

AROUND THE DALE

The Newsletter of the Calderdale Methodist Circuit

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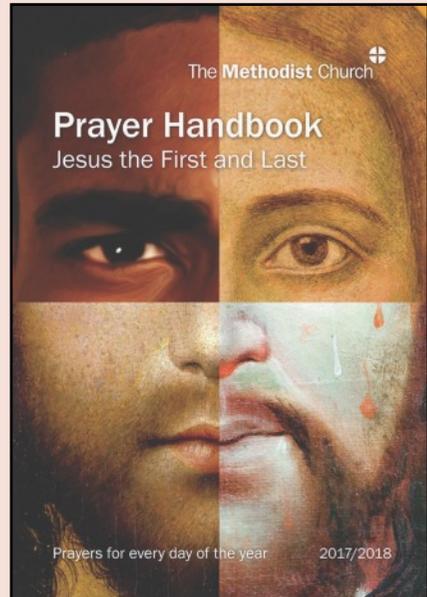
Asylum Seeker and Refugee Day

On September 16th Central Methodist Church Todmorden opened its building to a large group of asylum seekers and refugees from Rochdale to enable them to spend a happy day together, under the auspices of “Together we Grow” based in Blackshaw Head.

The event was entitled “Welcome 2017” and included an afternoon concert, with a choir of Women Asylum Seekers from Manchester and a guest singer with his daughter from Syria. Several Asylum seekers from Halifax joined us in the afternoon, along with many Calderdale people who were very moved by some of the items.

Food played an important part in the day’s activities—snacks for the families on arrival, lunch for 50 and then free drinks and abundant cakes for all the large audience (to the delight of the children!) There were various activities available for the children and plenty of opportunity to chat and share experiences with this wonderful group of people.

We hear so much of the plight of refugees throughout the world and
continued on back page



Methodist Prayer Handbook 2017/2018

Jesus the First and Last

Prayers are written by members of the worldwide Methodist family for every day of the year in a 31-day prayer cycle.

Also available in large print.

Order from your local church or
from Methodist Publishing:

www.mph.org.uk

Order by phone: 0845 017 8220



Comfort My People

The Methodist Church's Advent Offering is a Connexion-wide event that uses Advent (the four weeks leading up to Christmas) to reflect on Jesus' coming, needs in Britain and ultimately to encourage giving to the Mission in Britain Fund.

The Advent Offering Service, *Comfort my people* is an all-age worship service for the Advent season, which provides an opportunity to look beyond the Church by taking up a collection for the Mission in Britain Fund (see below). As we come together, we'll be following Jesus and two of our chaplains to explore how we can be part of bringing God's comfort to people beyond our Church's walls.

A suite of Advent Offering worship materials has been prepared and is available for any Methodist church to host their own service. The resources are flexible and can be used for stand-alone church and/or circuit services. However, if a church has chosen to fund-raise for the Mission in Britain Fund throughout the Advent season, then the resources can be used to hold a circuit dedication service, similar to that of the Easter

Offering service. The lead Bible reading (Isaiah 40:1-11) is taken from the lectionary for the second Sunday in Advent (10 December). The other passages have been chosen so you can hold this service during any of the weeks of Advent.

Alongside the Bible readings, the service explores the inspirational work of chaplaincy placements in the workplace and with older people, to illustrate the impact giving to the Mission in Britain Fund can have.

Go to the Methodist Church website for more details and to download the resources -

<http://www.methodist.org.uk>



This Newsletter

Do you have something happening in your church that you want to tell others in the Circuit about. Here's just the place. Check the cut-off date on the back page.

Onwards and Upwards at Central Methodist Church

This was the theme of Central's triennial Flower Festival celebration. It reflects where we are now in our church life, in regard to our mission in the community, and also our beliefs and philosophy in terms of our potential, ambitious building project.



The flower displays, themes and interpretations were stunning. Some reflected harvest, interpreting old harvest hymns; other displays reflected verses from the Bible, building themes and visions of the future – ALL were creative and imaginative and truly inspiring.

Throughout the weekend delicious hot food, drinks and cakes were on sale. Produce, craft and Traidcraft stalls sold a range of products and the West Riding Woodcarvers displayed some of their stunning woodcarvings.

There was a Gala concert on Saturday evening led by Marsh Ladies Choir and Clifton Handbell Ringers

On Monday, approximately 300 children from local schools visited the church, it was lovely to hear the chatter and laughter of so many young people and to share our building with them and the accompanying teachers and parents.

Val Eggleton



Methodist Church
Relief and
Development Fund

Light up lives this Christmas by giving an EXTRAORDINARY GIFT

All We Can invites you to inspire your church to have an 'Extraordinary Christmas' this year by ordering their resource pack. It contains worship resources for churches to use over Advent and Christmas. You can also download materials from allwecan.org.uk/Christmas

Every Extraordinary Gift given and donation made to All We Can's Christmas Appeal can transform lives across the world in some of the poorest communities.



There are many brilliant gifts to choose from, starting at chicks for £10 to constructing a pig farm for £243. Have a look at their catalogue.

Happy Christmas shopping!



