

Prayer of the Day from MWib

Almighty God,
Who created this vast and wonderful world,

We thank you for all that is revealed to us in creation.

Forgive us when we seek light in the wrong places.

Forgive us when we refuse to see the darkness of the world.

Forgive us when we doubt your power to prevail.

Help us to seek the truth of your light.

Help us to see and name the darkness.

Help us to be light in your vast and wonderful world.

We pray in the name of Jesus

Amen

By Jude Simms



Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4

Please give us the faith to believe this, especially in these difficult times we live in. Help us to trust You, LORD, in every area of our complicated lives. For You alone are faithful

Rev Stephen Foster's retirement service

It was back in 2007 that Stephen joined us in the then Ormskirk Circuit. Stephen had previously been an MLA [Minister in Local Appointment]: looking after a Church in the Clitheroe Circuit whilst at the same time working full time as a journalist in Rochdale. With changes in the Circuit over the years, not least the formation of the Lancashire West Circuit, Stephen has had care of Croston, Holmes, Mawdesley and Trinity Skelmersdale.

In Methodist speak Stephen has been given permission to "Sit down" or retire from the active ministry and become a Supernumerary Minister, a title which has fortunately replaced the term "Worn out ministers", used in the early days of the Methodist Church!.

Though Stephen is retiring he will be moving to Ormskirk and so still within the Circuit and , after a break, I'm sure that we will still be seeing him in our Churches.

On **Sunday 24th July** we will be holding a Circuit farewell for Stephen at **Burscough**. **This will start at 4.30pm with a "Bring and Share" tea and this will be followed with a service at 6pm.**

I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join with us on this important occasion.

Michael

Deadline for articles to include in the next edition

of Good News is

Monday 8th August



Love Beyond Our Shores Refugees

The Love Beyond our Shores group would like to highlight different situations that people face around the world. This month, we focus on refugees.

Along with leaders from other churches, the President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference have recently issued statements about policies affecting refugees including:

The Nationality and Borders Bill

Plans to offshore asylum seekers in Rwanda

The Nationality and Borders Act was passed on 28th April 2022, however church leaders continue to oppose it.

Here are statements that the Methodist Church has been involved in recently.

A statement on behalf of the Methodist Church in Britain, Baptists Together and the United Reformed Church

We lament the passing of the Nationality and Borders Bill into law. Compelled by the Biblical call to welcome the stranger, our denominations were outspoken in our criticism of the Bill, arguing that it would unjustly remove the rights and threaten the dignity of people who are in need of our nation's care and protection.

Over the last year, members of our churches have come together with a wide range of people to raise concerns about the government's proposals, and to stand alongside refugees. Many have also signed up to host refugees from Ukraine, and continue to be involved in welcoming people seeking sanctuary in their own communities. This legislation will not diminish that spirit of compassion, hospitality and solidarity. We know that through such encounters we will learn more about ourselves, each other, and God.

Alongside the practical work of welcome, our Churches will not stop advocating for love to be shown to our neighbours through the policies and practices of our asylum system. We will continue to push the government to open up more safe and legal routes for people who are in need of the sanctuary we can offer here in the UK. Our denominations have also joined hundreds of other organisations and charities in pledging to work towards the repeal of the UK's 'anti-refugee' laws. We remain committed to working with others towards a refugee protection system that treats all people with dignity and compassion

Retrieved from:
<https://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/nationality-and-borders-act-2022/>

14th April 2022

Response to the Government's plans to offshore asylum seekers in Rwanda

The Government's plans to offshore asylum seekers in Rwanda gives yet another insight into its hostile, uncompassionate and ineffective response to asylum seekers and refugees.

People are not a problem to be dealt with, but are individuals with inherent value and dignity made in the image of God. Sending some of the most vulnerable people in the world thousands of miles away to be imprisoned does not respect this dignity.

The factors which push people out of their homes and into displacement will always be much stronger than those which motivate them to claim asylum in a certain place. As we have seen in Ukraine, conflict and persecution can become a daily reality at a distressingly rapid pace.

Whilst it is important to address the dangerous trade of people smuggling across the channel, the lack of safe and accessible routes by which people can claim asylum in the UK will ultimately contribute significantly to increased small boat crossings. The government have shied away from committing to a resettlement target, and the Nationality and Borders Bill lacks detail of new or expanded resettlement routes. Now, the government is passing the issue onto another country, which the UK has previously criticised for holding a poor record on human rights.

Offshore processing is a distraction from the real work which needs to be done to establish workable, safe and welcoming routes through which the UK can play its part in responding to need.

We urge the government to reconsider their approach, and accept proposed amendments to the Nationality and Borders Bill to uphold a practice of welcome.

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, The Revd Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton

Retrieved from:

https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/latest-news/all-news/response-to-the-government-s-plans-to-offshore-asylum-seekers-in-rwanda/?fbclid=IwAR0UM-UYjX4zHqMX9o8eZzykTS2aCyKzK6xeA_AmUFbkiH2caEkzG-X9Zjc



Love Beyond Our Shores Refugees cont...



What can we do?

As we prayerfully consider these situations, we might want to respond in practical ways. Here are just a few ideas to consider.

The Joint Public Issues Team (churches working together for peace and justice) provide information and ideas about ways to support refugees, and have information available on their website:

<https://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk>

<https://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/refugeeweek/>

A pledge to commit to fighting anti refugee laws:

<https://act.refugee-action.org.uk/page/106452/petition/1>

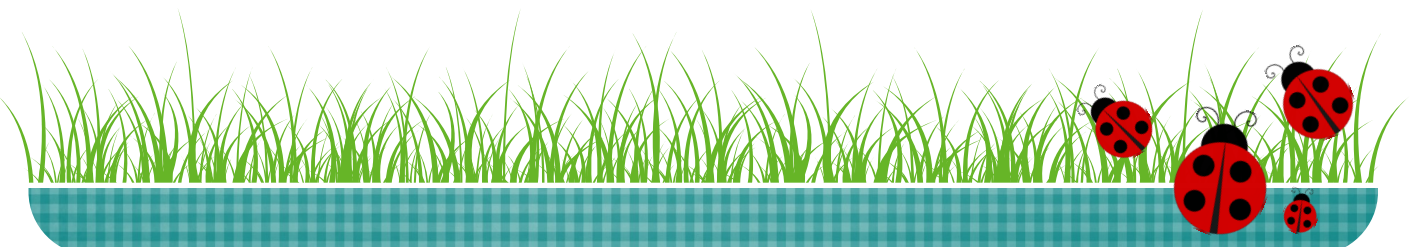
A petition regarding the deportation of asylum seekers to Rwanda:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/614913>

We might consider writing to our MPs, in support of the statements made by the churches. There are templates available online, however, it is suggested that MPs respond better to a more personal approach.

Whether we use a template or write our own letter, we need to include our full name and address, as MPs can only respond to people in their own constituency.

We could explore craftivism as a way to make our voices heard. More about this in a future issue!





Love Beyond Our Shores - Sri Lanka

Thank you for your generous gifts for Sri Lanka

Over recent weeks there have been retiring collections in the churches throughout the Circuit in response to the crisis in Sri Lanka which has worsened over the last few months.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed so generously which will enable Lancashire West Circuit to send a thousand pounds to the special relief fund which has been set up by the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka

When I left in mid March there were shortages of some foods and fuel. We had power cuts for up to eight hours each day.

Now the problems have escalated and there are continuing and serious shortages of food, fuel and medicines to the extent schools are closing because of transport difficulties and government offices are not fully functional.

A special Prayer Campaign has been set up by Rev. W.P. Ebenezer Joseph, President of Conference, asking the Methodist Community in Sri Lanka to pray three times a day, prayers for the country, for affected people and for the decision makers.

At a practical level relief packages are being distributed to severely affected families consisting of essential food. Initially this will be for six months. Financial assistance is being given to children to help with education expenses, including stationery, travel and tuition. For example, A level students will receive the equivalent of £23. Other schemes include promoting home gardening, church based activities cultivating unutilized land and relief to Church workers with a very limited stipend for medical or educational expenses.

Having some understanding of the workings of the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka, I have every confidence that the relief programme will be well organised. The plans are well structured and, sadly, the churches have had previous experience of major disasters, including the tsunami in 2004.

Please do not hesitate to contact me through the Circuit Office if you would like further information.

Thank you for supporting this request for help from a Methodist Church over five thousand miles away.

Please remember Sri Lanka in your prayers.

Anne Baldwin Mission Partner in Sri Lanka 2017-2020

A variety of Methodist Churches in Sri Lanka



Sadly the situation in Sri Lanka continues to get more difficult and we are therefore extending the opportunity for contributions to be made via the Circuit until the 20th July



Events Around The Circuit

Methodist Churches Together in Skelmersdale Garden Party at Up Holland Methodist Church



Saturday 16th July 2pm

Tickets £5 - including refreshments

Everyone welcome

Trinity Methodist URC Church & Up Holland Methodist Church

LOVE BEYOND OUR SHORES

at Croston Methodist Church

SALT & LIGHT

A photographic exhibition of some of the work of Mamie Martin Fund

“Educating Girls, Empowering Malawi”
including
‘Our Lancashire West Girls’

EXHIBITION DATES

22nd July - 9am - 12 noon and 1.30-4.00pm

24th July - 10am - 12.30 pm

31st July - 10am - 12.30 pm

for other times call 01772 601622

Also Sunday 24th July 10.30-11.30am
A celebration of Mamie Martin Fund
in videos, song and much more...including refreshments

EVERYONE WELCOME!



Is an opportunity to learn and explore a bible story through crafts, games, song, and chat, and share a meal together. All are welcome but any children must be accompanied by an adult. Please email rev.sue@guenault.co.uk

The next sessions are

Tues 12th July 4.30pm-6.00pm at Trinity Methodist Croston

Sat 16th July 4.30pm-6.00pm at Emmanuel URC, Ormskirk

Messy Vintage

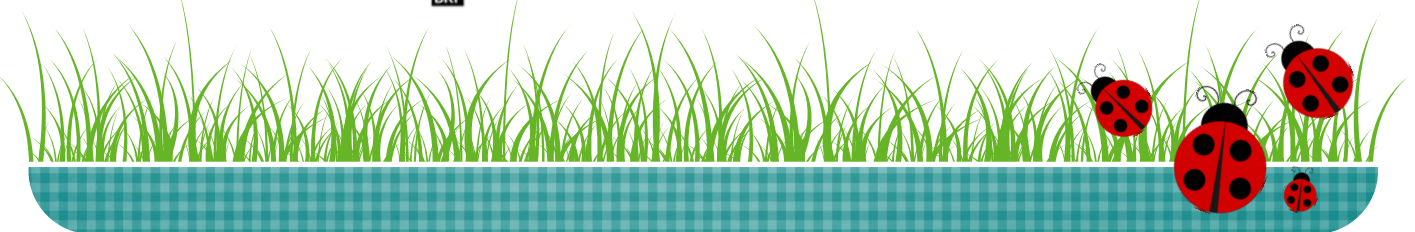
from The Bible Reading Fellowship 

Tues 12th July 7.30pm via zoom

Weds 13th July 2pm at Trinity Methodist URC, Skelmersdale

Tues 26th July 7.30pm via Zoom

Weds 27th July 2pm at Trinity Methodist URC, Skelmersdale





Events Around The Circuit

Croston Methodist Church

OPEN DOORS

Every 4th Friday of the month

22/7, 26/8, 23/9, 28/10

At the Church Hall **9.15am - 11.30am**

Drop in for refreshments....bring your knitting, crochet, embroidery.

Activities for children will be provided while you relax after your dash on the school run.

Burscough Methodist Church

Sit and Knit' group

Wednesday 8.30am - 11am. (At STAR café)

Sit , Knit (or Crochet) and Chat.

Learn with others, spare needles and wool available.

Also games e.g. cards and draughts if you don't fancy knitting.

Book swap available.

Toast and brews available in the café for a small donation.

Emmanuel Methodist URC, Ormskirk

Community Hub

We are open 10am-1.30pm EVERY Thursday!

Come along and enjoy free tea, coffee, cake and biscuits plus conversation.

You are also welcome to bring along your own craft projects...as long as they fit on a table! So far people's crafts have included:

crochet, needlework, knitting and even poetry and 'life stories' have been shared!

Emmanuel Methodist URC, Ormskirk

Saturday Coffee House 10.30pm—1.30pm

You are warmly invited to a live music concert on

Saturday 16th July

The "Collected Voice Choir"

Mere Brow Methodist Church

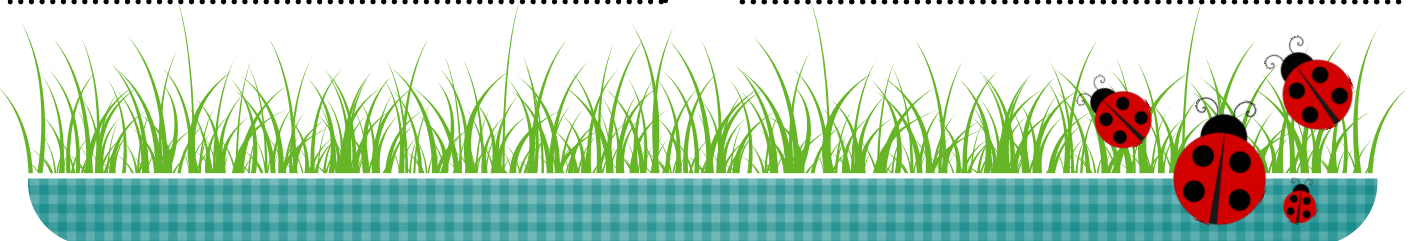
COME4COFFEE

Mere Brow Coffee Morning

The **LAST TUESDAY** each Month

10-30am to 12 noon

Toasted Teacake Tea / Coffee



CHURCH SERVICES

	July				August			
	10 th	17 th	24 th	31 st	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th
Burscough Orrell Lane 10.00 HP, CMP, STF, F	Michael Tindsley	Merle Farthing	David Allen	Malcolm Abbott	o/a	Michael Tindsley S	Jenny Ashcroft	Michael Tindsley
Holmeswood Holmeswood Rd 10.30 HP, CMP, STF	Geoffrey Farthing	o/a	Mere Brow	o/a	Helen Hindle	o/a	Michael Tindsley S	Mere Brow
Mere Brow Mere Brow Lane 10.30 CMP, MHB HP	Julia Robinson	Pauline Johnson	Michael Tindsley S	Anne Wallbank	Holmeswood	o/a	Merle Farthing	Geoffrey Farthing S
Holmes Park Lane 10.30 HP, MP, JP,	Janet Walton	Michael Tindsley	Cliff Hill	Stephen Foster S	o/a	Andrew Richardson	Jonathan Richardson	Lynne Watson
Tarleton Church Rd 10.30 HP, MP,	Malcolm Abbott	o/a	Stephen Foster S	Geoffrey Farthing	Jenny Ashcroft	o/a	Geoffrey Farthing S	Merle Farthing
Mawdesley Gorse Lane 10.30 HP, MP, JP,	Lorraine Howarth	Stephen Foster S	o/a	Croston	David Allen	Malcolm Abbott	Sue Guénault S	Croston
Croston Westhead Rd 10.30 HP, MP, STF,	Sue Guénault F	Mawdesley	o/a	Merle Farthing	Mawdesley	o/a	Mawdesley	Janet Walton
Ormskirk 10.30 Derby St HP, CMP, StF	David Allen	Geoffrey Farthing	Sue Guénault S	o/a	Lorraine Howarth	Sue Guénault	Malcolm Abbott	Sue Guénault S
Trinity High Street 11.00 STF, GNB	Stephen Foster S	o/a	Andrew Richardson	Jenny Ashcroft	o/a	Geoffrey Farthing S	o/a	Michael Tindsley
Up Holland Alma Hill 11.00 STF LP	Michael Tindsley S	o/a	Chris Dunbar	Paul Givens	Paul Lock	Michael Tindsley S	Paul Givens	David Allen

MP – Mission Praise Combined	CMP – Complete Mission Praise	O/A – Own Arrangement
HP – Hymns and Psalms	STF – Singing the Faith	F – Family Service [All Age]
JP – Junior Praise	MHB – Methodist Hymn Book	P – Parade Service
S – Holy Communion		

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