

ONE MISSION MATTERS

Summer 2017 • No 48

THANK YOU:

Celebrating your generosity

MISSION IN SRI LANKA:

A small island with
a big heart

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS:

PeerTalk



Editorial

Dear friends,

By the time you read this, the Methodist Conference will be in full swing. But I am writing in the run-up to Pentecost, the season when Christians recall the sending of the Holy Spirit and the empowerment of the disciples. What a joyful and hopeful time that was after the sadness of the crucifixion and the bewilderment of the resurrection! The spirit-filled disciples who we read about in the Book of Acts are scarcely recognisable as the people who covered behind locked doors. That same spirit is present to fill us with inspiration, joy and a thankfulness that overflows into actions for others.

Yet as we watch our televisions or read our newspapers, we see a rather different world. In many countries, we have seen a turning inwards: a concern for putting “our country” and “our interests” first. In Britain, there have been calls to limit the numbers being welcomed as refugees or asylum seekers, to cut the amount of aid we offer for development in less well-off countries and a tightening of the help offered to the struggling poor and homeless in our own country. In this context, it is more important than ever for individual Christians and Christian communities to show their thankfulness to God – both in words and actions.

In this edition of *One Mission Matters*, we will read encouraging stories of practical help being offered to people in debt, and those dealing with mental health challenges. We will also learn how the Sri Lankan Methodist Church is working hard to rebuild trust across ethnic boundaries after years of war.

In Matthew 10, we read of Jesus sending out his disciples to proclaim the Good News in practical ways by healing the sick and helping the afflicted. He says to them, “Freely you have received, freely give.” Generosity, open hands and open hearts – this is what we are called to, in thankfulness for all that God has given to us so graciously.

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J. n. Potter.

The Revd Jennifer Potter
Minister, Wesley's Chapel, London





Ed Felix raises funds for the Amelia Trust Farm.

Five ideas for church and community project fundraising

1. Tea, coffee and cake morning
2. Special Service collection
3. Car boot sale
4. Charity fun run for adults and children
5. Church Bay – create an ebay account for your local church community

Year 10 pupil raises funds for the Amelia Trust Farm

The Amelia Trust is a farm in the Vale of Glamorgan, out in the Welsh countryside. It is open to the public to come and see what a working farm in action is like. But more importantly, it provides an alternative education for vulnerable and disadvantaged young people.

Last year, the Methodist Church gave Amelia Trust Farm £90,000 to support its work over the next three years.

Ed Felix is a year 10 pupil at Cardiff High School. He has been volunteering in the farm's café since February. Ed recently set up a treasure hunt to raise funds for the Amelia Trust Farm as part of his Welsh Baccalaureate Community Challenge. Realising that the farm would be a perfect place to hold a treasure hunt, Ed devised a series

of clues leading participants all over the farm to hunt for letters which, when rearranged, spelled out a word. Participants then entered their completed sheets into a draw, for which local businesses and organisations donated prizes. All the proceeds raised have gone towards helping the farm continue its work supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged young people.

"I enjoyed visiting the Amelia Trust Farm with my family when I was younger," says Ed, who is keen that other people follow in his footsteps and fundraise for the farm. "It's a great place for people young and old to visit, and by visiting you are supporting the work that the farm does helping young people."

ACT

If you have been inspired by Ed's story and would like advice and guidance on fundraising, download our fundraising essentials guide from bit.ly/fundraisingessentials



To find out more about the Amelia Trust Farm, visit www.ameliatrust.org.uk

“Church is a team effort”

One Mission Matters visits Downham Market Methodist Church, Norfolk.

Downham Market is a quiet town in west Norfolk with a population of 10,000. At the heart of this community is Downham Market Methodist Church – built 51 years ago when it was decided to join the three existing chapels in the town. Church life in the surrounding area has declined and some Methodist chapels have closed, but Downham Market Methodist Church is bucking that trend in church numbers and through fundraising.

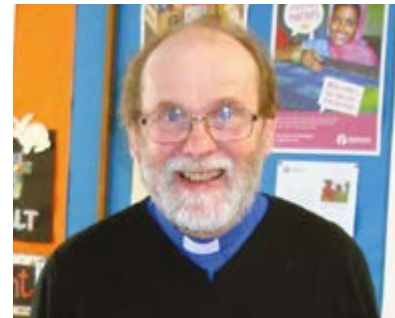
“The generation who built the church clearly had vision and we are now fortunate to inherit a really good set of premises in the centre of a growing town,” says Maurice Stafford, the minister. “Our mission statement says what we are about: ‘We exist to experience and share the life-changing love of God for all’. You can be sure of a warm welcome here, whoever you are, wherever you come from and however life has treated you. Come on in and have a bacon buttie. You can leave a prayer in the basket.”

Since his arrival here in 2013, Maurice has got to know many of the locals – and thanks to his distinctive yellow Skoda, they all recognise him too. “I originally bought a yellow car so that when I was a minister in Sheffield I could find my car in car parks,” Maurice explains. “In a small town, it isn’t so much an issue. However, people readily recognise my car and comment on how eye-catching it is!”

The church is open 7 days a week and on Sundays the congregation numbers 80-plus.

Every month, the church nominates a charity to support. Extra collections are taken, usually at communion services,

to raise money for these charities. “Our giving is not solely about raising money for ourselves,” says Maurice. “The church is a team effort; people are generous with time, their gifts and their money.”



Photos: © David Friswell



Top: Maurice Stafford.

Middle: Downham Market, a church where everyone is welcome.

Bottom: Maurice's "eye-catching" yellow Skoda.

GIVE

Downham Market Methodist Church is a wonderful example of community engagement. **You can help us support more churches like this by giving to the Mission in Britain Fund.**

According to mental health experts, one in four people in the UK experiences a mental health problem in any given year, with depression and anxiety being two of the most common.

PeerTalk: Promoting good mental health



Nearly 15,000 Facebook users recently saw the live video of HRH Prince William and pop star Lady Gaga talking about how important speaking freely about mental health can be in helping to shatter the stigma around it. In the video, Prince William says: “It’s time that everyone speaks up and really feels very normal about mental health; it’s the same as physical health. Just having a conversation with a friend or family member can really make such a difference.”

The Methodist Church takes mental health issues very seriously, and so was delighted to award a £101,000 grant to Hellifield Methodist Church in Skipton, Lancashire, to establish PeerTalk –

a mental health project which has now become a registered charity.

“Without the Methodist grant, we would not have been able to achieve all we have done in such a short time,” says the Revd Stephen Normanton, Chair of the PeerTalk project. “The grant has enabled PeerTalk to deliver high quality training to its volunteers who facilitate the support groups each week.”

PeerTalk aims to help people who live with depression – and their families. It does this mainly through support groups and awareness days. The support groups are for people who have experienced depression or anxiety, bipolar or mood-related disorders, and for

their family members and friends. Participants at meetings share stories and offer each other support and encouragement from their own experience of living with depression.

The awareness days are a source of information and advice on good practice in communicating with, and supporting, people living with mental health conditions. They also show attendees how to point people to mental health services, if it ever becomes necessary to do so. The former rugby league player Danny Sculthorpe is a regular speaker at PeerTalk awareness events.

“There has been much media focus on mental health issues over the past few years,” Stephen Normanton says. “It is obvious the need is great. At PeerTalk, the people who attend the meetings are best placed to offer each other support, coping techniques and encouragement.”



Photo: © Keith Hartley

GIVE

With your support, we can champion more projects like PeerTalk. **You can donate to the Mission in Britain Fund at www.methodist.org.uk/give.**

I Give to Mission...

We have introduced a new fundraising resource called *I Give to Mission...* to encourage the Methodist people to make a regular, individual commitment to the Church's grant-making funds, in addition to what they may already give to and through the local church. We are working with Stewardship¹ to ensure giving can be easy and secure online.

Much of your generosity is channelled through donations that reach us from churches, circuits and districts. This year we are introducing a new way for Methodist people to give to us directly. **#igive2mission** is a route for individual giving through our partner, Stewardship.

The way we use our resources should be part of our discipleship. We want to help you explain the continuing importance of the Methodist Church's mission in Britain, and encourage you to talk boldly about the need for financial resources to continue the kind of pioneering and innovative projects you read about in *One Mission Matters*. By 2020, unless income increases, we expect there will be a gap of about £1m between the funds the Church has available to make mission grants in Britain and the applications for help that we receive.

Many of us support causes close to our hearts with regular donations. Could you give as little as £5 per month to the Mission in Britain Fund? See the attached *I Give to Mission...* leaflet for more details.

stewardship[®]

transforming generosity



¹Stewardship is an independent charitable organisation working in partnership with The Methodist Church: www.give.net/20024438



#igive2mission information leaflets (including a donation form) are available from Methodist Publishing – order no: GV101-FR-17 You can call 0845 017 8220 or email orders@norwichbooksandmusic.co.uk

Thank you

“ I was suffering with post-traumatic stress disorder from serving with the Royal Air Force. I couldn't cope. ”

Ronan, a volunteer at Ogof Adullam drop-in centre

Based at Brunswick Methodist Church in Swansea, Ogof Adullam (“place of refuge”) is a thriving drop-in centre for people who are homeless or have problems with alcohol or drug addiction. The centre also offers a place of refuge to prison leavers and asylum seekers. Ronan is just one of the many people who have benefitted from the love and care given by volunteers at Ogof Adullam and he himself now works there as a volunteer. You may have heard about this centre through our Advent Offering appeal 2016.

Thanks to your generous gifts to the Mission in Britain Fund, the Connexional Grants Committee has been able to give Ogof Adullam a £50,000 grant to support its ongoing work. Your giving has enabled us to support community projects working alongside a number of local churches to support families and individuals on low incomes.

Living generously is an expression of how we share the gifts we have received from God – our faith, time and money. Ogof Adullam is just one of the many brilliant projects that the Methodist Church has been able to support through your giving to our mission funds. Your generosity makes a difference to thousands of lives both in Britain and in more than 65 countries worldwide.

The tables and graphs on the following pages outline the sources of income and how we used your donations to the Methodist Church Fund, the Mission in Britain Fund, the Fund for Property and the World Mission Fund over the period 2015/2016.

Please pull out your *I Give to Mission...* leaflet and complete your form today.



Ogof Adullam provides a safe space for vulnerable people.



Ronan – once a guest at Ogof Adullam, now a volunteer there.

Comparative income and outgoings including grants for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016

Fund Sources	World Mission Fund 2014/2015 (£) 000	World Mission Fund 2015/2016 (£) 000	Mission in Britain 2014/2015 (£) 000	Mission in Britain 2015/2016 (£) 000	Fund for Property 2014/2015 (£) 000	Fund for Property 2015/2016 (£) 000
Donations	2,506	1,848	760	693	492	421
Legacies	1,129	600	290	102	-	-
Investment income	658	1,388	192	204	315	308
Others	15	36	1	-	2	-
Total income	4,308	3,872	1,243	999	809	729
Outgoings including grants	3,013	4,933	1,054	1,543	877	1,352

The table above shows income and outgoings including grants year on year for the three connexional mission funds as published in the Trustees' report for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016.

THANK

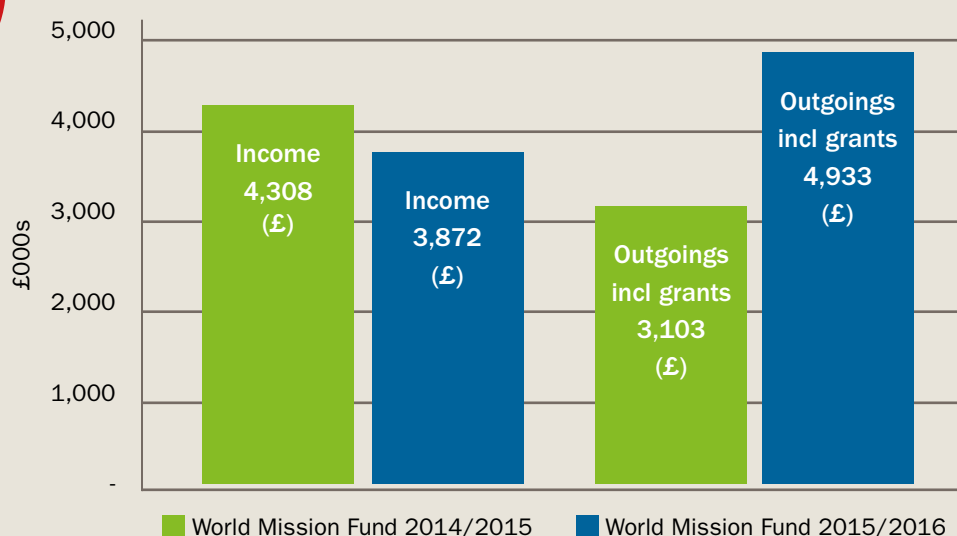
YOU

World Mission Fund

The World Mission Fund helps to transform lives across the world by providing responses to the challenges of mission, evangelism and church growth, as well as to unexpected needs such as disaster relief. In 2015/2016, the World Mission Fund received £3.9m in donations and other income, but expenditure for the year increased to £4.9m.

Amongst other things, the fund empowers and supports the work of our overseas mission partners – people such as Steve and Lorraine Emery-Wright in South Korea. You can read more about them on pages 14–15.

Income and outgoings including grants - 2014/2015 and 2015/2016

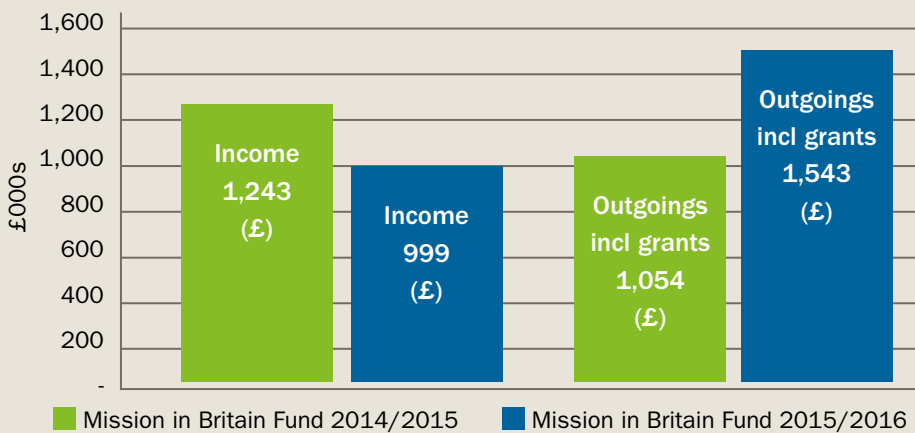


Mission in Britain Fund

In 2015/2016, the Mission in Britain Fund gave out £1.5m in grants despite only receiving £1m in income, the difference was made up by a planned reduction in our charitable reserves. One of these grants was to the PeerTalk project, which is helping vulnerable people overcome mental health challenges. To read more about PeerTalk, turn to page 5.

As the chart shows, grant-making has gone up while income to the fund has gone down, a situation which cannot be sustained in the long term. Over the next five years, as reserves are drawn down, the Fundraising Team is working towards increasing income to this fund in order to sustain the growing needs of mission and ministry in Britain.

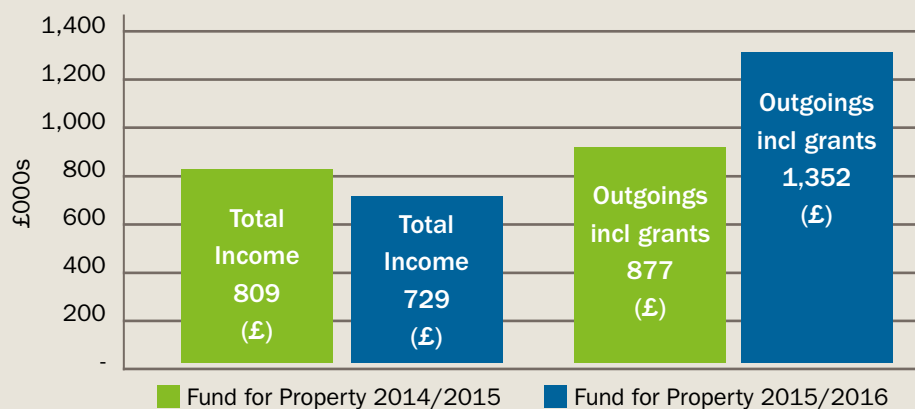
Income and outgoings including grants - 2014/2015 and 2015/2016



Fund for Property

This fund exists to support various missional property development projects by making grants around the Connexion. In 2015/2016, income to this fund was £729,000; however, expenditure increased to £1.4m.

Income and outgoings including grants - 2014/2015 and 2015/2016



“ By offering a flexible resource that has disabled access, an internal lift, useable function rooms and a flexible worship space we can nurture disciples who will in turn embrace our community. ”

The Revd Steve Jakeman, Boston Spa Methodist Church, grant received £140,000.

In 2015/2016, donations totalling

£2.9m

were received from Methodist churches via circuits for the four funds in this report.

More than

£73,150

was donated through Junior Mission for All (JMA) to our work overseas and in Britain.

Legacy income in 2015/2016 across the four funds in this report was over

£739,474

Methodist Refugee Support received

£70,338

in response to the refugee crisis in Europe.

Online donations from Justgiving raised more than

£11,000

Collections from Easter Offering services in 2016 raised a massive

£437,798

We thank Methodist Women in Britain for running this appeal and for their brilliant contribution.

Our generous *One Mission Matters* subscribers donated an additional

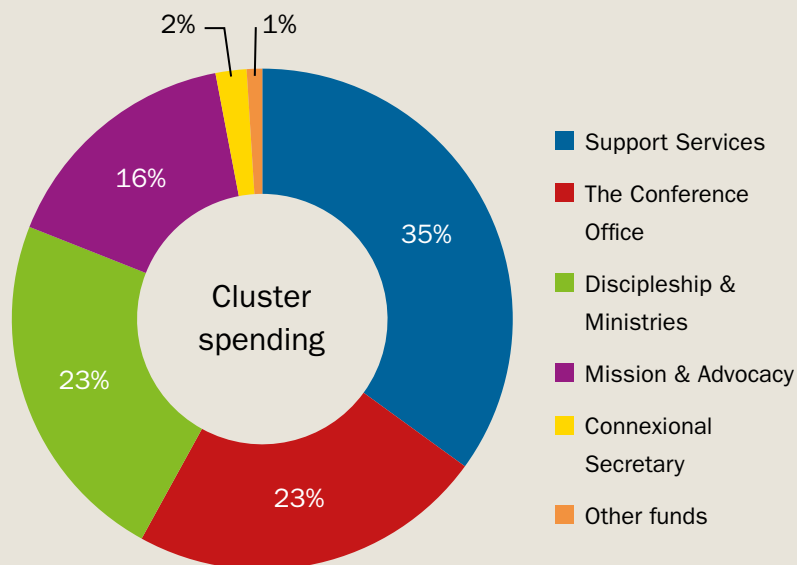
£1,024

through the giving forms that come with this magazine.

Methodist Church Fund

Total Connexional Team outgoings by Cluster from the Methodist Church Fund 2015/2016

Distribution by cluster* £ 000	
Support Services	4,982
The Conference Office	3,369
Discipleship & Ministries	3,373
Mission & Advocacy	2,260
Connexional Secretary	224
Other funds	89
	14,298



*The activities of the Connexional Team are organised into 'clusters'. For example, Fundraising is within the Mission & Advocacy Cluster, and the Learning Network is part of the Discipleship & Ministries Cluster. The Methodist Church Fund (MCF) also supports the work of the Methodist Conference, the Methodist Council and their hard working volunteer committees and working groups. It does not cover local ministers' stipends or the work also supported by Methodist people in their local churches, circuits or districts.

Income to the fund from the assessment represents a contribution from each Methodist member of around £1.30 per week. The rest of the money that you give every Sunday is used to pay for circuit ministry and other purposes determined locally.

The Methodist Church Fund is largely funded through the assessment given by circuits via the districts. The MCF's total income for the financial year 2015-16 was £16m; of this, £13m came from the district assessment and £3m came from other income such as fund levies, trading and investment income, donations and legacies.

It is through this cycle of living generously that the Methodist Church continues to do its great work. Day in day out, Methodists like you support the work of the Church, enabling grants to be given towards innovative and imaginative work.

On behalf of the Church, thank you for your continued support, prayers and gifts.

Please continue to pray for our fundraising efforts.



You can help improve our recovery rate for Gift Aid for your regular and one-off giving. If you are a UK taxpayer, we would like to encourage you to complete all the relevant information on your Gift Aid envelope when you give to connexional funds as individuals.

This will help us to increase our Gift Aid recovery rate. For every £10 you donate, we can claim £2.50. This does not cost you more, but makes a big difference to our work. **Thank you!**



Raing with some local women.



Above: Mervyn leading a staff training session.



Raing in conversation with a group of women and men.

A small island with a big heart

Mervyn and Raing McCullagh are in Colombo, serving as mission partners with the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL). Known widely for producing Ceylon tea, Sri Lanka is described as “a small island with a big heart”.

We are really enjoying our time in Sri Lanka. Our work is a good fit for us both with plenty of challenges, so we're thankful that God has gone before us and prepared a place.

We've been welcomed and accepted really well into NCCSL. The Revd Ebenezer Joseph, NCCSL's General Secretary, has offered us lots of opportunities to strengthen and enhance their work – which is already very impressive. He's an amazing church leader and

we're learning lots from him.

The work of NCCSL is vast and complex. Every time we think we understand it all, we discover another aspect to the organisation. After three decades of conflict, Sri Lanka needs reconciliation and many of its people need to be freed from trauma. There is also a need for justice and improved living conditions for the 'silent community' of nearly a million 'up-country' Tamils who work on the tea estates – some of the most powerless people in Sri Lanka.

Worship lies at the heart of all NCCSL does. We have been deeply inspired by some of the services we have attended, and by how the organisation seeks to respond to people's needs at every level – from the utterly powerless to the most influential.

We've had a year now to see where we need to put our energy. Our prayer is that we can deliver on expectations

but always be sensitive to the need to adapt, listen and modify as circumstances change. It's a rollercoaster ride with some days feeling really productive and impactful and other days feeling like we've hit a brick wall. But that's part of the joy of being in partnership. We are here to support and enhance, not to deliver our plans. We always have to be patient and sensitive to those around us.



GIVE

The Methodist Church World Mission Fund supports all the Partner Churches, partner organisations, Nationals in Mission Appointment (NMA) postholders, scholarship students and mission partners you read about in *One Mission Matters*. You can donate to the fund at www.justgiving.com/mcfworldmission/donate

Celebrating Aldersgate Sunday

In the last edition of *One Mission Matters*, we encouraged you to do something special to mark Aldersgate Sunday (21 May). Some of you wrote back to share stories of what you did.

At about three on Sunday afternoon, members from across the **Solway Circuit** met in Maryport Methodist church to celebrate the life of John and Charles Wesley. The service began with an outline of the Wesleys' early life, and ended with the hymn *Love divine, all loves excelling*, sung unaccompanied in the tradition of the early Methodists. The service was followed by a Feast of Faith.



"If only we had had faith in the Cumbrian weather and our ageing legs to have met outside as they did!" one congregation member said. "But we left with the knowledge that we have been given a commission from Christ."

Carver Uniting Church, Windermere, made 'Testimony' its theme for the day. The Chair of the District, the Revd Richard J Teal (centre in the picture), read John Wesley's own testimony from his journal. Carver Uniting Church is part of the Cumbria Methodist District and the South Lakes Circuit. Two ordinands, the Revds Jo Rand (left) and Tim Cooke (right), shared testimonies of their own.



All We Can: bringing hope

In February, All We Can and the World Church Relationships Team of the Methodist Church in Britain launched an urgent appeal in response to the catastrophic situation in South Sudan and other countries on the verge of famine.

In South Sudan, three years of war have forced millions to flee their homes. Women like Angelina (pictured) are stranded in makeshift camps, and sleep in the open every night. Money raised through the appeal has provided relief supplies to displaced people in Wau. The food supplies are vital to families like Angelina's, who have fled leaving everything behind.

The collective action of individuals and churches has been inspiring, with more than £435,000 given so far in response to the East Africa Famine Appeal. Tens of thousands of people have already received life-saving nutritional supplies and support in Somalia and South Sudan, and more than 2,000 people have received food baskets in Yemen. However, the desperate need continues and we urge people to carry on giving to this increasingly urgent appeal.

To learn how donations to the appeal are making a difference, visit www.allwecan.org.uk/fightingfamine

ALL WE CAN



Angelina Awen sits with her granddaughter Aok, in a makeshift camp for over 5,000 internally displaced persons in Wau, South Sudan.

PHOTO: © Paul Jeffrey



Photos: © Karen Cook

Volunteers from local churches prepare Christmas Hampers for CAP clients.

CAP Debt Centre Penrith Methodist Church

With help from Penrith Methodist Church and a £43,500 grant from the Mission in Britain Fund, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) opened its first debt centre in Eden Valley, Cumbria, in 2016.

The centre's office is in the Bridge, part of the Penrith Methodist Church building complex. Together with CAP, Penrith Methodist Church employs Jon Cook to manage the debt centre.

"One of the greatest privileges of my job is being able to stand alongside some of the most broken and needy people in our community and demonstrate the love of Christ to them in ways that mean something to them," Jon says. "The Connexional grant we have received, along with the generosity of members in our local church, makes this possible."

Several of the volunteers assisting Jon are from Penrith Methodist Church, while people from other churches around Penrith and Eden are involved too, accompanying Jon on visits to clients and giving practical care and support. Twice yearly, the centre provides CAP's award-winning debt counselling service to the whole of the Eden District, including the

communities of Alston Moor, the Upper Eden, as well as Penrith and the Ullswater Valley.

People who need financial help contact CAP by phone or online. CAP then puts them in touch with the debt centre nearest to them. Here, a manager sits with them, assesses their situation and works with the national CAP office to develop a workable budget for them. CAP deals with the debts centrally, working directly with creditors. Debt centre volunteers also offer support and pastoral care. CAP stays involved with clients until they are debt-free.

"It's obvious we're making a difference," Jon says. "Our clients tell us how their lives are being transformed, and we can see the difference too; people's confidence increases, we see smiles on their faces instead of worry lines. They feel more motivated to look after themselves and their families. Because of the help we can offer, people are starting to live again."

GIVE

Let's support this centre so it can help more people to start living again. **You can help by giving to the Mission in Britain Fund.**



Jon Cook, Edén District CAP Debt Centre Manager.

감사합니다*

(Kam-sa-ham-ni-da)

*"Thank You" in Korean

Steven and Lorraine Emery-Wright are mission partners serving with the Korean Methodist Church, South Korea.



Dongtan style

Home for Steven and Lorraine is in Dongtan – a relatively young city in Hwaseong, South Korea. Dongtan is a southern satellite of Suwon City, and just an hour’s ride from the centre of Seoul on a non-stop bus. It is home to a huge immigrant community, many of whom are employees of the electronics giant Samsung, which has its headquarters here. Business and financial media experts predict that this will be one of the world’s wealthiest cities one day.

Steven and Lorraine moved here last September. Steven lectures at Hyupsung Methodist University, while Lorraine is an English Coordinator with Shin Kwang Methodist Church. Both university and church are in Hwaseong.

“If you have ever had to move to a new country, especially when there are deep language and cultural differences, you will know that we are still in our adjustment period!” says Steven.



Photo: © Sook.com/JulianHarel



Worship time at Shin Kwang Methodist Church.

Photo: © Steve Pearce

The church

Shin Kwang Methodist Church has approximately 600-700 members. On Sundays, it holds services for different age groups, and an all-age English-language service. On weekdays, there is a prayer service at half past five every morning, a weekly Wednesday evening service and a monthly Friday prayer service.

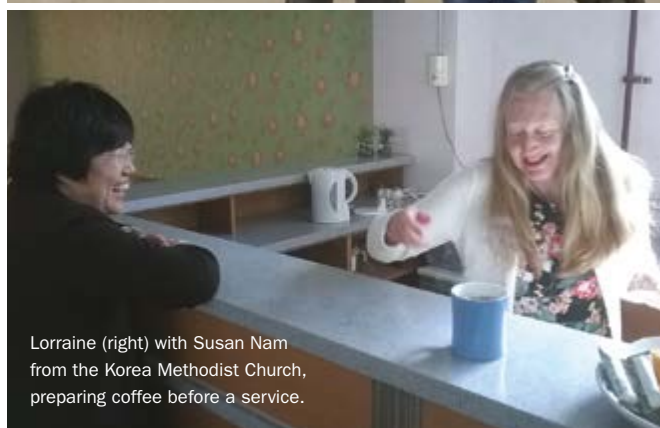
“While a number of local churches have English-speaking

services, these are usually led by Koreans and are primarily geared toward locals,” Lorraine explains. “The service that Shin Kwang is trying to establish is a much more multicultural one.

“It has been special having the Shin Kwang community to work with. They were the ones who sought the relationship with the British Methodist Church and who had the vision to use us. Our job is to help empower the church’s congregation to reach out to foreigners – and also to model a non-Asian way of doing things.”



Steven and Lorraine outside Hwaseong Fortress in Suwon.



Lorraine (right) with Susan Nam from the Korea Methodist Church, preparing coffee before a service.

Steven at the Hyupsung University campus.



Photo: © Steve Pearce

The university

“Hyupsung Methodist University does not have an English language programme,” says Steven, “so teaching has been a challenge – but very enjoyable!”

Steven spent his first semester teaching Theology in English. This was a bilingual course where the students reflected theologically on their own practice. Lorraine attended classes and provided language support for the students. The President of the university has been very supportive of their work, but there have been some issues over translating lectures and team teaching.

“God has been so gracious to call us and has allowed that calling to exceed our hopes and dreams,” says Steven. “We thank you for your continued prayers in our partnership with the Korean Methodist Church and our work at the University – and most of all, for us personally.”

THANK YOU

The World Church Team says a big “Thank you” to all our readers who have prayed for our Partner Churches around the world. **You can support our Partner Churches by making a donation to the World Mission Fund at www.justgiving.com/mcfworldmission/donate.**

Thinking of how you can bless the next generation? So are we.



Your greatest gift could be to help make history.

“By leaving a legacy to the Methodist Church, you are enabling the mission of the Methodist people to continue and prosper.”

Revd Steve Wild
President of the Methodist Conference 2015/2016



The **Methodist Church** 

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Visit www.methodist.org.uk/omm/legacy to order promotional leaflets for your church.