



Welcome to our church building in the heart of Hampstead, one of London's most picturesque areas. Our building has beautiful architecture and an exciting and at times controversial history. Beautiful though it is, this building is not the church. In the Bible, the word translated "church" is used to refer to the community of God's people, those who have received forgiveness and new life through the death and resurrection of Jesus. This building is a place for God's people, the church to meet to pray, sing, encourage each other and hear teaching from his word, the Bible.

## How we describe ourselves as a church

We are:

- A growing Anglican evangelical church of all ages from many backgrounds and nations
- Committed to the prayerful preaching and living out of God's word in the power of the Holy Spirit
- Ambassadors for Christ in our communities, workplaces and networks
- Disciple-making disciples of Christ in all areas of our lives
- Whole-hearted and joyful servants of Christ in the church and in the world
- Partners in the gospel with gospel-workers and churches in the UK and worldwide

## Church life today

You would be very welcome at any of our services. We meet at 10:30am and 6:00pm on Sundays. Alongside Sundays, we have midweek small groups meeting to study the Bible and pray. We also run regular short courses such as Christianity Explored for people to investigate the Christian faith for themselves.

We have a strong work among children, youth and families. On Sunday mornings there are groups for 0-14s. There is a thriving youth club for 11-18s on Friday evenings, and a monthly Saturday evening Bible study for older teens. We also run a Thursday morning mums and tots group, and a Tuesday morning English conversation class.

Like our local area, we are very international, with over 25 nationalities represented. We also have a Japanese language congregation meeting once a month on Sunday afternoons.

## A brief history of the building

At the end of the 18th century, housebuilding expanded on and around the old brickfields on what is now Downshire Hill and the surrounding area, known then as Red Lion Hill. Until 1823 the only church in the area was Hampstead Parish Church. In those days, when new housing was built it was common to plan for a new church as an essential local amenity. Some churches began life as "proprietary



chapels", paid for and owned by a private individual rather than the Church of England itself, with day-to-day ministry funded by pew rent.

The site where the church now stands was bought first in 1812 by William Coleman, from Lady Maryon-Wilson of the Manor of Hampstead. In 1817 it was sold to a group of three people: the Revd James Curry, who provided most of the funds, Edward Carlisle, a lawyer, and William Woods, the builder. Woods used bricks from the local area, including from an old farmhouse and its dependent buildings. The name "St John's Downshire Hill" derives from the parish church, St John-at-Hampstead. This was a common way to name a new chapel of ease within an existing parish, but today it can cause confusion with visitors to either church regular arriving at the wrong St John's!

The first service in the newly built church took place on 26 October 1823. By this time, James Curry had died. The Revd Dr Henry Worsley became the proprietor, meaning the owner of the building with the right to nominate new ministers, and the Revd William Harness was licensed as the first minister.

The ministry at St John's Downshire Hill has always been within the evangelical tradition of the Church of England. Before the church was built, the evangelist George Whitefield had preached on nearby Preacher's Hill, at the bottom of Downshire Hill. Whitefield's influence was felt at St John's, including on the Revd John Wilcox, who purchased the chapel in 1832 and built a school on Downshire Hill.

Wilcox's appointment as minister was opposed by the perpetual curate of the parish church, the Revd Dr Samuel White, who did not approve of his evangelical ministry. The church was close to



## OUR VISION

Our vision at St John's Downshire Hill is:

*Living for Jesus, sharing his good news*

We are being:

*Transformed by his grace and equipped by his word to serve in his world.*

leaving the Church of England after the Bishop of London's Consistory Court of Arches upheld the right of Dr White to oppose the appointment. Local opinion was divided on the matter. The poet John Keats, who was living just down the road at the time in what is now known as Keats House, wrote: "Here is [White] quarrelling with the world[;] he is in the wrong by this same token." Shortly after this Wilcox died, and a different minister was subsequently proposed by the church's trustees. The stand-off ended, and authorised Church of England ministry continued at the church.

In the second half of the 19th century, the surrounding area continued to develop and the population grew. Parish boundaries were redrawn and St John's found itself within the parish of St Stephen's Hampstead. In that period, it was common for proprietary chapels to become parish churches. St John's did not become a parish church, partly because of its limited seating capacity compared to new Victorian church buildings, and partly because of the concern of its members to maintain a distinctive evangelical identity.

The 20th century saw a series of ministers who upheld the church's unique character. Among them were the Revd Dr Jakob Jocz (minister 1947–1956), later Professor of Systematic Theology at Wycliffe College, Toronto, and the Rt Revd Kenneth Howell (1972–1979), previously the first Bishop of the Diocese of Chile, Bolivia and Peru. The building also saw significant works at various points,

including 1896 and the late 1960s. More recently, in 2003–4 the church underwent a major £2.5m building project. The building needed underpinning and the work was funded by generous donations from within the church and the local community. The project enabled the construction of a modern undercroft for use by children's and youth groups and other local community activities.

A Grade 1 listed building, with its Regency stuccoed and cream-painted façade, St John's is typical of churches in the New England region of the USA from that period. Interesting features include its Doric porch and double staircases vestibule, as well as the East Window, dating from 1882, which depicts the Eagle of St John the Evangelist. Under it the reredos frames the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed. The wooden box pews, which today line the sides of the church, are those for which the first congregation and successive generations paid pew rents until the early 1950s. St John's is one of the few churches in England retaining original examples of this seating.

As a proprietary chapel, St John's is recognised as a church within the London Diocese of the Church of England but has complete independence in financial matters. It receives no support from and makes no contribution to Diocesan Funds. All costs, including staff and building costs, are borne by the congregation, which has owned the building since 2003 when they bought it from the family trust that had owned it and leased it to them since the First World War.

In 2023 the church marked 200 years since the first service in 1823. We look back with thankfulness on God's faithfulness, and we prayerfully strive to continue living for Jesus and sharing his good news in Hampstead and beyond.





## The United Reformed Church

**St Andrew's, Frognal**  
Corner of Finchley Road/Frognal Lane, London NW3 7DY

[standrewsfrognal.org.uk](http://standrewsfrognal.org.uk)

Welcome to St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Frognal. Built at the turn of the 1900's St Andrew's is a fine Grade 2 listed building sited at the corner of Frognal Lane (which rises steeply up the hill to Hampstead) and of the Finchley Road (a main route from Central London to the North), constructed of Bath Stone. We are an open and welcoming church which exists to express and celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit, in worship, learning, caring and service. We try to do this by making our services accessible to everyone, developing effective ways of studying the word of God to reveal his love for us through our worship and praise.

the growing population Hampstead and West Hampstead. Constructed with its striking tower it is a notable local landmark; it benefits from some very fine stained-glass windows. Music has always been an important aid to worship and devotion. We seek to maintain a strong musical tradition and are blessed to have a fine church organ, excellent grand piano and small group of loyal talented musicians who regularly contribute to our services.

We have always been an inclusive church, with members coming from various walks of life, nationalities, ethnicities and religious traditions. As well as our regular and in some cases lifelong members we have been blessed over many decades to have been joined by families or individuals from all over the world who are working in London and living in the local area, for a few months or sometimes years, who return to worship and enjoy our fellowship whenever they return to London, coming back to their local church family.

St Andrew's has been enriched from time to time by an influx of members from nearby churches that, owing to changing populations or decaying buildings, became no longer viable. Trinity Church, Hampstead, joined with St Andrew's in 1971 on the appointment of their minister to us; their membership already included some from Oxendon Presbyterian Church, Haverstock Hill, who had earlier combined with Trinity. Soon after that the Congregational Church in Lyndhurst Road (now, along with St Andrew's, part of the United

Reformed Church denomination) had to close and several surviving members joined St Andrew's. Finally, in 1994 we welcomed members from St John's Wood Presbyterian Church at Marlborough Place.

We are active participants in the work of various ecumenical partnerships such as Churches Together in Hampstead, and in events organised by the Camden Interfaith group. We feel that it is important to strengthen our fellowship with other churches and faith communities without losing what makes us different. St Andrew's regularly supports other charities, locally, nationally and internationally. Along with the wider United Reformed Church, we support Commitment for Life, with a special interest currently in projects in Bangladesh and Israel/Palestine, as well as relief work following the hurricane in Jamaica.

St Andrew's has been the home of the Wengelawit Lutheran Church of Eritrea for more than 20 years. The Lutheran church holds its weekly worship service at 2pm every Sunday. The sanctuary, church hall and rooms are in regular daily use by a variety of community groups, with activities encompassing ballet and other dance classes, opera rehearsals and performance, judo and pilates and badminton.

In 2003 St Andrew's celebrated its centenary. For over 120 years Christians of a Reformed tradition, from near and far, have been drawn together to hear the good news of God's love revealed in Jesus Christ, proclaimed from the pulpit, celebrated in musical praise, and demonstrated in the lives of the congregation.

**Worship takes place  
each Sunday at 11am**



We seek to sustain and to enlarge the worshipping community, regularly offering the opportunity to join our services virtually as well as in person. The building first opened for worship in 1903, as part of the Free Church Expansion Project, establishing a new congregation in the Presbyterian tradition to serve



## **St James'** **WEST HAMPSTEAD**

St Mary with All Souls Kilburn and St James' West Hampstead is a single parish based in London NW6. It has two church buildings, one in Kilburn on the corner of Abbey Road and Priory Road, and one which you will be visiting today, St James' which is just opposite West Hampstead tube station on Sheriff Road.

The church was built by John Woodward of Finsbury to the plans of Sir Arthur Blomfield. There was seating for more than 1,000 people and the Church was consecrated by the Bishop of London on 11 February 1888.

Our service is more visibly Catholic in its worship style. Preaching is important to us and we are used to clear, biblical, and thoughtful preaching. This helps us to understand the context of the Biblical narrative and to explore our faith. We value sermons that explore our approach to inclusivity and are explicit in their welcome to all

people, a welcome that is at the heart of our mission. There is a small and dedicated team of singers who help lead worship.

On the third Sunday of the month we have Open Table. This is our LGBTQIA+ specific congregation although it is open to everyone LGBTQIA+ or not

In January 2014 the church underwent a major programme of works to provide facilities for the Sheriff Centre at St James, a social enterprise business including the West Hampstead Post Office, a Café, and large children's soft play area. The Church is now open Monday-Saturday 9 am to 5 pm with a significant impact on the local community.

Our sister Church, St Mary's is the larger congregation with more families and young children. It has an excellent audio-visual system and the entire



service on screens around the church. The flexibility of the screens means our diet of worship is wide and varied, from traditional Revised New English Hymnal classics to modern worship songs and new hymns of praise.



**2 Sheriff Road, West Hampstead, London NW6 2AP**  
**020 7372 6441**

**[parishnw6.com](http://parishnw6.com)**



## Roman Catholic Parish of Swiss Cottage

### St Thomas More Roman Catholic Church, Swiss Cottage

A parish church is much more than a building, it is a community of people and a family whose pastoral care is entrusted by the Bishop to the care of a pastor or parish priest.

St Thomas More Roman Catholic attracts worshippers from diverse backgrounds and is well known as being a friendly, multinational community.

The present large church is the third on the site in Maresfield Gardens. The first one opened in September 1938 just three years after its patron, Thomas More, was proclaimed a saint by the Catholic Church.

The elliptically planned church was designed by Gerard Goalen, built thanks to the generosity of local Catholics and completed in time for Christmas 1968. It was solemnly consecrated by Cardinal Basil Hume on 8 May 1977. It is a Grade II listed building, recognized for its architectural significance.



The Catholic Eucharist, is celebrated every weekday. There are three Masses on Sunday and major feasts. The church is generally open for prayer during the day. A new parish hall provides a flexible, welcoming space for parish activities and social outreach for example a monthly social morning for senior citizens and a Parkinson's group.

In April 2005 the then Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor, entrusted the pastoral care of the parish to priests from the Opus Dei Prelature.



Opus Dei promotes the idea that all the baptised are called to holiness especially through everyday occupations and social responsibilities.

### A Note about St Thomas More

Sir Thomas More (7 February 1478–6 July 1535), known to Roman Catholics as Saint Thomas More, was an English lawyer, social philosopher, author, statesman and noted Renaissance humanist. He was an important councillor to Henry VIII and Lord Chancellor from October 1529 to 16 May 1532.

More opposed the King's separation from the Catholic Church and refused to accept him as Supreme Head of the Church of England. Tried for treason, St Thomas More was convicted on perjured testimony and beheaded. He is generally regarded as a champion for conscience.

Pope Pius XI canonised More in 1935 as a martyr of the schism that separated the Church of England from Rome; Pope John Paul II in 2000 declared More the "heavenly Patron of Statesmen and Politicians". Since 1980, the Church of England has remembered More liturgically as a Reformation martyr.

### Some architectural notes

The present church was built in the back garden of the former house of the society painter, Philip de László, whose studio became the previous church (now parish hall). The church is in a

### Sir Thomas More



conservation area, but is largely hidden by surrounding buildings.

The church is elliptical with the longer sides to north and south. The main approach from the road up a steep flight of steps is sandwiched between the presbytery and the church hall, which obscure most of the front of the building. At the top of the steps is a broad flat-roofed porch with a concrete bellcote above. The body of the church is of red brick with a heavy concrete clerestory and a flat roof.

Internally, the walls are of bare-faced brown brick with ornamental brickwork to the lower part apparently intended to improve the acoustic. Eighteen slim concrete piers support the clerestory and a timber gallery along the south (entrance) side and the roof itself is supported on massive reinforced concrete rafters running north-south. The slightly sloping floor is concrete with terrazzo finish to the passageways. The altar is raised on marble steps against the north wall. Three clerestory windows above the sanctuary are filled with abstract stained glass by Alfred R. Fisher of Whitefriars Studios. The remaining clerestory windows are clear-glazed. The fittings include a bronze and steel crucifix by David John on the wall behind the sanctuary.



## Welcome to St Anne's!

We hope you have a great time visiting churches today and exploring this fantastic patch of North West London. Please pray for our ministry and also for the other churches that you visit. We long to see an outpouring of the Spirit in this city that will bring many to faith!

## Who we are

Our Church of England parish extends from Kilburn High Road in the East across Queens Park to Kensal Rise in the West, and from Brondesbury Park in the north down to South Kilburn. We are an inclusive church who seek to be confident, compassionate and creative as we share the love of Christ in our neighbourhood. We are a welcoming, diverse and friendly community.



The gospel of Christ and the Eucharist are central to our worship, and we value the traditions and doctrines of the church. At the same time we are open to progressive interpretations of scripture and use a diversity of music and symbols in our worship. We also have a diverse and welcoming Sunday School and our young people are regularly involved in our worship.

## Our worship

Our main time of worship is on Sunday morning at 10am when we share in the Eucharist. We believe that in this sharing we are united with God and all who believe. During this service, we listen for God's voice in readings from the bible, in our singing, in the sermon and from



one another. We also offer our prayers and praise.

During the week we have regular times of prayer: Morning Prayer on Tuesdays, Silent Contemplation on Wednesday mornings, and all-age Morning Prayer before the Eucharist on Sundays. In addition to prayer and worship we have regular study groups running throughout the year. Most recently we had a long run of Bible studies working through the book of Acts, a Lent study group and we also had a crack at running the 'Being With' course this year.

## Our history and building

For more than a century the Anglican parish church for the Queen's Park area of Brondesbury was St Anne's, on Salusbury Road, as it still is today (although the Victorian Gothic church erected in 1905, was demolished in the 90s due to irrecoverable subsidence). The sudden population growth in the area in the 1890s inspired the London Diocese to build a tin 'mission' church on Salusbury Road, which ministered to a new parish carved out of parts of Christchurch, on Willesden Lane,

St John's, Kensal Green and Holy Trinity, Kilburn. (Holy Trinity was founded in 1867; the church stood on Brondesbury Road where Kilburn Square is today. It burnt down in 1950 and the ruins were demolished in 1970). Our current building was built in the mid 90s, it was purpose built to accommodate worship, community and interfaith groups and this broad focus has been part of our DNA ever since.

## Vision and prayer points

For the last few years we have been leaning into the London Diocesan vision: 'becoming confident disciples'. Right now we are in a creative season, praying about how to become more welcoming and missional in reaching those who live in our very diverse and densely populated patch of North West London. Please pray for us as we discern our next steps and especially that as we step out in faith that God will provide for us, so that we might see the kingdom breaking through in greater measure in and through our worshipping community! We hope and pray that you will be encouraged by visiting us and other local churches today.

125 Salusbury Road, London NW6 6RG  
020 7604 3053

[st-annes-brondesbury.org.uk](http://st-annes-brondesbury.org.uk)



## HEATH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

The Revd Ewan King is the minister of Heath Street Baptist Church. Sunday's services at 11am follow a traditional pattern of prayers, Bible readings, hymns and sermon. The Lord's Supper is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month and all 'who love the Lord Jesus Christ and seek to be his disciples are welcome to join us around his table'. The church also runs the Contact Club for homeless people in Hampstead on Sunday evenings, hosts a baby and toddler music group and is a venue for concerts.

Heath Street Baptist Church was founded in Hampstead in 1861. It stands halfway between Hampstead High Street and Hampstead Heath, and is a minute's walk from Hampstead Station. The church sees itself as a place of beauty, tranquillity and reality in the heart of busy London.

The first Baptist meetings in Hampstead are said to have started on Holly Bush Hill in 1811, when a room in George Hart's house was registered for worship in 1816. The Revd James Castleden was invited to be the minister in 1817, and he remained until he died in 1854.

Castleden was a well-known preacher and a friend of both the Revd Thomas Ainger, the Church of England Vicar of Hampstead, and the Abbé Morel, the local Roman Catholic priest. Castleden erected a large building on Holly Bush Hill, later No 17 Holly Mount, with a residence on ground floor and Bethel Baptist chapel above.

Bethel Baptist Chapel opened in 1818, and membership quickly rose to 80. Bethel Baptist Chapel was a Strict Baptist chapel until 1825, when Castleden opened the communion service to all. This caused a number of members to leave, and seceders founded Ebenezer Strict Baptist Chapel at New End.

Bethel Chapel was described as solid and commodious, with galleries, but rather comfortless. In 1851 it seated 450 people and attendances were 110 in the morning, 40 in the afternoon, and 150 in the evening.

Eight years after Castleden died in 1854, Bethel Baptist Chapel was dissolved in 1862 after Heath Street Church opened. Some members joined the Baptist churches in New End or on Heath Street, while others met at Montagu Grove (No 103-109 Froggnal), the residence of Richard Burdon Sanderson who acted as minister until 1864. After that, 32 members then joined New End chapel.

Ebenezer Strict Baptist Chapel at Christchurch Passage, New End, originated when eight members and several adherents seceded from the Bethel Chapel in 1825. They were offered meeting rooms in the homes at New End of George Jackson (1825) and James Rice Seymour (1826).

Their numbers grew quickly and the Ebenezer Chapel opened in 1827 in a former schoolroom. By 1851, the chapel seated 170 people, and attendances was 30 in the morning and 36 in the evening.

The chapel was compulsorily purchased for the Carnegie House flats in 1938, and the congregation then moved to Temple Fortune, Hendon.

Meanwhile, Heath Street Baptist Church was founded by the Victorian timber tycoon James Harvey, in gratitude for his son's recovery from sickness. Harvey was a deacon at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church and recently widowed. His Alfred James Harvey was so ill the doctors said there was only one hope. The family would have to leave Bloomsbury Square to live somewhere that offered a slim chance that 'the delicate health of the child' might recover in fresher, cleaner air.

James Harvey chose Hampstead, and from the first week he arrived he would go each Sunday to the house around the corner where the local Baptist community met for worship and prayer. The prayers for Alfred were heard, the boy recovered, and his father felt the time had come to show his gratitude.

Harvey obtained a site on a former nursery 1861, and he provided a large part of the cost of building the chapel, as local Baptists were poor.

The church is built of brick with a prominent ashlar west front in the Decorated style with twin spires. It was designed by CG Searle in 1861, with seating for 700 people. The first minister was the Revd William Brook jr, and the church was formed with 34 members in 1862, many from the earlier Baptist church on Holly Bush Hill.

Open-air services were held on Sunday evenings on Hampstead Heath and in New End, and during the week in the back streets of Hampstead. Membership rose to 226 in 1871, 320 in 1881, 424 in 1904, and reached a peak of 527 in 1913. Attendance in 1886 was 457 in the morning and 351 in the evening; by 1903, those figure were 253 and 291.

Those numbers fell with World War I, although 33 new members joined after the closure of Regent's Park Church in 1922. The number of members was put at 184 in

1952. The church joined the London Baptist Association when it was formed in 1865.

A city missionary was supported by members to work among summer visitors to Hampstead Heath.

Winter services were also held at Child's Hill in Hendon, where a mission hall seating 150 people opened in 1867. A chapel opened there in 1870 with seating for 450. It became an independent church in 1877.

James Hey also gave adjoining land in 1881 where a lecture hall was built with classrooms below. A gymnasium with a reading and recreation rooms was built on a plot in Cornick's Yard bought by a church member in 1896. Rickett Hall was built for a men's institute in 1908.

Drummond Street Mission, which was built in Kentish Town in 1865, was taken over by Heath Street Baptist Church when Regent's Park church closed.

It became separate as Regent's Park Free Church in 1958.

Heath Street Baptist Church has also many foreign mission workers, including Sir Clement Chesterman (1894-1963), who overhauled the health system in what is now the Congo and helped set up the Congolese National Health Service.

Ebenezer Strict Baptist Chapel at Kilburn Vale (later Hermit Place), Belsize Road, was built 1870 in memory of Thomas Creswick by his sister. He had preached nearby in open air and worked among sick people in 1859-1868. The site was said to be near where he preached his last sermon.

Brondesbury Baptist Chapel on the corner of Kilburn High and Iverson Road, was built on a site given by James Harvey in 1878. It was an ornate building with a tower and spire designed by WA Dixon and seating 780 people. The church closed in 1980 and was demolished, with plans for a smaller church and sheltered flats.

Heath Street Baptist Church, Hampstead, expresses its mission as the 'the desire ... to see strangers transformed into a community, and neighbours working together to transform the world. Our community is founded on our common desire to love God, serve our neighbourhood, and follow Jesus Christ.'





# KILBURN METHODIST CHURCH

## A HOME FOR ALL



### Our Community: The Heart of Kilburn

Kilburn Methodist Church is rooted in the vibrant, multicultural neighbourhood of Kilburn, NorthWest London, a place known for its rich blend of cultures, music, food, and stories.

From the busy Kilburn High Road to the quieter residential streets, this area has always been a meeting point for people from Ireland, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, South America, and Europe.

Our church stands here over the years as a spiritual landmark, offering welcome, stability, and hope in a fastmoving city.

### Our Story: Background & Origins

Our journey began as a Preaching Hall Before the Church, Wesleyan Methodists first established a preaching hall in Upton Road (later part of Belsize Road) between 1861–1870. This early gathering point served as the spiritual forerunner of what would become Quex Road Methodist Church.

Acquisition of Land & Registration- The church site on Quex Road was purchased in 1868. The building was officially registered for worship in 1870, marking the formal birth of the congregation. In 1975, the church relocated to its current building on Kingsgate Road, continuing the same mission: to be a place where God’s love is shared, lived, and experienced by all.

Our history is one of faithful worship, service to the poor, support for families, embracing newcomers, standing as a beacon of hope in changing times.

### Our Faith: Methodist Worship & Identity

As part of the Methodist Church in Britain, we stand in the Wesleyan tradition, rooted in scripture, prayer, holiness of heart and life, singing our faith, and serving God through acts of love and justice.

Our worship is Christcentred, Spiritfilled, inclusive, joyful, and open to all ages and backgrounds.

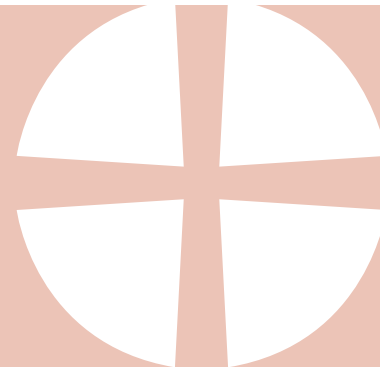
We celebrate Holy Communion first Sunday of each month, our service are 11.00am on Sundays, and we believe in practical Christianity faith expressed through action.

### Our Presence: A Community Hub for All Nations

Kilburn Methodist Church is more than a worship space it is a living community centre serving people throughout the week.

### Our building hosts:

- Learning Tree Nursery – nurturing young children with care and creativity
- Pilates and wellbeing groups – supporting physical and mental health
- Halls used by fellowships from across the world, including:
  - the Brazilian congregation,
  - the Eritrean fellowship,
  - the Filipino fellowship,
  - and other Christian groups seeking a spiritual home
- We also give free food items for the community and willing members from time to time.



***We are proud to be a church where many nations gather, pray, sing, and grow together. Kilburn Methodist Church is truly a home for all, a place of welcome, worship and community.***

### Any ways the walkers could help

- Prayers that people will come to know Christ and His saving grace in our midst
- For the involvement of many more young people for the sustainable future of the church