

Methodist Centenary Church

Wesley House, Leeson Park, Dublin 6

Superintendent Minister: Rev Andrew Kingston, Tel. 01-668 0833; 083-152 0171



Announcements on 2nd April 2025

Our Mission Statement

Our Mission is to receive God's love and to share it with others through our Welcome, our Worship, our Community and our Service.

Sunday Worship 6th April 10.30am

Service of Holy Communion with Rev Andrew Kingston

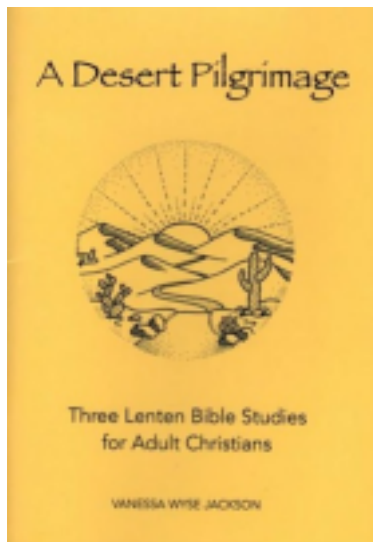
Recent walk on Saturday 29th March

Last Saturday's "Two Peaks and Two Estates" walk was a great success. It's great to see our community connecting in different ways! A photo from the outing is below.



Photo: Overlooking Greystones during the "Two Peaks and Two Estates" walk on Saturday.

Wednesdays during Lent



It happens at 8pm in An Solas, Tallaght Methodist Church, Fortunestown Road (between the Mary Mercer Centre and An Cosán). There is good parking behind the Church. We will be following material by the late Rev Vanessa Wyse Jackson, ***'Different kinds of struggle'***

2nd April – The struggle for justice (Andrew)

9th April – The struggle against prejudice (Brian)

Lifts to Tallaght are available from Wesley House at 7.10pm

Leeson Park Players 10-12th April

The Leeson Park Players present an Evening of One Act Comedies on Thursday 10th, Friday 11th and Saturday 12th April at 7 30 pm. The One Acts are : *Last Tango in Donnybrook*, *Survivors* and *Hamlet* and *Zombies*. *Survivors* is written and directed by Charles Richards. The evening will also mark a welcome return to the boards for Roy Willoughby after his accident while preparing for the last play. Tickets are 15 Euro and 10 Euro concession and can be reserved with Lynne Pasley on 087 942 9508 or with Charles Richards on 087 6620 374 with proceeds to Christian Aid

Autumn Soul Worship Night 12th April 6.00pm - 8:30pm

On Saturday, April 12th, from 6.00pm - 8:30pm at Dundrum Methodist in Dublin there will be an Autumn Soul Worship Night! This special evening will bring the heart of Autumn Soul to Dublin, featuring worship, prayer, and learning. Expect a guest teacher opening the Bible, a worship band leading us in song, interactive and creative prayer, discussions, and plenty of fun! The event is open to secondary school-aged young people (12+), and each group should have a leader or adult present. We're thrilled to welcome groups from across the country and would love for you to join us! If travel or logistics are a concern, please reach out—we're happy to help. Stay tuned for more details, including information on the Youth Forum happening earlier that day for older teens.

Spread the word, gather your group, and get ready for a night of faith and fellowship in Dublin!

Thought for the Week



In Good Time, Harold Good

I received a great book last week from my good friend Rev Henry Keys. It is a real page turner and is flying off the shelves in Dublin. The man who gave us the old Centenary Church envelope whetted my appetite, saying that it was the best book that he has ever read. Henry and Harold were part of a small group of Methodist Ministers who facilitated back channels at the very highest level between paramilitaries and politicians. This led to Harold being chosen to witness IRA arms and explosives being put beyond use, an important step in the peace process in Northern Ireland.

I found his account of ministering on the Shankill Road in the early seventies particularly interesting. I was a community worker in the same area a little over a decade later. On Saturday 11 th December 1971, as a couple were signing the register after a wedding in the Agnes Street Church, there was a nearby explosion so huge it seemed to lift the building up and set down again. A no warning bomb had turned the nearby Balmoral Furniture Company showroom into a pile of rubble. Rushing to the scene they started digging through the rubble with their bare hands. One of the most enduring images of the troubles was that of a fireman carrying out the body of the youngest victim, seventeen month old Colin Nicholl.

In the months that followed tensions increased and Harold witnessed politicians 'inspecting' young people in a pop up army of paramilitaries. They were marching on the Shankill Road in balaclavas. Harold went up to them and pleaded with them. They might have thought that they were defending their communities, but he knew that they were choosing a dangerous and destructive path. He pleaded with them to go home but they wouldn't listen.

Some years later, as a prison chaplain, he met two of those young people. They had gone on to become members of the infamous Shankill Butchers whose psychopathic murder spree only came to an end when one of their victims who was dumped in an alley behind a house that I lived on a back street off of the Shankill Road. A neighbour of mine heard moaning and called an ambulance.

As Chaplain, Harold was waiting for two of these men when they returned to their cell after receiving a full life sentence for their crimes. They recalled that night on the Shankill Road when he pleaded with them. He wouldn't have recognised them behind their balaclavas but they told him that they wished that they had listened to him rather than those who persuaded them in another direction. 'We thought we would get medals', they said, 'but instead we got life'.

When Harold concluded his term as Chaplain, these men presented him with a beautifully hand tooled leather cover for his Bible, portraying the well-known image of the praying hands. Hands can be used to create or destroy.

I recall one of those men, known as Basher Bates, getting out of prison. He was a nephew of my Minister on the Shankill at that time, Arthur Parker. Though now a repentant believer, it

was clear that his past continued to haunt him, and it wasn't long before he too was Murdered.

– Rev Andrew Kingston

Prayer



Loving God, you give us free will. We pray that guided by the Holy Spirit, we might make right choices. We give thanks for our brother Harold, and for the way that he has used his gifts to create possibilities for repentance, reconciliation and new beginnings.
Amen.

Climate Justice in Rathgar.

'Reconciliation' is the theme for the 100th anniversary of the extension to the church in Rathgar.

In the run up to Easter we are considering **how we reconcile with this beautiful planet on which we live** and in which we have caused so much damage. We have arranged several events to dig deeper into this topic with some **thirty-minute talks** followed by the opportunity for discussion.

During March and April we will also host the **Climate Justice Candle** which is touring churches in Ireland as a visible reminder of the task we face in relation to our stewardship of God's Earth.

All talks are on Fridays at 10.30am with coffee available, and all are welcome

April 4th: Service for the children of Rathgar National School around the idea of Climate Justice. Parents and other adults are invited both to the service and coffee chat afterwards.

11th April: Talk by Maureen Rowan on Methodist Church policy on the Environment.

18th April: A short service of prayer and reflection with regard to reconciling with our environment.

Sedar Meal, Wednesday 16th April, 6.30pm.

We invite you to a meaningful devotional experience on Wednesday, April 16th at 6:30 PM as we share a Sedar meal together. This will be an opportunity to recall the historical significance of the Passover and reflect on Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. All are welcome to participate. Kindly let us know if you plan to attend by emailing Andrew.kingston@irishmethodist.org, as knowing approximate numbers will be helpful for our preparations.

Good Friday, 18th April 12.30-2.30pm

On Good Friday, we will walk the solemn Way of the Cross. We will begin at 12:30 PM on the forecourt of Rathmines Roman Catholic Church and walk together, concluding in front of Methodist Centenary Church on Leeson Park at approximately 2:30 PM.. All are welcome to participate in this meaningful reflection.

Easter Sunday Celebration, 20th April 2025 at 11.00am

You are warmly invited for a special Easter morning celebration at Methodist Centenary Church, as we reflect and rejoice through song, music, and the Word. We'll journey together through the pivotal events of Holy Week, from Palm Sunday to Good Friday and the glorious resurrection of Easter Sunday. Please find details in the poster attached to this newsletter.

Sky's the Limit

Sky's the Limit continues on the first Tuesday of the month, at 7.30pm in Room 1, Wesley House.

Leader	Date	Topic
Andrew Kingston	Tuesday 6 th May	A plain conversation evening where people talk about what is uppermost on their minds

Centenary Entertains, 17th May

We are planning our next concert for Saturday 17th May at 7pm in the church. Our performers will be our church musicians with friends and supporters. More information will be provided nearer the date. In the meantime please put a note in your diary to reserve the date!. It will be a 'free admission' concert with voluntary donations mainly towards church funds

Book Club

Our book choice for March was *Murder in Steeple Martin* by Lesley Cookman and it received a mixed response. Our choice for April is *Packinko* by Min-Jin Lee.

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM in Room 1, Wesley House. Each month we choose a book from a wide range of genres including biography, crime fiction, historical novels, humour and children's novels. We always have a lively discussion, with very varied opinions. We currently have 14 members and would be delighted to increase our numbers. If you would be interested in joining us, please contact Sylvia on sylviahroddie@gmail.com

Connect ... through English

On Thursday mornings, 10.30 - 12 noon, a group meets for coffee and chat. A rotating group of four Dublin South City Circuit members meets with people who are making Ireland their home, either long or short term. We never know who will come - and over the years we have met people from near and far.

If you would like to know more, please speak to one of the current team of Charles, Lesley, Liz, Margaret, Maureen, Roy or Sayjin.

And - please spread the word.

Castlewellan Holiday Week

Sat. 2nd - Fri. 8th August

Start a tradition! This is a wonderful week of worship, activities and fellowship. If there is sufficient interest, we may be in the position to offer discounts from the McCracken Fund.

Conference fees early bird rate, Adult: £105 Youth & Children (3-18) £85, Children under 3: £55 plus accommodation (Caravan & camping), tents £14-£24 per night, plus food. More information, see <https://www.castlewellanholidayweek.org/>

Interested? Please speak to Rev Andrew Kingston who is willing to lead a group and arrange accommodation, catering etc.


Monthly Morning Holy Communion

There is a monthly morning Holy Communion Service on the second Wednesday of each month from 10.00-10.30am in Room 1 followed by the Friendly Room.

Friendly Room

The Friendly Room meets at 10.30am on Wednesdays in Room 1, Wesley House. All are welcome for a relaxed chat and coffee. This is a good place for men and women to meet, catch up, and have some good banter.


God's Storehouse in Tallaght


 Please put donations of non-perishable food in the basket in the Coffee Bar at Wesley House

Giving to the church

Standing Order or Bank Transfer:

- **Bank:** AIB Bank plc, 7/12 Dame Street, Dublin 2
- **Account Name:** Methodist Centenary Church Council No. 3 Account
- **BIC:** AIBKIE2D
- **IBAN:** IE89AIBK93122526909346

 Please include your **offering envelope number** so that the church can avail of tax relief on our donations.

 Questions? Please contact Alan Perry.

Tax Back Tax Relief Scheme

A taxpayer who contributes €250 to the church in a year enables the church to recover €112.82 from the Revenue Commissioners thereby increasing the donation to €362.82, and pro rata for donations of over €250. This scheme brought in over €17,000 last year. To register, you need an envelope number and a CHY3 form from Lynne Pasley. This latter is valid for 5 years and doesn't commit you to make any future donations.

Debit or credit card

A card reader is placed in the Coffee Bar each Sunday through which donations can be made using a debit or credit card.

Cheque

If you can not come to church and you contribute by cheque we ask you to post your cheque, quoting your envelope number, to Billy Given. You can contact him at billygiven115@gmail.com

Forthcoming Services at 10.30am

Apr 13 Service of worship with Mrs Lesley Rankin

Apr 20 **Easter Sunday** United Celebration **at 11.00am**

Apr 27 Service of worship with Rev John Parkin

May 4 Service of Holy Communion with Rev Andrew Kingston

May 11 Circuit Celebration **at 11.00am**

Local preachers

Our local preachers take services regularly on the circuit and sometimes outside it. The current preaching plan includes:

Apr 27 10.00 Tallaght Mr Moba Mwanzele

May 4 11.30 Rathgar Mrs Gillie Hinds

June 1 10.00 Tallaght Mr Moba Mwanzele

Text for Announcements

Text for inclusion in the Announcements should be sent to news@methodistcentenary.ie. The deadline is 10.00am on Wednesday morning.

Stay Connected

 Email: news@methodistcentenary.ie

 Website: www.methodistcentenary.ie

 Whatsapp: [Centenary Updates](#)

Blessings,

Methodist Centenary Church Newsletter Team

3 EASTER DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

An Easter morning celebration service
of reflection and rejoicing through song,
music and word as we turn our thoughts to
Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday

Methodist Centenary Church, Leeson Park, Dublin 6
Sunday 20th April 2025 at 11.00am

Join with our music ensemble as we sing together,
and as we listen together to the story that changed
the world and is still changing lives today

Blessed is he that comes
in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest

(Matthew 21: 9)

Rev Yongnam Park

No one has greater love
than to give up one's
life for one's friends

(John 15: 13)

Rev Des Bain

He is not here, he has
risen, come and see the
place where he lay

(Matthew 26: 6)

Rev Andrew Dougherty

Music contributions include: Rejoice Gospel Choir, Soo-Jung Ann (*piano*), Sin-seock Kim (*piano*),
Dublin Korean Ensemble, Amelie O'Kelly (*soloist*), Korean/Centenary Church Male Voice

Sunday School and Story Time available for younger children during the service

Retiring offering • Light refreshments will be served after the service