

Headway Ireland continued to see God at work during the year 2024/25, and we are very grateful for this.

Following the debate and subsequent decision at Conference last year, an invitation was received from Bishop Harold Millar to hold an exploratory meeting between 4 members of Headway and 4 members of an evangelical group within the Church of Ireland. This was a fruitful gathering as we discovered both groups had so much in common and both had common concerns. Future joint gatherings and united support as well as shared ventures are possible.

Our Spring gathering was addressed by Dr David Bruce, former moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Though held in Lisburn the gathering was available on zoom and provided the opportunity for members in all parts of Ireland to watch.

Dr Bruce spoke on the subject: “The Mission of the Church - under the authority of the Scripture and in the Power of the Spirit”. At the end of a powerful address Dr Bruce spoke of the forgiveness of Jesus and concluded: *We do not dispense this forgiveness but what the church does with this message of grace and forgiveness can have eternal consequences for others. We can decide not to be sent. We can decide to cling rather than go and make disciples. We can decide not to preach the gospel. We have the freedom to disobey and decide how we respond to the commission of Jesus. We can occupy our time with congregational and connexional affairs and imagine we are being faithful to Jesus but the consequences of our disobedience are unspeakable.*

A number of prayer meetings were held during the year. Since Headway Ireland is a movement of Methodists committed to prayer for revival and witness to the Evangelical faith, we encourage all our



members to look for the prayer meetings to be held in the year ahead and to join with us on zoom.

During the year, we have lost two of our stalwarts. The Rev Robert Wallace and the Rev Dr Ken Wilson passed away. Both men were zealous advocates for the gospel of grace and the extension of God's Kingdom through our Lord Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God for their membership, encouragement, wisdom and prayers and offer our sincere condolences to their families.

The committee has met on a number of occasions during the year. We are united in declaring that following last year's annual conference of the Methodist Church when Headway members contributed to the debate on human sexuality, that Headway Ireland should not be seen as being anti gay. Instead the focus should be on Biblical authority, prayer, evangelism, and church growth.

Our final meeting prior to our AGM was a morning conference to discern the mind of Christ. After a morning of prayer, and discussion the following 9 points were agreed:

- 1) We need to reach out to the Republic of Ireland.
- 2) We are not selling the message of who we are so need improved communication.
- 3) We need to ask what Headway members expect from Headway.
- 4) We need to be more strategic.
- 5) We need regional Headway gatherings.
- 6) We need to ask where are the defects and then address them.
- 7) We need Headway road shows addressing subjects like authority of scripture, renewal, growth, evangelism.



8) We could invite Andrew Ollarton or others to come.

9) We need to ask what are the characteristics of growth and seek to enable that to happen.

The past 12 months have been busy but blessed times and we continue to wait upon the Lord, to seek his face and to follow him faithfully.

May God richly bless you as you follow Jesus and thank you for being part of Headway Ireland.

Sincerely,

Ken Robinson (Secretary)