Visit of Rachel Lampard, Vice President of the British Methodist Conference

In 36 hours, the Vice President packed much in to her flying visit to Rome to see the work of the Methodist Ecumenical Office Rome and meet with those involved in the work the churches are doing with refugees and migrants, particularly in combatting human trafficking and creating humanitarian corridors. She met with representatives of five of the Churches Together in Rome as well as the Presidents of OPCEMI (Mirella Manocchio) and FCEI (Luca Negro) as well as their colleagues Federica Brizi (Mediterranean Hope) and Claudio Paravati (Confronti). With Mirella and Tim Macquiban, the Director of MEOR, she visited the Community of Sant’Egidio where Monica Attias and two colleagues, Stephano and Daniele, outlined the ways in which they and others worked together to provide services for refugees and migrants and worked for the creation of humanitarian corridors and safe passage into Italy.

In addition Rachel was able to attend three services, one at the Pontifical Beda College to mark the end of Archbishop David Moxon’s time as Director of the Anglican Centre here in Rome hosted by four of the ambassadors to the Holy See (Canada, UK, Ireland and Australia). A group from the Hong Kong Council of Churches also visited Ponte Sant’Angelo where the Director talked about the work of MEOR and Rachel explored aspect of the British Methodist theme for the year Holiness and Justice. Useful contacts and conversations made at each event attended.