ONEMISSION MATTERS



Spring 2016 • No 44



"May I call you friend?" Supporting Birmingham's city chaplains

р3

Celebrating 60 years at La Saline

p5

An Eco Church's mission

Leaving a lasting legacy p14



The **Methodist** Church

Dear friends

The history and heritage of Methodism feature strongly in this issue – from projects with long stories of service, to places where the heritage is the main tool for mission.

People sometimes stop reading when they see the word 'heritage'. They think that it's something to do with holding on to the past; that it is just about bricks and mortar. But it isn't!

I get excited by the opportunities presented to us at our chapels and churches, and at our heritage sites. Both people of faith and of no faith can visit a chapel or a significant heritage site and get a glimpse of God in a way they had never thought possible. You can read more about an exciting heritage event hosted by the Black Country Living Museum happening in April on page 13.

People are key to making mission happen. As Methodists, we are called to be a movement of people for God – not an established church, grounded and immovable. Yes, we do have 'assets': buildings, archives, books. And there is a case for preserving and investing in the best of what we have. What counts is how we make those assets relevant to the passer-by, the unchurched or the cynic.

We need to enthuse our own people to be part of telling the story, reflecting faith through action. We must nurture our volunteers who work as stewards, meeting and greeting people who enter our buildings. We must provide excellent hospitality, as chaplain the Revd David Butterworth has demonstrated – recently championing hospitality towards Syrian refugees in Birmingham (see page 3). We must provide resources for prayer and respond in times of trial. We should mark celebrations and anniversaries, as mission partners Dr John and Sharon Harbottle are doing in Haiti (page 5). We must do all this in a way that reflects Methodist values and draws on the particular history or context of the particular site.

The great thing about this form of mission is that it is for everyone and can be done by anyone – clergy, lay, young and old. This is one of the strengths of Methodism: its message is clear, all are welcome and all are valued.

Current Methodist thinking on heritage sets it at the heart of our mission agenda. Used in the right way, heritage is a transformational way of leading people to faith.

Sarah Mirell



Chair of the Methodist Heritage Committee



Photo: © TimE Photography

"May I call you friend?"

Supporting Birmingham's city chaplains



Revd David Butterworth

Very often, I find myself at gatherings around the wider Birmingham District and further afield, talking to people about mission and chaplaincy. At these gatherings, I remind people that neither mission nor chaplaincy happens by chance.

The generous hearts and financial contributions of members help mission and chaplaincy take place in the most unexpected places. The £109,400 Mission

and Ministry in Britain grant we recently received will secure the post of the NEC Group Lead Chaplain and enable the chaplaincy role to flourish further. Chaplaincy via the Methodist Church has been central to the business at the National Exhibition Centre (and its 3 million customers a year) for 40 years. Increased funding enables us to offer pastoral care and well-being training to about 50 lay and ordained chaplains. It also enables us to offer chaplaincy in children's hospitals, universities, shopping centres, homes for the aged, and many

other places such as bus depots, fire stations, businesses, conference centres and football clubs.

Chaplains often manifest the words of Wesley, "May I call you friend?"

— sometimes without using words!
Chaplains encounter thousands of people every day, most of whom never attend a church. A chaplain can offer a bridge from the gathered Church to the community, and also offer the Church opportunity to be informed by those encounters — that is, if a church is wise enough to listen to its chaplains.



About David

The Revd David Butterworth is Lead Chaplain of the NEC Group, which comprises three of Birmingham's biggest venues: the National Exhibition Centre (NEC), the International Conference Centre (ICC) and the Barclaycard Arena.

David's wider role in the Birmingham District involves action on refugees and other social justice issues. He sits on the National Refugee Welcome Board (NRWB), and successfully challenged Birmingham City Council to offer hospitality to 50 Syrian refugees. He was also recently awarded Living Wage Champion status for his work in that area.

"THANK YOU" to churches taking action to help refugees

We are currently witnessing the largest movement of people in Europe since the Second World War, as people flee hideous war zones, repressive governments and failing economies. It has provoked fear, generosity, hostility — and also welcome.

ere at the Methodist Church, we have been overwhelmed with the spontaneous generosity of individuals, churches, circuits and whole districts, who have given towards Methodist Refugee Support. **Thank you!** We have received more than £60,200 in donations and Gift Aid. In addition, Methodists and non-Methodists alike have offered their homes and English lessons to asylum seekers in the UK.

Enabled by the Church's generosity, we are supporting partners in Serbia, Macedonia, Germany, Croatia and Greece. One such partner, the United Methodist Church (UMC) in Macedonia has been ferrying food and water, blankets and toiletries to the Greek border. In late September the Church reported 5,000 people passing through daily.

The UK government has agreed to take in 20,000 refugees over 5 years from those living in camps bordering Syria. Local authorities are now deciding how many families they will take in. So far, pressure from church groups has led to Birmingham City Council accepting 50 refugee families. The South Kent Circuit has made a manse available for housing a refugee family.

PRAY ✓

Pray for the thousands of people around the world who journey in search of peace and a place of sanctuary.



Celebrating 60 years at La Saline

It's been 60 years since the Eglise Méthodiste d'Haiti (EMH) set up a church, school and clinic at La Saline in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. And your arrows and your harbourse

a Saline is situated in Port-au-Prince's dock area, next to the slum of Cité Soleil, home to some of Haiti's poorest citizens. For 60 years, the complex at La Saline has served the poorest of the poor, bringing salvation, education and restoration.

In the clinic, Sister May works alongside Dr John Harbottle. John and his wife Sharon are mission partners, supported by the Methodist Church in Britain's World Mission Fund. They have been in Haiti since 2012. EMH has 11 clinics throughout Haiti; John's work involves overseeing their work and helping to update them, as well as starting a community health programme.

Sharon, meanwhile, works in education and works closely with the school at La Saline. The school provides kindergarten and primary education, under the leadership of its head teacher, Carole Auguste St Fort. Sharon visits the

school regularly – sometimes bringing quests or gifts from Britain with her.

The church marked the sixtieth anniversary with a service of praise and thanksgiving to God. The superintendent minister, the Revd Marco Depestre Jr, led the worship; the choir, women's fellowship, youth and Sunday School took part presenting anthems, testimony, songs, drama and dance. Stewards and local preachers spoke of the work past and present. Sharon brought the church band some musical instruments – a gift from the Methodist Church of Ireland. who had previously visited Haiti. The instruments included tambourines, a drum and a guitar named George. Why George? The church member who donated it said he had felt called to part with his first ever guitar, which was very precious to him - and so he requested that the name went with it!

Above: Learning is a serious business.

Below: Happiness is a well-stocked pharmacy.

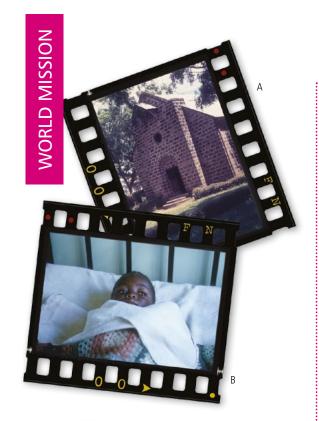
Dr John Harbottle and Sister May checking the medications.

The Church at the sixtieth anniversary service.













Maua Methodist Hospital through the ages

Young Thomas Berresford's dream was to become a medical missionary. Sadly, he died at the age of 22 and never got to fulfil that dream. His father, Sam Berresford, took the money he had set aside for his son's medical training and donated it to the Methodist Church, towards building a hospital in Kenya. In 1930, the Maua Methodist Hospital (MMH) opened its doors for the first time.

When it opened, MMH had 50 beds. Today, it has 350 beds, over 300 staff and it offers the normal out- and in-patient care of most Kenyan hospitals. Every working day starts with devotions in the chapel and prayers in the wards.

MMH is constantly evolving. The hospital's palliative and HIV clinic opened 13 years ago. It has grown from only being open one half-day a week with one doctor and nurse, to clinics seven days a week and a team of over twenty staff. MMH's HIV programme caters for many vulnerable groups in Kenyan society, including widows, teenagers, orphans and babies who have been exposed to HIV.

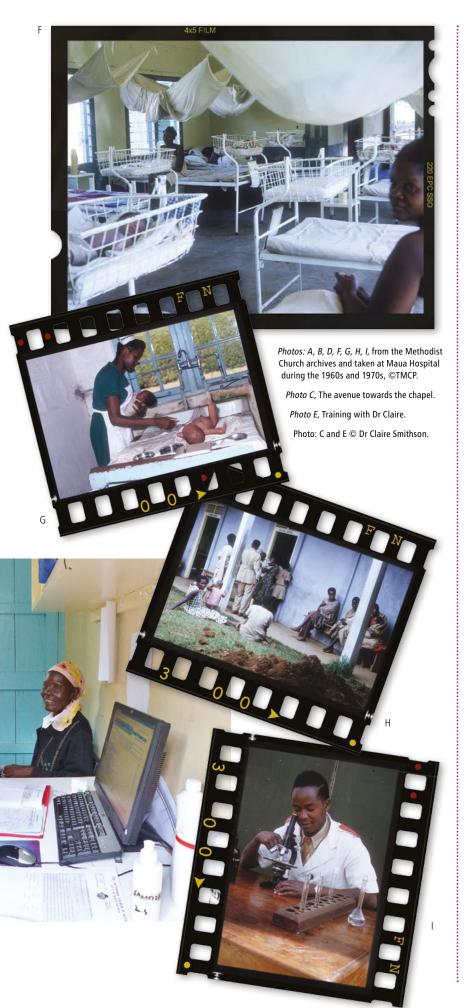
Dr Claire Smithson currently works at MMH as a mission partner. Claire has a Masters Degree in palliative care, 26 years of practicing medicine in Kenya, 13 years of clinical experience in treating HIV and palliative patients, and 6 years' experience supervising MMH's pharmacy. It felt right that Claire's education and experience should be used not just for treating patients in MMH, but also to train other health care workers in Kenya. The Hospital Support Organisation (HSO) has given MMH financial assistance towards setting up courses for nurses, clinical officers, pharmacy staff and doctors. Clinical HIV & tuberculosis (TB) courses are open to staff working in the

north-eastern region of Kenya. Since MMH is the only Kenyan institution currently offering the palliative care and pharmacy HIV courses, those courses are open to staff countrywide.

Mission is about people. MMH started as a small local hospital; 85 years on, it is still offering health care locally but now also trains nationally — all in the name of our Saviour.



Ε





Helen walks up the shore at the end of her swim.

Helen takes the plunge

Last August, Helen Cunningham took part in the Great Scottish Swim in aid of the World Mission Fund.

It took Helen 46 minutes to swim a mile in the icy waters of Loch Lomond. "I did a mixture of front crawl and breaststroke because the mountains and scenery were so beautiful, I didn't want to miss them!" she says.

Starting with an initial target of £1,000, Helen has now raised a whopping £2,356. Funds raised will go to the Maua Methodist Hospital in Kenya, where Helen spent part of her childhood when her parents, John and Sharon Harbottle, worked there as mission partners.

Helen's top tips for fundraising success



- 1. Plan as far in advance as possible!
- 2. Talk about your event but tailor your message to specific groups (eg friends, colleagues and circuit representatives).
- Invite all the other churches in your circuit to donate.
 Make it easy for them; have a JustGiving webpage, ply
 them with sponsorship forms, put a notice in their church
 notice sheet or magazine.
- Use social media. Share photos and pre-event thoughts.
 Always add a link to your fundraising page with every post and tweet.
- 5. Pray that God will use your efforts and magnify the results as Jesus did with the loaves and fish.

An Eco Church's mission

The Methodist Church in Britain has recently funded and worked in partnership with A Rocha UK to help launch Eco Church (formerly Eco Congregation). This is a new award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth.



Far right: The Mayor and Mayoress of Harrogate presented the Eco Award.

Below right: Biodiversity project: biology students surveying biodiversity.





Christine Gillespie

n June last year, the Mayor of Harrogate presented an Eco Congregation award (as it was known then) to Woodlands Methodist Church.

The award recognised significant changes Woodlands Church has made to its premises (including insulation, double glazing and heating), and the community garden project the church is developing.

In 2014, the church harvested food from two raised beds. Last year, they added a further four raised beds, thirteen fruit trees and a sensory garden. People of all ages from the community are involved in creating the garden. Local sixth formers are engaged in a biodiversity project, helped by a grant from Kew Gardens and support from York University. The church recently twinned all its toilets with villages in the developing world.

Several community organisations came along to the church's Eco Weekend last June. Captain Rummage, who heads up a local environmental initiative, gave a talk and demonstration about the reuse and recycling of items often regarded as rubbish. The North Yorkshire Rotters (who encourage composting and the reduction

of food waste) brought a smoothie bike. The children enjoyed pedalling the bike to provide the energy to work a liquidiser and make a fruit drink. Even the Mayor had a go! One of the church's worship leaders launched a prayer walk based on the building and grounds.

Woodlands Methodist Church continues to develop its thinking and hopes to apply for another award in two years' time.



With your support we can continue to champion projects such as Eco Church. Why not give a gift, however large or small, to Mission in Britain?





Eco Church was launched on 26 January at

St Paul's Cathedral. You can find out more about the scheme for England and Wales at ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/.

Churches in Scotland are invited to sign up to Eco-Congregation in Scotland at www.ecocongregationscotland.org/.

8



Celebrating five years of the Holy **Biscuit** Lorna Bryan

A project of the Newcastle Central and East Methodist Circuit, the Holy Biscuit, has seen an empty church building escape the grasp of a large property developer and be transformed into a community arts space.

od has been faithful. Five years $oldsymbol{\mathsf{J}}$ since the Holy Biscuit's inception, our programme has had a far-reaching impact. Working with hundreds of artists, musicians, writers, young people, vulnerable adults and older people, we have been privileged to develop long-term friendships and partnerships with an increasing sense of community around the space. Thanks to our recent connexional grant, our staff team has been secured at this critical phase, allowing us to capitalise on our network and standing within our locality as we advance our work.

Building on the history of Methodism in the North East, the Holy Biscuit continues in this heritage of social involvement by programming exhibitions and events that investigate purpose, belonging and belief. As well as curating projects to tie in with events in the Christian calendar, we also seek opportunities to participate in regional and national events. Our intention is to be an active Christian presence; influential in shaping and renewing

culture for Christ, and championing what is true and good. The Holy Biscuit works with schools and universities, charities, community groups, artistic collectives and other partners to promote social cohesion through creative projects.

We have recently established a worshipping community from ecumenical contacts in our network. Gathering regularly for prayer, Bible reading, discussion and worship, this will be the base from which our programme, outreach and activism will be nurtured and grown. We are excited and thankful for this amazing opportunity to make sense of the gospel within our context and to work with groups of people who are often unlikely to hear the good news of Jesus.

Left and below: Members of the Holy Biscuit's 'Painting for Fun' group take part in a drawing







Above: Live music performed on the opening night of an exhibition curated around the theme of Advent, 2012.

Left: Children creating artwork for animations that retold gospel stories; part of the Lindisfarne Gospels Durham events at the Holy Biscuit, 2013.



A wealth of history helping mission in Rome

Right: Revd Dr Tim
Macquiban, Director
of the Methodist
Ecumenical Office
Rome; Deacon
Alessandra Trotta,
President of the
Methodist Church
in Italy; Tim's wife
Angela; Paolo Sassi
from the Sant` Egidio
Community.

Far right: The Ponte Sant` Angelo Church.





Heritage is not merely celebrating anniversaries and preserving old buildings, but also enabling them to be living witness to the power of the gospel to change lives, writes the **Revd Dr Tim Macquiban**.

Whilst serving as a Methodist minister in Salisbury and Cambridge, I was able to reflect on the importance of using historic buildings as tools for mission.

I'm now based at the Ponte Sant` Angelo Church in Rome. This church was established in 1877 in the wake of Methodist missions to Italy by Gavazzi, chaplain to Garibaldi, who helped liberate the country from Austrian and French control. Here, we have a unique opportunity to use our old building (an eighteenth-century palazzo right opposite the Castel Sant` Angelo) not only as a place of worship, but also for opening our doors to allow migrants to learn Italian and improve their chances of getting work.

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we hope to establish a ministry to the thousands of visitors who pass our doors and who will be invited in to see an exhibition of the history of Protestants and Methodists (working closely with Waldensians and others for 40 years now) — especially as we prepare to mark the five hundredth anniversary of the birth of the Reformation next year.

We have other anniversaries to celebrate too: 60 years since the establishment of the English speaking congregation here, 100 years since the death of Henry Piggott (who founded the Wesleyan Mission), over 450 years since Protestant martyrs were killed in the piazza outside. All these are opportunities to tell, in these more ecumenical times, what the distinctive features of Methodism are as a continuing part of a Protestant feature on the landscape of a mostly Catholic country.

The Revd Dr Tim Macquiban is the Director of the Methodist Ecumenical Office Rome. His work and mission is supported through your generosity to the World Mission Fund.



Left: Muriel teaches eager learners to bake bread.

Far left: Volunteers outside the converted pubchurch.

The latest from West End Methodist Church, Community Centre and Café

West End Methodist Church, Community Centre and Café in Stoke-on-Trent received £173,000 from the Property Fund to help convert an old derelict pub into a fully functioning church and community centre. **The Revd Nichola Jones** gives us an update on how the church is getting on.

Determined to show that Advent matters, the church used its massive new windows as a countdown to Christmas. There were rather a lot of angels and stars in 27 windows, and lots of lights! The busy main road into Stoke had folk watching carefully with parents and eager dog-walkers taking children and dogs past the building each evening to see which new design was lit up.

What a gift to the community it turned out to be! As well as interest in art and creativity, these windows shed light (the police have commented on the crime reduction since the church opened here last January) and bring the congregation together in new ways.

Our foodbank opened in October and has been increasingly busy. To our great joy, a client at the foodbank picked up the church magazine and turned up at Bread Church (newly started in July). We meet each month to bake two loaves of bread (one to give away to a friend or stranger and one to keep). There is laughter, mess, confusion and all sorts of new people glad to bake bread, share stories and learn a new skill, with one man astonished that some of us were Christians, because it was such fun! God surely has a sense of humour since we have been plunged into all kinds of new ministry and many new opportunities! Praise God!

GIVE ✓

West End Methodist Church is a sterling example of community engagement. We want to continue to support property projects like it. You can help by giving to the Fund for Property. See the giving form enclosed for more details.



Right: Welshpool Methodist Church from the front.

Far right: A new lift provides access for all.

Below: Saturday friendship lunch.

Throughout its 150-year history, High Street Methodist Church in Welshpool has acquired a reputation for welcoming friends and strangers alike.

"EMBRACING ALL" reputation for welcoming friends and strangers alike. at Welshpool Methodist Church

Janice Rhodes

Situated in a conservation area of the small market town in mid-Wales, the church's premises have become an integral part of community life in Welshpool. They are used daily by church groups and local organisations for a variety of activities. In recent years, usage grew to such an extent that some groups were being turned away because of lack of space and facilities. The church decided that if it were to fulfil its mission "to celebrate and share God's love", the building had to be developed and updated.

And so in 2012, High Street
Methodist Church embarked on a
£200,000 project titled *Embracing All.* A
new meeting room, the Gallery, has been
created in a little-used first floor space,
with lift access for people with mobility
problems. Following the completion of
the Gallery, work started to provide better
disability access across the premises. A
dedicated parking bay is now situated

next to a new ramped entrance, funded in part by the Fund for Property, which is much appreciated by wheelchair users.

The church's catering activities have proved to be a most successful means of outreach into the community. The group of dedicated volunteers who do the catering have acquired a reputation for the quality of their home-cooked food. Events such as Monday coffee mornings, Thursday Open Church and Heritage Days, Friday seniors' afternoon tea groups and Saturday friendship lunches attract local non-churchgoers. Many of those who come are elderly, lonely, or the more vulnerable residents of Welshpool.

They know that here they will find a friendly face and a listening ear (as well as good food) in a safe, non-threatening environment.

For 2016, plans for mission and outreach include extending the café's opening hours, introducing a weekly lunchtime drop-in session, and building on the Open Church and Heritage Days.

Our church is definitely not just for Sundays. And as the largest and most active of all the congregations in this rural circuit (and also of the churches in the town), we are trying to safeguard this witness for future generations.



Bishop Francis Asbury



Celebrating Francis Asbury's bicentenary

Bishop Francis Asbury (20 or 21 August 1745 – 31 March 1816) was born, raised and apprenticed to a metalworker in England's 'Black Country' (the Midlands' region around Birmingham, so called because coal poked up through the ground and made the soil black, and because of smoke from the ironworking forges).

Sanya Strachan

o commemorate the bicentenary of Francis Asbury's death, the Methodist Church is planning a connexional family day for Saturday 9 April, titled Work and Chapel: Black Country Methodism. We are delighted that this event will be hosted by the Black Country Living Museum. The day will include an opportunity to visit Francis' former home by vintage bus, as well as worship with the President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference. There will be an exhibition and talks, music, a Victorian Sunday School experience and metal working in the forge. This will be the launch of a six-month programme of local commemorations around the Connexion, specifically in four districts where Asbury lived and worked before setting sail for his adventures in America.

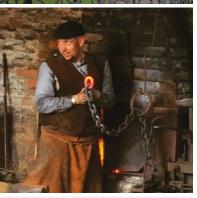
Francis Asbury responded to a request from John Wesley for ministers in America, and became the first Methodist Joint Superintendent with the Revd Dr Thomas Coke. Asbury took a huge step of faith that led to Wesleyan theology being spread worldwide. The President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Steve Wild, has called for us to reach "one more for Jesus". If "the heritage of the past is a seed for the future", what seeds are you being called to plant?

Come and join us on 9 April to find out more about Asbury. Discover how the impact and issues of Methodism in the past are reflected today, and consider what step of faith you, like Francis Asbury, might be being called to take.









ACT NOW ✓

Book your tickets to the Family Fun Day today at www.methodistheritage. org.uk. Buying full price tickets on the day gets you an 'unchained' pass for unlimited return visits in the year.

Leaving a lasting legacy

Our Fundraising Team has put together a suite of legacy resources, including promotional leaflets for churches and a free information pack for individuals. These materials will be launched at the 2016 Spring Synods, and will be available for all churches and Methodist members from March.

A gift in your will can make a valuable difference in securing the future of missional activity across the Connexion.



GIVING WOMEN A VOICE IN DHAKA

Your giving helps us support mission partners such as Pat Jamison – seen here with a women's group that deals with issues such as underage marriage, preventative healthcare and water and sanitation.



PRESERVING OUR METHODIST HERITAGE

The legacy of the Wesleys lives on at Epworth Old Rectory – now 300 years old but still serving as a place of both heritage and mission. The rectory offers local school groups an immersive experience of life in the eighteenth century.



SARK METHODIST CHURCH

When a new owner brought the land with the chapel, their singing was so loud, the landowner granted the Methodists their own land! Today, the church is using a Fund for Property grant of £200,000 to build a new centre, to provide a safe space for the island's young people.

The next steps

If you are thinking of leaving a legacy to the Methodist Church, or if you are considering making a will soon (or would like to make an amendment to your existing will to include the Methodist Church in Britain), please get in touch with us and we will walk you through the process.



@ leavealegacy@methodistchurch.org.uk

www.methodist.org.uk/legacy

Changes to Gift Aid declarations

The wording used in Gift Aid declarations for charitable donations has changed, in line with a recent change in rules by HMRC. We have therefore amended the wording used on all our declaration forms, sponsorship forms and giving envelopes. But don't worry; if you still have a stock of old Gift Aid envelopes, these can still be used to send donations in. If you haven't already, we encourage you to order the new Gift Aid envelopes available from methodist.org.uk/giftaid.





Exeter-based artist **Jenny Nightingale** has illustrated a series of children's guides to five Methodist heritage sites. Here she tells us what the experience of working on these booklets was like.

t's been fascinating to visit and hear the stories of each Methodist heritage site, and the task of re-telling these stories in a way that's accessible for children has been fantastic!

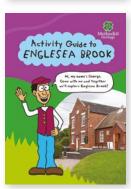
Creating a resource for visiting families that is enjoyable, challenging and inspiring has been a real privilege and pleasure. With a mixture of facts, inspirational stories, challenges and fun activities, the guides help make visiting a heritage site a memorable experience for children.

The colourful, characterful illustrations are a strong theme in all of my work as I believe they help children engage with the content; they bring the past to life and they show that the story and message are relevant today.

We were keen to include opportunities for children to explore faith for themselves, and there is the option for them to pray, in writing or drawings, and connect with God personally in each of the guides. We wanted to create a resource that is more than simply academic, but also experiential. We have been sensitive in our approach to offering this opportunity, being aware of an audience of children from a mixture of different faiths and backgrounds.

See more of Jenny's work, visit: www.jennynightingle.co.uk







Jenny's work features in a new series of children's booklets for these five heritage sites:

- Englesea Brook Chapel & Museum of Primitive Methodism
- Epworth Old Rectory
- The New Room in Bristol
- Methodist Central Hall, Westminster
- Wesley's Chapel (with John Wesley's House and Museum of Methodism).

Funded in part by the Methodist Church Fund and by donations from the United Methodist Church's General Commission on Archives & History, these resources (only available at each site) help children of primary school age who visit these sites to unpack the history of Methodism and consider how the stories of our past can shape their part in mission.

SUPPORT OUR WORK 🗹

Keep up to date with Methodist World Mission and Mission in Britain at www. methodist.org.uk/supportourwork or contact the Fundraising Team via email at fundraising@methodistchurch.org.uk or by calling 020 7467 3532.

