

Methodist Centenary Church

Wesley House, Leeson Park, Dublin 6

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



Announcements on 21st January 2026

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 25th January

Armenian Christian Dr Paul Manook will be our guest preacher in Methodist Centenary in our closing service for the week of Christian Unity

Birth 🧒

Congratulations to Jonathan & Caroline on the birth of Rowan Don Black, born on the 19th January.

Wednesday 21st January, 7:30 pm

Tallaght Deanery Ecumenical Prayer Service, Held at Firhouse Roman Catholic Church, Ballycullen Avenue (D24 N5WC). *Speaker: Rev. Andrew Kingston.*

Please find attached the service poster at the end of the newsletter.

The following link to Bishop Hovakim's sermon last Sunday night may be of interest as we prepare for Sunday. The link comes from the United Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough website.

https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2026/01/19/our-task-is-not-to?fbclid=IwY2xjawPbe-1leHRuA2FlbQI_xMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZA80MDk5NjI2MjMwODU2MDkAAR6Tzwh9Jd0RUFGlvKT0AVePtFbqexO2GRb2qTxgy5NupiaBzllhCGzCrq6kQ_aem_38rrBQJdXi7aToQDVyxdnw

Thought for the week

Lesley shared the last lines in this story a few weeks ago. She kindly shared the full story in the Friendly Room. It is a real life parable for our time. Vast swathes of our populations are being poisoned by selfish rhetoric. Donald Trump is a symptom of this coarseness. Sadly Christians are not immune. To our collective shame, many voted for him. They think, 'This man will stand up for us', when all the time these people are self-serving; cutting aid to the most vulnerable, enriching themselves, pitting neighbour against neighbour and race against race. Negative behaviour, left unchecked, has terrible consequences. The following story, though longer than the usual Thought For The Week, is worth pondering.



I almost punched a man last Tuesday. Not because I'm violent, but because at 74 years old, I finally woke up. My name is Frank. I'm a retired mechanic. My hands still bear the scars of decades wrenching on engines—grease under the nails that never quite washes out, knuckles scarred from slipped wrenches. I live alone in a house that smells like old dust and silence. My wife, Ellen, passed away six years ago. My adult children are busy chasing careers, raising grandchildren I mostly see on Face Time. I realized recently that I had become invisible. I was just "that old man" blocking the aisle with his trolley. Every Friday, I go to the big supermarket on the edge of town. It's the highlight of my week, which tells you everything you need to know about my life. That's where I met Mateo.

He was the cashier at Lane 4. Young, maybe 22. He had a piercing in his eyebrow and tattoos. To a lot of people of my generation, he looked like trouble. His English was heavy with an accent. He'd say, "Did you find everything okay, sir?" and most people wouldn't even look up from their phones. They'd just shove their credit card at the machine. I watched people treat him like furniture. I heard a lady in a fancy coat huff, "Can't you go faster?" I heard a man mutter, "Learn the language or go home." Mateo never flinched. He just kept scanning, smiling, and saying, "Have a blessed day." Three weeks ago, I was behind a young mother. She looked exhausted, dark circles under her eyes, a baby crying in the cart. She was buying nappies and two cartons of milk. When she swiped her card, the machine buzzed. Declined. She turned beetroot red. "I... let me put the milk back," she stammered, holding back tears. "I get paid on Monday." Before I could reach for my wallet, Mateo was already moving. He didn't make a scene. He didn't announce it. He just pulled a crumpled ten-dollar bill from his own pocket, scanned it, and handed her the receipt. "It is covered, Miss," he said quietly. "Go feed the baby." She looked at him, shocked, whispered a thank you, and hurried out. The next customer immediately started complaining about the wait. But I saw.

That night, I sat in my armchair and stared at the wall. Here was this young lad —working for minimum wage, getting treated like dirt-giving away his own money to a stranger. Meanwhile, I'd spent the last five years feeling sorry for myself.

The next Friday, I wrote a note on a napkin. When I got to his register, I slid it over. It said: "I saw what you did for her. You are a good man." Mateo read it. He looked up, and for the first time, his professional mask slipped. His eyes got watery. "Thank you, Mr. Frank," he whispered. We started talking. I learned he works two jobs. He takes night classes online to become a paramedic. "I want to save lives," he told me. "My parents sacrificed everything to get me here. I cannot waste it." Then came last Friday.

The store was packed. Tensions were high. Inflation has everyone on edge. A large man in a baseball cap was slamming his items onto the belt. Mateo made a small mistake— he had to void an item. It took an extra thirty seconds. The man exploded. "Are you stupid?" the man shouted, loud enough for three queues to hear. Why do they hire people who can't even work a register? Go back to where you came from!" The air left the room. People looked at their feet. The cashier next to us looked terrified. Mateo just stared at the scanner, his hands trembling slightly. My heart was hammering in my chest. My whole life, I've been the "keep your head down" type. Don't make waves. Mind your business. But this was my business.

I stepped forward. My joints ached, but I stood as tall as my 5'9" frame would let me. "Hey!" I barked. My voice cracked, then found its steel. The angry man spun around. "What?" "He works harder in one shift than you probably do all week," I said, pointing a shaking finger at Mateo. "He is studying to save lives. He helped a mother buy nappies when she was broke. What have you done today besides yell at a kid?" The man turned purple. "Mind your business, old man." "Decency is everyone's business," I said. "You want to be a tough guy? Be tough enough to show some respect." The queue went deadly silent. Then, a woman behind me started clapping slowly. Then another guy nodded. "He's right," someone muttered. The angry man grabbed his bags and stormed off, muttering insults. I looked at Mateo. He wasn't trembling anymore. He was standing straight, shoulders back. He looked at me, and nodded. A silent bond between a 74-year-old retiree and a 22-year-old immigrant student. I walked to my car shaking like a leaf. I cried in the parking lot. Not out of sadness, but because for the first time in years, I felt alive. I felt like a human being again.

Yesterday, Mateo handed me my receipt. On the back, in neat handwriting, he had written: "My father is far away. Today, you were like a father to me." I'm sharing this because we are living in angry times. We are told to hate each other. We are told to pick sides. But here is the truth I have learned: You don't have to solve the border crisis. You don't have to fix the economy. You just have to change the air in the room. Be the one who speaks up. Be the one who sees the person behind the name tag. We are all just walking each other home. Make sure you're good company."

Prayer



John Wesley said, 'Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can'. Lord, help us change the air in the room. Amen.

Series Return: View from the Other Side – From Listening to Action



Tuesday, 27 January 2026, 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm



Online via Zoom

Last autumn, Belfast South and Dun Laoghaire Methodist Churches listened as voices from the margins shared what life looks like to them. Now, they ask: *What can we do about what we heard?*

They invite you to the next phase of the series, as they move from listening to responding, starting with a focus on **Migrants**.

Join in to ignite your social conscience and put a human figure on our religious impulse.

- **Topic:** What can be done for/with Migrants?
- **Guest Speaker: Colin Flinn.** A former lawyer and advocate for the welfare of marginalized groups, Colin is deeply involved with the *Belfast City of Sanctuary*. Known for his lucid advocacy and outspoken integrity on issues of public life, Colin will help us probe for answers.

How to Join: Login details will be sent the week before each seminar. To sign up or request information, please email thinkingaloudseminar@icloud.com.

Save the Dates:

- **24 Feb:** What can be done for/with Persons with Disability?
- **24 Mar:** What can be done for/with the LGBTQI+ Community?



G.I.G.G.L.E.S

 **Saturday 14th February, 9.30am - 1.15pm**

 **Thomas Street Methodist Church, Portadown**

AN ALL IRELAND EVENT



SATURDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2026

JOY IN THE
Conference Programme
JOURNEY


**A morning filled with laughter, creativity,
and encouragement, growing together in
faith and friendship.**

**THOMAS STREET METHODIST CHURCH, PORTADOWN
9.30AM TO 1.15PM**

CREATIVE HEARTS. JOYFUL SOULS. ONE AMAZING JOURNEY.

PIANO CONCERT


 17 Friday 20th February, 7pm

 Wesley House, Leeson Park, Dublin



“Music is the art which is
most nigh to tears and memory.”
- Oscar Wilde

Connect ... through English

 17 Every Thursday, 10:30am - 12:00pm

 Room 1, Wesley House



Connect? Yes – the purpose of the Thursday morning gathering is to meet and connect with others who come to Ireland from all sorts of places, for all sorts of reasons.

We chat, in English, over a cup of tea or coffee, with the facilitators taking it in turn to lead the conversation.

We never know who might come and, over the last ten years, people have come from countries on all the continents, except maybe Australia.

It has been a privilege to meet everyone.

We gather on Thursday mornings in Room 1 between 10.30 and 12noon. If you might be interested in joining the facilitation team, please speak to one of us – Charles, Lesley, Liz, Lynne, Maureen, Roy and Sayjin.

If you are a relative newcomer to Ireland please come along – you will be most welcome.

We can be contacted at: english@methodistcentenary.ie

Sky's the Limit

We will resume on Tuesday **3rd February 2026, 7.30 pm**

Room 1, Methodist Centenary Church, Leeson Park, D6

Ross Hinds will launch our 2026 discussions with the challenging question: ***The Universe – What do we know?*** **Ross has said that no prior knowledge of science or mathematics will be needed!**

Sky's the Limit continues on 3rd March 2026, and 5th May 2026 (no session on the Tuesday after Easter). Please save the dates.

Friendly Room

The Friendly Room meets on Wednesdays in Room 1, Wesley House. If you are free, do drop in for a cuppa and a chat between 10.30 and 12 noon. All are welcome—it's a great spot to catch up, enjoy good company, and share a bit of banter.

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.

Methodist Newsletter for 2026

The newsletter is published 10 times during the year and costs only 28 euro from Margaret Horner. Speak to Margaret if you would like to be a subscriber.

Book Club

Our book choice for December was *The Names* by Florence Knapp which received very high reviews. In January everyone is invited to talk about a book read over Christmas.

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month from 12.30-2.00pm 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

PRAYERS OF SOLIDARITY, January 2026
The Methodist Church in Ireland's prayers for the world

The Methodist Church in Ireland, as part of Christ's world church, has a duty to pray for the world: its partnerships through both World Development & Relief and World Mission Partnership, as well as issues affecting people everywhere.

A Prayer for International Day of Education

International Day of Education 2026, marked on 26 January, reminds us that learning is a human right, a pathway out of poverty, and a powerful tool for hope, dignity, and lasting change worldwide. A number of MCI's World Development & Relief partners are involved in providing education in some of the world's poorest communities.

Let's pray.

Loving and gracious God,

We thank you for the gift of education - the light that opens minds, empowers communities, and nurtures hope in every child and adult alike.

Ahead of International Day of Education, we lift all who work to ensure that every person, regardless of circumstance, has the opportunity to learn, flourish, and contribute to Your world.

We pray especially for our World Development & Relief partners:

For Open Schools Worldwide, whose compassionate work reaches marginalised children wherever they are, bringing literacy, numeracy, and the love of Christ into places often forgotten. May your Spirit strengthen their tutors, learners, and local communities as they carry hope through education.


For KG6 School & Centre in Zimbabwe, where children with disabilities and those who are deaf - many from vulnerable backgrounds - find dignity, skills, and confidence. May your presence bring encouragement to every student and staff member as they pursue learning together with resilience and joy.

For Phakamisa in South Africa, where early childhood education, caregiver training, and life-skills empowerment transform families and open doors to brighter futures. Bless their efforts to uplift both young learners and those who care for them with strength, wisdom, and compassion.

Lord, inspire global leaders, educators, and communities to renew their commitment to quality education for all. May education continue to break cycles of poverty, build bridges of understanding, and cultivate peace in every corner of creation.

God we pray that all your children may know your love and walk in the fullness of life you intend.
Amen.

God's Storehouse in Tallaght

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

Forthcoming Services at 10.30am

February 1	Service of Holy Communion with Rev Andrew Kingston
February 8	Service of worship with Mrs Gillie Hinds
February 15	Service of worship with Dr Stephen Skuce
February 22	Service of worship with Fintan Lalor (Student Service)

Local preachers

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

January 25	10.00 Tallaght Mrs Soyoung Min
February 1	10.00 Mrs Jean Kingston

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

 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 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 to Billy Given. You can contact him at billygiven115@gmail.com

Text for Announcements

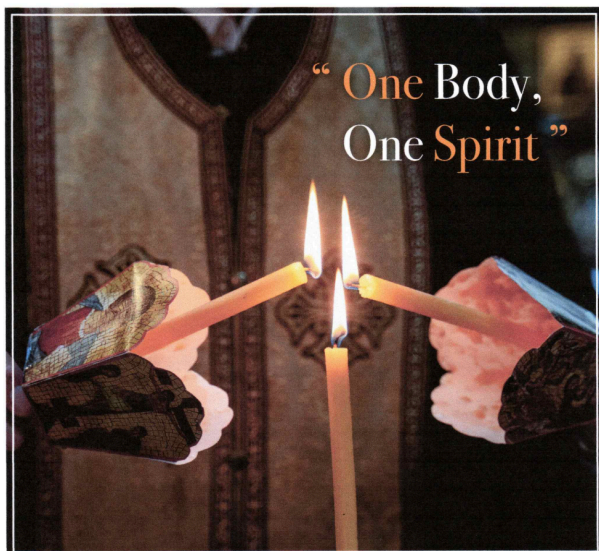
Text for inclusion in the Announcements should be sent to news@methodistcentenary.ie. The deadline is 10.00am on Wednesday morning.

Stay Connected

 Email: news@methodistcentenary.ie

 Website: www.methodistcentenary.ie

 Whatsapp: [Centenary Updates](#)


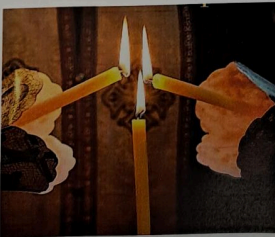


Tallaght Deanery Ecumenical Prayer Service
 Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church
 Parish of Firhouse
 Ballycullen Avenue, D24 N5WC
 on Wednesday 21st January 2026
 at 7.30 pm
 All are welcome

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2026

www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer



Séipéal Choláiste na Tríonóide
 Baile Átha Cliath
 Dé Domhnaigh 25 Eanáir 2026
 3 pm

**Sainbhís na n-eaglaise
 uinní agus ceoil i nGaeilge**
 sa tSeachtain Shuí don Dóntacht
 Chlostaí, aona óstáil ag Séiplíneacht
 Éacúiméneach an Choláiste,
 ar an téama - ó sholáchar i mbliana
 ag Eaglaisí na hAirméine:

Don Chorp, Don Spiorad
 (Eifesaigh 4:4)

SEANMÓIRÍ:
 An Dr. Fearghus Ó Fearghaíl DSS

CEOL:
 Baill de Chór Shéipéal
 Choláiste na Tríonóide:


Orgánaí agus Stiúrthóir Ceoil:
 An Dr. Kerry Houston FCCD

I gcomhcheannas na seirbhíse:
 An Canónach David Oxley - Eaglais na hÉireann
 An Canónach Pádraig Ó Baoill - an Eaglais Chaitliceach

Trinity College Chapel, Dublin
Sunday 25 January 2026, 3 pm
 An inter-denominational service
 of prayer and music in Irish
 in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,
 hosted by the TCD Ecumenical Chaplaincy.
 on the theme - provided this year
 by the churches of Armenia:
One Body, One Spirit
 (Ephesians 4:4)


Eolas / Information:

Cumann Gaelach
na hEaglaise



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Coiste Tréadach
a/c Deisce Átha Cliath



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