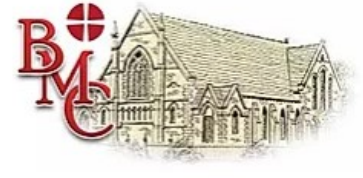


BALLYMENA
METHODIST
CHURCH



WEEKLY BULLETIN

SUNDAY 16 JANUARY 2022

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

For those who attended Church last Sunday, you may have found yourself thinking about Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol during this week. Maybe you have thought about how Ebenezer Scrooge becomes a changed man, or of the Cratchit family and their thankfulness for all they had, and Tiny Tim's classic line "God Bless Us Everyone!". Although A Christmas Carol is a story, it prompts us to consider what are some of the ways God is calling us to live. God encourages us to live a simple life of joy and peace, serving others through our generosity and love. Our generosity is as much about our time spent with others as it is about what we can physically give them.

In what can traditionally be labelled as a SAD month, let us show simple unconditional love to one another. Love is shown in your deeds as well as your words. "This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him." 1 John 4 v 9.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Tea and coffee (fresh coffee filtered through our new machine!) is available from 10.30am each Sunday morning prior to the 11am service. Cups and lids are available and are fully compostable, or bring your own reusable cup / mug. All are welcome and please help yourself.

We continue to hold services each Sunday morning at 11am within our risk-assessed Covid-safe number of 50 persons. If we exceed 50 we will operate a



booking system, however we are fortunate to have additional space in our gallery should this be needed. Sunday services will continue to be recorded live and you can access this via a YouTube channel link shared with you via a weekly email notification.

A CALL TO PRAYER

Thank you for your continued commitment to pray for our Church family and community. Despite the uncertainty surrounding our lives right now, don't allow any of that to dull the wonder of God's love and power.

The following points may help in our focus of prayer in the week ahead.

- ✚ Pray for those who work within our health service and government, as they face the challenges of COVID and new variants.
- ✚ Pray for those who are experiencing pain and illness, and give thanks for the power of God's healing touch.
- ✚ Pray for those struggling in what can be a difficult month; particularly those who experience the stresses of life.
- ✚ Pray for our children and young people who have returned to school for the new term.

WEAR IT OR WEIGH IT

Are you planning a clearout or declutter of items? If so, read on.....

We plan to hold another of these events in February. This is an advance notice in case any of you have a clear out prior to the date being confirmed. Should you have any old clothes, shoes, curtains, bedding etc (still in good used condition) that you are planning to get rid of please hold on to it for this recycling event. If you don't have the space to do so please contact either Elaine (07979366030) or Paula (07522929388) and we can make arrangements to take it off your hands and store it until it is needed.



METHODIST NEWSLETTER

It is not too late to subscribe to the monthly Methodist Church Newsletter. If you are interested, please see Susan Monteith.

It costs £15 for an annual subscription and cheques should be made payable to "Ballymena Methodist" and passed to Susan.



CHURCH HALL WINDOWS

Have you noticed the images on our Church Hall windows? The artwork depicts our vision of what we offer, a haven of hope and support where everyone is welcome.

We are all connected by the emotions we experience in life, from the darkest days of turmoil and pain, to the brighter times of calm and peace.

The art piece has been called "A Haven" and has been supported by the Living Rooms and created by Family and Friends of the Methodist Church in collaboration with Arts Care,

Northern Health and Social Care Trust and Artist in Residence, Ciara O'Malley.



DAY CONFERENCE—JOINING WITH GOD'S MISSION

Saturday 19th February, 2022 from 10am - 1pm

What does Mission and Evangelism look like for us as individuals and as part of the body of Christ, as disciples and as Methodists?

This Day Conference is a time to reflect on how we might continue to engage with people and share good news. It will be an opportunity for people to explore how we might help our churches to develop their evangelism ministry.

More details regarding how you can attend this conference either online via Zoom or as an in-person hub, can be found on the Methodist Church in Ireland website.

The website has recently had a fresh new look, so please do enjoy navigating through the various new articles

and updates:

<https://irishmethodist.org/>



**THE METHODIST CHURCH
IN IRELAND**

STAMPS FOR R.N.I.B.

The Royal National Institute of Blind People can use your old used postage stamps and recycle them into much-needed funds for their services. Stamps should be passed to Wendy Savage who will send these off at the end of January on behalf of our church.



PASTORAL CARE

There have been many changes over the past 2 years in how the church engages with pastoral care. Much of what we associate with pastoral is not currently possible... physical presence, visitation etc.. Ministers and pastoral care teams in our Methodist churches have been creativity in their continued connections with people and how we encourage each other in our faith.

If you or someone you know would like Dave to chat with them, **please contact him** to make the arrangement.



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