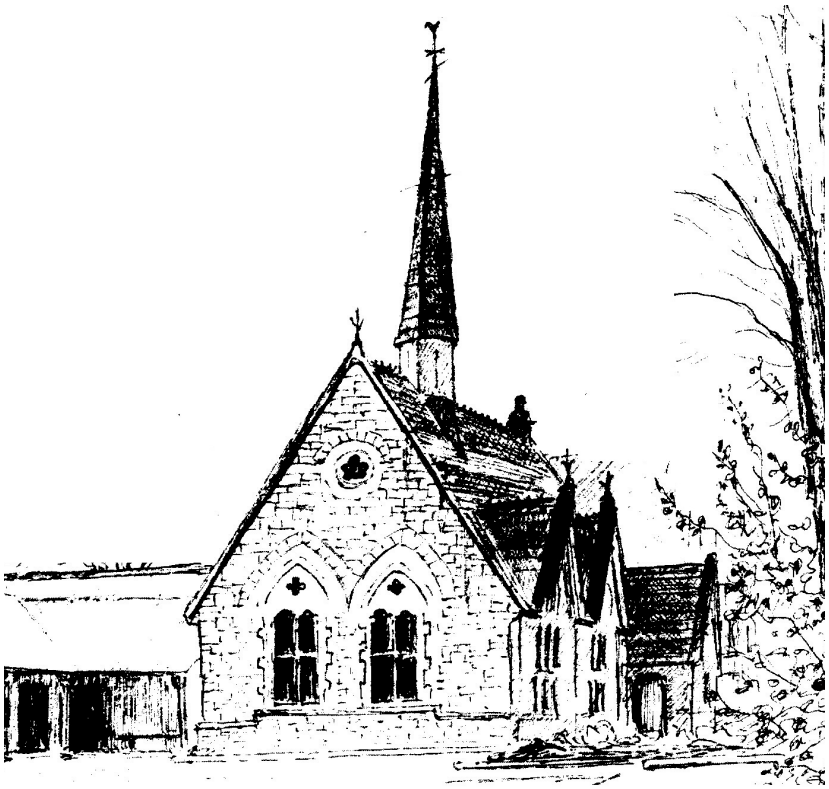
METHODIST

CENTENARY CHURCH



YEARBOOK 2010

THOUGHT FOR THE YEAR

STRESS

In Psalm 4 King David prayed, "Give me relief from my distress; be merciful to me and hear my prayer." David experienced stress just like us. Stress is not a modern invention, but it does seem like we have more things to cause us stress. Outside the Christiansborg Palace in Copenhagen, which is Denmark's Parliament building, there are three stone figures guarding the entrance. They represent the earache, the headache, and the stomach ache. "They are here to suggest," said a Dane, "that if you enter politics, you will have all three." I think that most of us would agree that entering the political world could well bring on many things that cause stress. And I don't think many of us are quick to enter that world. God have mercy on those who do. Pray for our new Government and Taoiseach Enda Kenny, they need it!

We live in a very stressful world and it affects all of us, not just politicians. In Psalm 121:1-2 we read "I lift up my eyes to the hills — where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth," and in Matthew 11:28 Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." I still believe the words of the Psalmist and Jesus. Both Psalm 3 and 4 deal with the subject of lack of sleep. People who are stressed don't sleep well. Psalm 3 and 4 were written when David was exiled because his own son Absalom had stolen the kingdom. It's hard to understand how a father and a son could be so opposed to one another. There was so much conflict between them that Absalom wanted to kill his father. That boggles my mind! Family strife can deteriorate badly. Psalm 3 is a morning Psalm. Psalm 4 is an evening Psalm. How could David sleep when he knew he was in danger? Because he also knew that God was for him. And that knowledge was even greater than his fears. He knew that God would surround him, sustain him and save him. David wrote Psalm 4 as he was about to retire for the evening. He couldn't do much about the war around him, but he could do something about the war within him. Instead of lying in bed fretting, stewing and worrying, he committed himself and his situation to the Lord and received relief. God's remedy for stress is God Himself. We need Him. We need more of Him. David asked God, he believed God and he received from God. This is the path of relieving stress. We ask. We believe. We receive.

Sir George Adam Smith tells how he and his guide were climbing the Weisshorn in the Swiss Alps. It was stormy and they were making their climb on the sheltered side of the peak. When they reached the summit, they were filled with the exhilaration. Sir George forgot about the fierce winds, leaped up and was nearly blown over the edge to the glacier below! The guide grabbed hold of him and exclaimed: "On your knees, sir. You are safe here only on your knees!" Life is not easy. We all go through periods of stress and strain. The only safe place in this life is on our knees. The only safe place is in the arms of God. Think about it!

AD

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2010

The past year saw yet another change for the Centenary community with the announcement that Conference had appointed a full time minister to the Circuit from July 2010. Our Lay Pastor Baird Lewis, his wife Helena and daughter Amy Clare were to tranfer to the Bangor circuit where he would continue his training for the fulltime ministry, being geographically closer to Edgehill College in Belfast.

In May after Baird's final service, a special reception was held where the congregation thanked him and wished the family well for the future. We presented them with a handcrafted wooden Noah's Ark, symbolising the family undertaking a voyage of adventure into the unknown with God's guiding spirit.

Following the Lewis family's departure, extensive work was carried out in 11 Arranmore Road. A new bathroom was installed, many rooms redecorated and the garden renovated. Many members of the congregation lent a hand and the Manse committee oversaw and directed the goings and comings of professional plumbers, builders and decorators as well as amateur gardeners all through the months

of June and July.

We completed the work just in time for the arrival of the Dougherty family in August. Andrew, Joyce, Matthew, Patrick and Charlotte had of course been consulted over colour schemes and they seem genuinely impressed with the result of all our labours! They have since added their own personality and furnishings to the Manse and we are delighted to welcome them to Centenary and the local community.

Andrew has very quickly assessed the demands and challenges of the Centenary congregation and we appreciate his direct approach to issues arising. We look forward to working with him in the coming years. We hope that Joyce may share some of her amazing recipes with us and that Matthew, Patrick and Charlotte will all enjoy the evolution of young people's activities with Sandford and Milltown parishes in the coming months and years as our new young people's centre in Wesley House takes shape.

LR

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL DUFF

Centenary congregation in Leeson Park has lost a very active and faithful member in the passing of Michael Duff on 22nd October last. Michael was born on the 30th April 1937 in the Rotunda, the second child to Joseph and Jane Duff. Sadly, Michael's twin brother, Robert, died a fortnight after his birth. Michael himself contracted TB and Diphtheria, and spent many of his early years in and out of Peamount Sanatorium. Michael's parents became caretakers of the Dublin Central Mission, then in George's Hall. This gave Michael a deep love for, and interest in, the work of the Mission which stayed with him all his life. His education was in Dolphin's Barn National School.

Michael was a sales man to the tips of his fingers and his first sales job was for Ranks Flour. He later became the Irish Agent for Baby Dear shoes, a Scottish based company. In the 1970's he ran a very successful Antique Shop in Blackrock, until the introduction of a one way traffic system reduced his passing trade and the tripling of rent made the business unviable. 34 years ago, he became a trader at the Liberties Market. Despite difficulties in the early days, Michael worked hard and stuck at it and built up a very successful business making numerous contacts. Michael enjoyed the genuine community spirit at the Liberties. Over the years he travelled regularly over the 32 counties and had a very wide circle of friends. He was due to retire at the end of November and was looking forward to a well earned trip with Jayne to Australia, planning to spend quality time with his son Graeme and his family.

Michael had a wonderful treasure of faith in Jesus Christ. He lived by that faith and conducted his business as a man of faith. He treated everybody the same, no matter who they were or what they did. He loved being part of the Methodist Connexion having worshipped in various Methodist Churches in Dublin throughout his life. For the past twenty years or so, both Jayne and Michael have been committed to the life and witness of Methodist Centenary, Leeson Park. Michael was society steward and was due to represent the congregation at the forthcoming Conference in June. Michael's real love was his ministry amongst the youth. He was able to relate to young people in a way few others could do because he respected them and treated them as adults, but at the same time he talked their language. One young man says:

"While every discussion had a clear theme and conclusion, Michael's tactic was always to make things relevant for us. He never failed to keep things fresh and modern, with countless anecdotes about his personal faith in the experiences of life. One of Michael's great characteristics was always to be open and honest with us. We, like everyone he met, were always greeted as 'friend!' "

Over the years Michael was heavily involved in fund raising for the Dublin Central Mission. He helped to set up a trust fund for Mount Tabor, inviting Charlie Bird the RTE political reporter to launch this. Donations in his memory were to go to DCM; it was unusual, but very fitting, that many of these were collected at the thanksgiving service in Brighton Road Methodist Church where a packed congregation gathered to celebrate his life and share their sympathy with Jayne and his family. Michael continued his commitment to Mount Tabor Nursing Home, by regularly visiting residents, exuding life and vitality, offering unconditional love and a listening ear. Recently he had applied to become a volunteer with the Samaritans and was due to begin training. Faith is not measured in the number of good deeds performed or church positions held, but in one's faith in Jesus as Lord and

Saviour. Michael's good works, and they were many, were a product of his faith and not a substitute for faith.

While DCM might have been Michael's first love, he had a real interest in the whole work of the church. He had friends in all denominations and he had a particular interest in, and love for, the Methodist Church in Ireland. As he travelled around, he sought out our churches, got to know who the ministers were in the various stations, and kept in regular contact with many. He had very high ideals and was especially keen that ministers should be suited to the work in hand. Had our church ever involved lay people on the Stationing Committee, Michael would have seen he had a role there.

Michael and Jayne were a great team. Whatever he did, she was always behind him and they were always keen to offer the hospitality of their home to any who would call. Many things have been mentioned that Michael did, and achieved, but most of them will never be known because he did them quietly. Only those who were blessed through his generosity will be able to give testimony to it.

The thanksgiving service for Michael was conducted by Rev Andrew Dougherty. Tributes were paid by two of Michael's close friends, Vivian Good and Michael Griffiths, and his sons Karl and Graeme. Shane had spoken at the service in the crematorium. Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession were led by Ken Lindsay.

Deepest sympathy is extended to Jayne, Graeme, Shane and Karl, Michael's daughters-in-law and six grandchildren, his brother Joe, sisters Christina and Ann and all the family circle.

AD&KL

CRADLE ROLL

In 2010 we had a quiet year with no baptism within the church. Also several of the roll have had their fifth birthday and are not on the cradle roll anymore, leaving a small number still receiving a Birthday card. Please continue to keep me posted on anyone you think should be on the Cradle Roll.

CO'F

MUSIC NOTES 2010

Early in the year friends of Beve Barbour from the Wesleyan Christian Worship Group, London, lead our worship with a very inspirational and distinctive style of music. In May we acquired a new Petrof piano and without delay put it to use in a fundraising concert coordinated by Alex Kidston (tuba) and the Dublin Brass Trio with Steve Matheson (trombone) & Will Palmer (trumpet). Musical performers from the congregation were David Booth (guitar), Boon Beng Shu (piano), Rachel Fallows (vocal), Jonathan Seymour (piano), and Derek Seymour (organ and piano). The concert raised €1,100 towards church funds.

The year saw the tercentenary of Thomas Arne's birth. Keyboard pieces by him were used a number of times as voluntaries in services and our organist contributed an article on the composer's Dublin connections to 'Soundboard' magazine.

A biographical note on the bicentenary of Samuel Sebastian Wesley's birth was circulated in the regular church news-sheet and music by this composer interspersed in the services during the year including his tune 'Hereford' to the much loved hymn by Charles Wesley 'O Thou who camest from above'.

In July Baird Lewis, moved to Northern Ireland and Andrew Dougherty and his family joined us. Andrew sings with gusto and has continued Baird's strong support for music in the liturgy.

Boon Beng Shu has continued to play piano at Sunday morning worship and his piano solos at Holy Communion have been especially appreciated. Roy Willoughby has regularly joined us with guitar accompaniment including leading the song, 'I've got the light of God in me' throughout the Advent season.

We were delighted that Don Black and Alan Perry played guitar and sang a medley of 'O little town of Bethlehem' and 'In the bleak mid winter' at the Community Carol Service. The congregational singing of 'See amid the winter snow' was particularly apt. The weather over Christmas week was extraordinary with record levels of thick snow and ice making travel difficult but setting a very picturesque scene around the church grounds. Christmas Day saw record attendance with the church full to capacity with hearty singing encouraging all to join the celebration and announcing joy to the world. The concluding voluntary was Widor's Toccata from his 5th organ

symphony.

The final service of the year lead by Andrew included the hymn 'Brightest and best of the sons of the morning' when we reflected that

'Vainly we offer each ample oblation;
Vainly with gifts would his favour secure;
Richer by far is the heart's obligation;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor'.

DS

GIFT AID AND COVENANTS

There are two principle areas of "giving" within the church.

1. The Sunday morning collection
2. The 1% Appeal for World Development

Sunday morning collection: The envelope scheme is fully operational under the auspices of the Stewardship Secretary, Peter Grantham. Each person is given a set of 52 prenumbered envelopes into which they may place their weekly donation. Complete confidentiality is assured, and only the Stewardship Secretary knows the amount donated by each person as these amounts are listed only under the appropriate numbers for which he has the names.

In 2001, the Government introduced a scheme whereby the church may claim back the tax paid on the donations, so it is vital that accurate records are kept. Of course, people are still free to donate by way of "loose" collection, but it is not possible to keep any record of this. Will all PAYE taxpayers please note that, when they are given the special form to complete, it is absolutely VITAL that the PPS number is inserted, as the tax is claimed back collectively in PPS number order.

For non-PAYE taxpayers, will you please note that it is vital to claim back the tax on your contribution by way of receipt at the time of making your tax return.

Every member of the congregation is thanked for their kindness and generosity.

WORLD DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF FUND

It's always healthy to be reminded that we are part of something bigger, something stronger, indeed something that's interdependent for growth and vitality!

Methodist Centenary is part of the Dublin District — one of eight Districts that are part of the Methodist Church in Ireland which we refer to as the Connexion. This is a community numbering over 53,000 members throughout the island of Ireland. Of course that's not the end of the story. The truth is that we are part of something vast, something that is higher and wider and deeper than we can imagine. We are part of a World Church, and all over the world the Spirit of God is moving and the Church of Christ is growing despite immense challenges and difficulties!

Many different projects throughout the world have been initiated or supported because of the generosity of all those who support this relief fund appeal. Many of these projects will not continue without the monies raised. We are very aware that the members and friends of Methodist Centenary have traditionally been very generous in their response to this appeal and we know this continues because the needs within developing areas of the World Church are greater than ever.

The magnificent sum of almost €14,500 was raised for this appeal alone with nearly €8,500 for the Haiti appeal making a total of €23,000 for relief work organised by Methodist Centenary Church.

Thank you one and all for your most generous contribution. Your generosity is overwhelming and greatly appreciated.

BG

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT 2010

Building Men and Women of God through Change. If we are serious about changing our lives, we have to change the way we think… Whatsoever things are true,… honest,… just,… pure,… lovely and of good report; if there be any virtue, any praise, think on these things. Philippians 4:8.

The last year has been a year of change: Minister; Government; World politics.

The Classical Concert in May, orchestrated by Derek Seymour, was a template for showcasing the musical talent of the family and friends of Centenary. The atmosphere created on a summer's evening

was light and gentle, lifting moods and encouraging a year full of promise.

The new Minister, Rev Andrew Dougherty, Joyce and children, Matthew, Patrick and Charlotte arrived in July and are already making an impact with their vision, warmth and genuine family values.

The summer barbeques and other activities provide the opportunity to bring together members and friends in social, communal and spiritual friendship.

The truly sad loss of Michael Duff to Jayne and their family was shared by the congregation and friends of Centenary. He had a charming, engaging manner which made me and so many other visitors to Centenary so very welcome. Personally and truly missed.

Ireland has changed the colour of politics with a new coalition in process. However, the economic situation has not changed. With unemployment and the cost of living on the increase, disposable income is challenging in all households.

The finance reports, which are so ably provided by Billy Given and Des Farrar, reflect that we do, indeed, live in very difficult financial and economic times, but the generosity of the congregation and friends of Centenary have shown their faith in God's promise to provide by their offerings.

The Discussion Group and youth of Centenary have now established some recreational, private space within the Church for activities which bind them together socially and spiritually. They will share some space with the Leeson Park Players and invite the youth of other churches (Rathgar and others). So, with a vision to embrace our faith and every blessing, we can look forward to a year of change, that seeks the talents of the Men and Women of God.

BB

CHURCH COUNCIL 2011

Minister	Rev Andrew Dougherty
Circuit Steward	Lesley Rankin
Church Council Secretary	Beve Barbour
Circuit Treasurer	Des Farrar
Society Treasurer	Billy Given
Society Steward	Vacant
Manse Steward (Arranmore Rd)	Delyth Parkes
Manse Steward (South Hill)	Vacant
Trustee Representative	Rory O'Ferrall

ELECTED MEMBERS:

Charles Richards; Dorothy O'Ferrall; Ann Willoughby; Margaret Horner; Andrew Rankin.

BIBLE READING NOTES

We are grateful for all the faithful years that Ethel Wolfe has put into organising Bible Reading Notes for the Congregation. It was a job done very quietly and efficiently over the decades, which meant a lot to those who placed orders with her. She has now retired from this job and we give her heartfelt thanks for her contribution to the spiritual life of the Church. Please look out for the announcement in the Church Newsletter in the Autumn for who will be taking orders for the 2012 Bible Reading Notes.

PRAYER TEAM

The Prayer Team comprises Lesley Rankin, Caitlín O'Ferrall and Rose Seymour, and we would be delighted to welcome anyone who has an interest in this area of the church's life. We regularly publish a prayer in the newsletter, and we hope this is helpful. Thanks to Michael Thompson for his timely reminders and careful editing.

Our Prayer chain is currently being updated. We badly miss Michael Duff who had been at the head of the chain, and the person very much in touch with the needs of so many in our congregation, in particular the elderly who can no longer make it to church. The prayer chain is a small group of people willing to respond to requests for prayer. The request is passed along to the other links in the chain. All requests for prayer are confidential and it is a comfort to know that in a time of trouble, illness, distress, or success, people have committed to support you in prayer. Anyone who would like

to volunteer to be a link in this chain, please contact any member of the Prayer Team.

We did not hold a prayer room in 2010. It takes hours of preparation and is always a beautiful experience, but with all three of us working, we felt we could not give it the time it deserved. A sensory feast, with aromatic candles, flowers, sweets, and artwork urging us to add our prayers and encouragement, the room is a powerful space by the end of the day, when everyone who has spent time there has contributed to make it a collective witness to the wisdom of silence and the grace of God who is always ready to meet us when we remember to bring our concerns before Him. A room will be prepared in March 2011 and we hope people who have never been before will give it a try.

Several members of the congregation have led the Intercessory prayers during the Sunday service and it is a very enriching addition to our worship.

RS

PRAYER FOCUS

This year we were asked to submit prayer points under three headings:

Worship: We thank you Lord for the involvement of our members in the lively musical service on a Sunday morning, with many willing to read, to lead prayers or give the all age talk.

Witness: We ask that our Community Services and the Prayer Room be welcoming and inclusive for our neighbours and that they might be led into your presence.

Wholeness: We pray for our new minister Andrew Dougherty and his family. May they enjoy being with us and feel supported and energized in their mission to this community.

We included a picture from the Prayer Room and added the prayer: "Lord, help us to remember that You are not asking us to change the world, but to do what we can. As we use the gifts You have given us, may we trust Your Grace to do the rest."

A copy of Prayer Focus is available in normal and large print at the door. It is free of charge but a donation is always welcomed!

RS

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The Pastoral Care Team met on 18th May and 15th November 2010. The team consisted of Baird Lewis (Lay Pastor) and, from June, Rev Andrew Dougherty (Superintendent Minister), Ann Willoughby, Rosemary Thompson, Sylvia Roddie, Andrew Rankin, Lesley Rankin, Janet Pasley (Convenor), Delyth Parkes, Dorothy O'Ferrall, Katharyn Given, Muriel Booth and Ernie Armitage. Joyce Crozier-Shaw and Aubrey Smyth who had retired were thanked for their long service. Rosemary Seymour was appointed to succeed Aubrey Smyth and it was agreed that additional members should be invited to join the team. The members of the congregation are encouraged to keep the Pastoral Care Team aware of any special needs or problems.

Rev Andrew Dougherty administered Holy Communion to members of the congregation who are house-bound. There was a full revision of the Pastoral Care groups allocated to each member of the Pastoral Care Team. Andrew Rankin is compiling a computer register of members and of the congregational roll which will record these groups.

EA

OVERSEAS MISSIONS

On 6th February 2010 the Dublin District Overseas Mission Day took place in Wesley College**.** The Changing Climate of Mission is the theme of this year.

Victor Henriques gave the key note speech. He is originally from Chile and is the Appeals Coordinator with Christian Aid Ireland. His work and experience in several developing countries enables him to communicate issues of poverty and faith in an effective way.

Four workshops were held:

No. 1: The Christian Church in Nepal presented by Allan Smith. Allan has spent seven years in Nepal supported by the Methodist Church and he gave his personal perspective on the growth of Christianity in one town in Nepal.

No. 2: Can Holiness End Poverty? Victor Henriques looks at current issues in the fight against extreme poverty in the world in the light of John Wesley's challenge to social holiness.

No. 3: How holy is the Holy Land? Presented by Julian Hamilton. Julian is the chaplain in Trinity College and in this role he was part of a North-South/ Catholic-Protestant student visit to Palestine & Israel.

No. 4: Irish Methodist footsteps in Central America presented by Conrad Hicks. Conrad, a Minister in the Dublin North Circuit is now "Companion" to the Evangelical National Methodist Church in Guatemala where Methodism is growing among the Mayan people.

This year Youth Programme is added and their workshop is "Same Mission, Same God, and Different Culture" The crèche, food, stalls, music and closing devotions all added to the success of the day.

YMB

CHRISTIAN AID

The Methodist Church is an official supporter of Christian Aid and each year, we mark Christian Aid Week which is held in May. In 2010, the focus was on the lack of clean water and sanitation in the Nairobi slum of Matopeni and Lynne Pasley gave a talk on Christian Aid Sunday, 9th May, about the necessity to use "flying toilets" ie plastic bags and how Christian Aid is helping provide clean water and toilet blocks in Matopeni.

Our main fund raising effort this year was on Saturday 17th April when Brian and Janet Pasley, Caitlin O'Ferrall and Lynne Pasley joined a Christian Aid walk around Phoenix Park with guide Brendan Nolan. Fortunately, the weather was kind to us and we enjoyed hearing stories about the various landmarks in the park, while raising €332 in sponsorship at the same time.

On Christian Aid Sunday, a further €136.55 was raised through a small bring and buy sale and the sale of fair trade goods, bringing our total donation this year to €468.55.

Thanks to the congregation for the continuing support.

LP

HOME MISSIONS

I realise that this is my third report of the District Home Mission Committee. I got to visit two more manses officially last year as there were only two females on the Committee. The other female, Rev Sonia Hicks had to inspect the Centenary manse! There are new rules about manses and there was a special meeting to discuss Minister/ Circuit relationship. Also, during the year, I was part of a group reviewing all aspects of the work of Urban Junction in Blackrock. The membership of the Committee is due to be reviewed and I expect to be replaced as I have written three reports for the annual Year Book.

DO'F

SYNOD AND GENERAL COMMITTEE

Early in 2010, I had a phone call from the Rev John Stephens asking if I would represent the Dublin District on the General Committee. I thought about it and asked around whether I should. The answer was "Go for it" so I rang Rev Stephens back and agreed. He told me it was three meetings a year – two in Belfast and one in Dublin. I was appointed at Conference 2010.

Imagine my surprise when I got a letter, in the Autumn, calling me to attend Synod! I rang the Secretary of Synod and asked why I got notice of the Synod. "You are a member" was the reply. "How?", says I. "You are the Dublin Representative on the General Committee" was the reply. "So..", I said. "The representative attends Synod" came the reply. So three meetings had become five!

"What is General Committee?", you say. Well, Conference decides the laws etc for the running of the Methodist Church in Ireland. It meets every June. The General Committee takes the place of Conference between conferences, dealing with ongoing issues from the previous Conference, preparing issues for the next one and dealing with any emergency or issue occurring between Conferences that cannot wait until the next.

I sat through my first General Committee meeting paying attention to how things work, so I can represent the Dublin District well in the meetings to come. I welcome your prayers as I try to represent you all.

At the Autumn Synod, it was agreed to take away the second line, which used to be for the Chaplain to the Universities. Since the reorganisation of the Chaplaincy in Dublin, the Chaplain has

not been stationed in Centenary Circuit and so the line was unnecessary.

DOF

YOUTH WORK

CENTENARY YOUNG ADULTS

There were a number of events organised by the young adults last year. The first was a travelling dinner for the congregation geared at raising money to help rebuild the lives of the people in Haiti. It was a great success and the funds raised were handed over to Concern to be used for long-term development.

In March 2010 Andrew Rankin kindly organised a hill walk up Tonelagee which proved to be great fun and even involved some bobsleigh racing. Another hill walk took place up the Sugarloaf early this year and looks to be starting a trend.

There was a Barbeque at the Manse in April. We also had a lovely lunch during October courtesy of the O'Ferrall's to welcome all the students back along with a number of dinners between the Wesley House and South Hill residents.

SJ

WESLEY HOUSE STUDENT RESIDENCE

This year in Wesley House Student Residence, we have eight students in total. They include Rachel Smith who is studying Business and Spanish in Trinity College Dublin. Bernard Mackey who is studying English also in Trinity College Dublin. Elena McLeod is studying Music in DIT and Hugo Martin is studying Geomatics in DIT. Gavin Stanley, Henry Neill and Stuart McConkey are all in UCD studying Agricultural Science. And also Alicia Gordon who is studying Human Nutrition and Dietetics in DIT and Trinity College Dublin.

AG

SOUTH HILL STUDENT RESIDENCE

This year I have taken up the new role of Student Leader in South Hill. We have a full house, with David Hutchinson spending his second year here and Karen Hodgins moving over from Wesley House. We have also been able to welcome Andy who is studying Engineering with Dave, Rinora who has come from Kosovo to do an MA in European Politics in UCD and Sophie who is in Rathmines College doing Event Management. We were all hit hard by the death of Michael Duff as not only was he eager and ready to help with any problems that we had with the house, but he was also a great friend to all of us, even those he only met this year, and was always up for a chat and a coffee.

SJ

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND DISCUSSION GROUP

The Discussion Group for Secondary students is quite a force to be reckoned with as the members become more vocal and confident in themselves and expressing their views! Not only have they discussed, they have raised funds, this year for home based charities given the current levels of hardship in Ireland, as well as for their new den that it is envisaged they will decorate and share with teenagers from Sandford and Milltown parishes for social events in the near future. They raised a total of €375 through running a lunch for the congregation in November as well as the continued collection of small coins they receive through our adult members. Many thanks to all concerned for your continued support.

The strength of the Discussion Group is that its members come from a variety of schools and so much of the time is taken up comparing notes with friends as to how each school copes with issues that arise among the teenage population. Members took part in the creation of the Prayer Room through the preparation of art work, both before and during the day.

It has been decided that the Discussion Group members will remain in church on Communion Sundays when Andrew is leading worship. Not only are they keen to hear what he has to say but the older members will then also be able to take part in the whole Communion service, instead of just part of it.

It is hoped that a series of classes for those interested in Reception into full membership will take

place in the near future.

The small number of Sunday School children continue to be very regular in attendance. The youngest member of the group once remarked how his classroom in school was much nicer than this because there were lots of things to look at on the walls. In response to this well merited observation, a work team set about transforming what was (and still is) known at Room 5, into a cheerful and sunny venue for our Sunday School. Now there are lots to see and to do with all the materials art and craft stored in the room for further creativity by our children.

We hope that when Sunday School is not in session, members of the congregation will find Room 5 a quiet place for reflection as some of the thoughts and inspiration from the Prayer Room now adorn its walls too. This we hope to renew after each Prayer event and/or as our young people see fit. It may become known from now on as the Solas (Light) Room or the Acorn Room (for little thoughts with big potential!)

Watch this space!

LR

SUNDAY CRECHE

Although this has been a quiet year, the crèche continues to be available to all children under the age of four years.

JP

6TH DUBLIN (LEESON PARK) SCOUT GROUP

6th Dublin Scouts meet in the Centenary Hall on Friday nights. Although we have had no Beaver Scout section this past year our Cubs, Scouts and Venture Scouts are going strong. Ventures meet on Wednesdays. We had a very successful and energetic summer camp in August. The Scouts hiked across the Wicklow mountains from Glenmalure to Glendalough and thence to Lough Dan where they camped for a week. Scouting is a system of self-education which is based on the Scout promise and law. It's also a great deal of fun and youth members get great benefit out of it. With an eager waiting list, our only problem is lack of leaders and we are constantly looking for people to help out. All scout leaders are volunteers and cannot be praised highly enough for their commitment. Also thanks to Paul Barry who is always very helpful. For more information on the Group, contact Barbara Stone on 087-2258543 or leesonparkscouts@gmail.com

BS

NEWS FROM THE CONGREGATION

HAITI TRAVELLING DINNER

January 2010 brought a devastating earthquake to the country of Haiti, causing over 316,000 fatalities and affecting the lives of an estimated 3 million people. Following the earthquake, Centenary Young Adults arranged a travelling dinner to raise money for the relief effort. This took place on 20th February, four families hosting various courses. We had sumptuous starters in the Rankins, marvellous mains in O'Ferralls, delicious desserts in the Parkes, and rounded off the night with a lovely cup of tea or coffee and tray bakes in the Duffs. Michael Duff skilfully hosted an auction of various items donated for the occasion. There was much laughter and enjoyment throughout the entire evening, and the event was a tremendous success, raising over €1400 for Concern's long-term development work in Haiti. Thanks go to all those who hosted us, provided food, helped ferry people and cleaned up afterwards.

RF

HAITI

Anita Exantus came to Ireland from Haiti to study for her Leaving Certificate and then to study in College. She came to the Centenary to worship and be part of the Student work here. She was very upset when she heard of the earthquake as it took some time to establish how her family was. She was also in demand by the media as she was a Haitian living in Ireland. She discovered there were two other Haitians with which she was able to share her concerns. The other young people were moved to organise a travelling Dinner to raise funds for Haiti.

A report on that fund-raiser appears elsewhere. Anita has returned to Haiti to work for Concern for nine months. We look forward to further reports from her. She would value your continued prayers and support.

ANITA'S STORY

I want to thank the Centenary Church for their contribution in helping Haiti in this difficult period.

Last summer I went visiting my family in Haiti and thanks be to God they are all in good form.

I also did some volunteering work with Concern Worldwide as a protection officer. This role allowed me to be in the camp site nearly every day. The condition in camps is not good as we can imagine. But some improvement has been made with the help of international funding. Many people are still in tents because they have nowhere else to go and unfortunately the current government cannot do much for them yet. The interesting thing that I witnessed in Haiti was the spirit and hope that I could see on any Haitian person face that I walked past in the streets. The resilience here is unbelievable. For instance in one of the campsites I met a lady with six kids age range from eight to three. Her husband died during the earthquake and one of her daughters was raped by an old man. This lady managed to send to school her six kids and also feed them when she can. She is always working and selling bits and pieces around camp to support her kids. There are many families like that in Haiti their aim is to pass through the day. But it does not stop them from smiling, singing or telling a joke to their neighbor. Haiti has a long way to go and it is very difficult to imagine how successful this country will be but we won't lose hope, in the name of the Lord together we will make it no matter how long it takes. I am currently in Haiti and I see a lot of students going to school and the security seems to be stable for the moment. It is already a start. Step by step we will get there. I thank you all for your special support you give to my country and also let you know that your effort won't be wasted. God bless you.

AE

CANTERBURY TALES

Having completed my undergraduate degree in university at Trinity in June, it was time for new adventures in the quaint old city of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales in Kent come September. Teaching has always been at the back of my mind, but I did not want to completely abandon my languages. When offered the opportunity to study primary teaching with a specialism in modern foreign languages, therefore, I jumped at the chance. A year-long postgraduate course, I have university lectures along with three placements in various primary schools – two in the UK and one in Lyon, France. The course is extremely challenging (learning to be a teacher in nine months is no joke!), but equally rewarding. I have been blessed in finding three Irish housemates through a mutual friend, two of whom are Christians, and a wonderful church family, who meet as Emmanuel Church in a primary school in Canterbury. Please pray for the continuing work of this church as it reaches out to the local community, and for me personally, for strength, guidance, patience and endurance over the next few months, as I finish the course and start the search, finally, for a 'proper' job!

RF

KILIMANJARO CLIMB

In June 2010, a group of 33 students mainly from Trinity College undertook the challenge of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. The climb tested each individual both physically and mentally, to such an extent that some of us discovered depths to our character that we never knew we possessed. The climb involved four days of climbing to reach the summit and another two to descend. The altitude affected each member of the group to differing degrees, with some cases of altitude sickness becoming so severe that it caused hallucinations and vomiting. Thankfully, everyone in the group made it down in one piece, with 31 of the 33 climbers successfully making the summit. Being given the opportunity to watch the sun rise over the plains of Tanzania from the top of Africa was a true blessing and something I shall remember for the rest of my life. We undertook the trip in aid of Childreach International. We spent time at one of the organisation's projects in the Kilimanjaro region, where many local children were given the education and support they so badly need. The trip would not have been possible without the kind and generous support of the Methodist Centenary, in particular the superhuman efforts of Michael Duff who committed huge amounts of time and effort

into organising a “bring and buy” sale.

MW

CARDIFF

Since late September I have been living in Cardiff. Life in Cardiff is great as it’s a beautiful and compact city. I manage to walk everywhere on foot, partly to avoid paying the bus fare! One thing I have noticed is the passion Cardiff has for sport, especially rugby. Every weekend that Wales has been playing in the 6 Nations, the city is buzzing and alive!

I have been studying a master’s course in Chemical Biology. A course which looks at the ways Biology can be used and manipulated to further the interests and goals in Chemistry and vice versa. It is a tough course but I am enjoying it. There are only seven of us in the course and so, predictably, we are all close. We help each other when we find material difficult as some of the class has a more biological background while others, including myself, have a more Chemistry based background. Over the summer I will be doing my masters project, upon which my thesis is based, which I am excited about!

RO’F

VOLUNTEERING WITH DCM’S HOMELESS MINISTRY

In 2010, as a result of having a larger number of volunteers available, we added an extra night to the Soup Run. We now have one or two teams going out three evenings per week, on Mondays supervised by Gerry, on Tuesdays by Gillian and on Wednesdays by Ger. Volunteers are asked to please contact the appropriate person for that evening to confirm their attendance.

Thanks to funding from Electric Aid, Candy Lappin is now working as Co-ordinator of D.C.M. Homeless Ministry. She will liaise with and support the volunteers and look into areas as to how we can develop the work we are doing. If anyone from Centenary is interested in finding out more or getting involved please phone Candy at DCM, 01-8740691, on Tuesday or Thursday mornings. If she is not there when you phone, please leave a message.

As well as the teams from DCM there are also teams from five or six other organisations, most notably the Simon Community, who also go out on Soup runs, some on specific evenings of the week and some every evening. As with the other church groups who go out we do it in the name of Jesus which brings an added spiritual dimension to our ministry.

The cold and snow at the end of December saw the implementation of the “Cold Weather Initiative” whereby vacant places in hostels were fast-tracked for the use of those who were homeless. As a result, there was a marked reduction in the number of people sleeping rough on the streets in the awful cold weather. There were always a few on the streets though so even in the very bad snow our volunteers continued to go out. The worse the weather the better the welcome!

During the year we were sad to lose Michael Duff from Methodist Centenary Church who for many years faithfully collected used clothing for the use of the Homeless Ministry. His contribution will be greatly missed.

In general, some people appear to prefer sleeping rough than going into a hostel where they are unsure who may be sleeping in the next bed to them. So there will probably always be a need for the Homeless Ministry. Quite a large proportion of those we meet have their own “pitch”, where they sleep every night, often in a particular doorway.

But without exception, all those we meet are encouraged by the food and warm clothes we give them in Jesus’s name.

MT

COLLECTING/ BAG PACKING FOR DCM

I thought that last year would be my last report as co-ordinator of the DCM collections as Jayne Duff had offered to take over that role. Unfortunately, due to Michael's untimely death, such plans had to change. So, I had to organise collectors for our three venues: Merrion Shopping Centre, Super Valu Mount Merrion and Stillorgan. I was overwhelmed by the offers to collect. The day given to us in Mount Merrion was a Thursday, so we were not able to do bag packing with the younger members of the Church and students. However a number of them very kindly offered to collect instead, even though they do not like shaking a box. We filled our slots and had full boxes, about which the DCM

were very happy. Many thanks to everyone who rowed in and helped with the collecting. Your offers were very much appreciated.

DO'T

WESLEY HOUSE

WESLEY HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

This is a chance to reflect on 2010.

Examination groups have increased by 10% the number of days using Wesley House. Meanwhile we have all our regular groups, Mothers Union, MWI, Book Club, Bowling, Coffee Morning, also RHSI and the Beekeepers, Culwick, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers.

We had another summer camp for primary school age children for 6 weeks.

Salvation Army's Marcus and Jane have left us to move to Rathmines in September. We wish them great success with "Paint Box".

We had three Barbeques, including:

May — salvation and the church.

June — the residents of Leeson Park.

And all three were well attended.

So to finish off, 2010 was an interesting and challenging year but we got through it. So whatever 2011 brings I know it will be worthwhile working and serving the Centenary Congregation and the community.

PB

SUNDAY COFFEE

Staying on for coffee after church continues to be very well supported. There are always volunteers to make the coffee and clear up. The rota list is on the notice board outside the kitchen door.

RW

FRIENDLY ROOM

The Friendly Room meets in Room 1 Wesley House from 10.30 a.m. until 12.00 noon on Wednesday mornings. We usually have between ten and twelve regulars and have recently been joined by a couple of new people.

Shortly before Christmas we divided €600 between the four charities which we have supported for many years.

We would love to see more members of the congregation coming along from time to time for coffee/ tea and an informal chat.

HR

LEESON PARK INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

The Club met on a regular basis on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings between September and April. As usual members had a full season with internal Club competitions being run along with the external competitions organized by the Dublin and District United Churches Indoor Bowling Association. The Club played ten matches in the senior competition: the Rohu Cup, but failed to win a match and came bottom of its section. In the knockout competitions the Ladies team in the Hope Competition lost in the first round while the Gents' team had to concede a walk-over in the Gordon Miller Trophy.

The Club competition results were as follows: Ladies' Championship, winner: Doris Spendlove; runner-up: May Seawright; Gents' Championship, winner: Trevor Spendlove; runner-up: Patrick Wyse Jackson; Handicap Singles, winner: Trevor Spendlove; runner-up: David Holmes; Handicap Pairs, winners: David Holmes and Doris Spendlove; runners-up: Mairead Holmes and John Dwyer. Patrick Wyse Jackson participated in the annual Champion of Champions competition in Monkstown.

PNWJ

LEESON PARK PLAYERS

Leeson Park Players continue to produce top quality theatre. This Spring we staged Ray Cooney's

finest farce, “It Runs in The Family”. This was a highly complex play to stage involving many entrances and exits, a struggle on a window ledge, wheelchairs, trolleys, cross dressing and corpses. It was a laugh a minute from start to finish.

In the autumn we produced the World Premiere of Nancy Mitford’s much loved novel “The Pursuit of Love”. This was adapted for the stage and directed by our own Charles Richards with the permission of the last surviving Mitford sister, Deborah, Dowager Duchess of Devonshire. It was an epic comedy, devastatingly entertaining, by turns poignant and hilarious that was rapturously received.

On the 14th 15th and 16th of April we are reviving “Treasure Hunt” by M.J. Farrelll and John Perry. M.J. Farrell is the pseudonym of Molly Keane. The play ran for a year in the West End in 1949, starring Sybil Thorndike and directed by John Gielgud. It is set in Ballyroden House, times are hard and they need to take in paying guests from England, the Cead Mile Failte is not unalloyed. Roly Pickering is in the Sybil Thorndike role and Andrew Rankin makes his stage debut – not to be missed!

CR

Book Club

The Book Club meets once a month, usually on a Tuesday evening, in Wesley House. We are twelve enthusiastic members, not necessarily members of the Centenary Church, but would always welcome new readers to our group. A book is chosen and recommended by one of our members each month — novels, biographies, travel, classics — an amazing number are accepted and a lively discussion on the book occurs at each of our meetings. Not everyone enjoys all the books chosen but being a member encourages us to broaden the variety of books we read. As I write we are presently reading “Room” by Emma Donoghue, winner of the Irish Book Awards.

JP

CENTENARY MWI

I am glad to report that MWI had a good year, our numbers have increased with a number of new members who are joining with us on a regular basis. You are most welcome. Last year we invited our Dublin President Ruth Lee to join with us and share her plans for her term in office for MWI. Ruth is every enthusiastic and motivated. The same evening Gillian Stephens joined with us and told us of her involvement with Dublin Central Mission.

In November we hosted a Table Quiz in Wesley House to raise funds for our own Church. Eric Rankin (Quizmaster), Billy Given and Peter Grantham were of great assistance on the night. This event was very well supported.

Due to the snow our Christmas dinner had to be postponed until the New Year.

We continue to meet every second Tuesday from September until May and I would encourage any lady, any age!, to join with us. You will be most welcome.

Once again thank you to my committee and all ladies who support MWI, your support is much appreciated.

We continue to enjoy our Tuesday evenings of friendship, support, widening our knowledge and most of all warm fellowship together.

HG

EASTWELL 2010

The quiet and calm atmosphere at Eastwell continued throughout 2010, due largely to the endeavours of the staff and the Ladies Committee who deserve thanks and gratitude for their commitment.

For 2010 the Home has been operated below capacity – at year end there were four vacancies and as a result of low occupancy, a deficit has been recorded in the income and expenditure account.

Please keep the residents and staff of Eastwell in your prayers. Volunteers are always welcome as subscribers and as members of the Ladies Committee. Please come forward if you can help.

We give thanks to God, for all his blessings.

AS

BOOK TALK 2011

Through the year 2010 I seem to have read less because I have been writing more. In particular I have

been working on one book which is due for publication in 2014.

One of the first that I read last year was *Early Modern Dubliners* by Maighréad Ní Mhurchadhadha, published by the Dublin City Public Libraries. It comprises four papers given to the Libraries between 2004 and 2006, and tells the stories of Dubliners who would later have been called 'middle class', and whose names have been largely unknown. Dr. Ní Mhurchadhadha delightfully reminds us that there are no such things as 'ordinary people'.

In *Drumcondra and its Environs* Louis O'Flaherty gives us a account of Drumcondra which grew from small village to suburb over 250 years. It is a superb account of the great and the good, the quaint and the quirky who lived or worked in this area.

Both of these books are beautifully printed, illustrated and bound.

Susan I. Jackson spent part of her childhood in Gibraltar, where her father was the Methodist minister. *In the Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, published by the Wesley Historical Society in England tells the story of the Methodist Church in Gibraltar. She records some Irish connections. The book is a fascinating account of the ups and downs of the church.

The Gift of Presence (Abingdon) is all about helping people in need. The author, Joe E. Pennel, Jr is a United Methodist minister who believes that this is not the task of the expert only, but the task of every Christian. Based on the experiences of forty years of ministry he offers advice on how to do it, and how not to do it. He emphasises the fact that simply being with the persons in need is more important that what you do or say to them.

Rosemary Power works with Christian groups, including Methodists, in Clare. The *Celtic Quest* (Columba) gets behind the myths which attach to that much misunderstood word 'Celtic'. She traces its origin, and the sources of its spirituality which goes much deeper than is sometimes thought. It is a much more inclusive spirituality.

In *New Proofs for the Existence of God* (Eerdmans), Robert J. Spitzer explores the development of recent scientific understanding of the origin of the universe, called 'the big bang'. He examines the constants of space, time and energy, from which scientists have concluded that the big bang must have been the work of a super intelligent being unlimited by time. We have been calling this being God, and, through Christ have been recognising much more of his character.

One of the outstanding Methodists of Wexford was Dr. George Hadden (1882-1973), who at different times served as a missionary doctor in China and Siberia. He returned to Wexford to take over the family business — drapery and outfitting. Eithne Scallan, who lives in the town, has written an excellent account of his life and work. It has been privately published.

Dr. Melanie A. May has collected as many as possible of the statements issued by the Leaders of the Christian Churches in the Holy Land during the years 1988 to 2008, and has published them verbatim in *Jerusalem Testament* (Eerdmans). They are a record of the way in which Christians in Israel have been persecuted by the Israelis. I lent the book to one Evangelical Christian who refused to believe the statements because she believed that the present state of Israel was a fulfilment of God's purpose! This is not an easy book to read.

West End Methodism by Alan Brooks (Northway) is the story of a Methodist church at Hinde Street in London, among whose early ministers were the Irishmen Henry Moore, Walter Griffith and Adam Clark. It contains a very good account of the *Fly Sheet* agitation which challenged the dominance of Jabez Bunting. Carefully researched, it is delightfully written.

DLC

METHODIST NEWSLETTER

Prior to January 2010 a team of editors shared the production of the Methodist Newsletter. Since then Lynda Neilands has been the sole editor and has introduced a number of welcome changes which have added to the interest and attraction of the magazine. Methodist Newsletter is for and about the Methodist Church in Ireland and its links with other churches and the world. It cost €12.50 for 11 issues.

Methodist Centenary Church had 29 subscribers in 2010 — the same number as in 2009. If you are not a subscriber and would like to receive a regular copy please contact Ernie Armitage.

EA

ANNOUNCEMENT SHEET

We are grateful to Rev Andrew Dougherty who continues to proofread the weekly church announcement sheet in place of Baird Lewis. It is a valuable way of communicating church matters to the congregation, as well as to those who are housebound.

If anyone has any pieces to contribute to the announcement sheet, either occasionally or regularly, please send them to Michael Thompson's e-mail address, michaelthompson58@eircom.net by 10am every second Wednesday for the following Sunday.

MT

CHURCH WEBSITE

We try to update the website at least once and sometimes twice a week. As well as making the website more relevant, this also means that it is more likely to come near the top of the search when surfers browse the Internet.

Andrew Rankin, the Webmaster, and I who regularly update the website, are open to suggestions on how to improve the website. For instance, at the end of 2009 we added a section on "Church Music" on our Home Page in which we publicise Derek Seymour's organ CD "Sunday by Sunday".

We try to include as much information as we can that would be of interest to anyone surfing the Internet. If you have any suggestions or comments please speak to Michael Thompson or Andrew Rankin.

MT

CHURCH YEARBOOK

Thanks are due to all who have submitted items to Yearbook 2010. Whether or not we have contributed to the Yearbook we all belong to the one church family.

We are open to suggestions on ways to improve the Yearbook. One suggestion that we adopted at the end of 2009 was to have a link to our Yearbook on the Homepage of our Website. So if we run out of printed copies of our Yearbook all is not lost.

Next January or February we expect to again be asking people to submit written contributions to the Yearbook. If you think you would be able to write a piece that would be of interest, please ask Dorothy O'Ferrall or Michael Thompson.

MT

FOR YOUR DIARY...

It is my privilege and joy to be the minister of Methodist Centenary Church. I value all the leaders who are members of the Church Council and Trustees, and have enjoyed getting to know many of the faithful members of the church. I want to assure those members who are now housebound or unable to attend worship regularly of my prayerful good wishes. Should you require a visit, please do not hesitate to be in touch with your pastoral visitor or myself. During the months that follow, we are hoping that the following will take place:

Services of Wholeness and Healing

A Confirmation Class for those interested in Full Membership or learning more about "Irish Methodism"

A visit from the President-Designate of the Methodist Church in Ireland, Rev Ian Henderson

Joint Lenten Bible Studies with our friends from the Lutheran Church

A joint Youth Club with our friends from St. Philips and Sandford Parishes

Survey of the Gifts and Talents of ALL the members of the church

Open Discussion Evenings based on the DVD "God Delusion Debate" by two Oxford Academics, Richard Dawkins and John Lennox

Concert on the 21st May organised by Derek Seymour

Congregational Meeting in May

Youth Gathering on Sunday 3rd April from 6:30-9:00 p.m. in Wesley House

Fuller information about all the above will be found in the fortnightly Announcement Sheets faithfully produced by Michael Thompson.

AD