



**Onward in Christ**



2014 has been a year of many changes, earlier in the year I was accepted as a Mission Partner with the Methodist World Church Relationships. It was a great experience to visit Sri Lanka, the country to which I am being sent, at the time of their Bicentenary celebrations. The theme for this celebration was "Onward with Christ". A time when the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka paid homage to the missionaries who were obedient to Christ, setting sail on a journey into the unknown, acknowledging their struggles, perseverance and vision. Not only was it a time of looking back to the past but also a time to look forward to the future, to continue to step out in faith and commitment trusting in God's love. Sumith Peiris the Vice President states this is a "kairos moment where we have to think globally and act locally if we are to be truly obedient to the Great Commission" My role as a mission partner in Sri Lanka is to work alongside the English speaking congregation at the Kollupitiya Methodist Church in Colombo. The Church holds services in Tamil, Sinhala and English. It also runs many programmes including the Street Children's programme, medical clinics, soup kitchens to name a few, and is situated in the Methodist Headquarters complex. Also within the complex is the Methodist College all girls school where I will be chaplain to over 2000 girls.



In August I said my farewells to the Ely and Newmarket Circuit, a place where I was inspired by churches and individuals as together we sought to serve Christ over the last five years. I always find it hard to say goodbyes and move on to the next place! So in September I found myself at All Nations College in Ware where I was to begin my preparation for overseas on the En Route Course. I was there for one day before visiting the hospital in Harlow for two weeks with pancreatitis. As a result I was unable to continue the training and will start on the next course on the 8th January. Since then I having been staying with my Mum in Lancashire where I continued to be unwell and spent three weeks in the local hospital, again with same diagnosis. However this time I returned home minus my gall bladder. The best laid plans! So I am looking forward to 2015 being back on track and eventually following in the footsteps of those who have gone before me on a journey into the unknown. Giving thanks to God for the times when it has been plain sailing and also for the stormy times, that He has always been in the boat with me, leading and guiding and quietening my soul. As we prepare to say goodbye to one year and welcome another may we continue to run with endurance the race set before us, looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith. Onward in Christ! (Hebrews 12 v 1). Thank you for your love, prayers and support during the different phases of this last year. God bless you.



*May you have the gift of faith, the blessing of Hope and the peace of His love at Christmas and always. Love Angleena x*

