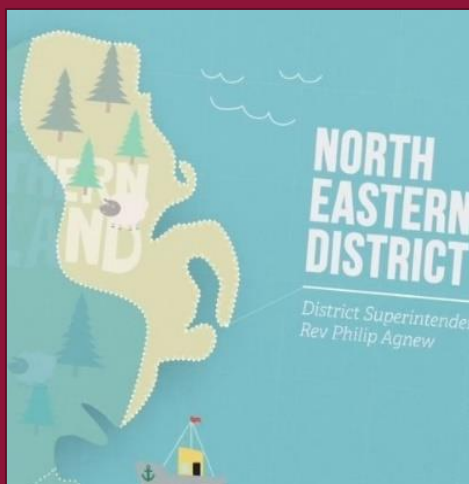


NORTH EASTERN DISTRICT



NOVEMBER 2019

The North Eastern District newsletter will be circulated every two months and we would like to include news from around the District.

You can email your news and stories to
karen.nicholson@irishmethodist.org

District Office Address:
1 Royal Lodge Road
Belfast
BT8 7UL

District Telephone Numbers:
028 9076 7945
028 9040 2202

Office Hours:
Tuesday 10:00-15:00
Wednesday 10:00-15:00
Thursday 10:00-15:00

WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF THE NORTH EASTERN DISTRICT NEWSLETTER!

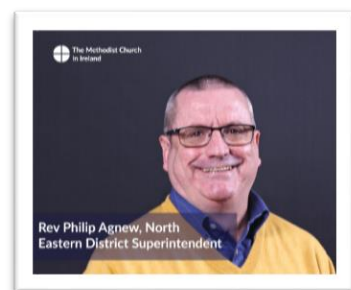


Hello! My name is Karen Nicholson and I am the new Administrative Assistant working in the office of the North Eastern District Superintendent. We hope to circulate this newsletter every two months – so if you have an event or any information you wish to share with the wider District please forward it to me at karen.nicholson@irishmethodist.org

and I will make sure it is included in the next edition. We also have a North Eastern District Facebook page now – [simply click on this link](#) and give us a 'like' to keep up-to-date with the happenings around the District. We welcome your feedback on our newsletter – just drop us a line to let us know what you think or how we can improve it!

COMMENTS FROM THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

I am now 4 months into this new role and wondering where the time has gone. Most of my time has been spent in visiting circuits and dealing with stationing issues. The new stationing process is working well and the two overnight meetings with immediate consultation has enabled faster progress.



A circuit visit consists of separate meetings with ministers and lay employees. I also meet with circuit and society stewards together. I am grateful for the openness and honesty of these meetings and the common desire to step out in faith. I am struck by some of the fantastic work that is going on to build the Kingdom of God. But I am also finding out that there is a lack of strategic thinking and few churches have mission plans. Some leaders are fired up and passionate, others are tired and unsure about the future.

I believe it is important that as churches we ask the right questions about the impact and direction of our activity and programmes. With this in mind, I have asked all church councils to adopt a rolling action agenda on mission and discipleship. To encourage this, it is my intention that the Lay Leader (Tom Wilson) and myself shall seek to work with leaders to produce manageable mission and discipleship plans. Our goal is to make more followers of Jesus Christ; and for those followers to grow in faith. Already, a number of circuits have asked for help and leaders' days are being arranged.

So, I am both encouraged and challenged as I travel around. Thank you for your prayers and support. I pray for you that together, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we shall see more and more lives transformed by encountering the Lord Jesus Christ.

Be blessed, Philip

VISIT OF PRINCIPAL OF CLIFF COLLEGE, ASHLEY COOPER

The Principal of Cliff College, Ashley Cooper will be giving a talk on 'Growing Your Local Church' on **Wednesday 13 November at 7.00pm** in the Agape Centre, 238 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6GF. This event is open to all. Please let Karen know if you can attend by emailing karen.nicholson@irishmethodist.org as soon as possible.

NIGHT LIGHT AT MOVILLA ABBEY CHURCH

Michael Spence reports: Movilla Abbey Church is gearing up for its annual "Light Night" on **Saturday 2 November 2019** - an autumn celebration with fairground games, barbecue, a costume competition, a firework display and some famous apple crumble. It's an amazing opportunity to bless our community with fun and food and a message about light in the darkness. For several years in a row guests have told us they're overwhelmed by the generosity of the church - even trying to pay us extra on their way out. We try to share that generosity, fun and community are an expression of God's heart for the world.



More good conversations grow out of the common question: "... and what church is this?" When our neighbours find out that the Methodist and Anglican congregations at Movilla are one Church with a shared mission they are impressed. There's a perception of denominations that we stay in our own silos and people's surprise at our partnership gives us great opportunities to talk about God's Kingdom. We're very excited that this year the local Presbyterian Church are joining in that longstanding partnership.

This year we want to be more explicit about our message. We're blessed to have Nick Harding from Spring Harvest sharing a short message and alongside our own congregations we'll have some Street Pastors and members of the diocesan evangelism team. The event gets pretty crowded, so we're praying that God will bless us with opportunities to make personal connections with people in the midst of all the buzz.

At Movilla we try not to rely on attractional events and a 'come to us' model of Church. We're on a journey to seeing ourselves primarily as a network of Life Groups. At first glance Light Night looks like the opposite of those principles. On closer inspection though we see all those smaller expressions of the church working together to model God's Kingdom to our neighbourhood in a way they couldn't on their own. When a Life Group engages with some of our neighbours on their doorstep or at the local community centre, they will already know who we are, that we exist to bless them, that we love Jesus, that we love food and that we love fun. That's thanks to Light Night.

ANNUAL FAITH AT WORK LECTURE, DOWNPATRICK METHODIST CHURCH

Date: **Wednesday 27th November 2019** at 8.00pm, *Faith and Diplomacy: A Human Experience* by Professor Francis Campbell, Vice-Chancellor, St Mary's University, Twickenham, London and former Ambassador to the Holy See. All are welcome. More information is available here >> <http://downmethodist.info/>



WHITEABBEY METHODIST EVENTS – ALL WELCOME!

JAFFA would like to invite you to their annual coffee morning fundraiser for JMA, in Whiteabbey Methodist Church on **Saturday 16th November 2019** at 10:30am-12:30pm - homemade jams, small cakes, & crafts for sale also! All proceeds to the JMA Project in King George VI School & Centre, Zimbabwe. All ladies are invited to Whiteabbey Methodist Church candlelight carol service on **Tuesday 3 December 2019** at 8.00pm, followed by supper in the hall.

AN EVENING OF GOSPEL MUSIC AT TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

This musical evening will take place on **Saturday 14 December 2019** at 7.30pm with all proceeds going to mental health. Admission is £8. Taking part will be James Strange, Joy Boyd, Judith Beattie and Edna Deacon. All welcome!

BANGOR AND HOLYWOOD CIRCUIT - Storehouse Lunch Club update

Report from Elizabeth Porter: four teams of 6-7 women provide a 3-course Sunday lunch for people in need in Bangor's YMCA on alternate Sundays. Storehouse Lunch Club has been running for over four years. It started with a picture from God of a lovely café with tablecloths on the tables, fresh flowers and families and others enjoying a good meal together and talking to each other. Everything we have needed since then has been provided by God!

We started in the Happy Coffee Bean Café in King Street and after two years moved to YMCA in High Street. We have a Team Leader for each team and the teams plan the menu, buy and cook the food and serve it. Our invitations go into Storehouse North Down food hampers and to other local charities. Guests then book a place. Anne takes all our bookings and gets to know all who are coming. Every team tries to talk to the people who come to eat and show God's love for them. We have a menu card on the table with a verse from the Bible and we play praise CDs as people eat.



We have seen an increasing need in the last few months. We regularly have 32 or more at the meals. The YMCA have now started to put on a one-course community meal on Monday and Wednesday to support people throughout the week. The great thing is that volunteers for the teams come from across the Circuit and other denominations and we are all great friends and a support to each other too. Other volunteers help with transport to the meals for those who really need it and we are very grateful to Dennis and Dennis in Carnalea who look after our printing and finances.

NEILSON WYLIE, PRAYER CO-ORDINATOR, CARNALEA METHODIST CHURCH reports on Street by Street Prayer Outreach Project, Bangor West

Street by Street Prayer Outreach Project commenced on 24 January 2017. It is a joint initiative by Carnalea Methodist Church, West Church Presbyterian and St Gall's Church of Ireland in the Bangor West area. Rev Fiona McCrea Carnalea Methodist is responsible for co-ordinating this Prayer Outreach Project.

Following a time of prayer, a team of four volunteers go out and knock on doors in the local area inviting prayer requests while another team of 3-4 stay behind in the Church praying for those who are out and for the homes being visited. Prayer requests are recorded on a card and later collated in order to be prayed over by a wider group for the next fortnight. By 20 October 2019 approximately 111 streets have been visited leading to 947 prayer requests being taken overall. These requests are mainly related to personal and family such as health issues, other requests relate to neighbourhood issues, Northern Ireland issues, faith and salvation issues and world events.



Street by Street is having a positive impact on the homes, families and people living in the Bangor West area. Those of us involved in this project have been richly blessed by God through our participation, especially in the Unity of the Spirit, by the three Churches in Bangor West working together. Regarding

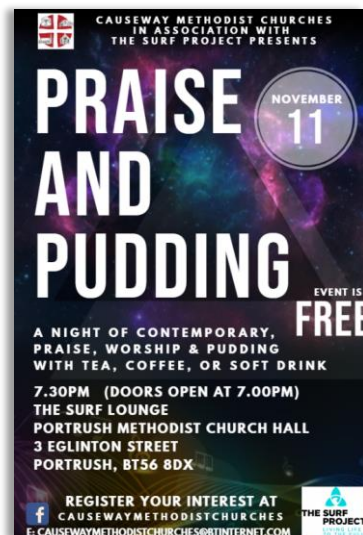
my own personal involvement in this Project, it has been brought home to me the whole cycle of blessing, namely as we are blessed by God, we bless others and receive a blessing. Team members have had many remarkable encounters – calling at a home at the right time, being able to take a prayer request, demonstrating practically God's love by bringing His grace, mercy and healing into situations people are facing.

I called at the home of a lady in her late 60's who had been diagnosed with terminal cancer 3 years previously. This lady had a strong faith and despite being given, at the time of diagnosis, a few months to live she placed her trust in God. On at least two occasions over the past 3 years she has been at death's door but was spared. She told me she and her husband, who has also recently been diagnosed with cancer, continue to place their trust in their Saviour. She was so filled with the presence of God and told me she uses her visits to hospital for treatment as opportunities to witness to other cancer patients about the love of Jesus. I left that encounter so blessed. Recently I have learnt this woman has gone to be with the Lord. In summarising, *Street by Street* is all about ministering to people, through prayer, at their point of need and making the invisible God visible in our Community. Colossians 3v23 TPT. Put your heart and soul into every activity you do as though you are doing it for the Lord himself and not merely for others. The above photo shows Nanette from St Gall's, Catherine from West Church and Neilson from Carnalea Methodist about to go out around the local doors.

NEWS FROM BALLYMONEY METHODIST CHURCH

On **Monday December 2nd** the annual walk around carol service will take place in Ballymoney. Nearly 800 people took part last year when people walked from church to church and sang carols inside each church together with a Bible reading. This year the event starts off in the local Catholic Church at 7pm and moves off to the [Methodist Church](#) and Presbyterian Church before ending up at the Church of Ireland. Tea, coffee, biscuits and mince pies will then be available to all! This annual carol service is one of the largest public events in the Ballymoney area every year. All welcome to this wonderful community event!

Staying on the North Coast [Causeway Methodist Church](#) in association with [The Surf Project](#) are holding a Praise and Pudding Evening on **Monday 11 November** at 7.30pm in Portrush Methodist Church Hall. Come and enjoy an evening of contemporary praise, worship, pudding with tea and coffee or soft drink! All are welcome. Register your interest with causewaymethodistchurches@btinternet.com.



YOUR INVITATION

Christmas Tree Festival
13-15 December 2019
at Dromore Methodist Church

View a selection of trees created by local businesses, groups and church members on the theme:
"Christmas Joy!"

Festive refreshments, and crafts for children, available throughout

Gatherings:
Groups welcome:
Contact Des 07746 091655
Suggested donation:
£5 (children £2)
Christmas Fair: Saturday 10am-12.30pm

Viewing Times:
Friday 2pm-8pm
Saturday 10am-6.30pm
Sunday 2pm-4pm

Opening Prayer **Friday 2pm**
Worship Night **Saturday 7pm**
Morning Worship **Sunday 11am**
Carol Service **Sunday 4.30pm**

Find us at 2 Maypole Hill, Dromore BT25 1BQ
www.dromoremethodist.org [DromoreMethodistChurch](https://www.facebook.com/DromoreMethodistChurch)

CHRISTMAS JOY IN DROMORE!

[Dromore Methodist Church](#) is excited to be holding a Christmas Tree Festival in December 2019, for what will hopefully be their last big fundraising push to clear the cost of building a hall and new rooms in 2009. They would love to welcome visitors from around the District throughout the Festival, which will be open for viewing on **Friday 13 December** 2pm-8pm, **Saturday 14th** 10am-6.30pm, and **Sunday 15th** 2pm-4pm. Suggested donations are £5 per person (£2 for children aged 5+) and include festive refreshments.

Obviously, they want to raise as much money as possible! But more importantly, they are excited by the way people and organisations from the town and beyond are engaging with the preparations, sponsoring and decorating trees. They are really looking forward to the church building being a place of awe and meaningful connection with God. There will be 'live' music played each hour, a children's craft room and a number of trees inviting viewers to pause and reflect in thanksgiving, prayer and joy.

A number of special events will take place during the Festival - the opening ceremony (Friday at 2pm) will include greetings from the local Mayor and prayers led by Philip Agnew, District Superintendent. Saturday morning will have the annual Christmas Fayre taking place in the hall next door, with treats and bric-a-brac to suit everyone! Lynda Neilands will be telling Christmas stories during the informal Worship Night that evening at 7pm - a special time of drawing close to God in song. The Methodist President, Sam McGuffin, will join them for Sunday morning worship at 11am the next day, and the conclusion to the Festival will be a Carol Service at 4.30pm. The members of Dromore Methodist Church hope that everyone who attends will encounter the wonder of Jesus' birth in a fresh way, leaving with just that little bit more 'Christmas Joy!'



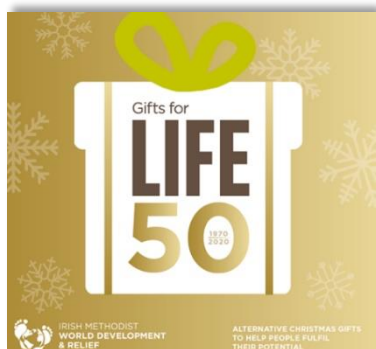
NEWS FROM IMYC

The *Ambassadors Programme* is now LIVE on the IMYC website and applications are open! >> <https://imycd.org/ambassadors-programme/>. This is a volunteer programme for 18 – 24 year olds who are part of the Methodist Church in Ireland who have a passion to see the voice of children and young people shape the church for God's mission. Within the programme there are

different roles focused on different areas of ministry within the life of the church. Please take some time to have a look, pass on the information and prayerfully consider who you could encourage to think about being part of this programme. **Applications close Friday 15th November** and the programme will begin in January 2020. All the information can be found on the website but if you have any more questions, please contact Leanne Hill, Training and Development Officer >> leanne.hill@imycd.org.

METHODIST WORLD DEVELOPMENT & RELIEF ROADSHOWS!

Bring your people together to explore poverty, development and [World Development and Relief](#), and how these relate to their Christian discipleship. What does it mean to be poor? Can the church respond meaningfully? What is WDR's approach that makes it a little bit different? This is an engaging, yet challenging, hour and twenty minutes with interactive activities, videos, facts and a little bit of theology. A roadshow could be run as a mid-week meeting or service, or simply as a stand-alone event. Interested? Talk to Tim! tim.dunwoody@irishmethodist.org or call 028 9076 7969.



WDR ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT CATALOGUE

Methodist World Development and Relief continues to walk alongside expert and committed partners who work in some of the poorest communities. The [annual alternative Christmas gift catalogue](#), to help those living in material poverty is now available. Your gift supports the chosen partner's work and helps local people transform their communities. Shop there and make a difference this Christmas!

WDR is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year, July 2019- June 2020! To help mark this year, they are looking for 50 people to run a Footprints Fundraiser. Whether you want to do this with your family, workmates,

church or a group of friends, they would love to hear from you! >>

www.methodistworlddevelopment.org.



The Methodist Church
In Ireland