



***Ballymena Methodist Church***  
***LIVING ROOMS***  
***Redevelopment Project***



## A Letter from our Minister

My dear friends,

This is a special time in the life of our congregation at Ballymena. 'Time' may be viewed as the passing of days or as moments of opportunity. This is a time of opportunity.

What is presented to you in this booklet are the details of a vision to express our mission as reaching out to create 'Living Rooms - A Community Hub'.



John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, believed that 'there is no holiness but social holiness'. It was a clear expression that our faith as Christians is not only that which enriches our own lives but looks out beyond ourselves to the needs of others. It will have a special concern for the marginalised, the vulnerable, those who feel insecure or are seeking a new direction in their lives.

The booklet outlines the plans for the creation of a safe and welcoming community which will provide a safe and welcoming space which can be shared by the congregation as well as community groups. The new dimension will be the provision of living space for vulnerable young adults in partnership with Social Services.

I know that over recent years the congregation has made connections with many groups in the community. This imaginative outreach will widen the opportunities to show grace and love to others, and as we do that our lives are enriched and enlarged.

It is built around the theology of hospitality, reflecting God's love and grace to us and then streaming out to share that invitation to others. It will express in a living way the words of Jesus which we chose as the motto for our church year - 'Love one another as I have loved you'. That has all the marks of a love that has no conditions attached to it.

The words of the hymn, written by Marty Haugen, catch the meaning of what we seek to do -

***'Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,***

**and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
All are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.**

I know that you, as a church family here, are open and welcoming. There is now the opportunity to make this vision a reality. It will reveal that we are a people of open minds, open hearts and open doors.

We are called to be a servant church. On the communion table in church there are two symbols. One is a cross made from nails found in the rubble of the former manse building. The other symbol is a towel and basin, a reminder, not only of the servant Jesus who washed the feet of the disciples but also of his call to us to do the same for those in our community - 'By this love you have for one another, people will know that you are my disciples'.

I invite you, as you read the booklet, to consider your part in making this opportunity happen. You will see the outline of the scheme and the thinking behind it as well as the presentation of the ways you may support the scheme financially. I know that you will do this prayerfully as we seek to follow the guidance of God to love and care for others in a practical way.

We hope that the annual Gift Day planned for June to support the Living Rooms project, along with pledged giving over the next years, will be an encouraging sign at this time.

We are grateful to the Focus Group for the time and guidance they have offered.

We go forward with faith in the God who will journey with us knowing that, through your giving, loving and praying, and with the support of all our partners, the vision will become a place which celebrates healing, hope and life in all its fullness.

In gratitude and Christian love.



Rev. David Cooper  
Minister



## Living Rooms: the background

We are privileged to belong to Ballymena Methodist Church which:

- draws its worshipping congregation from a wide area serving both the rural town and outlying area;
- has a tradition of excellence in preaching, teaching and pastoral care;
- has a reputation for engaging honestly with the application of Christian faith to contemporary culture;
- provides opportunities for service and outreach - the support of young people and their families through GB, the GANG and Kidz4Christ and the Children's Contact Service; caring for the more mature through lunch club, tea dance, Faith Food Bible Study and the Community Choir; partnerships with Social Services, Community Mental Health, Womens Aid, the Inter Ethnic Forum;
- provides a safe space for vulnerable and socially isolated to meet and use our premises on a weekly basis.

**However,  
membership of  
Ballymena Methodist  
Church brings  
responsibilities as well  
as privileges.**



It is our duty to be responsible stewards to our inheritance.

As Methodists we are committed to 'worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism'. As members of Ballymena Methodist Church 'we are a community of people drawn together by God's love expressed in the story of Jesus; his birth and life, teaching, suffering, death and resurrection. We seek to abide more deeply in God's love in order to mission more effectively to the community around us'.

It therefore falls to each generation to reassess how our buildings can best be used for the purposes of God in the community in which we are placed and where we serve.

## **We stand in a long tradition of upgrades and redevelopments at Ballymena Methodist Church**

- the opening
- the addition of the hall
- the extension to the hall with the addition of a new kitchen & New Room
- the refurbishment of the church sanctuary with a new organ, redesign of the dais, heating system
- sanctuary cushions and lighting
- projection and media
- painting and carpets
- kitchen, toilets and the office
- signage
- manse

For general maintenance and for each of the new projects, the congregation has raised funds to enable the work to be carried out to its completion.

### **The time has come again .....**

In recent years, we have been considering what distinctive contribution the Methodist church can make within the community in order to provide a Christian voice in the public square mile footprint of the town. We identified that a facility focusing on mental health support, which could offer access to and delivery of services, would have a positive impact on a broad range of people within our community.

Whilst we currently have several user groups including Woodvale Mental Health Hub, Children's Contact Services, the Inter Ethnic Forum and Children's Choir accessing our premises, we believe that the will and purposes of God can be served more effectively within new purpose built premises in the footprint of the old manse.

**'I want to serve the purpose of God in my generation,  
I want to serve the purpose of God while I am alive,  
I want to give my life for something that will last forever,  
Oh I delight, I delight to do Your will'**

**(Mark Altrogge Copyright 'People of Destiny/CopyCare Ltd' 1982)**

## Living Rooms ..... the vision

***We exist to serve in the community  
for the community  
to bring wholeness and healing to all.***

Our vision is to offer hope to those in need, particularly those who are vulnerable or at risk, regardless of background or belief and to provide a space within the town that will become a welcoming, vibrant and peaceful place in which everyone has a sense of belonging and can fulfil their potential.

**Welcoming** .... we want to provide a safe space, open and welcoming to all who are in need. The plans allow for:

- comfortable, homely facilities
- informal small meeting rooms for prayer and counselling
- accessible ground floor rooms for Faith Food Bible Study, Kidz4Christ and Creche

**Vibrant** .... we want to extend the friendship and create a place of encounter, friendship, belonging and hope for our neighbours and friends through:

- a multipurpose creative space for activities
- a large communal social space with kitchen facilities

**Peaceful** ...we want to create 'a place to be' for those who feel they have no place to be, through the provision of:

- four self contained apartments for vulnerable young people coming out of care;

***It's no accident that hospitality and hospital come from the same Latin word, for they can lead to the same result – healing.  
When you open your door to someone, you are sending this message: 'You matter to me and you matter to God.'***

## Living Rooms .... the plans

Following a series of consultations with the congregation, our partner organisations and the current users, the following scheme has been prepared by Mr Norman McKernan (Joseph E. McKernan & Sons).

**The Scheme provides for the creation of a new two storey building with ground floor facilities to enhance the current church mission opportunities and a first floor housing four self-contained apartments.**

We have received Planning Approval from Mid & East Antrim Council, and approval in principle from the Methodist Church in Ireland Property Board.

### **Ground Floor**

- a large working kitchen offering a communal social gathering space
- an open multipurpose room for creative arts, therapy and social activities
- a cosy living room
- a counselling / prayer room.

### **First Floor**

- four self contained apartments to be used by Social Services for vulnerable young people coming out of care.

*It is envisaged that the partnership with Social Services will create the income stream to sustain the ongoing maintenance of the premises.*

***You make Me known when you use your voice to praise My name and tell of My excellent greatness. You make Me known when you use your eyes to see the people I bring to you and when you minister to them with My heart of compassion. You make Me known when you use your hands to minister healing and love in My name. You make Me known when you use your feet to go in the power of My name to the places where I send you and bring My Good News to the hurting.***



## Living Rooms .... the budget

We have now reached the stage of tendering for the new the build, with final costs to be confirmed in due course.

The proposed project budget is detailed below:

### Living Rooms - Project Budget

<b>Professional fees</b>		
1. Architect	£ 3,900.00	
2. Structural Engineer	£ 900.00	
		£ 4,800.00
<b>Planning Fees</b>		
1. Ground Floor	£ 1,456.00	
2. Upper Floor	£ 1,748.00	
		£ 3,204.00
<b>Building Control Fees</b>		
1. Application Estimated	£ 726.00	
2. Inspection Estimated	£ 2,220.00	
		£ 2,946.00
<b>Site Investigation</b>		
1. Trial Holes	£ 450.00	£ 450.00
<b>Build Costs</b>		
1. Substructure Estimated	£ 75,000.00	
2. Superstructure Estimated	£ 380,000.00	
		£ 455,000.00
<b>Total Project Budget</b>		£ 466,400.00

Note:

1. The cost of demolition of the old manse was kindly gifted by a member of the congregation.
2. Professional Fees, Planning Fees, Building Control Application Fees and Site Investigation costs have been paid.
3. The budget does not include costs for decoration or fixtures and fittings.

## Living Rooms .... the finances

We are making application to a variety of trusts and seeking a grant from the Methodist Church in Ireland Property Board.

In order to access funding from these external sources, we are encouraged to raise as much as possible from the church members.

The balance for the Living Rooms Capital Account at 31st May 2020 was **£80,239**.

We therefore hope to raise the shortfall of approximately **£105,000** in direct giving from our church members.

<b>How much are we aiming to raise from each source?</b>		
<b>From Ballymena Methodist Church:</b>		
Direct giving (see page 11 )		
<i>From the congregation and other supporters</i>	£	105,000.00
Local Fundraising (see page 12 )	£	10,000.00
<i>Organised by members of the congregation with support from the local community</i>		
Gift Aid on the majority of gifts	£	23,000.00
Living Rooms Account Balance	£	80,000.00
<b>From other sources:</b>		
Charitable Trusts and Foundations	£	250,000.00
<i>including the Rank Trust, Tudor Trust, Allchurches, Ulster Garden Villages and Garfield Weston</i>		
<b>Total Estimate</b>	£	468,000.00

## Living Rooms ..... direct giving

We hope that members of the congregation and wider church family will therefore be willing to make a pledge towards the Living Rooms Project.

The idea is for each person/family to find a level of giving that fits their own circumstances so that little by little we can achieve our aim.

You may wish to make a one-off donation to the Living Rooms Project and/or pledge a regular amount on a weekly/monthly basis, over a period of one year initially.

For example, if you can commit to **£10** per week, then **£520** will be added to our total over 1 year. Should you commit to 3 years of giving this would equate to a total of **£1560 (£1950 including Gift Aid)**.

Our treasurer will be happy to discuss or assist you in increasing your gift by completing the Gift Aid declaration (see page 14).

Examples of Pledges				
Weekly Donation	Amount Donated over 1 year	Amount Donated over 3 years	Gift Aid for 3 years	Total over 3 yrs inc. Gift Aid
£5.00	£260.00	£780.00	£195.00	£975.00
£10.00	£520.00	£1,560.00	£390.00	£1,950.00
£15.00	£780.00	£2,340.00	£585.00	£2,925.00
£20.00	£1,040.00	£3,120.00	£780.00	£3,900.00
£25.00	£1,300.00	£3,900.00	£975.00	£4,875.00
£30.00	£1,560.00	£4,680.00	£1,170.00	£5,850.00

Payments can be made by various means including electronic bank transfer, standing order, cheque or cash (see page 14)

## Living Rooms ..... fundraising events

### Activities and events:

Local fundraising adds an element of fun and fellowship to an otherwise daunting task of raising money for the project.

Members of the congregation have already shown how imaginative and energetic they can be when it comes to generating funds.

The list of ongoing fundraising activities includes: Easyfundraising ([www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)), the sale of the slates from the old manse and 'Wear It or Weigh It'.

Some of the events we are considering include: the annual Craft Fair, 'Songs of Praise', Gospel Concert, Colour Run, Table Quiz, an Afternoon Tea and an Evening with the Community Choir.

Some of these events will focus on the congregation, helping strengthen our sense of belonging and commitment. Others look outward to the wider community, reaching out to our neighbours. We hope you will feel inspired to get involved too in any way you can - whether organising or attending, buying or sponsoring - your contribution will be welcome.

## Living Rooms ..... the challenge

So, the consultations have been held, the plans drawn up and permissions obtained - now it is up to us.

With the focus on 'mission and ministry' we must now find our way to raise the funds to construct a new building for today and the next generation.

As James writes in his letter:

**'Be doers of the word, not hearers only!'** (James 1 v 22)

## Living Rooms ..... what they say!

We value the support of the Methodist Church as a place we can always come and there are people we can always rely on to partner with us, to support us and to provide a feeling of home.' (Alex, Woodvale)

Pearl Turtle says 'I think I speak on behalf of all members of the Faith Food Bible Study group, who feel that a comfortable, accessible prayer room/space is something we have longed for since Rev Hassard started our group. We believe God's is answering our prayers in amazing ways'.

I discovered a gem of a group [the Methodist Church] who I never knew existed. They are my 'goto' group .. welcoming to all sections of the community. (Rosalind, Mid & East Antrim Council)

Ballymena Methodist Church has been particularly supportive to service users of Women's Aid. The families very much appreciate the kindness shown to them at this time, when some of them are feeling very low and worthless. (Karen, Womens Aid)

'In order to progress our work, we need good quality safe, accessible venues which share our value base. The Methodist Church provides all that and the development of new facilities is vital to our ongoing work'. (Ivy, Inter-Ethnic Forum)

'I Sing for Me' Community Choir:  
"as a shy and lonely widow it gives me opportunity to make new friends and something to look forward to each week, the friends I've made so far have been amazing, the feel good factor, the musical therapy, the camaraderie we experience every week is priceless"

"The Community Choir has brought so much joy to my life"; "it's the only thing I do just for fun"; "I have made so many new friends, the singing lifts my mood"

## Living Rooms ..... Reply Slip

**If you wish to donate you can do so by making a one-off donation and / or pledging to give over a period of time.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ FWO Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Donation Details

£ \_\_\_\_\_ weekly for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks\* / years \* (STANDING ORDER)

£ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly for \_\_\_\_\_ months \* / years \* (STANDING ORDER)

£ \_\_\_\_\_ one off payment (BANK TRANSFER \* / CHEQUE \* payable to 'Ballymena Methodist Living Rooms' / Cash\* **DO NOT SEND BY POST**

\* Delete as applicable

I wish to Gift Aid my donation

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Please detach this page and forward to the Church Treasurer:*

*Mr Victor Wilson,*

*57 Old Galgorm Road,*

OR [victor.wilson@irishmethodist.org](mailto:victor.wilson@irishmethodist.org)

*Ballymena*

*BT42 IAN*

Bank details for the Living Rooms Account will be forwarded to those wishing to make payments electronically. If you wish to pay by cash or have any queries please contact Victor Wilson on 07952168008 or [victor.wilson@irishmethodist.org](mailto:victor.wilson@irishmethodist.org)

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Ballymena Methodist Church

*The Living Rooms*  
  
**COMMUNITY HUB**