

Winter 2017/2018

RAINBOW

MISSION STORIES
PERU • HAITI • UK

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

PUZZLES AND CODES

MAKE A SPIRITUAL
ACTION CUBE

INSPIRATIONAL
JMA COLLECTORS



The Methodist Church
Living generously



Welcome to the winter issue of *Rainbow*!

ON A NEW-YEAR MISSION...

The start of a year is a great time to think about new beginnings and fresh starts. Some people make 'resolutions' for the New Year. These are a bit like promises to do things differently. They might be about taking up a new challenge or eating more healthily or acting in a different way.

In this edition of *Rainbow*, we're going to think about what we can do in our JMA groups and at home to be healthier in our walk with God and how we can make even more difference in the world.

Remember our JMA promise?

**LEARN, PRAY AND SERVE WITH THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST**

Are you making any resolutions this year?

Write them here.

Can your JMA group come up with a New Year Resolution for the whole group?

Here at JMA HQ, we're on a mission this year to bring you new editions of *Rainbow* that are even brighter and better than before. Watch out for the changes as the year goes on.

WORDSEARCH

Can you find the words hidden in our wordsearch?

resolution

learn

pray

rainbow

jma

serve

worldwide

church

promise

o	n	p	z	a	s	e	r	v	e
w	o	r	l	d	w	i	d	e	q
l	i	a	k	r	j	a	c	i	r
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l	e	k	p	r	o	m	i	s	e
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SPIRITUAL ACTION CUBE

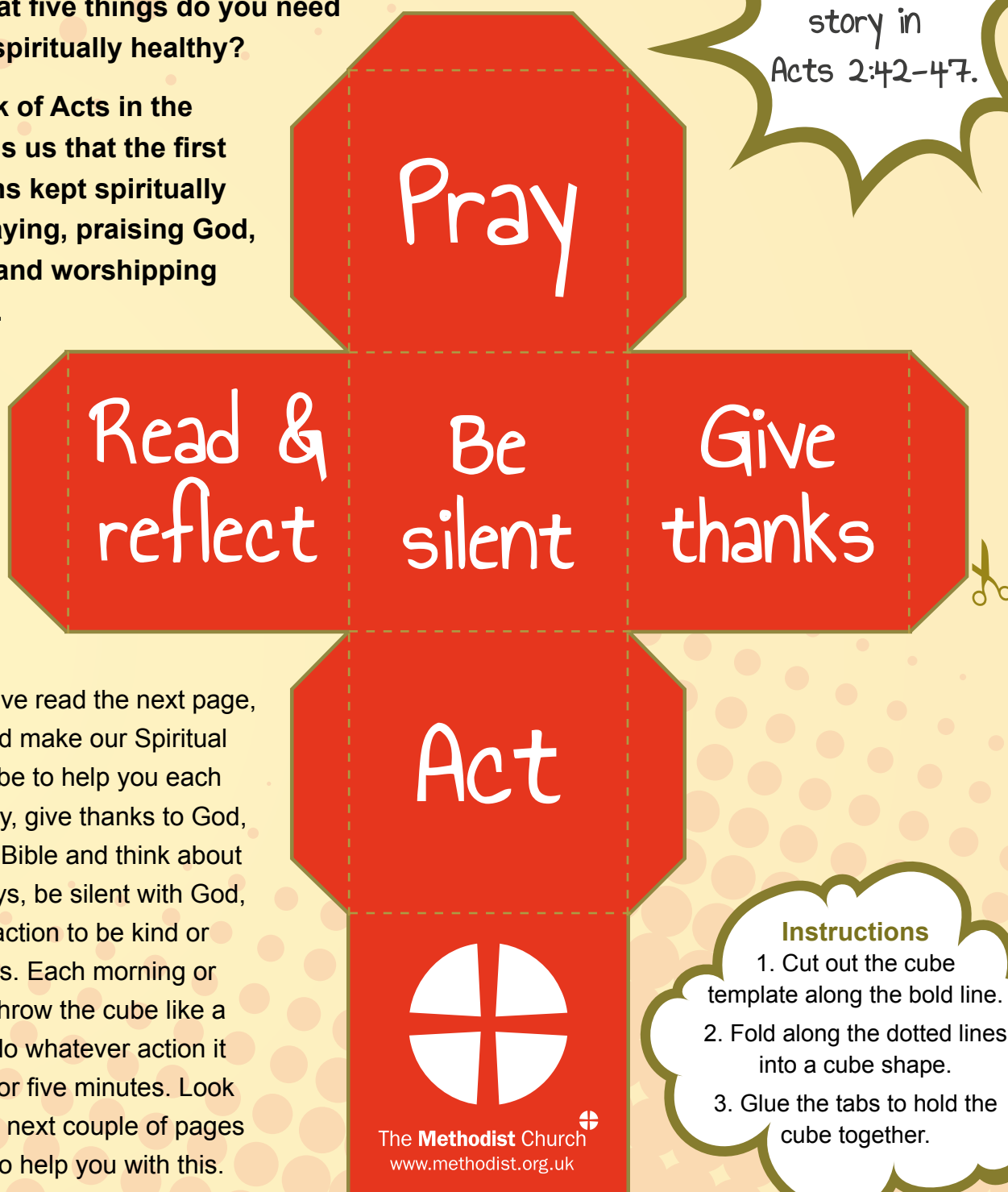
Something to make and do...

Ever heard anyone say that you should eat five lots of fruit and veg a day to keep your body healthy?

Well, what five things do you need to keep spiritually healthy?

The book of Acts in the Bible tells us that the first Christians kept spiritually fit by praying, praising God, sharing and worshipping together.

Read the story in Acts 2:42-47.



Once you've read the next page, cut out and make our Spiritual Action Cube to help you each day to pray, give thanks to God, read your Bible and think about what it says, be silent with God, and take action to be kind or help others. Each morning or evening, throw the cube like a dice and do whatever action it lands on for five minutes. Look out on the next couple of pages for ideas to help you with this.

Instructions

1. Cut out the cube template along the bold line.
2. Fold along the dotted lines into a cube shape.
3. Glue the tabs to hold the cube together.

The **Methodist** Church
www.methodist.org.uk

GIFTS OF THANKS

Churches in Northumberland in the UK had a special friendship with Haiti in the Caribbean after some Christians there made them a beautiful cross out of oil drums. So when a terrible storm hit Haiti in 2016, the churches in Northumberland wanted to help their friends by making and selling cards with a picture of the Haiti cross on the front. They raised over £800 to help people in Haiti rebuild their homes. The cards were a way that people could use their skills and talents to show their love for their neighbours across the world.



Why not use old Christmas cards to make cards and gift tags to raise funds for other projects?

PASTORS IN PERU

Peru – home of the famous Paddington Bear! It is a beautiful, mountainous country in South America. The Methodist Church in Peru is loving its neighbours around the country by training pastors and ministers and starting new churches so they can pass on the good news of God's love.

MISSION WORLD!

Jesus told us to “love our neighbour”, but who is our neighbour? Our neighbours aren't just the people who live in the house next door to us – they are the people in our communities, our country and throughout the world. But how on earth can we love everyone? Here are three stories of Methodist projects that are acting to love their neighbours...

Read what else Jesus said about love in Mark 12:28-31.



NOT JUST KNITTING!

Luton in the UK is a town of many faiths and cultures. Thanks to a grant of money from Methodist Action on Poverty and Justice (MAPJ), the Methodist churches in the area have been able to run a group that brings different communities together to share skills – there have been cake bakes, knitting lessons, samosa making and tea drinking! The knitting group meet together to knit for Syrian refugees.



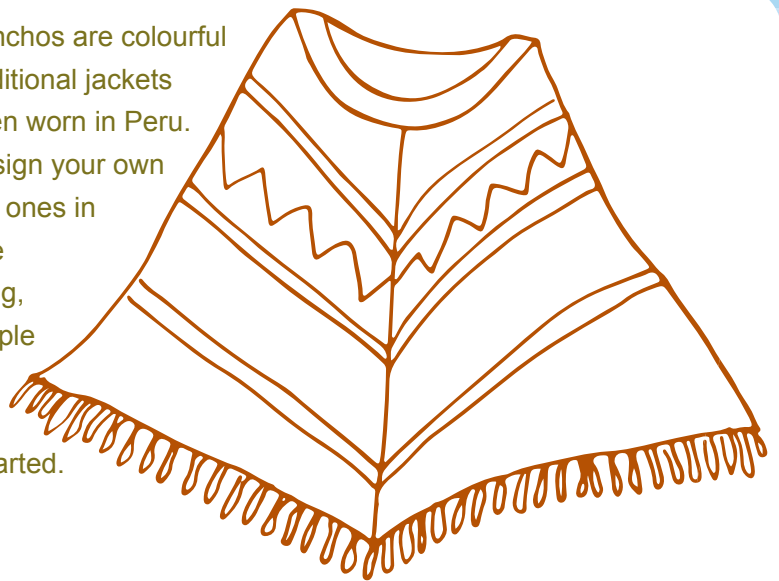
Do you have a skill you could teach someone else? What could they teach you? Swap your skills!



What can you do to love your neighbour this week? Maybe you could say "hello" to someone at school you don't know. Or maybe you could give a card to someone who lives near you?

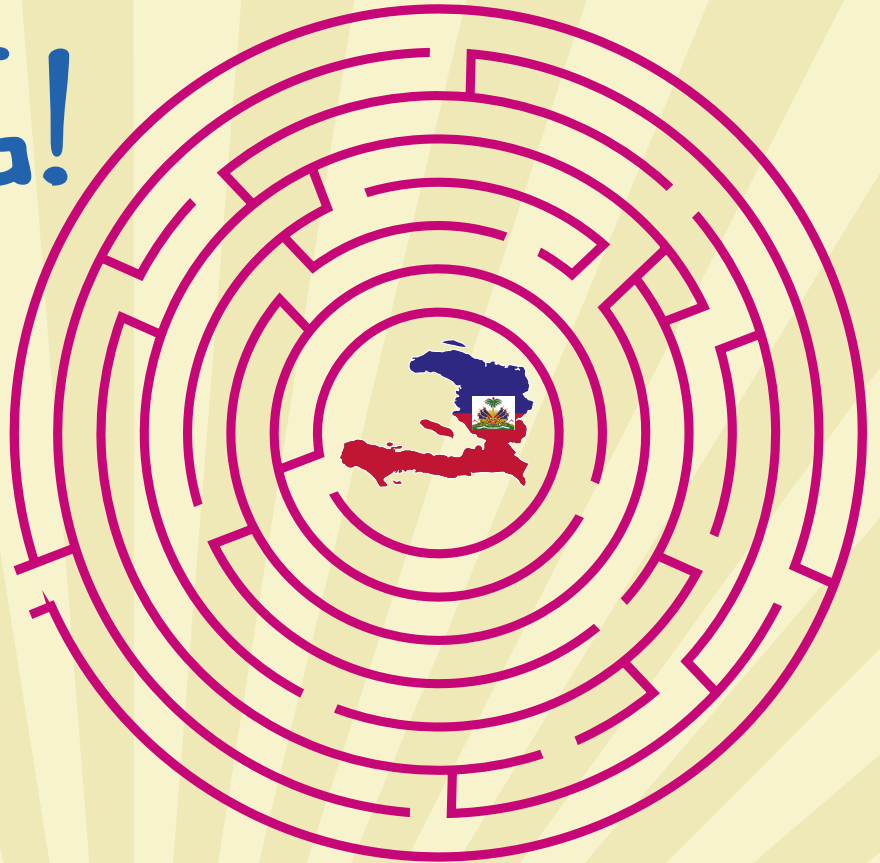
Ponchos are colourful traditional jackets often worn in Peru. Design your own

poncho, like the ones in the photo. While you are colouring, pray for the people in Peru and pray that many churches are started.



A-MAZ-ING!

Find your way to Haiti through the maze.



CRACK THE CODE

Use the code in the chart below to find out the instruction from Jesus in Mark 12:31.



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

JMA secretaries' news

JMA groups around the country have been busy with a whole variety of activities in 2017.



Ariane from St Albans

Ariane, aged 7, from St Albans, has been a JMA collector for three years. Over those years, she has collected nearly £700.

Ariane wrote a letter to Her Majesty the Queen to tell her about her work collecting for JMA. Here she is with her reply from the Palace!



A huge thank you

We would like to say a huge thank you and well done to Jacob who is 6 years old and recently completed a triathlon in aid of JMA Ireland.

Jacob ran, swam and cycled and has raised an incredible £1,700! This money will go towards projects in Ghana.



Downham Market Methodist Church



Downham Market Methodist Church in Norfolk held their JMA Commissioning Service and All-Age Worship in November. Seven JMA collectors received their certificates and rainbow badges for collecting £738 over the past year. During the service the congregation heard stories about how JMA money was used by West London Mission at its day centre for homeless people, for healthcare in the Solomon Islands and for supporting churches and children's work in Nicaragua. The picture includes not only the young collectors but also the adults who contribute each week to JMA.

Prayers for the Methodist Prayer Handbook

The *Methodist Prayer Handbook* is published every year. It has prayers for each day of the month for mission around the world.

Would you or the children in your group like to write a prayer for the *Methodist Prayer Handbook*? We'd love to receive prayers from JMA on this year's theme, 'A World Transformed by God's Love', as well as prayers of thanksgiving and adoration, prayers asking for

forgiveness, and prayers about different times of life and times of day.

Please email your prayers, which must be no more than 120 words each, to prayerhandbook@methodistchurch.org.uk. Please also include your name, age, church, and your postal address (so that we can send you a free copy of the *Handbook* if your prayer is chosen for publication). For more details, please see www.methodist.org.uk/prayerhandbook

Please send us details of any activities your group has been involved with. If you include photographs, please make sure that you have the consent of the parents and guardians and confirm this when you send us your photos.

You can email us at fundraising@methodistchurch.org.uk or write to: JMA, The Fundraising Team, The Methodist Church, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR



And the survey says ...

We received more than 160 responses to the recent JMA survey. Thank you so much to everyone who contacted us. Several of your churches still give generously through JMA even though there are no children in your congregation at present. We are so grateful to you all for your commitment and contribution to mission through learning, prayer and fundraising.

We are still analysing the results of the survey, but can share some headlines.

JMA as part of church life

For more than 60% of respondents, JMA is re-introduced to your churches annually using the Commissioning Service. However, the content needs a rethink; you would like mission stories included for children to read out themselves.

While 30% of respondents track their fundraising and aim to collect more year-on-year, 64% have no targets or awards and very few churches routinely celebrate the fundraising achievements of individual children.

Rainbow magazine

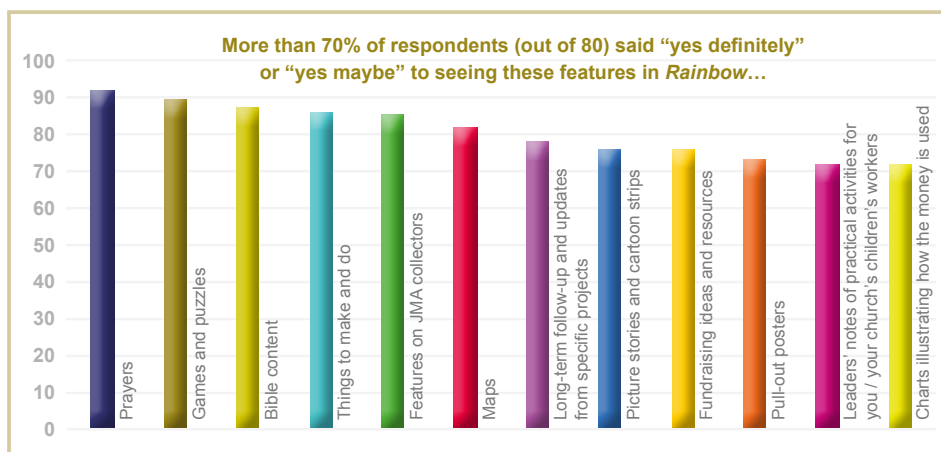
Nearly 50% of respondents wanted *Rainbow*, to continue to be mailed termly, but more importantly in time for Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. Half of respondents thought the content was relevant and pitched at about the right reading level, rising to nearly 80% thinking it was suitable to read to the children in your churches and families. However, there was also a definite call for the content to have a younger feel AND for content for teenagers; 42% of respondents thought there should be two magazines. Pull-out posters were suggested as one way we might add content for a much wider age range.

We suggested more than 20 ways we could change the magazine or features we could add. Support with prayer was the most popular option. Free gifts were the least popular idea.

For the future, you asked for online resources with background stories about the countries and mission partners that JMA money supports. Respondents also

want ideas of things for the children to make; teaching, prayer and worship content themed on mission; plus maps and colouring sheets!

And finally, a newsletter for anyone teaching young people about mission, separate from *Rainbow*, would be welcome.



EXPLORE • SHARE • ENRICH

ENCOUNTER WORLDWIDE offers Christians in Britain and Ireland (aged 18 and over) the chance to spend three to twelve months sharing in the Methodist Church's mission, life and culture in another part of the world as a self-funded volunteer.

“Living alongside student ministers who were so enthusiastic about their faith has given me a new zeal for my Christian belief ... the Encounter Worldwide experience has changed my life.”

Anne Baldwin,
English Teacher, Sri Lanka

Interested to undertake your own encounter?
Contact Rachel Gooden in the World Church Relationships Team.
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e: encounterworldwide@methodistchurch.org.uk
w: www.methodist.org.uk/encounterworldwide

The **Methodist Church**
World Church Relationships

IRISH METHODIST WORLD MISSION
PARTNERSHIP