

Methodist Centenary Church

Wesley House, Leeson Park, Dublin 6

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



Announcements on 27th March 2024

Our Mission Statement

Our Mission is to receive God's love and to share it with others.

Holy Week Services

Tonight, 6.30-8pm, Tallaght. Imade, a member of the congregation, is providing food at 6.30pm. We will then consider the Passover and conclude with Holy Communion. Some of our Tallaght congregation are away, so it would be an encouragement if any Centenary or Rathgar folk could come along. It might be an opportunity to get to know members of Tallaght Methodist Church on their own turf.

Good Friday 12.30pm: Ecumenical walk with the cross from under the pillars at Rathmines Roman Catholic Church (the Church with the copper dome), via Adelaide Road to Wesley House. We will pause for prayer and reflection along the way.

Good Friday 2.30pm: A half hour service of prayer and reflection in Rathgar Methodist Church

Easter Sunday, dawn service, joining with Urban Junction, Blackrock. Meet outside Urban Junction (Blackrock Methodist Church) at 6.45am. We will walk to the shore for the dawn service and are invited back for a hot breakfast. I will bring bread, butter, Weetabix and milk as my contribution. Let me know if you plan to attend and would like a lift.

Easter Sunday 11am (Wesley House), *Three Days that Changed the World*. Invite your friends to this service of music and celebration. **[note the changed time and that clocks go forward that morning]**. See poster at the end of these announcements.

Easter Reflection

Armies of occupation down the centuries have a common mode of operation.... *'Let them feel your presence!'* This involves brute force, humiliation, violence (often sexual), and routine theft with no recourse to justice.

At the beginning of the week Jesus had entered Jerusalem at the head of a noisy, albeit peaceful demonstration. This caused a degree of panic both among the forces of occupation, and among the religious establishment. This sort of thing could easily get out of control and would not be tolerated. It was only a matter of time.

The events that take up the largest parts of our gospels would have occupied only the briefest of a footnote in the Governor's Report back to Rome. The mocking, the violence, the humiliation, the cruelty, the thirst, the nakedness of the victim exposed to the scorching Middle Eastern sun, was an everyday event by the forces of occupation... but unknown to them, every minute detail was in fulfilment of the Hebrew Scriptures for the salvation of the world. *By oppression and judgement he was taken away..., He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; The punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.*



Prayer

Gracious Father, we give thanks today that your sinless Son is the substitutionary lamb promised to Abraham, 'On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.' He is the Passover Lamb whose blood delivers us from the oppression, not of Pharaoh, but from all Satanic forces, and He is The Lamb of God who, as foretold by John the Baptist, takes away the sin of the world.

Father we praise you that you have dealt with the curse of sin upon all Creation on the Cross of Calvary. As we await your coming in glory, we pray for all who are under political tyranny and oppression in the world today. While rejoicing in our salvation, help us also to strive with others for justice, peace, care of creation and the wellbeing of all, In the Name of the Prince of Peace, Amen

Ecumenical Prayer

Tuesday 2nd April: Lunch-time Ecumenical Prayer, St Killian's Lutheran Church Adelaide Road. The prayer service will be led by Lesley Rankin

Pastoral care after Easter

Andrew & Jean will be on holidays and out of the country for the week after Easter. Rev Dr John Parkin has kindly agreed to be available for any pastoral situations that may arise.

Sky's the Limit – 7.30pm on Monday 8th April 2024

Building and Burning: Responses to People Seeking Asylum

Dennis Harvey will lead a conversation on the growing challenges of the asylum system. He will draw on his experiences as an activist film maker portraying the lives of people seeking asylum in Ireland and Sweden, or trying to reach the Mediterranean through Tunisia. He will also share insights gained from filming discussions at EU and UN agencies. Dennis will join us remotely via Zoom and there will be time for discussion of how we, as a congregation, can best respond to the growing number of applicants for asylum and the rise of the far-right in Ireland.

The session will be hosted by Maureen and Frank Harvey at 37 Northbrook Ave, Ranelagh, Dublin 6 D06N5PO

Eco Congregation Notes

Easter and The Environment: The Call For Spiritual And Cultural Transformation

Reflection by Richard Mathews, a consultant, writer, researcher, journalist, and change activist, who has contributed to reports for policymakers, including a United Nations Environment Program publication.

The symbolism of Easter offers an opportunity to reflect on the importance of the natural world and the shift of consciousness required for the survival of life on this planet. If we are to find a way forward we will need to address climate change and environmental degradation. To alter our perilous trajectory we need to assume responsibility for the state of our world. Science alone will not take us where we need to go. We need a spiritual and cultural transformation that will enable us to address the wide range of human activities that are destroying the Earth's ecosystems.

"I used to think the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that with 30 years of good science we could address those problems. But I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed, and apathy...to deal with those we need a spiritual and cultural transformation – and we scientists don't know how to do that." – Environmental advocate James Speth.

The egg is a prominent symbol of Easter and a fitting metaphor for the Earth. An egg symbolizes both fragility and the promise of new life. However, Easter is more than just a festival celebrating the return of spring. As a Christian event, Easter calls us to remember the cycles of renewal and the interconnectedness of life and death.

For Christians, Easter is a celebration of Christ's resurrection, the ultimate symbol of rebirth. Easter's known pagan origins date back to the 8th century, specifically an Anglo-Saxon fertility goddess known as "Eostre," whose name may be derived from "eastre," meaning spring.

Easter eggs are rooted in Celtic and Teutonic pagan traditions. Eggs are directly associated with springtime festivals in many older texts and narratives. From a Christian perspective, Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection.

Decorating eggs for Easter is a tradition that dates back to at least the 13th century. One explanation for this custom is that eggs were formerly a forbidden food during the Lenten season, so people would paint and decorate them to mark the end of the period of penance and fasting, then eat them on Easter as a celebration.

Judaism celebrates Passover around this time of year and it commemorates the Hebrews' escape from Egyptian enslavement. This is metaphorically relevant to ecology as a symbol of freedom from the bondage of environmental destruction.

From Judeo-Christian and pagan perspectives Easter symbolizes renewal and this is precisely what is required as we engage the serious work of being better environmental stewards. With so many around the world seeking to renew our relationship to the Earth, Easter is particularly relevant in modern times.

Easter is an opportunity to reconsider our relationship to this planet, and a good time to reflect on the truly transformational work that lies ahead. Easter is also an aspirational homage to the possibility that we can live in harmony with our environment. www.changeoracle.com

St Philip's Vintage Afternoon Tea

Following on from its success last year it was decided to host the St Philip's Vintage Afternoon Tea again this year. It will be held in St Philip's Hall on Saturday 13 April from 2 -4pm. It is €10 per person and rsvp is required to Craig at sandfordandstphilips@gmail.com or 0860386432. See attached poster for more details.

Book Club

The Book Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month from 12.15-1.45pm 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. Our March book choice was *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters, which proved very popular with the group. Our choice for April is *The Raptures* by Jan Carson. We currently have 10 members and would be delighted to increase our numbers. If you would be interested in joining us, please contact Sylvia on sylviahroddie@gmail.com

Holy Week Recital St Philip's Church Wednesday 27 March 7.30pm tonight

'Chorale Preludes, Op. 122' by Johannes Brahms. This will be performed by David O'Shea (Organ), with chorales sung by members of the Sandford and St Philip's Choral Union. This will take place on Wednesday 27 March at 7.30 pm in St Philip's Church, Milltown, and everyone is welcome. A poster is at the end of these announcements.

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.

Connect through English

The Connect group meets on Thursday mornings between 10.30am and 12 noon in Room 1 in Wesley House. If you know anyone who would like to join our morning chat and coffee, which we share with people who have come to Ireland from many countries, please let them know. Fliers are available in stands around Wesley House. Please take one. We have plenty, and if you can help with spreading them we would be very grateful. Contact: english@methodistcentenary.ie.

God's Storehouse in Tallagt

Please put donations of non-perishable foods in the basket in Wesley House.

Giving to the church by cheque

Those who cannot come to church are asked to please post your donations by cheque, quoting your envelope number, to Billy Given. You can contact him at billygiven115@gmail.com

Giving to the church by standing order or bank transfer

If you wish to give to the Church by standing order or bank transfer, these are the details:

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

So that the church can avail of tax relief on our donations please include, with your donation, the number on your offering envelopes. Contact Alan Perry with any questions.

Giving to the Church by 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.

Forthcoming Services at 10.30am

March 31 Easter Sunday: Circuit Celebration at Wesley House

April 7 Holy Communion service with Rev John Parkin

April 14 Worship with Rev Andrew Kingston

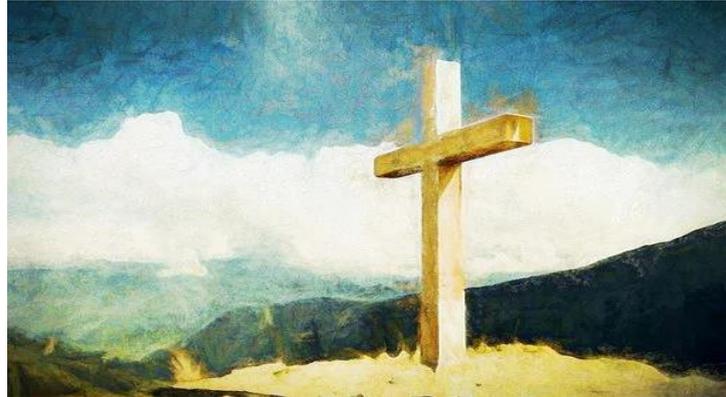
April 21 Worship with Brian Hickey

April 28 Worship with Rev Andrew Kingston

Text for Announcements

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

Holy Week Recital



Chorale Preludes, Op. 122

by Johannes Brahms

performed by David O'Shea (Organ),
with chorales sung by members of the
Sandford and St Philip's Choral Union

Wednesday 27 March at 7.30 pm
St Philip's Church (D06 AX71)

Admission Free

*Retiring Collection in aid of Shine a Light for
Al-Ahli Hospital (Gaza) Appeal*

Ecumenical Way of the Cross

Outdoors

*Good Friday 2024, 29 March,
Starting at 12.30pm
in the forecourt of the R. C. Church
50, Lr. Rathmines Rd
All are welcome!*



Jointly organised by:

Holy Trinity Church of Ireland, Rathmines, Mary Immaculate Roman Catholic Church, Rathmines,
St. Finian's Lutheran Church, Adelaide Road, Methodist Centenary Church, Leeson Park



Easter
DAWN SERVICE



MEETING OUTSIDE
URBAN JUNCTION AT 6.45AM
TO WALK DOWN TO THE SEAFRONT
HOT BREAKFAST AFTERWARDS

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 31st March 2024 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)

Gillie Hinds

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

(John 15: 13)

Don Black

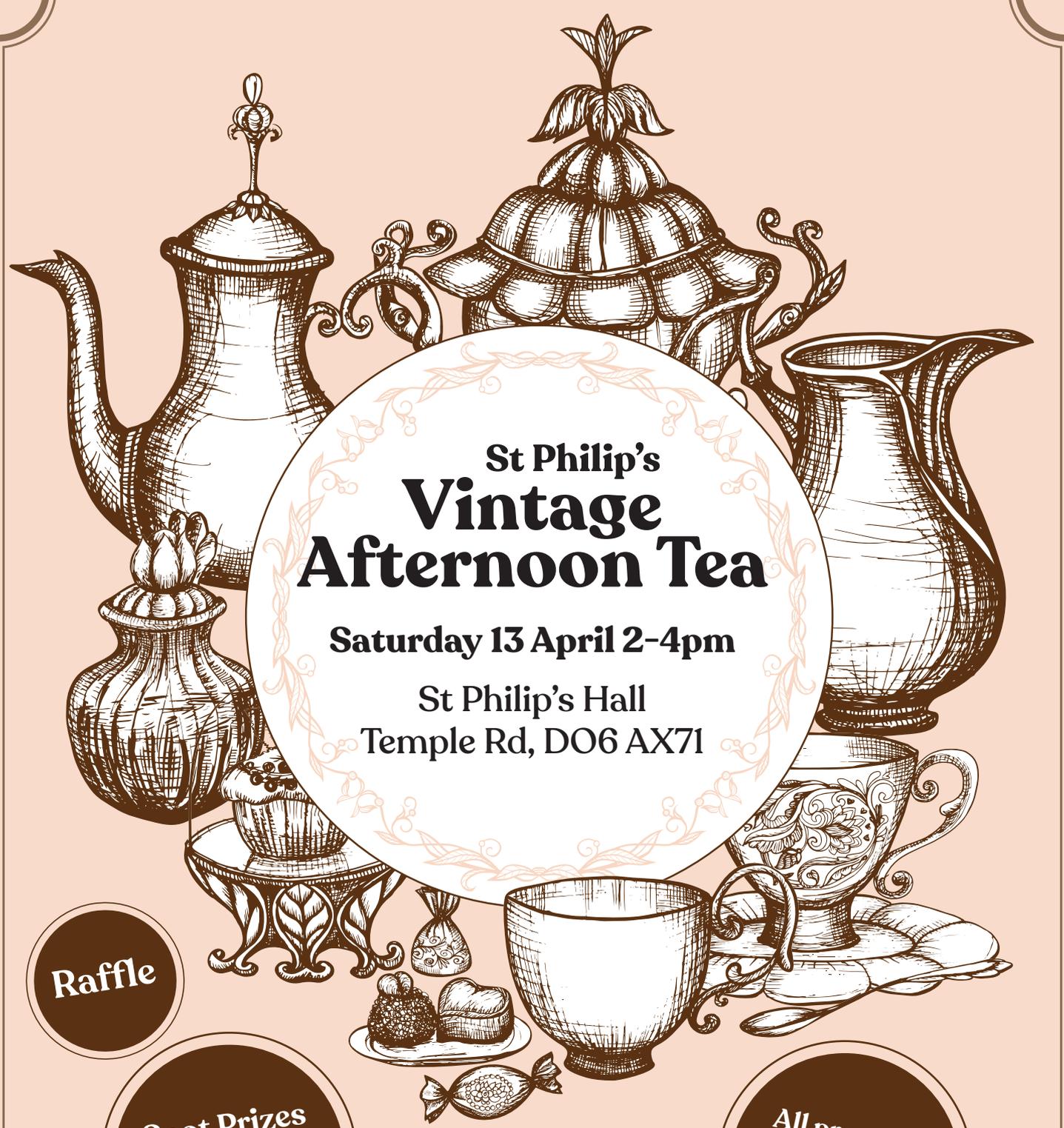
He is not here, he has
risen, come and see the
place where he lay

(Matthew 26: 6)

Rev Andrew Kingston

Music contributions include: Rejoice Gospel Choir, Soo-Jung Ann (*piano*), Heather Gray (*soloist*),
Jae Won & Sukjin (*instrumental*), Rachel Fallows (*soloist*), Dublin Korean/Centenary Male Voice

Retiring offering • Light refreshments will be served after the service

A detailed black and white line drawing of a vintage tea set. It includes a large teapot with a high handle, a sugar bowl with a lid, a creamer with a lid, a pitcher, a teacup on a saucer, and a small plate with a biscuit and a small bag of sugar. The items are arranged around a central white oval containing text.

St Philip's Vintage Afternoon Tea

Saturday 13 April 2-4pm

**St Philip's Hall
Temple Rd, DO6 AX71**

Raffle

**Spot Prizes
for the
Best Hats**

**All proceeds
to St Philip's
Parish Funds**

€10 per person

Bookings

email: sandfordandstphilips@gmail.com

Phone: Parish Secretary Craig 086 0386432

Bookings close 8th April