

Spring 2016

# RAINBOW

JMA secretaries' news inside!

NEWS FROM CHINA



NEWS FROM INDIA



Free  
for all  
children!

The Methodist Church



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Rainbow Editor: Victoria Ireland

## Use of photographs

We love to receive photos from events and of collectors receiving their certificates and badges. They can be emailed to [childrenandyouth@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:childrenandyouth@methodistchurch.org.uk) or posted to Children & Youth, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR.

All photographs should include written confirmation that written parental consent has been obtained (and the date it was obtained) for the image to be used in *Rainbow*. We are unable to use any images that do not confirm you hold parental consent.



Welcome to the Easter issue of *Rainbow*! We have a special feature about the Easter Offering for the World Mission Fund, news from the recent refugee crisis, and a story from China.

We hope that you enjoy this issue. Have a very happy Easter celebrating our risen Lord!



## A journey to the unknown

You may have heard about the large numbers of refugees travelling across Europe last year. This was the biggest movement of people in Europe since the Second World War. The people who live in Europe responded to the refugees in many different ways. Some were afraid, some were nervous and unsure, and some were welcoming and generous.

The Methodist Church in Germany has often given a warm welcome to refugees. They did so after the Second World War, and again when the Berlin Wall came down. Last year they did this again as almost 800,000 refugees arrived in Germany.

Church members made friends with the refugees and helped them find things they needed. They turned part of their church building into a flat for refugees to live in. They gave German lessons, played with younger refugees and just helped them all to feel at home.

Many Methodist Churches in other parts of Europe have

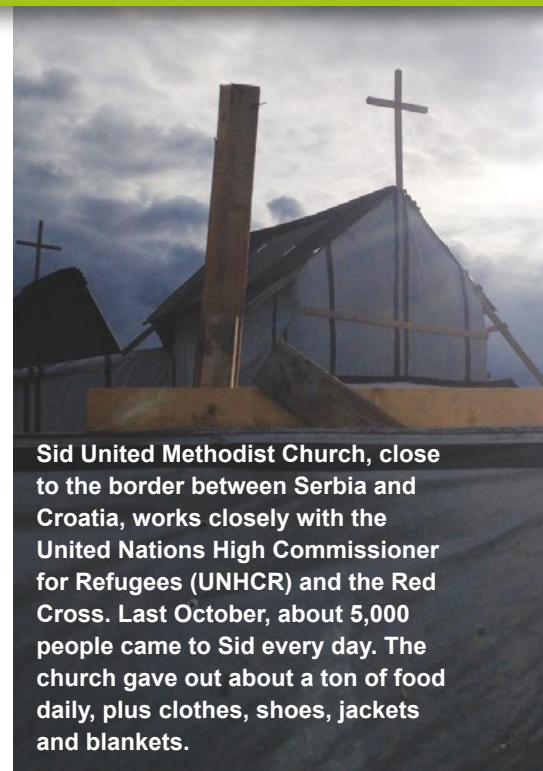
helped too. In Macedonia they took food, water, blankets, soap and toothbrushes to the Greek border, where 5,000 people arrived every day. In Italy they welcomed boat passengers and made them a safe place to rest and recover from their frightening journey.



There are also many stories from here in Britain, like this one from Preston. Last November, 25 people went with the Preston Faith Forum and the Light Foundation to a refugee camp in Calais, in France. They took warm clothing, food and sleeping bags from the people of Preston, and gave them to the refugees with help from a local charity called L'Auberge des Migrants.



Refugees in Subotica camp, Serbia.



Sid United Methodist Church, close to the border between Serbia and Croatia, works closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Red Cross. Last October, about 5,000 people came to Sid every day. The church gave out about a ton of food daily, plus clothes, shoes, jackets and blankets.



## Prayer focus

As we pray for the refugees and those helping them, let's remember the time when Joseph, Mary and Jesus were refugees themselves. It is an experience that Jesus himself knows well. In chapter 2 of Matthew's Gospel, we read that an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and told him to get up and leave for Egypt with Mary and Jesus. It must have been a very difficult and scary time. Joseph knew that Jesus' life was in danger; his precious baby, the son of God.

Dear Lord,  
 Thank you that you know very well the fear of having to leave your home in the middle of the night. Thank you for all the people who welcome and help refugees settle into a new home. We pray that everyone in the world would have a peaceful place to live. Please be close to everyone seeking a new home; care for them and guide them to safety.  
 In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Ways that you can help:

- 1 Find out about the charities in your area which help refugees as they arrive in your home town.
- 2 How can you help them? Do they need collections of clothes or food? Can your JMA group or your family help out at any of their activities?
- 3 Hold a fundraising event at church and share the money raised between local projects and the World Mission Fund.



## China country facts

- China is the world's most populous country with more than 1.3 billion people. This means that one in every five people in the world lives in China!
- The Great Wall of China is the largest man-made structure in the world, stretching an incredible 8,850 kilometres (5,500 miles).
- China's land includes hills, plains, deserts and snowy mountains.
- The summit of Mount Everest is on the border between Nepal and China.



© Hao Bingfen

# Grace Angels' Garden

Grace Angels' Garden is an orphanage in China where disabled children who do not have a family to look after them are loved and cared for. It is run by Grace Church.

The orphanage is in a city called Xi'an, where there are more than 4,000 orphans. An orphan is a child whose parents have both died. Fifteen children live at Grace Angels' Garden.

Those who work with the children aim to "raise with love, and educate with heart". The World Mission Fund gave £10,000 to the Garden home. This was used to furnish the home with beds, toys, towels and a kitchen, and to buy food and baby milk.



**Prayer  
focus**

Heavenly Father, thank you for all the people who provide a home for children with no parents. Fill these carers with your love and wisdom. Lord, we pray that each of the children who live at Grace Angels' Garden will know kindness and friendship. We pray for more homes like this to grow in China so that no child will need to be alone. **Amen**



# EASTER OFFERING 2016

**The Easter Offering goes all the way back to the nineteenth century. Every year at Easter, the women of the Methodist Church arrange a service to dedicate the Offering for mission work around the world.**

## Dalits in India

God created us all to live a full life; to grow and to flourish. But in some places this is not possible for all people.

Since ancient times, people in India have been put into groups called castes. The caste that you are born into determines what kind of school you will go to, what kind of job you can do when you leave school, and lots of other things that you get to do in your life.

Dalits are outside the caste system. The people in this group used to be called the 'untouchables'. The word 'Dalit' comes from the Sanskrit language and it means crushed or broken. This is the word that the Dalit people have chosen to describe their situation.

Life for a Dalit is very difficult<sup>1</sup>:

- If they can go to school, they are often made to sit at the back, and may not be given any lunch to eat.
- Two-thirds of Dalit settlements are not visited by healthcare workers.
- Other groups sometimes hurt Dalits.

Since 2011, the Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) have felt called to support the Dalit people in India with practical help and by raising awareness of their lives.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Wikipedia

Photo by Linda Crossley, Vice-President, Methodist Women in Britain. Dalit girls at a community education project, run by the Church of North India's Hislop College, for rag-pickers in the city of Nagpur.



# EASTER OFFERING



**Hislop College is a Christian college run by the Church of North India. Students from the college help two local projects that work with Dalit people. The college is in the city of Nagpur, right in the middle of India.**

Rag-pickers are people who search through a city's rubbish tip, looking for any scraps to sell for a few rupees (rupees are the money used in India). It is very sad to learn that most rag-pickers are children. They cannot go to school or play with their friends or family; instead they must go to the rubbish tip every day to find things to sell so that they can buy food.

Hislop College helps some of these children by giving them meals, teaching them to read and write, and looking after their health. This practical support, care and friendship helps the children to grow and flourish.

Look at the picture for a few minutes.

- Which part of the picture are your eyes drawn to and why?

- 
- What do you like about the picture?

- 
- What don't you like about the picture?
- 



**In John's Gospel, Jesus says:**

**"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10)**

**Do you know the word 'abundantly'?**

It means "in great quantity", "more than enough", or "lots of".

- What do you think Jesus means when he says have "abundant life"?
- What does abundant life mean to you? And what do you think it means to the children in the picture?
- What can you see in this picture that tells you about the children's lives?



From pages 5 and 6 you can see what a Dalit child's life might be like.

Think about how you spend a day at school, or at home. Make a collage, picture or poem that tells your story.



- What does your day look like?
- What happens in your day?
- How does your day feel?

A large, empty white rectangular area with rounded corners and a green border, intended for a student to create a collage, picture, or poem.

# EASTER OFFERING 2016

The Easter Offering church service focuses on two healing stories. One of them is the story of Jairus' daughter, which you can read about in your Bible in Matthew 9:18-26 and Mark 5:21-43.

Here is a retelling of another miraculous healing.



## Prayer focus

Let us pray for the rag-pickers. Look back at the picture on page 6 and talk to God about the children you see. Remember

the story of the man lowered through the roof and know that God loves to do things that seem impossible to us. God is pleased to see how much we care for the people that we bring to him in prayer, and he delights to give them life in abundance.

## A hole in the roof

Imagine that you are sitting in a house in Capernaum. It is filled with people pushing forward, all wanting to see Jesus.

Suddenly you feel something on your head. You brush it off with your hand, thinking it's a fly, or perhaps a tassel from someone's cloak. But then you feel it again. You look up and a bit of dust goes into your eye. After you finish rubbing your eye, you notice a chink of light coming through the ceiling. What's happening? Someone is breaking in through the roof!

Suddenly you realise that Jesus is looking at you. You turn to him, and Jesus smiles, and looks up to the ceiling. Everyone then starts to notice – but you know that you and Jesus had noticed first!

A man is being lowered through the roof. You know the man; he is kind and has good friends, but he cannot walk. His friends love him so much. They have found a way to do what seemed impossible: to get through the crowd to Jesus.

They had to do something very bold and rather rude. They were sure they would get into trouble

for it later and they knew they'd have to mend the roof. But they thought it was worth it to see their dear friend healed, and to see his family's faces as he walked through their door that evening. And hey, now he would also be able to help them mend the roof!

When the man reached the floor Jesus smiled at him and at his friends. Jesus saw how much they loved the man. He felt how they believed that he could heal the man.

This is how Luke finishes the story in the Bible:

"And when Jesus saw their faith, he said, 'Man, your sins are forgiven you.' ... 'I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.' And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, 'We have seen extraordinary things today.'"

(Luke 5:20, 24-26) (ESV)





# Magnifying women's souls

Seeking inspiration from the Magnificat, Mary's song of praise from Luke's Gospel, the Revd Jane Day started a project to work with women in South Africa. She is working with 60 women from 4 Christian denominations. This year they will meet six times to learn more about serving God wholeheartedly, with confidence, and courage.

In Latin America, CEPALC trains women who are discriminated against. These are usually poor women from the indigenous minority groups. They often do not value themselves very highly. CEPALC shares with them the important truth that we learn in Genesis 1:27 – that we are created in God's image, we are special, unique and precious to God. The women learn to value their thoughts, feelings and ideas. They come to see that God has good plans for them and good work for them to do in the world.



CEPALC workshop in Córdoba  
Photo by Yesid Fernández and  
Carlos Daniel Silva



## Prayer

Lord, we thank you for Jane and everyone who encourages women around the world. We pray that all people would know that you created them, and that this makes them very, very special. We pray that the women trained by Jane and by CEPALC will go on to share this message with other women in their communities and go on to change lives for good. In Jesus name, Amen.

# Dear JMA secretaries,

Welcome to the spring issue of *Rainbow*. We hope you have enjoyed a good start to 2016, and wish you a very happy Easter, filled with joy and hope.

Please consider supporting your children and young people to take part in the Easter Offering Service. You may like to include a performance of the dance, which is shown on the Methodist Women in Britain website ([www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk)). You can read more about the Easter Offering in the centre pages. Additional stories from Dalit communities are available online at [www.childrenandyouth.org.uk/worker](http://www.childrenandyouth.org.uk/worker).

Please share any stories and photographs you have of your involvement in the Easter Offering. If you include photographs of any children or young people, please make sure that you have the consent of their parents and guardians and confirm this when you send them in.

You can email us at [childrenandyouth@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:childrenandyouth@methodistchurch.org.uk) or write to us at the address below:

JMA  
The Children & Youth Team  
The Methodist Church  
25 Marylebone Road  
London  
NW1 5JR

To order more copies of *Rainbow* and all other JMA resources, please visit [www.methodistpublishing.org.uk](http://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk) or phone 0845 017 8220.

To keep up to date with JMA news, please visit our website:  
[www.methodist.org.uk/mission/junior-mission-for-all-\(jma\)](http://www.methodist.org.uk/mission/junior-mission-for-all-(jma))



New Year's JMA Party at Ashbourne Methodist Church.



JMA awards at Upton Methodist Church, Upton, Poole, Dorset. Their 10 collectors did a great job and collected £373.85 between them. They are aiming for £400 in 2016!



JMA collectors from Acocks Green Methodist Church in Birmingham raised £3,429.26 last year. Here they are, receiving their awards at the church's harvest service.

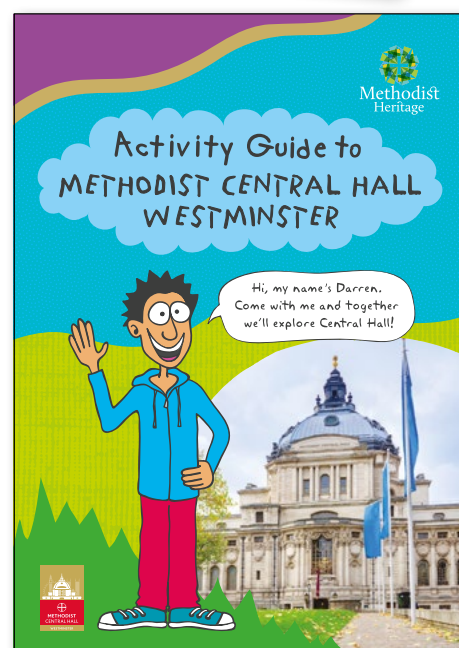
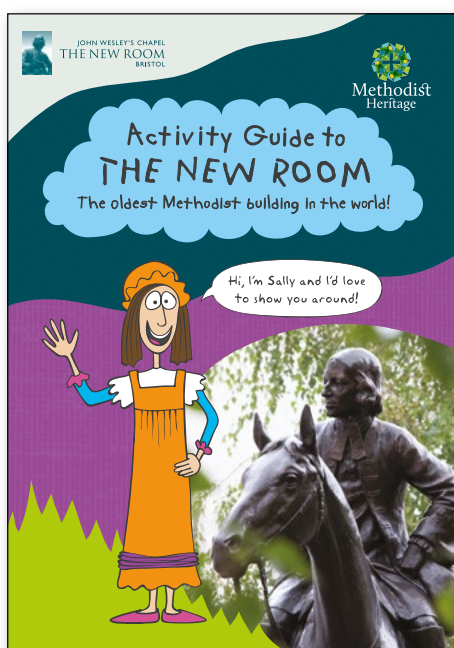
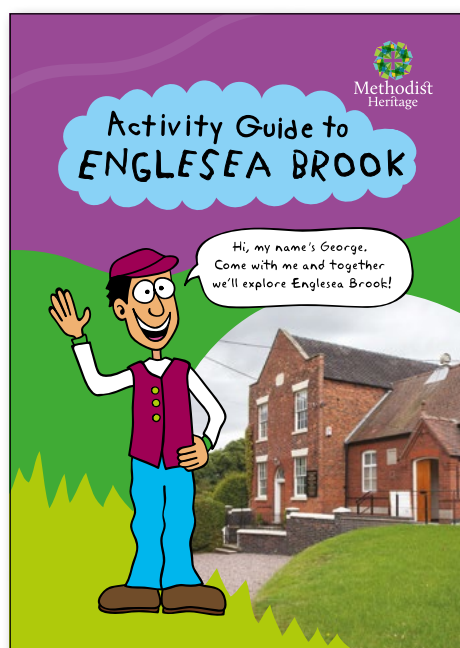


# One Mission Matters

Have you received the latest edition of *One Mission Matters* yet? This issue focuses on mission and heritage. Preserving our heritage is not just about making sure our chapels, churches and buildings are secure for the future; it's also about making sure that our "Methodist way of life" lasts for generations.

We've recently released a series of children's booklets aimed at making visits to some of our heritage sites more child-friendly. Each booklet contains stories and colourful illustrations to bring each site's story to life. The booklets can be found at:

- Englesea Brook Chapel & Museum of Primitive Methodism
- Epworth Old Rectory
- the New Room, Bristol
- Methodist Central Hall, Westminster
- Wesley's Chapel (with John Wesley's House and Museum of Methodism).



You can order your free copy of *One Mission Matters* by emailing [fundraising@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@methodistchurch.org.uk). Please provide your name, postal address and the name of your church. You can order extra copies through Methodist Publishing by calling 0845 017 8220. **(Note: A £2.50 postage and package charge will be applied. This is a fixed cost and does not vary with the size of the order).**

**Thank you for all your support to the Methodist Church.**



# JMA Easter prayer challenge

## Prayer activity

Create a prayer tree from a branch and a vase. Pick a branch or branches that have lots of arms for hanging things from. Place it in a vase. You will need parcel tags or post it notes to write your prayers on. Hang or stick the prayers to the tree and watch it fill up.

Some prayer ideas:

- Pray for one of the projects in *Rainbow*, one of your church's activities or another local charity.
- Pray for something that you really need in your family.
- Pray for your school: the teachers and children.
- Pray for your friends.
- Pray for someone who is ill.
- Thank God for your favourite thing this week.

Lord, may the Dalit children know today how much you love them.

Dear God, thank you that you created us all in your image. I pray that everyone in my family will feel extra special today because of your love.

Dear God, please could all refugees hear a kind word today.

