
Ulster University (Belfast and Jordanstown): Gail Mercer
Ulster University (Coleraine): Stephen Woods
University College (Cork): Andrew Robinson
Trinity College Dublin: Julian Hamilton
University College (Dublin): Scott Evans (Church of Ireland Chaplain)
Methodist students
University College (Galway): Helen Freeburn
University College (Limerick): Vicki Lynch

PRAYER: Loving God, we pray for all who minister on university campuses throughout the island. We ask that your light would shine in these places of learning and growth, change and opportunity. May those who minister in the role of chaplain sense your life, your light, your hope and your purpose in those amongst whom they live. We pray for all involved in caring for, educating, and forming the lives of students: may they know your strength and patience, wisdom and inspiration. Finally, we pray for the students of this land, that they, in all the moments of campus life, its joys and pleasures as well as its troubles and anxieties, will know and live under your peace. Amen.

‘The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love’. Psalm 103:8
Hallelujah! We praise your name, O Lord. Amen.
**PRAYER FOCUS**

**DAY 7**

**MIDLANDS AND SOUTHERN DISTRICT**

The district extends from Galway to Athlone to Carlow and includes everything South and West. It is a large geographical district with 10 Societies and many faithful, committed members.  
District Superintendent: Denis Maguire  
District Secretary: Paul Maxwell

**PRAYER:** Gracious God, we pray for the Midlands & Southern District and all its faithful societies. We thank you for the emergence and continued growth of multi-cultural congregations in Galway, Waterford, Limerick, Killarney and elsewhere. We thank you for the commitment and dedication of ministers, both those retired and those stationed on this district: Lord, guide them by your Spirit and grant them safe travel as they journey over long distances. We pray for the ministry of the Food Pantry, Carlow, offering practical help to those in need. Bless the work of ‘City of Sanctuary’ in Waterford that it may be a place of sanctuary for all. We pray for the community using Central Buildings in Limerick, Lord, we give thanks for the commitment and dedication of ministers, both those retired and those stationed on this district: Lord, guide them by your Spirit and grant them safe travel as they journey over long distances. We pray for the ministry of the Food Pantry, Carlow, offering practical help to those in need. Bless the work of ‘City of Sanctuary’ in Waterford that it may be a place of sanctuary for all. We pray for the community using Central Buildings in Limerick, Lord, we give thanks for the ministry of Funky Fish Café which closed in June. We thank God for Keith and all the volunteers who served so faithfully over 12 years. Grant all your vision for ministry on this district: Lord, guide them by your path, the way of righteousness, to your presence may pervade all aspects of the lives of those whom they meet. Gracious God, help us all to turn again and follow your path, the way of righteousness, to our journey’s end. Amen.

**WATERFORD**

To serve the present age  
Minister: Sahr Yambasu  
Gateway Centre Manager: Tom Hosford  
Circuit Steward: Ken McCormick  
Global Mission Fellows Program UMC: Dorcas Zhang (China)

**PRAYER:** We thank you, God, for the ongoing ministry and mission of Waterford Church and Gateway Centre; their youth missionary from China, Dorcas Zhang, and her work; all the children and youth leaders; the phase two building works which have started; Tom Hosford the Centre manager; the Circuit Steward Ken McCormick, the Gateway Centre Board, the church committee and all the members of our community. May all know your loving and merciful guidance as they seek to fulfil your mission, in the name of Christ. Amen.

**NORTH TIPPERARY, INCLUDING 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.  
Minister: Shannon DeLaureal  
Retired Minister Assisting: Tom Kingston

**PRAYER:** Loving Lord, we thank you for the spirit of love and cooperation that flows throughout the churches of this circuit. Help the members, dear Father, to continue to work together in your name, so that ecumenism may prosper, and through them, the feeling of your presence may pervade all aspects of the lives of those whom they meet. Gracious God, help us all to turn again and follow your path, the way of righteousness, to our journey’s end. Amen.

**MISSION PARTNERS (WMP)**

Barry and Gillian Sloan  
Barry is working as Director of Evangelism at national level in Germany. Gillian (full-time) and Barry (part-time) are involved in ‘Inspire’, an interdenominational fresh expression of Church in Chemnitz, Germany.

**PRAYER:** Loving God, we ask your blessing upon Barry and Gillian’s ministry in Chemnitz, a fresh expression of Church in Chemnitz. Grant them courage and wisdom to lead, grace and humility to serve, and, in all things, love. May your Spirit of renewal continue to breathe new life into the Inspire community and those it seeks to serve. Almighty God, we also ask you to bless and anoint Barry’s work as Director of Evangelism for the German Church. In Christ’s name, and for his glory. Amen.

**‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy…..a Saviour has been born to you: he is Christ the Lord’**  
*Luke 2:10,11*

Thank you, Lord, that the gospel of Jesus Christ is good news for all people. Thank you that the gospel is about salvation, rescue, freedom and forgiveness. Thank you that the gospel brings joy. It lifts us above the circumstances of our lives to bring a lightness to our hearts. Help us to live today in the joy and freedom of the gospel. Amen.

**MISSION PARTNERS**

The Rev Dr Barry and Mrs Gillian Sloan

WATERFORD  
Mount Sion Secondary Boys’ Choir and some members of St. Patrick’s Church

NORTH TIPPERARY  
Some of Roscrea congregation enjoying a Sunday afternoon together

MIDLANDS AND SOUTHERN  
Volunteers serving others at the National Ploughing Championship
PRAYER FOCUS

DAY 8

PORTLAOISE INCLUDING ATHY, MOUNTMELLICK AND BALLYHUPHAUN
Seeking to connect community life, share the Gospel and encouraging our Children and Youth.
Superintendent Minister: Clodagh Yambasu
Minister in Part-time Appointment: Yongnam Park

PRAYER: Loving Father, thank you for the good relationships within this circuit and the developing relationships with their societies. We thank you for your continued blessing, unity, and grace to those on this widespread circuit. Grant your help and presence to all. We pray that all of the members may become authentic disciples of Christ, learning, growing, and producing fruit for his Kingdom. May they live out their faith with love and hope granted by you. Amen.

BIRR, ATHLONE AND TULLAMORE
Three small Midlands churches, building bridges into their communities.
Minister: Clodagh Yambasu
Retired Minister Assisting: Irene Morrow

PRAYER: Lord Jesus Christ, as you are the Good Shepherd of Birr, Athlone and Tullamore so your people lack nothing. Thank you that you lead them in green pastures and beside still waters. Your goodness and kindness follow, and will follow, them all the days of their lives. Your Holy Spirit guides, and will guide, them and their churches in right paths for your name’s sake. Enable them to continue to see this so that they are overwhelmed by your unfailing love. Amen.

CORK SOUTH AND KERRY
A widespread circuit of long-standing societies in Cork, Youghal and Kinsale and more recent congregations in Killarney, Kenmare and Millstreet.
Superintendent Minister: Karen Spence
Minister: Andrew Robinson
Retired Minister Assisting: Geraldine Gracie
Ardfallen Grove Sheltered Housing Manager (part-time): Cathy Murray

PRAYER: Forgive us, Lord, when we fail to show by our love for each other that we belong to you. Forgive us when we are over-critical, when relationships break down, when we gossip unkindly. Help us always to look for the best, to build bridges, to seek to understand, to be ready to admit our failure as well as to forgive failure in others. May our love be sincere, enabling your Church to fulfil its mission in this world. Amen.

GALWAY AND BALLINASLOE UNITED METHODIST/ PRESBYTERIAN
Shining brightly for Christ!
Superintendent Minister: Shannon DeLaureal
Minister: Helen Freeburn (Presbyterian)

PRAYER: Dear Abba Father, help the members to shine with your grace, mercy and love. Please continue to bless your Kingdom work in Galway and the surrounding areas, through youth and student ministry, leadership development, home groups and outreach activities. Help the members to grow closer to you, grow closer to one another and grow deeper in their faith and commitment. Please guide their steps and witness, fill them with your Holy Spirit, grant them your power and vision, and build your Kingdom there we pray, to the glory of your name. Amen.

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

PRAYER: Father, your rain can bring life and destruction. We pray for those living in rural Zimbabwe, where rivers can be dry for months, where cyclones can wipe out crops and where the government may struggle to meet people’s needs. We pray for Stephen, Joyce and all the team at Dabane and for the communities with whom they work; bless all their efforts to bring water and its benefits. May pumps, pipes, solar panels, expertise and hard work enable people to have the lives you surely intended for them. Amen.

GALWAY AND BALLINASLOE
Church visit to Aran Islands

WDR PARTNER
DABANE WATER WORKSHOPS
A solar panel powers the pumping of water from below a seemingly dry river bed

BIRR, ATHLONE AND TULLAMORE
Congregation in Athlone gather for fellowship on Good Friday

GALWAY AND BALLINASLOE
Douglas Churches Together - Palm Sunday Pilgrimage

CORK SOUTH AND KERRY
‘By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.’ John 13:35

Forgive us, Lord, when we fail to show by our love for each other that we belong to you. Forgive us when we are over-critical, when relationships break down, when we gossip unkindly. Help us always to look for the best, to build bridges, to seek to understand, to be ready to admit our failure as well as to forgive failure in others. May our love be sincere, enabling your Church to fulfil its mission in this world. Amen.
**PRAYER FOCUS**

**DAY 9**

**WDR PARTNER WENCHI METHODIST HOSPITAL, GHANA**
The hospital continues to serve a population of over 100,000 in central Ghana. It is a growing institution which witnesses to God’s love through the practical care of its staff and partners.

**PRAYER:** Loving God, we give thanks for Wenchi Methodist Hospital and its recent expansion to include a new dental department. We praise you for the skill and expertise of the staff there, particularly in the ophthalmology, optometric and urology departments. May each member of staff be a blessing to every patient they treat. God, we pray for all those who travel from far and wide to be treated at Wenchi and ask that you keep them safe on their journeys. Lord God, we pray for Bernard (Administrator) as he prepares for retirement and mentors the person who will succeed him; may this 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.

**ADARE/BALLINGRANE**
A rural circuit in west Limerick. Minister in Part-time Appointment: Ruth Watt

**PRAYER:** Father God, we thank you for the fellowship and witness of your people in this area. Encourage them as they share Christ, that others may be helped, loved and drawn to Him. Be with them as they continue to pray together and with the local community. Help them discern what it is that God is calling them to be and do. May they be guided by the Holy Spirit as they continue to serve you through worship, work and witness. Amen.

**WEST CORK INCLUDING BANDON, BALLINEEN, CLONAKILTY, DRIMOLEAGUE AND SKIBBEREEN**
Introducing people to Jesus and making disciples through the Church. Superintendent Minister: Gregory Alexander
Minister: Denis Maguire
Retired Deacon: Gordon Wallace

**PRAYER:** Loving Father, we give thanks for growth, both in numbers and in spiritual life. Continue to strengthen the connections between church and community. May your Holy Spirit create in the hearts of all people a hunger for God. Guide each society as they seek to share the gospel with all ages and bring healing to broken lives. Amen.

**CHRIST CHURCH LIMERICK UNITED PRESBYTERIAN / METHODIST AND CENTRAL BUILDINGS COMMUNITY PROJECT, LIMERICK**
Connecting Community Life
Minister: Vicki Lynch
Mission: Sean Roys

**PRAYER:** God of life and opportunity, thank you for your limitless love and generosity. We give thanks for all the work that happens in this community project; for all the connections and growth they are now experiencing; for the outreach in their community gallery and coffee dock; for all the wonderful meetings, conversations and relationships. As your faithful church help them to pray for a deeper understanding of how you want them to work together for your Kingdom in the City of Limerick. Enable them to meet the challenges and to share their learning. Amen.

**‘perfect love drives out fear’.**
1 John 4:18

Lord, as we look around us we see so much fear. Yet your word tells us that perfect love drives out fear. Thank you for your perfect love. May we as your people reflect that love that it may shine out into the darkness of your world and bring peace. Amen.

**‘We always thank God for….. your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.’**
1 Thessalonians 1:3

Lord, may our hope in Christ inspire endurance that keeps us moving forward with you and helps us and others to see light in the midst of darkness. Amen.

**THE METHODIST CHURCH GHANA (WMP)**
The Methodist Church Ghana has 20 dioceses with a total Christian community of almost 800,000. The Presiding Bishop of the Church is the Most Rev. Titus K. Awotwi Pratt and the Lay President is Mr Bernard Clement Kwesi Botwe.

**PRAYER:** Eternal God, thank you for the Methodist presence in Ghana for the past 183 years. We praise you for its continuous impact on society and pray for more grace to be a blessing to all. We thank you for the leadership of the Church and its vision for evangelism and social work in and beyond the borders of Ghana. Continue to renew the Methodist Church Ghana by the power of your Holy Spirit for effective witness and stewardship. Amen.

**METHODIST CHURCH GHANA**
The Rev. Daniel Tannor, Bishop of the Sunyani Diocese, Methodist Church Ghana with his wife Alice

**WEST CORK**
The Ex-President the Rev. Dr Laurence Graham on his visit to the circuit

**ADARE/BALLINGRANE**
Irish World Music Cafe

**LIMERICK**
WENCHI METHODIST HOSPITAL, GHANA
Dr Boateng Bosomtwi, resident urologist at Wenchi Methodist Hospital
THE LAKELANDS DISTRICT
Sharing the gospel and Christ’s love in eight circuits covering eight counties.
District Superintendent: Jeremy Nicoll
District Secretary: Robin Toner

PRAYER: Lord, we thank you for your faithfulness - that we know in our lives and see manifest in your wonderful creation around us in its seasons and splendour. Thank you, too, for the faithfulness and witness of generations before us in our towns and villages. May we continue to be faithful in worship and outreach. Lord, equip us by your Holy Spirit for mission, service and witness and bless our leaders, lay and ordained, as they serve you and us, for your glory. Amen.

ENNISKILLEN INCLUDING KNOCKINNY, FLORENCECOURT, LETTERBREEEN AND BLACKLION
Seeking to be biblical, God-honouring and Kingdom-expanding servants.
Superintendent Minister: Lorna Dreaning
Minister: Darrin Thompson

PRAYER: Gracious God, your Word says, ‘Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.’ Thank you for the desire in the hearts of so many of your people on this circuit to honour you in their lives, in their families, amongst their friends and neighbours, in their church, in their community, on their circuit and in their nation. Forgive them when their practice falls short of their own desires and of yours. Bless them, Lord, and make them to be a blessing. Thank you for your faithfulness. Amen.

SPRINGFIELD AND CHURCH HILL INCLUDING DERRYGONNELLY
Jeremiah 29:13 ‘You will seek me and find me, when you search for me with your heart.’
We seek to follow where God leads, walking in his ways, loving those we meet along the journey.
Minister: Amanda Durrell

PRAYER: Our loving Father, we thank you for your constant presence with us, your patience and your unending love for us. We thank you and praise you that you are faithful to us; help us to be faithful to you. We pray for opportunities to arise within this community to serve you, and to witness for you. Open the eyes of our hearts, Lord, and give us ears to hear and hearts that seek after you. Renew in each of us the passion to witness and serve you, our God and King. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

LISBELLAW, MAGUIRESBRIDGE AND TEMPO
Seeking to glorify God through worship, strengthening community relationships and deepening our experience of God in daily life.
Minister: Mark Durrell

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 INCLUDING BROOKEBOROUGH, LISNASKEA, NEWTOWNBUTCHER, 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.
Minister: Colin Milligan
Part-time Lay Worker: Ian Graham

PRAYER: Our gracious heavenly Father, we have so much to thank you for; you have strengthened us, encouraged us, blessed us and allowed us to come closer to you, so that our relationship with you has become deeper, more meaningful. We pray for the Upper Erne Circuit, for all its members; even though they are far apart in distance you are the one who, in love, reaches out to the needs of each person. We pray that they will keep their eyes focused on Jesus. Amen.

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

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the relationship we have with the Methodist Church Upper Myanmar. Lord, we are grateful for the opportunities to work within Myanmar and share in your ministry. We pray for guidance as the MWI connects with the Council Methodist Women’s Association (CMWA) in Myanmar. Bless them, Lord, for the passion and desire they have to work within their communities to share your love. Father, we pray for the President of CMWA, Mrs Irene Myint, and thank you for her commitment to working with the MWI. God, may we be faithful in prayer for the ministry of our brothers and sisters in Myanmar as they take your name to those who haven’t heard it. Amen.

THE METHODIST CHURCH UPPER MYANMAR
Methodist Women in Ireland visit Upper Myanmar

THE LAKELANDS DISTRICT
Manorhamilton Girls’ Brigade, one of the largest groups on the island!

SPRINGFIELD AND CHURCH HILL
Community Lunch during Love Week

LISBELLAW, MAGUIRESBRIDGE AND TEMPO
Circuit Prayer and Bible Study Group

THE METHODIST CHURCH UPPER MYANMAR
CMWA, Mrs Irene Myint, and thank you for her commitment to working with the MWI. God, may we be faithful in prayer for the ministry of our brothers and sisters in Myanmar as they take your name to those who haven’t heard it. Amen.
PRAYER FOCUS

DAY 11

FIVEMILETOWN INCLUDING CLABBY AND CREAGH

A welcoming community who desire to glorify God and share his love with others. A worshipping community whose desire is to glorify God and to serve others, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Minister: Janet Rossell

**PRAYER:** Almighty God, we thank you for the wonder of creation and for your goodness to us. Most of all we praise you for Jesus who loved us and gave himself for us. Help this circuit to use every opportunity to show your love so that others will be drawn to the Saviour. Give them the courage to put themselves at your disposal so that in Fivemiletown Circuit they will truly be a worshipping people. Amen.

BALLINAMALLARD AND TRILICK

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

Minister: John Beacom
Youth Worker: Sarah Vaughan (joint with Magheracross Church of Ireland)

**PRAYER:** Lord, we pray that you continue to lead the congregations of Ballinamallard and Trillick as they seek to draw closer together and as they desire to learn from you. Be with the youth worker on the circuit and encourage others to offer themselves as leaders. Bless the fellowship groups as they continue to bring believers together, building fellowship and trust. We ask you to guide the outreach initiatives being planned outside of the church and help all to show the love of Christ in a practical way throughout their communities. Amen.

NORTH CONNACHT AND LONGFORD INCLUDING SLIGO, MANORHAMILTON, COLLOONEY, 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)

**PRAYER:** Thank you, Lord, for your love, grace, protection and provision for this widespread circuit. Enable them to continue to trust and rely on you for direction, guidance and strength. Thank you for the faithful service of young and old. Lord, may each one of us grow in grace. Help us to share your gospel with love, both in word and deed to society. Bless the lonely, the hurting, the stranger and those who are in need today. Amen.

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.

Minister: Steven Foster

**PRAYER:** Eternal God, we praise you for the faithfulness of many present and departed. Help your people in North Fermanagh to grow in their desire for, and obedience to, you. Be at work in all that goes on in this circuit. God of all, thank you for the unique missional opportunities and great community relations in both Pettigo and Irvinestown. Help your people to step out with joy and boldness. In this time of transition, protect community life in border areas, we pray. Amen.

WDR PARTNER 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 and AIDS.

**PRAYER:** Loving God, your Son lived a life of compassion and we thank you that Phakamisa seeks to live this out through the love and support offered to children and caregivers. Thank you for the education children receive from Phakamisa and for the opportunities for further growth and development. We pray for the caregivers; grant them good health and empower them in their roles so that they feel equipped and able to look after the children. Be with Thokozani Poswa, who leads the organization, and the staff and trainers in their roles. God, in all they do may they continue to fix their eyes on you. Amen.

Hebrews Ch. 11

Thank you, dear God, for the men and women of faith who we discover in the pages of the Old and New Testaments. Thank you that they were ready to take risks in order to go forward with you. Help us also to be ready for whatever you ask of us, knowing that you will be our strength. Amen.
PRAYER FOCUS

DAY 12

THE BOARD OF MINISTRY/EDGEHILL BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Ministry and Board of Governors work together to oversee and co-ordinate strategy for ministry development across the Church and provide opportunities for theological training and study, especially in preparing men and women for ordained ministry. The two main subgroups of the Board are the Ordained Ministry Committee and the Lay Ministry Committee.

Board of Ministry Chair: David Campton
Board of Governors Chair: Maureen Edmondson
Principal Pro Tem: Janet Unsworth
Director of Ministry: John Alderdice
Ordained Ministry Committee Secretaries: Philip Agnew and Robin Waugh
Lay Ministry Committee Chair: Lynda Neilands (Lay Leader)
Edgehill Lay Staff: Louise Wilson (Training Development Officer until September 2018), Stephen Edgar, Wayne Mulholland, Kay Irvine, Mandy Weir, Sylvia McAnally

PRAYER: We give thanks for this exciting and challenging time of transition and change as we explore new patterns of formation and training for God’s mission. We pray that as disciples we would be shaped by the Word of God and hear the call of God in our lives to ministry, lay and ordained. We pray for those training for ordained ministry, that they would be empowered to equip the Church and serve God. We pray that God would enhance vision for the ministry and mission of the Church that we would find new and innovative ways to serve. We ask for wisdom for those who lead, teach and resource the College and the ministerial training programme. We pray for the opportunities that will arise for collaboration in mission and ministry as the various Connexional departments move onto the Edgehill site. Amen.

LOCAL PREACHERS

Local Preachers have served the Methodist Church in Ireland from its inception and are an intrinsic part of the life and witness of our Church across this island. We thank God for all our Local Preachers, in training, active and retired; men and women who have responded to his call and trained for service both locally and connexionally. We are grateful too for our relationship with the staff at Edgehill Theological College who have helped to facilitate the training of our Local Preachers. Local Preachers continue to demonstrate competence, call and character as they serve the Methodist Church in Ireland.

Ministerial Secretary: Mervyn Ewing
Lay Secretary: Tom Wilson

PRAYER: Loving God, we pray for all those called to be Local Preachers in your name, who have accepted this privilege to preach your exciting Good News for all. May each one be aware of your constant guidance and direction as they study, prepare and present the message to your Church family, and, through their role, may they grow in their own personal journey with you and gain new experiences to pass on with encouragement what you are doing in their lives. And so, Holy Spirit, continue to kindle the fire of your love as they commit to your ongoing will. 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.

Sabbatical Officer: Colin Duncan

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 and all who cover for the ministers’ absence, that they may rejoice in the opportunity to serve you. Amen.

NEWLY ORDAINED MINISTERS

The Revs Darrin Thompson, Cheryl Patterson, Louise Monroe, Nigel Murphy, Katherine Kehoe and Amanda Durrell with the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland

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 and all who cover for the ministers’ absence, that they may rejoice in the opportunity to serve you. Amen.

LOCAL PREACHERS

Dublin District Local Preachers at their November Conference

Y ou have forsaken your first love,’ Revelation 2:4

Help us, O God, not to ‘forsake our first love’. Kindle our love for you afresh in our hearts, in response to your great love for us, that we might truly be channels of your love in this world. Amen.

1 Corinthians Chapter 13

Lord, we don’t want to be like resounding gongs or clanging cymbals. Please give us a genuine love that is patient and kind; always protecting, always trusting, always hoping, always persevering; a love that never fails, for the honour of your name. Amen.
PRAYER FOCUS

DAY 13

WDR PARTNER

CHURCH LAND PROGRAMME, SOUTHERN AFRICA

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 that they maintain sensitivity in responding to the demands of your people, creating space for those who are excluded in society. God, bless Graham Philpott and the staff team, and keep them safe in their travels. Holy Spirit, continue to guide and prompt them in their work. In your precious name. Amen.

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: Living and loving God, we pray for the residents and staff in the Methodist Nursing and Residential Homes. Thank you for the support the staff bring in a caring and professional way. In times of difficulty give both residents and staff 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 HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND

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

President: Ian Henderson
Vice-President: Norman Taggart
Secretary: Jennifer Stutt
Treasurers: Derek Reid and Miss Trudy Reid
Archivist and Editor: Robin Roddie

PRAYER: Lord, as we preserve the records of the Church of past generations and provide a quiet space for people to research and learn from them in our Archive, may we, your people today, preserve and keep safe a living faith in Jesus Christ so that others, as well as generations yet to be born, may come to know him and see him in us through what we are or will yet become by your grace. Amen.

METHODIST CHILD CARE SOCIETY

The Society provides financial support to families belonging to the Methodist Church whose income is insufficient to meet daily needs.

Ministerial Secretary and Treasurer: Dave Sweeney
Lay Treasurer: Margaret Copeland

PRAYER: Loving and gracious God, thank you for the relative wealth we have been blessed with. Help those of us who have plenty to give generously to the work of the Society. May the families who receive from the Society know your love and care as we seek to bless them financially. We pray that you will continue to give Dave and Margaret the compassion and wisdom they need as difficult decisions are made. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

THE METHODIST CHURCH IN TOGO (WMP)

The Methodist Church in Togo, West Africa, is a relatively small but vibrant part of the Christian community in that country. In its outreach it seeks to feed the whole person, soul, body and mind; it is a growing Church, particularly in the North of the country where there has previously been little Christian witness.

PRAYER: Father, we thank you for the continuing witness of the Methodist Church in Togo and for growth in numbers resulting from evangelistic campaigns and church planting in recent years. Give wisdom to the leaders of the Church at this time as they seek to manage very meagre resources in the work which you have given them in the building of churches, schools and health facilities. We pray for pastors and missionary evangelists as they seek to serve in local communities and to bring revival in their churches. Grant, Lord, that the work will not be restricted due to the very great difficulties of finances in a very poor Church and country. May the Church be an agent for good in the unrest in that country because of the current political situation. Amen.

THE METHODIST CHURCH IN TOGO

Beginnings of a new Methodist Church building in Kante, Togo
MINISTERS WHO HAVE PERMISSION TO BE WITHOUT PASTORAL CHARGE:
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.
John Stephens
Shirley Krakowski

MINISTERS WHO HAVE PERMISSION TO SERVE WITH OTHER CONFERENCES:
Stephen Skuce, who is Director of Global Relationships, Methodist Church in Britain.
John Purdy, who works with the Methodist Church in Britain.
Mark Liddicoat, who works with the Methodist Church in Britain.
Mark Charles, who works with the United Methodist Church.
William Mullally, who works with the Methodist Church in Britain.

RETIRED MINISTERS AND MINISTERS’ WIDOWS
Chairperson: Ken Wilson
Secretary: Ken Lindsay
A full list of retired ministers and widows may be found in the Minutes of Conference.

PRAYER: Lord, we thank you for all the love and costly service given by the retired ministers and their spouses. Bless them and their families in this new season of ministry. May they never cease to challenge us by their dreams of new forms of service. Rather than growing cold, keep their hearts on fire for the Kingdom. Even when poor health comes their way, may they dare to believe that their most fruitful days still lie ahead. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

WDR PARTNER KOPILA-NEPAL
Kopila-Nepal works amongst some of the most discriminated-against people groups in the world: single mothers and widows of the Dalit and unscheduled caste communities.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we praise you for the relationship between the Methodist Church in Ireland and our World Development & Relief partner, Kopila-Nepal. God, thank you that you invite us to be part of your mission in Nepal. We pray for Bina, the Director of Kopila; thank you for the heart she has for those who are overlooked and undervalued in their society. God, bless her and the rest of the staff team. Thank you for every life that has been impacted by the work of Kopila-Nepal, and we trust that you will continue to move there. In your name, God of justice and compassion. Amen.

THE METHODIST CHURCH OF HAITI (WMP)
Having just entered its third century, L’Eglise Methodiste D’Haiti continues to grow as it proclaims the Good News of salvation in Christ while also doing all it can to serve the many material and social needs of the people of Haiti.

PRAYER: Lord God, we thank you for the ongoing challenge which the Methodist Church in Haiti brings to us about how to be fervent in evangelism and energetic in social action. In particular this year we pray for the newly-installed Bishop, the Rev. Jean Lesly Dorcely and the new Secretary of Conference, the Rev. Chrisnel Lelievre. Guide and strengthen them as they settle into their new roles in leadership of the Church. 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.
Joint Chairs: Bishop Alan Abernethy and the Rev. Dr Heather Morris

PRAYER: Loving God, 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.

PRAYER FOCUS
DAY 14

THE METHODIST CHURCH IN POLAND (WMP)
The Methodist Church in Poland had its beginnings in 1920 when several missionaries came from the Southern United Methodist Church in the USA to deliver food and to teach English.

PRAYER: Loving God, thank you for the Methodist family in Poland. We pray for their ministry; continue to prompt and guide them, and use them to make your name known. We pray particularly for the Rev. Andrzej Malicki, the General Superintendent of the Methodist Church in Poland, the Rev. Jeremie, Haiti

THE METHODIST CHURCH IN HAITI
Having just entered its third century, L’Eglise Methodiste D’Haiti continues to grow as it proclaims the Good News of salvation in Christ while also doing all it can to serve the many material and social needs of the people of Haiti.

PRAYER: Lord God, we thank you for the ongoing challenge which the Methodist Church in Haiti brings to us about how to be fervent in evangelism and energetic in social action. In particular this year we pray for the newly-installed Bishop, the Rev. Jean Lesly Dorcely and the new Secretary of Conference, the Rev. Chrisnel Lelievre. Guide and strengthen them as they settle into their new roles in leadership of the Church. Amen.

THE METHODIST CHURCH OF HAITI
Having just entered its third century, L’Eglise Methodiste D’Haiti continues to grow as it proclaims the Good News of salvation in Christ while also doing all it can to serve the many material and social needs of the people of Haiti.

PRAYER: Lord God, we thank you for the ongoing challenge which the Methodist Church in Haiti brings to us about how to be fervent in evangelism and energetic in social action. In particular this year we pray for the newly-installed Bishop, the Rev. Jean Lesly Dorcely and the new Secretary of Conference, the Rev. Chrisnel Lelievre. Guide and strengthen them as they settle into their new roles in leadership of the Church. Amen.

MINISTERS RETIRED AT CONFERENCE
The Rev. Dr John Stephens with The Revs Alain Ferguson, Charles Harris, Peter Murray and Ken Robinson (Clive Webster not present)

KOPILA-NEPAL
Some of the fundraising team who trekked the Himalayas to fundraise for Kopila Nepal in 2018

THE METHODIST CHURCH OF HAITI
The church building at Gebeau outside Jeremie, Haiti

KOPILA-NEPAL
Some of the fundraising team who trekked the Himalayas to fundraise for Kopila Nepal in 2018
DAY 15

NORTH WEST DISTRICT
Twenty-five churches on six circuits make up the NW District. It takes in almost 400 miles of coastline, including the Giant’s Causeway, Inishowen Peninsula and Ballyshannon, whilst mountain ranges include the Sperrins and Blue Stack Mountains. “Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.”

District Superintendent: Eleanor Hayden
District Secretary: Alison Gallagher

PRAYER: O God, we pray for the North West District and their new District Superintendent, the Rev. Eleanor Hayden. We thank you for the work of the Surf Project based in Portrush, led by Jono and Beth Griffin. We also thank you, Lord, for three Global Mission Fellows, Neo, Carlos and Nyasha, who are helping the district share your good news. May your Holy Spirit inspire the churches on the North West District. Stir them up, Lord, in prayer and in their worship and service for you. Give them, and us who pray for them, the joy of seeing you at work in saving souls and developing disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

NORTH WEST METHODIST MISSION (NWMM) INCLUDING CLOONEY HALL, CARLISLE ROAD, GLACKNADRUMMOND, WHITECASTLE, LIMAVADY, NEWBUILDINGS, STRABANE AND THE MEN’S HOSTEL IN CRAWFORD SQUARE

The NWMM seeks to respond to the needs of the people in our areas and to promote God’s message through our actions to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Superintendent Minister: Richard Johnston
Minister: Alison Gallagher
Pioneer Mission Leaders: Paul and Paula Gallucci
Probationer Minister: Sam Campbell
Retired Minister Assisting: Noel Fallows
Mission Director: Liam Milligan

PRAYER: Lord, we thank you that this circuit have experienced the joy of your love for them. You have provided so much for them and they appreciate all your blessings. As they plan to build a new church hall in Moville we ask you to be with them in all their decision-making. Guide the church in Limavady as they continue to develop in Pioneer Mission. Help the circuit to continue to grow and work for you as they welcome their new superintendent. Fill them with your love so that they may gladly speak for you, work for you and live their whole lives for you. Amen.

COLERAINE INCLUDING PORTRUSH, BALLYMONEY AND PORTSTEWART

Located on the beautiful North Coast, the circuit is a popular destination for visitors all year round. We actively seek to welcome all, to know Christ and to make him known.

Minister: Stephen Woods
Retired Ministers Assisting: Lee Glenny, Jo Sweeney
Serving on the circuit: The Surf Project Team

PRAYER: Loving God, we thank you for your love and goodness, seen so evidently in the world around us. We praise you for your faithfulness to us and ask for your help, that we may be faithful to you in grateful response. May we always seek to use the gifts, resources, and the opportunities that you give us, to serve you and to share your love with others. May your living Spirit bring refreshment and renewal to the work and witness of your people on this circuit. Amen.

THE METHODIST CHURCH SOUTHERN AFRICA (WMP)

The Methodist Church Southern Africa includes Mozambique, Botswana, Swaziland, Namibia, Lesotho and South Africa. MCSA is committed to ‘proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ for healing and transformation’.

PRAYER: Gracious God, we thank you for your transforming grace and self-emptying love. We praise you that you are the one who nourishes, nurtures, calls and sends, going with us and ahead of us. We pray for MCSA and praise you for the relationship between our Churches. God, help MCSA to show faith in action and to share resources justly. In a country that has been so hurt by division, we pray your blessing on the Church as it seeks to actively embrace the gift of diversity. Amen.

THE METHODIST CHURCH SOUTHERN AFRICA (MCSA)

The Rev. David Nixon administers Communion in Ntuzuma Methodist Church, South Africa
PRAYER FOCUS
DISTRICTS IN THE CONNEXION

1. DUBLIN DISTRICT
(DAYS 2-4)
- Dublin South City
- Dublin Central Mission
- Dublin North
- Dublin West
- Dublin South
- Dublin Sandymount
- South East Leinster

2. MIDLANDS AND SOUTHERN DISTRICT
(DAYS 7-9)
- Kilkenny/Carlow
- Waterford
- Portlaoise
- North Tipperary
- Galway/Ballinasloe
- Birr/Athlone/Tullamore
- Cork South and Kerry
- West Cork
- Limerick
- Adare and Ballingrane

3. LAKELANDS DISTRICT
(DAYS 10-11)
- Enniskillen
- Springfield/Church Hill
- Lisbellaw/Maguire'sbridge/Tempo
- Upper Erne
- Fivemiletown
- Pettigo/Irvinestown
- Ballinamallard/Trillick
- North Connacht/Longford

4. NORTH WEST DISTRICT
(DAYS 15-16)
- Londonderry/Inishowen/Limavady/Strabane
- Coleraine/Portrush/Portstewart/Ballymoney
- Castlederg
- Omagh/Fintona
- Donegal/Ballina/Inver
- Dunkineely/Ardara

5. NORTH EAST DISTRICT
(DAYS 17-19)
- Newtownabbey Mission
- Ballyclare
- Carrickfergus
- Larne
- Antrim
- Ballymena
- Cullybackey

6. BELFAST DISTRICT
(DAYS 20-23)
- North Belfast
- South and Central Belfast
- Greater Shankill
- Ballynafeigh
- Mountpottinger/Bloomfield
- Cregagh/Glenburn
- East Belfast Mission
- Sydenham
- Knock/Dundonald/Braniel
- Finaghy/Seymour Hill

7. DOWN DISTRICT
(DAYS 26-27)
- Bangor/Holywood
- Donaghahee
- Newtownards/Movilla Abbey/Comber
- Glasty/Portaferry
- Ballynahinch
- Dundrum/Newcastle/Downpatrick
- Lisburn/Dromore

8. PORTADOWN DISTRICT
(DAYS 28-30)
- Portadown
- Newry
- Charlemont/Cranagill
- Dungannon
- Coalisland/South Derry
- Armagh
- Aughnacloy/Monaghan
- Lurgan
- Glenavy/Moira
- Maghaberry
- Tandragee/Richhill
- Banbridge/Donacloney
PRAYER FOCUS
DAY 16

WDR PARTNER
SOLUCIONES PRACTICAS
Together with Christian Aid Ireland, WDR works with Soluciones Prácticas in the Bolivian Amazon, strengthening the capacity of indigenous communities to face the multiple risks they face from climate change, deforestation and abuse of their land rights.

PRAYER: Loving God, bless the brave Soluciones Prácticas team; guide and protect them when they travel many days by boat and on foot to reach remote forest areas of the Bolivian Amazon to bring hope and support in practical ways to build the resilience of extremely vulnerable indigenous communities. Give them courage to speak out for rights and to promote the inclusion of the poorest men and women in decision-making processes that affect them, when faced with threats and intimidation. Amen.

DONAGHLINTRA 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 practically.

Minister: John Montgomery
Retired Minister Assisting: Ian Henderson

PRAYER: Father God, thank you for your life-giving and sustaining presence with us. May we be brave to step out for you. Lord Jesus, thank you for showing us how to follow you. May we follow in obedience to your Word. May our lives be as salt and light in the world. Holy Spirit, draw close to us as we draw close to you. May our hearts delight, as you confirm your forgiveness, love and grace within us. Amen.

DONEGAL BALLINTRA AND INVER
Two churches in South West Donegal who, in a friendly way, follow Christ’s example of prayer and service, reaching out to all ages.

Superintendent Minister: Eleanor Hayden
Probationer Minister: Des Davis

PRAYER: Dear Lord and Father of humankind, we thank you for your continued goodness and generosity to the people of this circuit. We pray in these days of planning for the refurbishment of their manse, that they would keep their eyes on Jesus, always in the acknowledgement that he is the Master Builder. As the hymn-writer says, ‘My faith looks up to thee.’; may it be so for them as the people of God. May they know God’s sustaining goodness and strengthening. Amen.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, thank you for the power of the gospel of Christ. Thank you that the gospel is able to transform individuals and communities. Thank you that it is able to bring us from darkness to light, from despair to hope, from guilt to forgiveness. Thank you that it can break down barriers and bring peace. May we never be ashamed of the gospel, in the name of Christ, Amen.

OMAGH AND FINTONA INCLUDING 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.

Minister: Eleanor Hayden
Lay Pastoral Assistant: Gareth Hayden
Pastoral Visitor: Derek Gillespie

PRAYER: Loving God, help us to shine your light in our world, through our words and actions. May our lives reflect you and speak of your love. Thank you for the generosity and kindness of people. We give thanks for those who work behind the scenes quietly and faithfully, contributing to the life of mission and worship and exercising roles of leadership, in authentic discipleship. Give us a true concern for all, a genuine awareness of the wider fellowship to which we belong and a real openness to one another and our world. In the name of Christ. Amen.

OMAGH AND FINTONA
Fundraising concert to aid rebuilding work in Haiti following Hurricane Matthew

PRAYER: ‘I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes,’ Romans 1:16

Heavenly Father, thank you for the power of the gospel of Christ. Thank you that the gospel is able to transform individuals and communities. Thank you that it is able to bring us from darkness to light, from despair to hope, from guilt to forgiveness. Thank you that it can break down barriers and bring peace. May we never be ashamed of the gospel, in the name of Christ, Amen.
NORTH EAST DISTRICT
Circuits, and indeed societies within the circuits, on the North East District vary in style and numerical strength, each engaging in building up Christians in their faith and placing outreach to their community at the heart of their mission. District Superintendent: David Clements
District Secretary: Pauline Whan

PRAYER: Lord God, we praise you for your presence among the churches of the North East District. May the members of each society, in their busyness, make space to hear your still, small voice; may they yearn to do your will and be united in love. We thank you for the many links being formed with local communities as the Holy Spirit leads; may they make the most of these opportunities. We pray for the Rev. Billy Davison as he represents the Church through Ireland and abroad as President of the Methodist Church in Ireland. Amen.

NEWTOWNABBEY METHODIST MISSION INCLUDING NORTH BELFAST MISSION, RATHCOOLE, WHITEABBAY, GLENGORMLEY, GREENCESTLE, MONKSTOWN (with The Church of Ireland) AND MOSSLEY
A circuit whose life and worship try to equip God’s people for outreach and mission. There are strong numbers in our uniformed organisations and youth work. Acting Superintendent Minister: Ruth Patterson
Ministers: Billy Davison, Pauline Lorimer, Sam McGuffin and Pauline Whan
Minister in Part-time Appointment: Alan Lorimer

Retired Ministers Assisting: Ivan McElhinney, Ellen Whalley, Richard Russell
Pastoral Assistants: Mary Henderson (Rathcoole), Christopher Boucher (Glengormley)
Part-time Youth Worker: Elaine Gowdy
Part-time Youth Pastor: Joshua Russell

PRAYER: Lord God, we thank you for the good relationships within this circuit and the developing relationships with their communities. We give thanks for the guidance of your Holy Spirit amongst your people. May they always be open to your Spirit’s prompting. Empower and inspire them. Grant them courage and boldness for the sake of Christ. May their lives, words and actions reflect Jesus so that others may be drawn to him. Amen.

WORLD CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS (WMP)
The World Church Relationships Team endeavour to strengthen partnerships across the globe with Churches and Organisations.

PRAYER: We pray for the work of the World Church Relationships Team as they endeavour to strengthen partnerships across the globe with Churches and organisations. Gracious God, may how we relate to Churches, organisations and people throughout the world always reflect your love, grace and mercy. May we seek to assist and encourage our World Church Partners in their mission to share the Good News with all in our present age. May we humbly learn from our friends across the world what it means to be disciples of Jesus today, so that the world may believe. 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 Funds: Mark Forsyth

Lay Witness Movement
The Lay Witness Team who were a huge blessing

NORTH EAST DISTRICT
The President, the Rev. Billy Davison, with his wife Loraine

NEWTOWNABBEY METHODIST MISSION
The Team who ministered in Glengormley

Lay Witness Movement
The Team who ministered in Glengormley

WORLD CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS
The Lay Witness Team who were a huge blessing

Lay Witness Movement
The Team who ministered in Glengormley

LAY WITNESS MOVEMENT
The Lay Witness Team who were a huge blessing

LAY WITNESS MOVEMENT
The Team who ministered in Glengormley

LAY WITNESS MOVEMENT
The Team who ministered in Glengormley

LAY WITNESS MOVEMENT
The Team who ministered in Glengormley
PRAYER FOCUS

DAY 18

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

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, today we pray for these the “least of thy brethren”, the children whose hope for the future is destroyed because of poverty and the lack of education. As your servants in Open Schools Worldwide try to be your hands reaching out to embrace these children with your love, we pray for your wisdom, guidance and provision for their ministry. Strengthen and encourage all the workers and volunteers who sacrificially serve in this part of your vineyard. Through this ministry, may your love and hope become a reality in the lives of every child that they are able to touch. Please use them to do more for your Kingdom. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

CARRICKFERGUS INCLUDING GREENISLAND, WHITEHEAD AND ISLANDMAGEE
Superintendent Minister: David Clements
Ministers: Gary Millar, Nigel Murphy
Student Youth Placement: Victoria Ferguson

PRAYER: Lord, thank you for the ministers and lay leaders on this circuit. Please grant health and strength to them and their families, especially in times of stress. Grant fruit for all the labour that goes on in the circuit with people of every generation. Thank you for new members in several of the societies and please may your Spirit continue to draw others into a new and living relationship with the Saviour. Amen.

LARNE INCLUDING CRAIGHILL AND CARNLough
Three societies on the Antrim coast, each with different identities and needs, yet sharing a common calling to walk with Jesus, and a common mission to make him known.
Superintendent Minister: Ruth Patterson
Probationer Minister: Chris Skillen
Retired Minister Assisting: Henry Keys

PRAYER: Loving Lord, we thank you for those who set us on our walk with you, for those who were led to build our churches, and to glorify your name in our communities. Fit us to be your disciples in our day; give us words and call us to actions that will speak of you in ways that our neighbours who are far from you can hear and understand. Amen.

ANTRIM
A church continually seeking ways to bring the love of Jesus to the weak, vulnerable and oppressed, to set captives free, to live the Jesus agenda. What that means for us will be challenging but, as people are touched by God’s love, seeing people liberated is such a blessing.
Minister: Michael Gregory

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

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for those who minister to personnel who serve in the Armed Forces. We thank-you for the opportunities they have to be deployed, and to share the hazards of service, with the men and women of The British Army, The Royal Navy and The Royal Airforce: from Scotland to Cyprus, in Training assignments and on operations, in ships and aircraft and vehicles and camps. We thank you that they heard the command to ‘Go and make disciples.’ and obeyed. Keep them and their families safe and keep them close to you. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

BALLYCLARE INCLUDING BALLYNURE AND DOAGH
Methodist churches who seek to worship and experience God as we love him and reach out to others in that love.
Minister: Stephen Thompson
Retired Ministers Assisting: Elizabeth Hewitt, Desmond Curran, Mary Hunter (Presbyterian)
Music Director Part-time: Pamela Hoy

PRAYER: Holy Spirit, help us to listen, respond, and recognise your call on our lives as we seek to live out a radical faith that breaches all boundaries. Guide us from desolation to consolation as we prepare for revival. We pray that your light will heal many as we declare your victory in all things. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, give us the courage and boldness to proclaim your name as we journey. May your grace touch us, as we experience true freedom in you. Amen.

LARNE CIRCUIT
‘God has poured out his love into our hearts,’ Romans 5:5
Lord, we confess that our love is often so small, so cold. Please open our hearts to receive your love afresh and enable us to share your great love with others. Amen.
**PRAYER FOCUS**

**DAY 19**

**EVANGELICAL METHODIST CHURCH OF CHILE (WMP)**

A relatively small but very passionate community of Methodist congregations spread across this vast country. Recently they have been playing a leading role in reaching out to meet the often desperate needs of recently-arrived migrants from Haiti.

**PRAYER:** Father God, we pray for the Methodist Church in Chile. We thank you for the sacrificial way they are welcoming and assisting some of the many Haitian migrants who have ended up in Chile in recent years. In particular, we pray for Mariela and Pastor Hugette who co-ordinate the Church’s work with Haitians in Chile. We also pray for the Rev. Marco Depestre, a minister from the Methodist Church in Haiti, and his wife as they travel to take up ministry with the Church in Chile. Amen.

**BALLYMENA**

We hope that with the refurbishment of the old manse we will be able to use it to encourage and develop the work we do with various community organisations working in the health and wellbeing area.

**Minister:** David Rock

**Living Rooms Project Co-ordinator:** Elaine McDonald

**PRAYER:** Father, thank you for your love for us that shows itself supremely in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. May we, as we seek to follow him, always live our lives that others will know that Jesus is our Saviour, that his love is abundant within us and that the hope we have comes from him. Amen.

**CULLYBACKEY**

A single-church, village circuit in the heart of a farming community, with a mission to glorify God and share his Good News in word and deed with others.

**Minister:** Philip Gallagher

**Retired Ministers Assisting:** Laurie Churms, Chris Fraser

**PRAYER:** Lord, we thank you that we see you at work in our church. We thank you for people coming to faith and for others taking leaps of faith into new and greater things in your service. Deepen our hunger for your presence and our dependency on you in everything we do. Fill our hearts with more and more love for the community around us and lead us by your Spirit into all the ways you would have us share your gospel with them. Amen.

**WDR PARTNER**

**FATHER ANDEWEG INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF (FAID)**

FAID is a Christian School in Beirut Lebanon, whose staff cater for children who are deaf or hard of hearing, irrespective of religion, ethnicity or wealth.

**PRAYER:** Dear God, we thank you for showing your love and support to the people, young and old, who make up the family of The Father Andeweg Institute for the Deaf in Lebanon. Bless them in their work and keep them safe as they equip young deaf people for life in a society that is not very kind to people with a handicap. We especially pray for Syrian deaf refugees and their families who are connected to the school. Give them the hope, strength and guidance they need to find a future in these very dangerous times. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**CONNEXIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Connexional Finance Committee reviews the accounts for each department which receives an allocation from the Comprehensive Assessment and recommends to Conference the total amount to be collected as Comprehensive Assessment and the allocation of funds to each department. The Committee also reviews the Report and Accounts for the Methodist Church in Ireland and recommends that Conference gives approval to the President and the Secretary of Conference to sign the Report and Accounts.

**Chairperson:** Harold Baird

**Secretary:** Bill Parkinson

**PRAYER:** Father God, we pray for your guidance when the Committee meet to review the financial needs of our Church and pray that they will be able to communicate those needs clearly so as to ensure understanding and support by our societies. We give thanks for all the volunteer treasurers in the circuits, societies and Connexional departments. Gracious God, as we plan our finances throughout the Church, help us always to remember the wider needs of the world. Amen.

**THE EVANGELICAL METHODIST CHURCH OF CHILE**

The Rev. Dr Laurence Graham preaching in Creole with Pastor Huguette interpreting into Spanish

**Mohammed is a student at FAID who now has the opportunity to get an education. He has also been fitted with his first hearing aid.**

‘the God of hope’. Romans 15:13

You are the God of hope. As we put our trust in you, may we know your hope flooding our being, releasing us from fear and enabling us to live lives which bring glory to your name. Amen.
BELFAST DISTRICT
Methodism witnesses in Belfast through Belfast Central Mission, East Belfast Mission and 26 local societies. The Joint Chaplaincy with the Church of Ireland continues to grow and reach students across the city. This growing, diverse city – now embracing over 40 nationalities – faces many social, economic and spiritual challenges. The Church remains faithful and seeks to meet people at their point of need. The political vacuum has stimulated a rise of sectarianism which inhibits reconciliation and a shared future. District Superintendent: Philip Agnew District Secretary: Ken Connor

PRAYER: Loving God, in an area of social, economic and spiritual need, we recognise that our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of evil in the spiritual realm. Help us to put on the armour of God that we might stand in Christ. Enable us to pray in the Spirit that your power and love may flow in North Belfast. Help us to hear what the Spirit is saying to your Church that we might walk in the light and keep in step with the Spirit. May we be a true blessing to all. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us. Amen.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL BELFAST INCLUDING BELFAST CENTRAL MISSION
A new circuit formed from what were previously three separate circuits, which have come together to strategically address the challenges and opportunities across this rapidly changing part of Belfast. In this one mission area we currently have four Methodist societies: Belfast South (on the Lisburn Road), Donegall Road, Grosvenor Hall (in the city centre) and Sandy Row, the Methodist and Church of Ireland University Chaplaincy, and The Church of the Resurrection. Belfast Central Mission, operating out of Grosvenor House, provides a range of social care projects for all ages across Northern Ireland, and has advanced plans to develop an innovative elderly/dementia care facility at “Copelands” in Millisle. The Agape Centre, on the Lisburn Road, is a community hub offering office, meeting, and conference space, and hosting a range of classes, lectures and other events. The new circuit also hosts the City Centre Chaplaincy, a new ministry opportunity; the Chaplaincy to Methodist College Belfast; and Well.com, a mental and spiritual wellbeing ministry. Superintendent Minister: David Campton Minister and Honorary Chaplain to Methodist College: Emily Hyland Non-Stipendiary Minister: Brenda Weatherill Minister in Part-time Appointment: June Parke

PRAYER: Almighty God, continually creating all things new, we praise you for the opportunities and trust you as we seek to address the challenges in this new area of mission. Grant wisdom as new structures and processes are put in place. Grant vision for new approaches and initiatives and grant us the people and resources for the work that you would have us do. Help us to build new relationships with other churches and ministries in this area as together we seek to build your Kingdom, not our own little empires. To you be all the glory, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

NORTH BELFAST INCLUDING CAVEHILL, JENNYMOUNT AND JOANMOUNT
Demonstrating Methodist life and witness in North Belfast, an area of social, economic and spiritual deprivation. Developing good community relationships as we reach out into the local community, seeking to meet need at all levels. Superintendent Minister: Philip Agnew Probationer Minister: Alan Conly Lay Workers: Billy and Marie Greer

Universities Chaplain: Barry Forde (Church of Ireland) Pioneer Mission Leader: Alan Lorimer (Well.com) Non-Stipendiary Probationer Minister: Andrew Irvine BCM Director: Brian Burns BCM Head of Care: Cindy Scott BCM Head of Finance and Business Support: Gillian Murray BCM Head of Development: Nicky Conway Agape Centre Administrator: Jo-Anne Crossley BCM employs around 185 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.

‘We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.’ Romans 5:2
May the hope of God’s glory lift our hearts in worship and anticipation. Amen.
PRAYER FOCUS

DAY 21

WDR PARTNER
INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION UK
IJM partners with local authorities to strengthen and transform justice systems to protect the poor from everyday forms of violence. Through WDR, MCI partners with IJM in their fight for justice.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we praise you for those who have been set free from exploitation through the work of IJM. We know that this work can only be done through you, God of justice and defender of the poor. We ask that you help IJM as they seek to ignite a move of prayer for justice across the UK and Ireland. Pat Jamison (WDR committee member) recently travelled to Cambodia with IJM. We pray for IJM’s work there, rescuing those enslaved in the fishing industry. We pray for those from across the world. We pray for those of Christian faith, and those of other faiths and none. May the chaplaincy and its team bring, and be, the light of Christ across the campuses of Stranmillis, Queen’s, Belfast Metropolitan and the University of Ulster (Art College).

GREATHER SHANKILL INCLUDING SHANKILL, WOODVALE AND ST ANDREW’S CHURCH OF IRELAND / METHODIST
Churches seek to ignite a local community through witness, service, worship and mission for all ages.

Superintendent Minister: Colin Duncan
Minister: Emma Rutherford (Church of Ireland, St Andrew’s)
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 across the circuit and with our sister churches in the area. Lord, we cry out for a revival and spiritual awakening which will bring healing, reconciliation and wholeness to this community and across its divisions. Amen.

BALLYNANEIGH INCLUDING KNOCKBREDA, BELVOIR AND CAIRNHILL
A circuit in the suburbs of South East Belfast seeking to create disciples who will live out God’s love in the community.

Superintendent Minister: Maureen Hassard

Probationer Minister: Edward Kirwan
Youth and Community Worker (Knockbreda): Heather Bailie
Retired Ministers Assisting: Heather Bell, Peter Mercer

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we thank you for your presence with us as we seek to reach out to those in our local communities who are in need in so many ways and as we reach out, too, across our circuit, increasing bonds of fellowship with one another and with you. We pray for vision to move forward into the future, giving us the courage to change those things that need to be changed, but clinging tightly to your eternal Kingdom values. Amen.

JUNIOR MISSION FOR ALL (WMP)
The 2018 JMA project focus is Phakamisa. It is a social and community outreach programme of Pinetown Methodist Church, South Africa.

PRAYER: Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for the children and young people in our churches today. Lord, we pray for Phakamisa and Pinetown Methodist Church in South Africa and the amazing work that is being done there. We pray for their ministries, through education, teacher training and helping to establish nurseries for the children in South Africa. Lord, thank you for our JMA leaders and groups. We pray that you will continue to do your incredible work through, and in, our children to help those less fortunate than ourselves around the world. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

JUNIOR MISSION FOR ALL (JMA)
A class from one of Phakamisa’s ‘wandering schools’
PRAYER FOCUS

DAY 22

FRONTIERS IRELAND (WMP)
A partner of World Mission Partnership, Frontiers Ireland focuses on church-planting and disciple-making in the Muslim world.

PRAYER: Father, we thank you that you love the whole world: all nations, peoples, tribes and tongues. With over 2000 Muslim people groups worldwide, thank you that over 75% of them have already been engaged with the Good News of Jesus. We pray for the remaining 170+ Muslim people groups that are still completely unengaged. Raise up churches across Ireland to pray for them through the ‘Pray for Zero’ initiative, that people from every Muslim people group will one day be represented around your glorious throne. (Revelation 7:9). We pray in your name. Amen.

MOUNTPOTTINGER AND BLOOMFIELD
Two churches striving to work together and with others to share God’s love in East Belfast and beyond.
Minister: David Sweeney
Retired Minister Assisting: Fred Munce

PRAYER: Loving God, we thank you for the faithful witness over many generations in these two churches. As they continue to discern how God is calling them to live out his mission, we pray that they will listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. We pray that everyone on the circuit will keep their eyes firmly fixed on Jesus and follow his leading. We pray that these two societies will continue to grow in love for 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: Ken Connor
Minister: Cheryl Patterson

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the many ways you have guided and encouraged this circuit. We ask your blessing on the opportunities you have given the members to serve the communities which surround our churches and to witness to all the generations who blend together to enrich their life and worship. Thank you for the opportunity to work with other churches, Lord, equip them for the path you have laid before them and may all they do be to your glory. Amen.

WDR PARTNER
METHODIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF SERVICES, GHANA
Through WDR, MCI continues to support agricultural and health-related projects on the south coast of Ghana.

PRAYER: Lord God, we praise and thank you for your great power and your tender, faithful love. We know that it is from your hand that we have received all we have, and all that we are, and will be. We thank you for Methodism in Ghana, our link through WDR and all the partnership gains derived from social evangelism. Gracious and loving God, we understand that you call us to be the stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. Amen.

EAST BELFAST MISSION
Partnering with God in our community.
Superintendent Minister: Brian Anderson
Chief Executive Officer: Andrew Irvine
Retired Minister: David Kerr
Lay Pastor: Kim Cooper
Community Worker: Sandie Gallagher
Aspire (Homework Club): Hannah Wilson

PRAYER: Our Father, we remember before you the new superintendent minister, the Rev. Brian Anderson, and his family as they come to the Mission. May Brian know your presence with him as he moves into a new area of work as a Mission superintendent. We pray also for the rest of the Mission team, staff and volunteers, as they seek to reach out to the most vulnerable in society in East Belfast. Help them to know and do your will. We thank you for all that is past and trust you for all that is to come. Amen.

Creagh and Glenburn
Messy Play

East Belfast Mission
Easter Sunday Cross

‘I will show you my faith by what I do.’ James 2:18

Lord, may our growing faith lead to lives that reflect the character of Jesus in our ordinary daily activities, as well as in the use of the gifts you have given to us. Amen.
PRAYER FOCUS
DAY 23

SYDENHAM
To be a people who worship, witness and work for God
Minister: Robin Waugh
Youth Worker: Sammy Stanfield

PRAYER: Almighty God, we praise you for all those who serve within the life of this church and offer godly leadership. Lord, as they continue to explore where you are at work in their community, help them to be sensitive to your Holy Spirit’s guidance. Bind them in unity, as together they walk in the way of Christ, and help them to be the fragrance of Jesus to others, so that your Kingdom would grow in their midst. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

KNOCK INCLUDING BRANIEL AND DUNDONALD
The three societies in our circuit are in three distinct areas along the eastern periphery of Belfast. This year, as we face the challenge of having one fewer minister on the circuit, we will be seeking to work more closely together in order to support the varied work of God across our circuit.
Superintendent Minister: Stephen Sheerin
Minister: Britt Gilmore
Pastoral Assistant: Lesley Moreland
Youth and Children’s Pastor: Lois Gibson

PRAYER: God of engagement and encouragement, grant to all within the Knock Circuit a sensitivity to your rhythms of grace that, in being filled with your Holy Spirit, they would be able to share the fruit of your Spirit, loving one another and the communities within which they are embedded. In the midst of the ebb and flow of their daily lives and of changes and challenges on their circuit enable them to be your risk-taking, faith-filled, Kingdom-growing disciples, that many others would find themselves similarly immersed in, and shaped by, your rhythms of grace. Amen.

FINAGHY AND SEYMOUR HILL
Two south Belfast churches seeking to grow closer to God and to be a loving witness to those around us.
Minister: Colin Gracie
Retired Minister Assisting (Part-time): Robert Wallace (Seymour Hill)

PRAYER: Almighty God, the world around us changes so fast and in ways we do not expect, yet you never change. Your love and truth stand for all time. Strengthen the witness of this circuit to that love and truth, so that they may reach out to their communities both in word and action. Thank you for the outreach of Messy Church, CrossRoads and 10FM activities. We pray for their continued relationships with the other local churches and with the Magu Circuit, Tanzania. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

CONNEXIONAL COMMUNICATIONS
The Connexional Communications Team liaises with the various departments of the Church, societies, circuits and districts and offers advice and support on IT and Media; helps them achieve their objectives, using technology and social media; oversees the use of the Connexional website, provides support to the Connexional Press Officer and responds to training needs as required.
Co-ordinator: Tom Millar
E:communications@irishmethodist.org
Communications and Website Development Manager:
Hollyanne Boyce
E: website@irishmethodist.org
Press Officer: Roy Cooper
E: pressoficer@irishmethodist.org

PRAYER: Lord, as we explore, develop and promote different methods of communication help us not to lose sight of the message, the good news of the gospel. Thank you for those whose skills have created the different communication platforms at our disposal; may we use them enthusiastically and with sensitivity in our relationships within the Church and the wider community. May we be careful in our use of language and committed to promoting our message only to your glory. Amen.

WDR PARTNER
CHRISTIAN AID IRELAND
Christian Aid works for gender equality across all our programmes and for the rights of the excluded and marginalised to be recognised. MCI shares two co-funded partners with CAI, through WDR.

PRAYER: Lord God thank you for your Word which teaches us that each and everyone of us is, ‘fearfully and wonderfully made’. (Psalm 139). Thank you that you search us and know us and love us. We thank you, Lord, that we are who you made us to be. Almighty God, we pray for those who will be discriminated against today because of their gender. Help us to speak out and challenge this injustice, in our own lives and on behalf of those who aren’t able to use their own voice to speak out for themselves. Amen.

PRAYER: Lord God thank you for your Word which teaches us that each and everyone of us is, ‘fearfully and wonderfully made’. (Psalm 139). Thank you that you search us and know us and love us. We thank you, Lord, that we are who you made us to be. Almighty God, we pray for those who will be discriminated against today because of their gender. Help us to speak out and challenge this injustice, in our own lives and on behalf of those who aren’t able to use their own voice to speak out for themselves. Amen.

CHRISTIAN AID IRELAND
The International Women’s Day event in Kayogoro, Makamba organised by Christian Aid in Burundi

‘putting on…..the hope of salvation as a helmet’.
1 Thessalonians 5:8

Lord, in a world full of conflict and negativity where it is so easy to watch, to read and to listen to the things that could destroy our faith, help us to guard our minds with this helmet of the hope of salvation. Amen.
PRAYER FOCUS

DAY 24

PIONEER MISSION
Pioneer Mission Committee
Chairperson: Laurence Graham

WELL.COM
Respectful of all denominations, drawing on the Celtic awareness of God present in every aspect of our daily life, well.com provides a safe, professional space for you to think and to pray... somewhere to slow down... to find rest... to experience peace of mind... to know that God is with you.

Led by: Alan Lorimer
www.limavadymethodist.org

PRAYER: We pray for well.com, for Alan and Breige that they will be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit as they creatively explore opening new wells of ministry and mission. We pray for the opportunities of growth and learning that are developing in Life Groups and through reading the Bible and doing life together in threes and fours.

www.limavadymethodist.org

THE SURF PROJECT
The Surf Project creates places and spaces for people to encounter God in a relaxed, safe and fun environment. Through camps, events and retreats the Project encourages people to Live Life to the Full through a relationship with Jesus Christ. We pray that the Holy Spirit may continue to empower and lead The Surf Project as they plan, organise, and implement their events to help young people and children realise the importance of living a Christ-centred life. We pray for Project staff and volunteers, for energy and wisdom as they lead this ministry. Amen.

PIONEER MISSION
Pioneer Mission Committee
Chairperson: Laurence Graham

WELL.COM
Respectful of all denominations, drawing on the Celtic awareness of God present in every aspect of our daily life, well.com provides a safe, professional space for you to think and to pray... somewhere to slow down... to find rest... to experience peace of mind... to know that God is with you.

Led by: Alan Lorimer
www.limavadymethodist.org

PRAYER: We pray that The Surf Project will continue to inspire and encourage people to Live Life to the Full through a relationship with Jesus Christ. We pray that the Holy Spirit may continue to empower and lead The Surf Project as they plan, organise, and implement their events to help young people and children realise the importance of living a Christ-centred life. We pray for Project staff and volunteers, for energy and wisdom as they lead this ministry. Amen.

PAUL AND PAULA GALLUCCI
Paul and Paula Gallucci are leading a growing community of people who are wanting to live as family together, serving one another and the local community, seeking to reach those who don’t yet know Jesus in the communities around them. There are growing opportunities among young families, in local school involvement, seeking to bless the town in partnership with other community groups. Faith is coming alive for a number of people through relationships that are developed in Life Groups and through reading the Bible and doing life together in threes and fours.

www.limavadymethodist.org

PRAYER: Lord, we pray that this church family will all keep in step with the Spirit. Amen.

BREAKTHROUGH
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 crèche, Breathe Tank gatherings (teaching evenings with a meal), and one-on-one discipleship and mentoring presence.

Find our more at:
https://breatheymca.wordpress.com

Led by: Anne Baenziger and Kathryn O’Mahony

PRAYER: We pray for The Surf Project, as they live to experience and share your love in the inner city of Dublin. We pray that lead and take part in all that the Breathe community does, may you give them strength, courage and boldness. We pray for those who struggle with addiction, broken relationships, and tough life situations. May they know your deep love, your reconciliation and your guidance. May they all experience fullness of life by the power of your Spirit. 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: Father God, you are the Lord of creativity; it’s amazing to see across the island of Ireland so many people who are using their gifts to communicate your love in so many fresh and engaging ways. Thank you for blessing the work of Play it by Ear as they use drama to help people think about what it means to follow you. We give thanks for all the different places and opportunities Play it by Ear have had to perform their dramas and take workshops. Amen.

BELFAST CITY-CENTRE CHAPLAINCY
Belfast City-centre Chaplaincy seeks to place embedded chaplains into businesses in Belfast city centre.

Led by: Andrew Irvine

PRAYER: We ask that God will call and send Christians from across Belfast churches to volunteer as city-centre chaplains. May God open the doors of businesses to them. We pray that the Holy Spirit will speak through every city-centre chaplain to touch the lives of those who work there with the love and grace of Christ and bring to them his gospel message of the Kingdom of God. Amen.
EUROPEAN METHODIST COUNCIL (EMC)
EMC is the consultative council that brings together representatives of Methodist Churches from all European countries for worship, prayer, learning and sharing in God’s mission. It links with other bodies such as the World Methodist Council and with each Church in mutual support and encouragement.

PRAYER: Loving and gracious God, we thank you for the work and fellowship of EMC and we ask you to bless all leaders and representatives who attend meetings and other events organised by EMC as they seek to fulfil the mission of your Church in Europe. We pray especially for the great challenges facing Europe such as that arising from those seeking refuge and asylum as well as the thousands of migrant people trying for a better life in Europe.

We give thanks for the hospitality shown by Methodists to them in many countries and we pray that this lead will be followed by each country in the future. We pray for the Executive of EMC led by Co-Chairs Bishop Christian Alsted (Denmark) and Bishop Alfredo Teixeira (Portugal) as they lead and guide the Council. Amen.

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: Spirit of the living God, as members of the Council on Social Responsibility grapple with sometimes huge and complex issues of society on this island, fill them with them with your love; show them how best the Church can serve the neighbours we have from you. Amen.

PRAYER FOCUS
DAY 25

ALL WE CAN
WDR PARTNER
ALL WE CAN
All We Can helps find solutions to poverty by engaging with local people and organisations in some of the world’s poorest communities to end the suffering caused by inequality and injustice. All We Can works in partnership with WDR on specific projects, such as enabling families develop more reliable livelihoods in Ethiopia and helping women in India overcome the challenges of discrimination.

PRAYER: Loving Father, we thank you for your concern and care for the world. Thank you for enabling All We Can to play a positive role, as they help people living in poverty to find ways to overcome their struggles and suffering. Thank you for making all people in your image and giving them potential. We pray that you will strengthen All We Can as they help people to fulfil their potential and experience a better quality of life. Thank you for being a source of inspiration and wisdom. May All We Can continue to draw from you to guide their steps for your Kingdom’s sake. In all of these things, wonderful Lord, to you be the glory. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

THE CONTAINER MINISTRY (WMP)
William Carson and the team of volunteers are busy at the Lurgan Warehouse sending containers across the world.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for the generosity of many individuals and groups who so freely contribute to the Container Ministry, God, we praise you for the safe arrival and distribution of the materials to so many troubled and needy areas of the world. We pray that the compassionate, giving heart in the Methodist family in Ireland will continue to grow so that others may be blessed. God, grant health and strength for the team at the warehouse, all of whom are retirees: thank you for how they generously and faithfully use their time to serve you. God, you have used this ministry in wonderful ways and so we pray expectantly that we may see more of your plans unfolding in miraculous ways. In your name we pray. Amen.

‘God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

We are challenged by the strong faith of our brothers and sisters around the world who are facing opposition, persecution and, sometimes, death. Grant us also a faith that holds us up when trouble tries to knock us down. Amen.

THE CONTAINER MINISTRY
The arrival of a container in Zambia

COUNCIL ON SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
The Rev. David Clements, Mrs Hazel Baird, Mrs Liz Parkin and the Rev. Steven Foster

ALL WE CAN
Women’s self-help group discussing how they will be taking action in their own village to promote women’s rights. Srijan Foundation, India
PRAYER FOCUS
DAY 26

DOWN DISTRICT
The Down District consists of seven inter connected circuits that cooperate through MMI, Ministerial Fellowship, Local Preachers’ Training, and through many other informal relationships.
District Superintendent: Andrew Kingston
District Secretary: Thomas Clarke

PRAYER: Creating God, we give you thanks for the beauty of our surroundings; from the Mountains of Mourne, to the outstanding coastal beauty of Lecale and North Down, to the wildlife havens of Strangford Lough and Murlough. Likewise, we give thanks for the creative talents of your people in craft classes, art clubs, prayer rooms, choirs and through written and spoken words. May the strong encourage the weak, the young energise the old and the mature nourish new life. We pray this in the name of the One who is our True Vine. Amen.

DONAGHADEE
Existing to programme 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 Superintendent Minister: Tom McKnight
Retired Ministers Assisting: Bert Montgomery, Daphne Twinem

PRAYER: Lord, as we remember before you Donaghadee Methodist Church, we thank you for this island of stability within a rapidly changing town. We pray for new residents, especially those with no church connection. We pray for excitement as a church – a church which focuses, not on its connection. We pray for new residents, especially those with no church connection. We pray for excitement as a church – a church which focuses, not on its past or on what other churches are doing, but on what God has in store for it now in the power of the Spirit. May we live to make his love known. Amen.

NEWTOWNARDS, MOVILLA ABBEY AND COMBER
Three societies that seek to grow spiritually and numerically.
Superintendent Minister: Andrew Kingston (Regent Street)
Minister: Michael Spence (Movilla)
 Lay Pastor: Nicky Hazley (Comber)
Youth Pastors: Laura Ewing (Regent Street), Philip Patterson (Movilla)

PRAYER: Jesus, you show us what it means to be the servant of all. Inspire and equip the people of this circuit to be your hands and feet in their neighbourhoods. Enable each member to show the love of Jesus to friends and family and guide the churches’ initiatives in their community. Especially we pray for Karen and the Belfast Central Mission Parental Support Team as they continue to partner with Regent Street Methodist Church in helping single-parent families. Amen.

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

PRAYER: Father, may your Spirit guide and empower the congregations in Glastray and Portaferry as they seek your guidance on how to share your Good News and love with those who currently have no interest in church. Fill the leadership - the Circuit Executive, Church Councils, Jordan and Naomi - with your wisdom, discernment and power. May you continue to build the growing friendship between churches in the Ards Peninsula, so that their communities would witness the purifying and deepening of their love for one another - thereby coming to faith in your Son, Jesus. Amen.

OTHER SERVING MISSION PARTNERS (WMP)
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: We pray for all mission partners from the Methodist Churches in Britain and Ireland. Thank you for Wande Ebofin serving as a mission partner in New Ireland in Papua New Guinea. Wande is passionate about sharing the Good News to everyone and anyone, both in word and deed. She loves to teach young and old, to empower women, to equip emerging leaders, to promote community cohesion and to challenge the ‘status quo’. She generously uses her knowledge, skills and resources to help those around her, to seek progress and create solutions. Provide, protect and uphold her. Grant her wisdom, favour and courage to pursue your will and understand her purpose in life. Fill her with the peace that passes all understanding and grant her faith to accomplish more for you. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.
PRAYER FOCUS

DAY 27

MISSION PARTNER (WMP)
Stephen McCann - Stephen serves with 24-7 Ibiza in San Antonio, one of the party capitals of the world - seeking to share Jesus with those who live, work and holiday there.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the team in Ibiza working each day and night of the summer season to reach those who are lost, hurting or vulnerable. Give this team courage, wisdom and vision as they serve the community and those who holiday there. We thank you that you love everyone in the world, no matter who they are or what they've done - and that no one is out of your reach. We pray that all the people the 24-7 Ibiza team encounter would come to know you as their loving Father, compassionate Friend and eternal Saviour. We ask that your light would shine brightly in the darkness for all to see. Amen.

BALLYNAHINCH
Worshipping God, bearing witness to the love of Christ and forming communities of wholeness by the Spirit.
Minister: Ruth Craig

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, bless this church; help each member to grow in grace and the knowledge of your Son. Help them as they seek to reach out in love to the Ballynahinch community, forging deeper links with The Edge, The Hub and other community organisations. Bless all the churches in the town and help them to demonstrate Christ’s love in all they do. May your Kingdom come, and your will be done in all their lives. Amen.

DUNDRUM, NEWCASTLE AND DOWNPATRICK
The circuit consists of three small congregations seeking to be effective witnesses to the gospel in two towns and one village in the South Down area.
Minister: Louise Monroe
Retired Minister Assisting: Samuel Burch

PRAYER: Father God, we thank you for the fellowship shared in these three churches and with their sister churches in the community. We pray for the continuing development of their new prayer initiatives of Circuit, Community and Centering Prayer. May the members grow in their relationship with you and, empowered by the Holy Spirit, live their lives as your faithful witnesses. We pray for your vision for the future; may they be open to the leading of your Spirit. Amen.

LISBURN AND DROMORE COMPRISING BROOMHEDGE, DROMORE, MAGHERAGALL, PRIESTHILL, SEYMOUR STREET AND TRINITY
We are one community of six church families where God’s grace is at work as we meet and witness to our Christian faith. As God’s ‘Gathered Community’ and ‘Scattered Community’ we strive to be expressions of God’s love for the world.
Superintendent Minister: Mervyn Ewing
Ministers: David Turtle, Thomas Clarke
Minister in Part-time Appointment: Ross Harte
Retired Ministers Assisting: Jim Williamson (Broomhedge, Magheragall and Trinity), Tom Deacon (Dromore and Priesthill (Zion)
Pastoral Visitor: Billy Bryson
Pastoral Assistant: Shirley Carrington

PRAYER: Gracious and loving heavenly Father, we give you thanks for the prompting and leading of your Holy Spirit across this circuit. In these changing and challenging times may the members seek your wisdom and discernment as they evolve to become more effective in their witness to your Kingdom values. Help them to be more creative and imaginative as both lay and ordained share together in ministry, using wisely the resources available to them. Enable each member to be more intentional in their disciple-making as they share Jesus with their neighbours, families, work colleagues and those with whom they socialise. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

DUNDRUM, NEWCASTLE AND DOWNPATRICK

PRAYER: How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God.’ 1 John 3:1

Heavenly Father, the depth of your love overwhelms us. We are so undeserving, yet your love reaches down to lift us out of spiritual poverty into the riches of such an inheritance. In loving response, help us to worship you in word and deed. Amen.

PRAYER: You of little faith, why did you doubt?’ Matthew 14:31

Help us to remember, Lord, that it is not the size of our faith, but the direction of our faith, that is important. We begin to sink, like Peter on the Sea of Galilee, when we take our eyes off you. Keep us focused, Lord, we pray. Amen.
PRAYER FOCUS
DAY 28

PORTADOWN DISTRICT
Covering six counties, with some of the circuits straddling the border.
District Superintendent: Harold Agnew
District Secretary: Sharon Connor

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, you call us, as you called your first disciples, to follow you: not simply to believe, nor merely to declare our faith and confess you as Lord, but in your grace and mercy revive and renew the congregations on the Portadown District. Amen.

NEWRY INCLUDING BESSBROOK AND WARRENPOINT
A circuit who are seeking God's guidance as to the way ahead. The Bible study, prayer meetings and youth work continue to grow. The congregations are looking for new opportunities to witness for Christ. Give thanks that some of the ladies have started a luncheon club on Wednesdays; pray for its ministry.
Superintendent Minister: Tommy Stevenson
Minister: Annie Deche
Retired Minister Assisting: Graham Hamilton

PRAYER: God, breathe on this circuit and move in them that they may know your power. Strengthen them and renew them. Amen.

PORTADOWN INCLUDING THOMAS STREET, EDENDERRY MEMORIAL, EPWORTH, MAHON, BATTLEHILL, DERRYANVILLE AND BALLINARY
The Portadown circuit consists of three churches in Portadown and four in the surrounding area, each one reaching out to its community.
Superintendent Minister: Alan Wardlow
Ministers: Thomas Stevenson, Sharon Connor
Circuit Youth Pastor: Jackie Whittle

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this circuit and for your blessing on them down through the years. Please continue to bless, use, refresh and renew them in the power of your Holy Spirit. Help these congregations to be places of prayer, centres of Christian preaching and teaching and communities of service who witness to your redeeming and renewing love. Help them to commend Jesus Christ by who they are, by what they say and by what they do. Let them live for your glory and for the good of others. 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 and 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 (Southern Africa)

PRAYER: Loving and all-present God, we give thanks for the World Methodist Council and its work in bringing together ‘the people called Methodist’ from all round your world. We pray that we may be faithful to the calling to spread Scriptural holiness through our lands, alert to the needs of the poor and marginalised and always mindful of the beauty and fragility of the world which is our mutual home. May we be drawn together in your praise and service. 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. Their prayer is that God will meet with them as they discover their beautiful brokenness.
Chairperson: David Rock
Secretary: Wendy Johnston
Treasurer: Mark McElhinney

PRAYER: ‘Lord, I believe; help me overcome my unbelief.’
Mark 9:24

Dear God, so often we feel like this father in the gospels who recognized and admitted the smallness of his faith. Lord, we want to believe. Help us to overcome our unbelief as we live with gospel focus. Amen.
CHARLEMONDT AND CRANAGILL INCLUDING BLACKWATERTOWN, MOY AND TULLYROAN
Sharing the love of God with others, deepening his love in their lives, so that they may know true peace.
Minister: George Bowes

PRAYER: Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on this circuit we pray. Fill each member with your love, joy and peace. May your healing power be in their midst. Encourage and strengthen their faith as they seek to live as your disciples in their communities. Heavenly Father, may you alone be glorified. Amen.

DUNGANNON INCLUDING DUNGANNON, LAGHEY, CASTLECAULFIELD AND NEWTOWNKELLY
The four churches of this circuit are congregations of gracious committed Christian people and are happy places of good fellowship. People of all ages gladly worship together and willingly serve the Lord.
Minister: William Newell

PRAYER: Beloved heavenly Father, thank you for your saving grace among us in Jesus Christ! Please fill the members with your Spirit and lead them as they follow Christ and study your Word. May they grow in the grace and knowledge of God. Enable this circuit to be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ and to shine his light and love in their communities. Please bless and guide them as William begins his ministry on this circuit. Amen.

COOKSTOWN AND SOUTH DERRY
A circuit at the northern end of the Portadown District, with one church in Cookstown and a second church in Magherafelt.
Minister: Rowan Zeelie

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, you are a most wonderful and faithful God. We pray for the Cookstown and Magherafelt churches. We thank you for their faithfulness in listening for your voice. Please guide them as they take their next step of faith with you. We pray for wisdom for their minister and their leaders. We pray for a unity of purpose among their members, and for your love to flow out of their buildings into their communities. Amen.

ARMAGH INCLUDING KILLYLEA AND KILLYMADDY
The Armagh Circuit seek to discern God’s purpose for their mission in the Armagh area and to be faithful in their witness and service.
Minister: Louise Donald

PRAYER: Father, strengthen us all with power through your Spirit in our inner being, that Christ, dwelling in our hearts through faith, rooting and establishing us in love, may bring healing to our brokenness and release from fear of change, so that we may willingly and intentionally pray, seek and grasp new opportunities to enlarge our boundaries. Amen.

AUGHNACLOY AND MONAGHAN INCLUDING BALLYNANNY
A cross-border circuit made up of a society in Monaghan town, along with the South Tyrone societies of Aughnacloy and Ballynanny.
Superintendent Minister: Rowan Zeelie
Lay Pastor: Roy Dreeaning

PRAYER: Gracious God, as we look inward help us to evaluate our walk with you, as we look outwards help us to reach the lost in our societies, and as we look upwards, help us to be thankful and trust continuously in our God who is able to do abundantly more than we can ask or think. Amen.

BIBLE SOCIETY NORTHERN IRELAND (WMP)
Reaching everyone with God’s word. This year WMP is partnering with Bible Society NI to help provide Scriptures for refugees in Austria and 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 pray for this partnership – that it would enable people in these countries to receive your Word into their hands and hearts. Let the gift of the Bible change lives, bringing comfort to the lonely and understanding to those looking for answers. We pray for the worldwide ministry of Bible Societies as they translate, publish and distribute the Word of God, allowing people who long for a Bible of their own to receive it in a language and format they can use and understand. Amen.

‘My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus’ blood and righteousness, I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.’ Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the firm basis of our Christian hope. Amen.
**PRAYER FOCUS**

**DAY 30**

**LURGAN INCLUDING HIGH STREET, LURGAN; QUEEN STREET, LURGAN; BALLINACORR; BLUESTONE AND BANNFOOT**

An urban/rural circuit of five churches in the Craigavon area.  
Superintendent Minister: Harold Agnew  
(High Street, Lurgan)  
Minister: George Abbs  
(Ballinacorr, Bluestone and Bannfoot)  
Lay Pastor: Geoffrey Robinson  
(Queen Street, Lurgan)  
Youth Pastor/Worker: Mark Hand  
(High Street, Lurgan)

**PRAYER:** Gracious God, we thank you for a growing desire to pray to, and encounter with, God, demonstrated with the opening of the new prayer room on the High Street in Lurgan. We give thanks for the evidence of renewed discipleship seen with the establishment of fellowship bands and a more missional community approach to Home Groups in High Street. We rejoice to see people coming to faith through vibrant youth work and outreach activities, in the establishment of a new Sunday School in Ballinacorr and in outreach to the Bluestone community. Teach us to be the salt of the earth, fit for use in your service, to the glory of your name. Amen.

**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 this new season in the life and ministry of The Church on the Hill. We pray that this church would grow deeper, both in their love for God and in their love for one another. We pray that they would increasingly shine as ‘a light on the hill’ and reach out with God’s love to the community around them. Amen.

**TANDRAGEE AND RICHHILL INCLUDING MARKETHILL**

“Every good gift and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.”  
James 1v17  
Minister: Nicholas McKnight  
Youth, Children’s & Family Worker: Naomi Armstrong

**PRAYER:** Dear God, everything we have is the perfect gift from a perfect Father, to his imperfect children. We delight in the generous gifts that you so freely and lovingly lavish upon us, despite our undeserving. Touch our selfish hearts that we would seek you for who you are rather than for the gifts we receive from you. May we reflect your indiscriminate grace and reckless love, so that the world may believe. Amen.

**BANBRIDGE AND DONA克莱ONEY**

Banbridge Circuit consists of three churches: the church in Banbridge town and the two rural churches in Dona克莱oney and Blackskull.  
Superintendent Minister: Harold Agnew  
Probationer Minister: Andrew Gibson

**PRAYER:** Lord, thank you for the work of the New Life Charity Shop in Banbridge. Bless and encourage Judith and her team of volunteers as they minister through this outreach. We thank you that Dona克莱oney Church are celebrating 125 years of life and witness. May your blessing be on their special events throughout the year as they work together with local churches in the mission of your Church. Please continue to bless the Gospel Hour in Blackskull as they meet faithfully to worship you. Amen.

**GLENAVY AND MOIRA INCLUDING CRAIGMORE**

Thanks to God for a united circuit, and a people willing to serve the present age with a powerful determination.  
Minister: Robert Loney  
Retired Minister Assisting: Ken Lindsay

**PRAYER:** Lord, thank you for your love, goodness and provision for this circuit. Thank you for those who provide leadership and give freely of their time and expertise in so many ways. Bless each member as they grow in their faith; give them courage and boldness as they live out their lives for you day by day. May your Holy Spirit fill each member on this circuit. Amen.

**TANDRAGEE AND RICHHILL**

The Rev. Nick McKnight with Naomi Armstrong

**Faith as ‘small as a mustard seed’. Matthew 17:20**

Lord, we often marvel at the transformation of a tiny seed. In response to the right conditions, it germinates and matures. Help us to nurture our own faith, and the faith of our church communities, encouraging one another through prayer and through your word, that we also might grow into maturity. Amen.

**BANBRIDGE AND DONA克莱ONEY**

Dona克莱oney Methodist Church, celebrating 125 years in 2018
PRAYER FOCUS

DAY 31

BOARD OF EDUCATION
The Board seeks to develop, in cooperation with other Churches, a clear and shared vision of education, shaped by the core values of Christian faith. General Secretary and Convener, Northern Executive: Fred Munce Ministerial Treasurer and Convener, Southern Executive: Nigel Mackey Lay Treasurer: Ken Twyble

PRAYER: Gracious God, thank you for the many opportunities that can be gained through education at all stages of one’s life. Thank you for teachers who educate and support their students, often in difficult situations. We give thanks for all those who serve on school and college boards. Thank you for their time and talents freely given and for the valuable support they offer to principals and teaching staff. Please guide and bless all principals, teachers, assistants, chaplains and support staff. Grant them wisdom, patience and empathy as they carry out their duties. Amen.

RATHGAR NATIONAL SCHOOL, DUBLIN
Rathgar National School was established in 1896 and seeks to provide the highest possible standard of primary education for all its pupils. Strong links are maintained with Rathgar Methodist Church.
Principal: Ivan Pearson
Chairperson: Andrew Dougherty
Chaplain: Vanessa Wyse Jackson

ST. ANDREW’S NATIONAL SCHOOL, BRAY COUNTY 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 FOR NATIONAL SCHOOLS: Our God, we pray for all our children throughout this land as they grow in learning. We commend to you the dedicated principals and teachers: give them wisdom and discernment as they guide young lives through their education and into their future. As the children learn, help them to come to know more about you and your constant love that they may feel your support around them at any difficult time. Amen.

GUtteN COLLEGE
Gurteen College provides agricultural education for trainee farmers, courses up to degree level in equine management and practical experience for veterinary nurses.
Principal: Mike Pearson
Chair of Governors: Victoria Baker
Treasurer: Robert Armitage
Secretary: Lucy Bateman

PRAYER: Lord God Almighty, thank you that you know the plans you have for the good of all the students and staff members of Gurteen College, as well as for the College itself. Help each and every individual associated with Gurteen to become increasingly open to you so that they walk the path you have in mind for them. As you bless them, may they be a blessing to those they work with, their families and friends, and their community. Amen.

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. This year we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the College and ask for the Methodist people in Ireland to join us in giving thanks for the vision of previous generations.
Principal: Scott Naismith
Chaplain: Emily Hyland

WESLEY COLLEGE
Wesley is one of Ireland’s premier schools and takes its Methodist foundation and Christian ethos seriously. The school works hard to promote an open and caring community for all who live, work, play and study on the campus. Their motto is: “Prove all things; hold fast to that which is good.” (1 Thessalonians 5:21)
Principal: Christopher Woods
Chaplain: Nigel Mackey

PRAYER FOR WESLEY AND METHODIST COLLEGES: Loving and faithful God, we give you thanks for the vision of previous generations in founding schools. We pray for wisdom for those who lead these Colleges today and for those who serve as governors. We pray for new ventures in chaplaincy work and ask for the guidance of your Spirit for those who serve you in this way. We pray for teaching and support staff as they work to enable the learning and development of all students. We remember the work of the Christian Unions as they seek to support young people living out their faith in everyday life. May both these schools continue to be communities within which learning flourishes and where young people are equipped to play their part in God’s world. Amen.
A PRAYER JOURNAL FOR THE
METHODIST CHURCH IN IRELAND

Living with
GOSPEL FOCUS

ISSUE 18
£3.00/€3.00

Email: prayerfocus@irishmethodist.org
Web: www.irishmethodist.org