

# Belfast Central & South Circuit

DECEMBER | JANUARY | FEBRUARY



## A CHRISTMAS NOTE FROM REV ROBIN WAUGH

When is it too early to put up the Christmas tree? I have a friend who puts his up on 1st November each year! Every year the shelves seemed to be stocked with Christmas items much earlier than the previous year. Whilst there may be some who are like Scrooge and declare, 'Bah! Humbug!' I like the idea of celebrating Christmas all year round. After all, isn't the presence of Christ, something in which we rejoice all year round? We know from Scripture that his name will be called, Emmanuel, God with us.

## A BLESSING

In the season of Advent and on into Christmas,  
may God fill you and all whom you love  
with the wonder of Mary,  
the obedience of Joseph,  
the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the determination of the magi,  
and the peace of the Christ-child. Amen.

That is not to say that I want all the trimmings of Christmas front and centre all year round. Deryn and I will still discuss when to put up the Christmas tree and decorations. She'll prefer earlier, and I prefer first Saturday in December. But whenever it happens, it will form part of our traditions and the truth in which we all share – that the presence of God is always with us. Whatever we experience, be it good, bad or indifferent, Christmas is that reminder that God is sharing life with us.

Whatever, Christmas holds for each of us this year, may all of us know the Lord's loving and peaceful presence with us, and all whom we love.



**7 DECEMBER: "LIVING WITH LOSS" Service**  
**VENUE: Belfast South Methodist (Agape Centre) TIME: 7.00pm**

**10 DECEMBER: Circuit Executive**  
**VENUE: Belfast South (Agape Centre) TIME: 7.30pm**

**28 DECEMBER: Worship Service**  
**VENUE: Cornerstone - Saintfield Road TIME: 10.30am**

**31 DECEMBER: "LAST LIGHT" Service**  
**VENUE: The Commons TIME: 4.30am**

## THE END OF A GROSVENOR HALL ERA

The weekend of the 7-9 November 2025 saw special gatherings to mark 136 years of faithful worship and witness of the Grosvenor Hall congregation. There was a fantastic archive display, lots of conversation and tears and laughter over memories and photos and services of thanksgiving and gratitude for those who paved the way and those who added to the Grosvenor Hall story over the years.



"On the 9th November, 2025 that congregation finally ceased meeting in this building, following their 136th Anniversary Service, but Belfast Central Mission continues to serve, both the people of this city, and those well beyond its boundaries, as they seek to provide compassionate care to people at their point of need." Rev David Campton



## AN UPDATE FROM THE BUILDING PROJECT AT THE COMMONS

"The last 6 weeks or so have seen lots of activity in The Commons. At the end of September we had our last push at clearing out the building, in October the builders arrived and we also set our feet dancing to celebrate the beginning of the next part of the vision for The Commons. Clear out day involved skips and wheelbarrows and a lot of muscle power from a team of volunteers who represented some of the different groups who call The Commons 'home'.

One of the very special things about this project is that the building is still being used every day. We haven't closed the doors until the project is done. They are flung wide and welcoming to so many who make up the community in this area." Jill Hines

## OVERFLOW - YOUNG LEADERS TRAINING

### WHAT IS OVERFLOW?

Overflow is IMYC's national Young Leaders training weekend where they aim to train young leaders who are 14+, to serve in their local church and communities through youth and children's work, as well as discovering different ways to serve God in their local context. They want young people to learn to lead from a deeply rooted relationship with God, recognise that they have skills, gifts and abilities that come from God and learn how to use them for the development of God's kingdom. This year OVERFLOW is happening on our circuit!

**VENUE: The Agape Centre**  
**DATES: 6-8 FEBRUARY 2026**

## CIRCUIT SOCIAL MEDIA & ONLINE PRESENCE



### A Song To Close...

(Written by David Campton for Grosvenor Hall's final service to the tune "Ae Fond Kiss" and sung by Jim Deeds & Diane Holt)

One last time we meet together,  
But farewell is not forever.  
Deep in God's own heart united  
We will never be divided

Now's the time to grieve what  
passes,  
All our past seems turned to ashes.  
But the hope of life still stirs us;  
Dark despair shall not ensnare us.

Let's not start to play the blame  
game  
Nothing here remains unchanging,  
Save the love of God our Father,  
Which endures and grows forever.



You may not know but we have a circuit Facebook page called "Belfast Central & South Circuit".

Check it out. If you have an event or service at your church that would like others in the circuit to know about or be welcomed to, then let us know so we can post it for you.

We are also looking at how our website presence could be improved over the circuit. So watch this space.



Had we never known each other,  
Been to each sister and brother,  
Only then without such loving  
We'd avoid the pain of parting.

So we come to the last blessing,  
What to say when words are failing?  
Unto each be all Gods riches.  
Peace and love and joy enfold us.

David A. Campton 2025  
To the tune of " Ae fond kiss"

### CIRCUIT ADMIN SUPPORT:

As part of my role looking after the Agape Centre in Lisburn Road, I will also be doing some admin support for the circuit and it will include putting together the circuit bulletins/newsletters. If you ever need to be contact, please do get in touch using the contact info below. Best wishes, Wendy



028 9066 2560



wendy.johnston@irishmethodist.org