



Overflowing Love

Planning your service

Advent Offering 2018 2-24 December

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 alongside people's needs in Britain today, ultimately to encourage giving to the Mission in Britain Fund.

This year's service, **Overflowing Love**, takes inspiration from Jesus and from Open Doors, Hull to explore how we can all be part of giving a warm welcome to the strangers on our doorsteps who seek refuge.

These Advent Offering worship materials have been prepared for Methodist churches to use in hosting 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 fundraise for the Mission in Britain Fund throughout Advent, then the resources can be used to hold a circuit dedication service, similar to the Easter Offering.



Lectionary

The main Bible reading Philippians 1:3-11 is taken from the lectionary (Year C), for the second Sunday in Advent on 9 December 2018. The other passages suggested invite you to choose from options taken from the third Sunday and/or topical readings on welcome, so the focus of this service will work well during any of the weeks in Advent.

The service also features inspiring stories from the work of **Open Doors, Hull** where asylum seekers and refugees receive a warm welcome and outstanding practical help and care. This is one example of the vital impact your giving to the Mission in Britain Fund can have.



Mission in Britain Fund

We live in turbulent times when many are anxious, isolated or struggling to make ends meet. Nowhere is this more true than for asylum seekers and refugees who have fled their homes because of war or persecution.

By journeying through the Advent Offering worship materials, you will explore how to play your part in furthering the Methodist Church's missional work in Britain by:

- praying
- giving to support Open Doors, Hull and other projects across Britain
- resolving to be involved in letting love overflow more and more – both locally, and across the Connexion; especially in welcoming the stranger and serving people in need.

The **Mission in Britain Fund** currently supports:

- ministry and mission with all ages
- Methodist Action on Poverty and Justice
- chaplaincy placements
- the use of our heritage and property resources to share the gospel.

Thank you for giving to the Mission in Britain Fund. Last year you helped more than 20 projects across the country to support many people and local communities in need.

Your Advent Offering Service

In the **Leader's Notes** there is some background material on the Bible passages and how they relate to the theme. You will find some creative activities, which are suitable for different ages, plus suggested hymns and prayers.

Under **Practicalities** there are tips to promote your service and instructions on how to collect and send in donations.

Treat all the resources as 'modules' from which you can pick and choose to build the tailored Advent Offering service that works best for your church.

Advent Offering resources to download

- **Practicalities**
- **A4 Advent Offering Poster**
with space for you to write in the date, time and location of your service
- **Leader's Notes**
including an outline all-age talk and prayers
- **Advent Candle Liturgy**
one for each Sunday of Advent, plus one for Christmas Day
- **Suggested Order of Service**
- **Welcoming Love**
step inside Open Doors, Hull and be inspired by stories of wonderful work with asylum seekers and refugees
- **PowerPoint presentation**
to accompany our Welcoming Love stories

Download these resources from
www.methodist.org.uk/advent

Advent Offering resources to order

- **A3 Advent Offering Poster**
with space for you to write in the date, time and location of your service
- **Advent Offering collection envelopes**

Order from Methodist Publishing
(postage and packing charges may apply):
www.mph.org.uk
0845 017 8220

- **Advent Offering paying-in books**

Order from the Finance Office, Connexional Team, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR
Tel: 020 7486 5502
Email: circuit.income@methodistchurch.org.uk

 If you have any difficulties downloading or ordering your resources, please email fundraising@methodistchurch.org.uk


The **Methodist Church**

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