

# *mission matters*



# THANK YOU!



*for supporting the*

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FUND

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METHODIST CHURCH  
FUND

PROPERTY FUND

## Dear friends

Over the last year as we have continued to journey together to live out *Our Calling* as a Church and to further inhabit what it is to be a 'discipleship movement shaped for mission' there have been two particular initiatives which have supported us; what it is to live a 'generous life' and how we are passionate about the 'one mission' that God calls us into.

This special edition of *Mission Matters* brings together these two areas in the best way possible. The stories and figures contained here are all about the generous giving of the Methodist people towards the one mission of the Church. In previous years we have produced a number of different publications which took us through these funds and shared stories of how that money had been used to further the aims of the Church in realising the Kingdom. This year we have brought these stories under one roof to offer a comprehensive view of the generosity of many people.

All that is in here is an inspiration and a testament to what people have believed, and continue to believe, is possible with the right resources and the best of motivation. Through partnership in these islands, which we call home, and beyond the seas around the globe, Methodist generosity is transforming people, places and lives.

The words 'thank you' do not do justice to conveying what has been given and what has been achieved. They are however the most appropriate as together we rejoice in all that God has gifted to us and the ongoing giving of people to the one mission of God's Church.

Doug Swanney  
Connexional Secretary



# What are the funds?





The **World Mission Fund** supports the following programmes which are currently administered through World Church Relationships:

- **Mission Partners** from the UK funded to work with Partner Churches abroad
- **Scholarship and Leadership Training Grants** for students from overseas partners to study in the UK or another country in the southern hemisphere
- **Nationals in Mission Appointments Grants** funding the post of a national of the Partner Church to do strategic mission work for the Church for five years
- **Annual Grants** to support the general functioning of the Church or partner organisation
- **General Grants** sent to churches or partner organisations to meet an unexpected need such as disaster relief, purchasing medical equipment etc.

We always work through our partners, asking them what their needs are and responding accordingly.



The **Mission in Britain Fund** supports a wide spectrum of mission:

- mission alongside the poor
- chaplaincy
- sharing the gospel with all ages
- ministering opportunities at Methodist Heritage sites
- using our church properties to serve local communities

The **Property Fund** supports the work in aid of or on behalf of the Trustees of Methodist Properties:

- encouraging mission through enhancement and increased flexibility of facilities through re-ordering, rebuilding, altering and extending as appropriate for the needs of the church and the community it serves
- encouraging sustainable use of resources and carbon footprint
- enabling the Church to be a place of welcome, a place of peace and a place where people can meet God
- enhancing the overall experience
- growing churches in being able to provide for or facilitate a range of activities for all
- enabling the building to be accessible to all.

The **Methodist Church Fund** is at the core of Methodism, facilitating all areas of being a Church. The Methodist Church Fund helps:

- **Discipleship & Ministries**  
Developing people in the church to be responsive to our Christian calling, through initiatives that:
  - equip ministries to enable God-centred worship and prayer
  - equip world-changing discipleship of the people of God
  - encourage ministries which encourage patterns of witness and evangelism.
- **Mission and Advocacy**  
Through the development of:
  - church publication resources (eg worship resources, *Compass*, *A Gift of Christmas*)
  - communications (Media relations, local church media support, Methodist web media)
  - World Church relations, maintaining and developing our partnership with churches around the world.
- **The Governance of Church**  
Inclusive of work that unifies the Church, such as:
  - the Methodist Conference
  - Church leadership
  - connexional committees
  - professional costs associated with legal and constitutional compliance.
- **Essential Support services**  
Includes:
  - finance services (tax recovery, payroll)
  - property support for local churches
  - grants support system for connexional funds
  - IT.



# Island Neighbourhood Project, East London

The Island Neighbourhood Project (INP) was established in 1980 by Poplar Methodist Church, with an aim to work with those who are most in need – be it through hardship, discrimination or a lack of opportunities. In the years since, INP has provided residents of the Isle of Dogs with opportunities to grow in confidence and contribute to society in meaningful ways. The project has gained a reputation for working with people for whom no other organisation provides an adequate welcome.



Men's gardening group

The INP Men's Group was set up to work with disadvantaged men, of all ages and ethnicities. Some of their work is with older men, many of whom had previously lived fairly isolated lives and were not fully integrated into the community in which they lived. There were many reasons for this, including inadequate language skills and lack of confidence. Through the services, advice and support of the project many are now active in their own tenants associations, and a number have secured employment or higher education. They benefit from participation in 'Healthy Living' activities such as gardening, swimming and badminton.





In 1998 INP staff were approached by sheltered housing residents who asked if it was possible to help them to improve their quality of life. From this request the John Tucker Club was created. The club is run from the common room of John Tucker House on the Isle of Dogs and caters for residents of the building as well as other elderly residents from the wider community. It organises events, and outings as well as providing health and therapy sessions and numerous activities. The club exists to make a difference in people's lives, to improve the health and well-being of its members and to alleviate the sense of isolation that many elderly people feel.

Island FC team



Members of the John Tucker Club in action

For the younger men there is Island FC, a football project which caters for young men aged 18-25. Some of them had been involved in anti-social behaviour and had very few positive influences in their lives. Football has given them an outlet for their energy; the experience of being part of a team

has helped teach them the disciplines of self control, collaboration and taking instruction. This in turn has proved to be a key motivation for these young men, many of whom have gone on to find paid or voluntary work, or found places on college courses and gained qualifications.

**ACT NOW**

With your help, the Mission in Britain Fund can continue supporting projects that respond to community needs.

Donate now via

[www.justgiving.com/missioninbritain/donate](http://www.justgiving.com/missioninbritain/donate)

or donate via the enclosed giving form.



# When the tide is coming in...

Mission partner **Julia Edwards** gives us an insight into the work of a climate change researcher on a tropical island.

Low-lying islands in the Pacific are highly susceptible to climate change, especially to the effects of sea-level rise, and while people generally struggle on a day-to-day basis, adapting to the changing environment, the reality is that when you live on a low-lying atoll, relocation away from your coastal home is the ultimate and inevitable consequence of rising seas.

**T**he Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC), an ecumenical organisation representing all the main churches in the Pacific region, has recognised the issue for many years, and its secretariat has been advocating for and accompanying Pacific islanders whose lives and livelihoods are threatened by climate change.

I have just returned to the PCC, on a second term as a mission partner, to continue my work as a climate change and relocation researcher. My task has always been to raise awareness of the issue of climate-induced migration among church leaders, communities and decision-makers in the Pacific and elsewhere, and, in so doing, I have been privileged to be able to listen to and learn from communities already affected by climate change and to bring

their experiences and voices to a wider audience. So my return to the PCC and the wider region has been to the tune of “more of the same please”, but of course no two days are the same!

As the PCC is the only non-governmental organisation (NGO) working on the issue of climate-induced migration in the Pacific, we take advantage of any opportunity to share information, to promote the status and rights of climate-induced migrants, and to influence policy design where possible.

Based in Fiji, we work closely with the Climate Change Unit in government. One recent development has been the commitment of the national government to devise a climate-change relocation guidance note – the finished document

is to go before Cabinet in April. But of course the PCC has a regional focus, and our long-term hope is for the advancement of a regional framework on climate-induced migration to protect the rights and dignity of all peoples affected by climate change in the Pacific. Such a framework would be a world first, and while still aspirational, small but progressive steps can be made to achieve the goal.

To illustrate, since my return PCC has assisted in a meeting to establish a new ‘CAN Pacific Islands’ (a very much needed regional node for the international NGO, Climate Action Network); helped devise a three-day workshop on climate-induced migration for regional civil-society organisations (with potential funding from the EU), and met with the



# Pop-up Monastery

The Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women (EFECW) is planning an exciting new venture, which the World Mission Fund will be supporting.

To see Julia talking to MWiB Vice-President Jill Baker about her work in Fiji, visit: [www.methodist.org.uk/easteroffering](http://www.methodist.org.uk/easteroffering)



Last February, a small group of young women came up with the idea of developing a 'Pop-up Monastery'. The idea is to allow space and time for women from across different denominations in Europe to come together to explore spirituality through their denominations' various traditions. By offering a peaceful environment (and silence, if needed), the Pop-up Monastery will allow participants to take home tools and skills of rituals and prayers.

The monastery will include women of all ages, thereby offering one generation the opportunity to share and pass on skills and experiences to the next. It will offer the opportunity to explore what it really means to be 'young' or 'old'. They will look at how women see themselves in a world where beauty, family, sexuality and work can marginalise and exclude, and how these issues impact the whole community. By creating a safe space where women can experiment with new thoughts, ideas and skills, it is hoped that participants will develop a real sense of belonging through involvement together on a journey of faith.

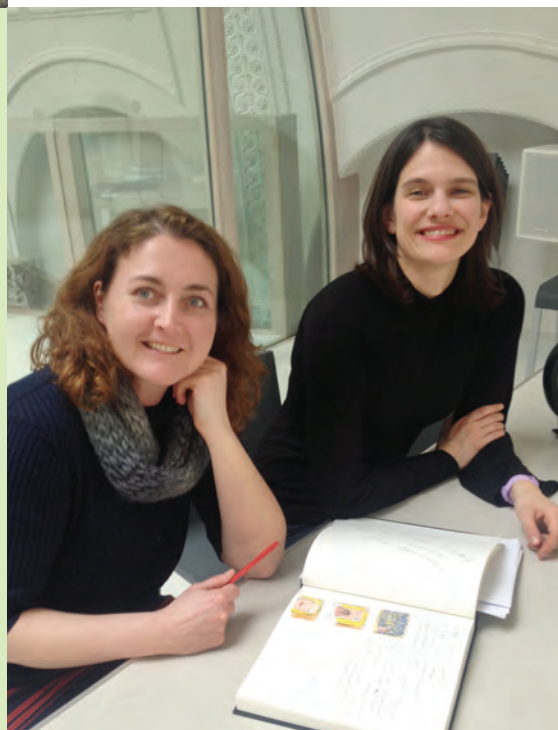
This cross-cultural, ecumenical experience aims to foster understanding between women from the historic east and west of Europe, at a time when for many in Europe, understanding identity can be a struggle. The sharing of meditation, pilgrimage and discussion should help foster greater belief and enable a better understanding of what it means to live together.

The World Mission Fund is also supporting the making of a documentary film focusing on some of the participants of the Pop-up Monastery project. It is hoped that this film will inspire others to develop the concept and replicate it in other areas of Europe and beyond.



Climate Change Unit to support them in the finalisation of their climate-change relocation guidance. In April we attended the Consultative Committee meeting of the Nansen Initiative, a state-led global project that wishes to build consensus for the protection of people displaced across international borders because of climate change, and in May, the PCC took part in the annual meeting of the World Council of Churches' working group on climate change.

All these climate change-related activities of the PCC may seem independent, but each represents a small grain of sand that, when viewed collectively, becomes a tropical beach – but the tide is coming in..."



The Revd Carla Maurer, EFECW (right) and Dr Patricia Marchart, film maker (left) creating the 'storyboard' for the Pop-up Monastery documentary funded by the World Mission Fund.

Photo: © TMCP

## ACT NOW

All around the world, the World Mission Fund helps churches respond to needs that aren't always headline news. You can be a part of this; go to

[www.justgiving.com/mcfworldmission/donate](http://www.justgiving.com/mcfworldmission/donate)

or donate via the enclosed giving form.

From left to right:  
**Anna Drew** (Lead Media Officer),  
**Toby Scott** (Director of  
Communications and campaigns)  
**David Webster** (Internet  
Communications Coordinator)  
and **Karen Burke** (Media Officer).

# Communications



Thanks to you, we are able to communicate with millions of people around Britain and worldwide.

Last year over 340,000 people visited the connexional website, with the *A Word in Time* daily Bible study and *Prayer of the Day* pages being the most popular. We also reach many thousands of people through Facebook and Twitter, and engage in conversations with people worldwide about what the Methodist Church is doing.

We take the Methodist message to the media. Working with all the main broadcasters and newspapers, we provide a Christian voice on a variety of topics, from poverty to education and international affairs. We help local churches and circuits work positively with their local media to get their news out into the local community, and to share their successes with the wider Church.

As well as running campaigns with our colleagues in the Joint Public Issues and Church and Community teams, we speak to the media about new Methodist Heritage resources and stories, world issues and once – our personal favourite – a young Methodist who sang for the Queen at the 2013 Festival of Remembrance.

We also deal with media requests for Methodist spokespeople on a range of topics, including a last-minute request for a former mission partner to appear on Radio 2 and requests to speak with World Church Partners who knew Nelson Mandela. These rush requests can be dizzying and tough to fulfil, but are often the most satisfying, as they take a Methodist voice straight to a large secular audience, and build a good reputation for being helpful amongst media contacts.

We work with our colleagues in Methodist Publishing to promote printed and online resources. During the Conference we move the whole communications operation to the Conference venue. We typically arrange for the President, Vice-President and some District Chairs to speak to a combined audience of over a million people via BBC Local Radio, as well as outlets such as Premier Christian Radio.

There is a lot of great work going on across the Connexion, and with our partners worldwide. It is our privilege to share this with people. Our goals are to encourage and inspire the Methodist people by sharing resources and ideas and to bring a Christian voice to the media. This is only possible because of the funding we receive, and we never stop being grateful for what you enable us to do on your behalf.

You can stay up to date with the Communications team via:



[www.twitter.com/methodistmedia](http://www.twitter.com/methodistmedia)



[www.facebook.com/methodistchurchinbritain](http://www.facebook.com/methodistchurchinbritain)



[www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)



# Joint Public Issues Team

Engaging more fully with our young people

**M**y name is Roseanna and I'm working as a One Programme Participant for a year with the Connexional Team, through the Joint Public Issues Team, helping young people engage with issues of social justice. Young people care about their faith and the world around them, and I've been finding ways to help them reflect and be active.



Alongside the Methodist Church's wider work for the centenary commemoration of World War 1, I have created a youth resource based on peacemaking. The work focuses on non-violence and the use of force, and is made up of sessions for youth workers with groups aged 11-18.

At 3Generate I worked with young people on *Five Ways to Change your World*. This was an interactive workshop of games, crafts, activities and discussion on how to make a change. The young people were very responsive and keen to share their ideas, suggesting their main concerns to be homelessness, the environment, poverty and the way our military functions.

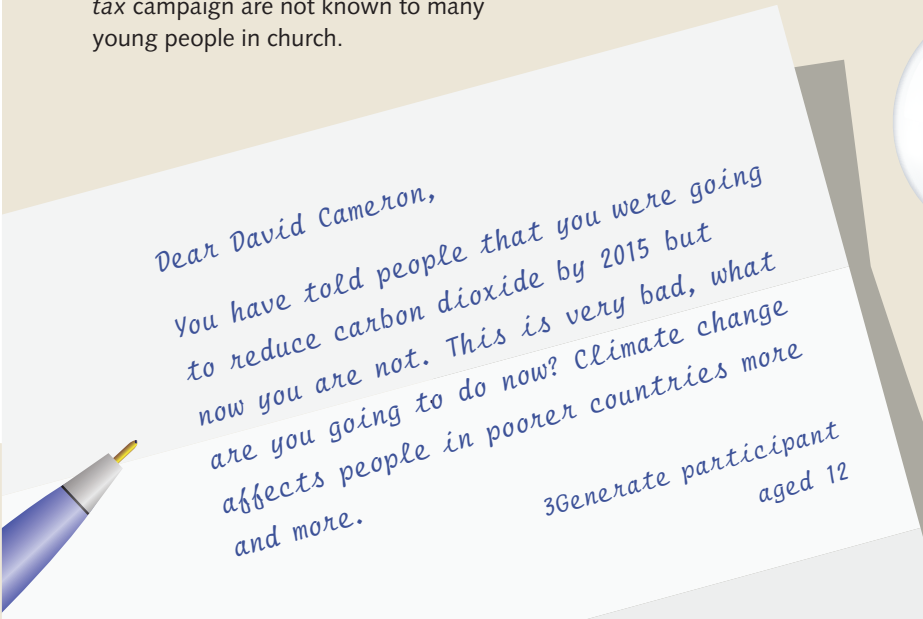
We wrote letters to MPs, created a collective prayer, made art pieces for reflections and discussed concerns about how campaigns such as the *Robin Hood* tax campaign are not known to many young people in church.

One of the highlights of my year will be organising an event for young people to attend a panel discussion with MPs and Lords in Parliament. The event, *Young Christians, Politics and Justice*, will aim to encourage young people to become more active with social justice by informing and inspiring them.

The difference made to the young people through engaging with faith and the world around them is already exciting. At 3Generate young people decided that making their opinions heard was the most effective way to make change. Young Christians can make a difference, whether or not they can vote, and I hope that the engagement of young people with the work of the Methodist Church in this area will continue long after my placement ends.



Young people engaging in workshops and discussion at 3Generate.



Dear David Cameron,  
You have told people that you were going to reduce carbon dioxide by 2015 but now you are not. This is very bad, what are you going to do now? Climate change affects people in poorer countries more and more.  
3Generate participant  
aged 12

The **Joint Public Issues Team** is a venture of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church. We help our three Churches work together on issues of justice and inequality.

[www.jointpublicissues.org.uk](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk)

# Applecart

**Phil Summers**, creative director of the London-based drama group, shares some of their achievements over the past year.

A great deal has happened in the life of Applecart over the last few years. We used to be two blokes telling Bible stories in a pub in Whitechapel. Now, thanks to Mission in Britain Fund support we are running an office in Bow with four members of staff. We are still telling Bible stories but we are also making films, providing training and creating an arts community of local artists.

We have produced several short films that are free to view online at [www.applecartlive.org/watch-our-films/](http://www.applecartlive.org/watch-our-films/). The first revisits the annunciation with Miriam threatening Gabriel with a hot iron. *Interrogation* imagines the torture that John the Baptist may have suffered and is Applecart's grittiest piece so far. The complexities of how we perceive each other are explored in the *Beatitudes*. We have just completed work on *Denim*, where a man patches his jeans.

Our most successful film so far has been *Poor People: the Factual Facts*. It was made in response to a report issued by the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT), about the public perception of people who need government benefits to live. We weren't commissioned to do it but thankfully the film was well received by JPIT. We have also supported the local circuit by producing *Umbrella*, a documentary in support of a group of three charity projects run by the Methodist Church in Tower Hamlets.

We are very excited about forthcoming projects. Over the months ahead we will be releasing a DVD series of pub conversations. One of these, called *Logos*, was performed at the Methodist Conference in Westminster Central Hall. The other two cover the topics of walking on water and a late night visit to a public speaker.

*The Extra Mile* was produced for the London District of the Methodist Church, Social Responsibility Commission. The film looks at the historical figure of John Wesley and focuses on his call for social action in the eighteenth century. Using documentary footage, modern expressions of this call are explored; at times it gets very silly but Applecart have always used humour to get to the bone of an issue. Ultimately *The Extra Mile* encourages others to consider how they may act to improve the society in which they live. We have also made some simple storytelling films of Bible stories that are available to purchase online.

Our live performances in the pub continue, but not every month. We are often asked to visit throughout the length and breadth of the country to perform one of our pub style shows or our one



man show *The Life, Death and Disappearance of the Crowd Gatherer*. We also provide training in storytelling and communication for the London District and the Connexion.

Last October we were in Leeds Minster helping to celebrate the bicentenary of the formation of what was to become the Methodist Missionary Society. The live show has since been turned into a film called *Eastward Ho!* and again will soon be available to the Connexion.

The future looks bright. We have more films to make and distribute and in the autumn we are touring our theatre show, *I am Mark* – a radical retelling of Mark's Gospel.

**'We used to be two blokes telling Bible stories in a pub in Whitechapel.'**

Left: Applecart co-founders Peter Moreton (left) and Phil Summers (right).

Above: scenes from the Applecart productions *Poor People: the Factual Facts* (top), *Beatitudes* (middle) and *Demons* (bottom).

Photos: © Applecart





# Do you have faith in your family tree?

Methodist Heritage Officer **Jo Hibbard** takes a look at how the Mission in Britain Fund has helped Methodists connect with their history over the past year.

Over three days in February, more than 13,000 people streamed through the National Hall at London Olympia. All were intent on tracing their family history with the help of the exhibitors at the annual *Who Do You Think You Are? Live* show – the UK's largest family history exhibition. Thanks to your support, Heritage Officer Jo Hibbard and her team of archiving volunteers were on hand to answer questions about Methodism and chapel records.

The team gave away more than 450 copies of the *Methodist Heritage Handbook*, our full-colour guide to places of historic importance to Methodism. They sold 100 copies of a new book on tracing Methodist family history, *A Methodist in the Family?* and had hundreds of conversations about the history of the Church, the impact of belief on Methodist ancestors and the effect in the present day of faith in the family tree.

Jo Hibbard explained: "The Heritage Committee was set up in 2008 to conserve Methodist heritage and use it for mission. Promoting our historic places, archives and artefacts is key to increasing access and engagement with our heritage. I think it's vital to get out to our audiences and introduce Methodist heritage to new interest groups. Being non-conformists,

Methodists may 'disappear' from parish records. After civil registration was established in 1837, there may be a birth but may be no continuing Anglican parish Baptism record for a Methodist family, although the parents may have been married in the parish church and buried in the parish graveyard. We can explain why to family historians and that may lead to questions about what Methodists believed and whether the Church is still sharing the same gospel today."

In 2013 your support also allowed the Heritage team to set up a network of online community archives, *My Methodist Ancestors*, and train a team of volunteer editors. Thousands of contributions have been submitted from the public to the sites, from around the world. The editorial team reviews and publishes the pages – family stories, personal memories, photographs of redundant and current chapels, memorabilia and, most recently, WW1 war memorials. Two of the website editors joined the *Who Do You Think You Are? Live* team, encouraging more posts to the websites.

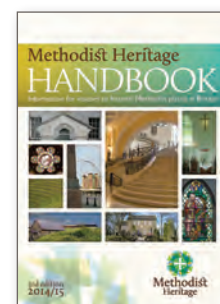
Reflecting on his experiences at Olympia, Geoff Dickinson, co-editor on the *My Primitive Methodist Ancestors* website said, "It seems to me to be an excellent way of raising the profile of the Church

in a way that allows conversations to develop about faith matters in a 'non-threatening' environment. There are not many opportunities to talk about faith matters in that way."



### A Methodist in the Family?

Answers to ten frequently asked family history questions



### Methodist Heritage Handbook 2014/2015

Information for visitors to historic Methodist places in Britain

Order your copies of *A Methodist in the Family?* and the *Methodist Heritage Handbook 2014/2015* from Methodist Publishing by calling 0845 017 8220 or via email at [Orders@norwichbooksandmusic.co.uk](mailto:Orders@norwichbooksandmusic.co.uk)

# The work of the Discipleship & Ministries Cluster

The Discipleship & Ministries Cluster is rooted in four key Methodist commitments. Head of Cluster **Jude Levermore** gives us some insights.



## Commitment 1

**A commitment to transforming discipleship, equipping the Methodist people to be Christ-like disciples**

This year we have been assisting circuits and local churches to nurture and equip the Methodist people to become whole life, lifelong, world-transforming disciples of Christ in the world. This has included building on the work of the *Extending Discipleship, Exploring Vocation* (EDEV) and *Deepening Discipleship* initiatives. This year, we have run *Connecting Disciples* – a three-day gathering of lay employees from across the Connexion: administrators, children's workers, families workers, pastoral workers, youth workers and many others. The gathering offered a variety of workshops, keynotes and social activities and was underpinned by 'class meetings' where participants regularly gathered in small groups to reflect on their experience. One key element of this event is the opportunity for lay employees to meet and share with people in similar roles. *Connecting Disciples 2015* is already being planned and you can find more details at [www.methodist.org.uk/connectingdisciples](http://www.methodist.org.uk/connectingdisciples). Also look out for a local version being developed regionally in 2014/15.

Recognising that the welcome that churches offer visitors can have a huge impact on whether or not they choose to stay, we have developed the *First Impressions Count* resource: a freely downloadable workshop designed to help churches reflect on the welcome that a visitor experiences when they first walk into a church. Designed for a two and a half-hour training session, the workshop is divided into three parts: creating a welcoming building, being a welcoming people, and welcoming through inclusion. It has been successfully used all over the Connexion by churches and circuits ■

## Commitment 2

**A commitment to transforming ministries – equipping all those who share in the ministry of God within and beyond the life of the Church to be effective leaders, servants and partners in God's mission, making our ministries more accessible and more effective**

The Cluster has helped to train, form and equip those who exercise lay ministries and roles within the lives of circuits and local churches, with a particular focus in the first instance on the initial and continuing development of local preachers and worship leaders. We help to train, form and equip those who are preparing for diaconal and presbyteral ministry (as student ministers and probationers), supporting the continuing development of those who serve in circuit appointments, including as superintendents, and accompanying those candidating for ordained ministry. In the last year, the team has looked after our 10,000 local preachers, answering questions and sending out information. With between 350 and 400 local preachers in the first stage of their training, this means that twice a year the cluster receives and processes all their submissions – a lot of paper work to administer!

To support the Church's work on chaplaincy, the *Chaplaincy Everywhere* course has been developed. This seven-session course is designed to take a group from being interested in the ministry of chaplaincy to actually planning a chaplaincy ministry and doing it. The resource is designed to be used in groups of three to eight people. Beginning with the mission of God and ending with the practical details of who is going to do what and where, this material mixes deep reflection, individual and group exercises as well as practical resources to lead you to respond to your local community. The course also includes resources for a commissioning service for volunteer chaplains ■



## Commitment 3

**A commitment to transforming communities – challenging and equipping circuits and local churches as they change and grow as mission-focused Christian communities**

Our activities include supporting, equipping, accompanying and challenging circuits and local churches to help them use and align their energies and resources for discipleship, mission, worship, learning and caring. The work may involve supporting processes of deliberate and planned change that is needed as the context for mission support changes with the aim of ensuring that the Church is able to grow and to welcome and embrace people from a wide range of ages and a wide range of diverse backgrounds and cultures. The Church and Community Team, in collaboration with the World Church Relationships Team, continues to provide resources to support and develop Junior Mission for All (JMA) activities through *Rainbow* magazine and supporting materials, recognising the vital part children and young people play in the mission of the church.

Our support of schools (and of those involved with them) has seen the appointment of a new Director of Education, Barbara Easton, and the development of a resource for the teaching of RE. This accessible and informative resource offers an insight into Christianity and Methodism for Key Stage 1-4. It facilitates teaching of Christianity from a Methodist perspective. Contributors include the Revd Dr Martin Wellings and Sam Taylor, former Methodist Youth President. The five units of work cover such topics as *Warm hearts: what does it feel like to experience God's presence?* (This particular unit is intended to make the life of John Wesley relevant to eight-year-old, Year Four pupils). The materials give any teacher practical inspiring planning to use in their classrooms, enabling pupils to achieve more and learn about their Methodist and Christian heritage. They have already been used successfully in Methodist schools around the country ■

## Commitment 4

**A commitment to transforming innovation – nurturing deep, innovative and creative theological thinking to inform, equip and challenge the Connexion**

The Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network, at full strength, provides some 60 staff spread across the Connexion. They are divided into 11 regional teams, 3 specialist teams and 3 directors, located across the Connexion and at Cliff College, the Queen's Foundation and Methodist Church House.

Each member of staff has a specialism; this could be either discipleship development, church and community development or ministry development. This enables individuals to make the best use of their gifts and experiences, sharing these within their regions and across the Connexion. It enables them both to deliver and signpost to local people the particular learning, training or development opportunities that will be relevant to them ■

To find out more about the work of the Connexional Team see [www.methodist.org.uk/connexionalteam](http://www.methodist.org.uk/connexionalteam)



# Huddersfield Mission Café

Mission in Britain Fund



The Mission in Britain Fund is proud to have supported the Huddersfield Mission Café project since its inception in 2008. The café is now in its final year of funding, and has some inspiring achievements to share.

The Mission Café offers a safe environment and acts as a meeting place for everyone. Its focus is on support and advice services for disadvantaged people in the Kirklees metropolitan area. The café started as the church noticed the effects the economic recession was having on the community, with more 'white collar' workers needing help – in particular those who had found themselves unemployed for the first time in their lives. These people were usually under immense emotional strain; some were in danger of losing their homes while others had experienced breakdowns in their relationships.

Chris\* had lost his job and was suffering from depression when he came into the Mission Café. "I was at the lowest point in my life when I came in, bought a mug of tea and sat down with my thoughts,"

he recalls. "In a very short period, I was approached by three people – all unknown to me. They realised I was in a very, very dark place in my life; they sat, spoke and listened to me.

"Looking back over the time I've been a regular at the café, I know I wouldn't be here today if I hadn't entered the café that day. I ask myself why I went to a part of the town I never normally go to. Why did I enter a café I didn't even know was there? As a non-believer, I have questioned myself and have come to the conclusion that there is something. What that something is, I don't know. But what I do know is that I now have hope."

Huddersfield Mission believes in life and life in its fullness, providing not just immediate care and advice, but also working with people to develop their skills, self-esteem and aspirations to enable them to live life to the full. They call this work Resolve and it is the next stage of their development. You can learn more about this on Facebook page [www.facebook.com/huddersfieldmission](http://www.facebook.com/huddersfieldmission).

*\*Name has been changed.*



## THE STORY SO FAR

### 2008

The Huddersfield Methodist Mission Centre receives growing numbers of over 11,000 visitors annually.

### 2009-2010

The café is refurbished. As well as a new coat of paint, new furniture is bought and the kitchen equipment upgraded. A wider menu is introduced.

### 2010-2011

The café supports approximately 1,300 serious ongoing cases. Working with partner organisations we provided physical, emotional and spiritual support. In practice this means accessing food parcels, signposting people to appropriate agencies, befriending and listening to people.

### 2011-2012

The café appoints its first dedicated advice worker. Now as well as offering signposting and emotional support, it can offer specific benefits advice directly to people who find the benefits system confusing.

### 2013-2014

A second advice worker is appointed. The café holds its first *Beyond the Soundbite* session, offering local people the chance to explore the reality of a media issue. The first session focuses on poverty – what it is and what it means in reality.

# Property Matters

**B**attle Methodist Church in East Sussex was in poor condition. The church (which was built in 1826) wasn't really suited to community use; it had very limited disabled access, and its lack of facilities and space for parking for families had all contributed to congregation numbers stagnating.

In 2013 the church leadership commenced building work on a green field site in Harrier Lane. The plan was to provide two multi-purpose halls: one seating 100 (used for mainly for worship), the second seating 70, with a moveable dividing wall and the ability to seat up to 170 for concerts or large community group meetings. In addition a café area seating up to 40 and a prayer/counselling room were created. The new church opened its doors to the public for the first time on 9 March this year. Already, signs of a turnaround are starting to show.

"Before the developments, we were completely unable to attract community groups," says Alastair Munro, treasurer for Battle church. "It's still too early to give membership increase figures, but what I can say is that we now have a toddlers' group and we have been approached by several local and national organisations that are keen to use our facilities."

Alastair expects September to be a significant month, as that is their busiest month for bookings. For now, he can confirm that the building is already contributing to the circuit, with local churches using it for meetings and special services. The Connexion looks forward to seeing what is in store for this new worship space.



# Health and Medical work in Nigeria

The Methodist Church in Nigeria has a mission to deliver high quality healthcare services in rural areas of the country at prices that are affordable to everyone.

The Church has a long history of medical work in Nigeria, which was started by the early missionaries from Britain. Today this support continues through the Nigerian Healthcare project, supported by many Methodists in both Britain and Nigeria.

Rural healthcare is vital. It can save patients in remote areas having to travel long distances for all but the most basic of care. Much work is being done to 'up-skill' rural health care workers and health centres to ensure that more specialised medical services are available closer to home. These developments have led to a drop in child mortality rates, improved

maternal care and more widely available accident and emergency facilities. The introduction of free medical tests for blood sugar levels has enabled more people to be properly diagnosed and treated.

The World Mission Fund supports this work through a number of grants including the funding of a national in mission appointment, Deaconess Ronke Oworu, who works as health and medical secretary for the Church. As a liaison between government staff, medical personnel and the mission hospitals, Ronke is able to collect and collate vital medical information enabling her to

fully assess the training needs for health care and medical staff across the whole of Nigeria. She also delivers training on neonatal resuscitation and has led the way on the distribution of insecticide treated mosquito nets to families who are unable to afford them.

Support for this post has resulted in improved health service delivery in rural dwellings where health care is often unaffordable. It is also a good example of the Methodist Church working with local government for the good of the vulnerable and less privileged in its communities, as well as up-skilling health staff skills and confidence at various levels.



Deaconess Ronke Oworu taking time out from organising training sessions for primary health care workers in Nigeria



“We have seen our pastors and congregations very motivated in the different dimensions of ministry.”

Pastor Eduardo Rodriguez

Pastor Manuel De Jesus Melendez of the Evangelical Methodist Church of the Good Samaritan



# Training Methodist Pastors from Nicaragua

One growing area of funding for the World Mission Fund is the giving of Group Training grants within the Scholarship and Leadership Training (SALT) scheme.

In Nicaragua in Central America, the Methodist Church is very young, having only been fully established in 1996. Now with 16 congregations and over 3,000 members, the Church continues to develop and support social justice issues. Most of the pastors of the Church do not come from a traditional Methodist background; many were trained in Baptist seminaries and so have no firm Methodist foundations. The World Mission Fund has been able to support ongoing training of pastors to improve their understanding and grounding in Methodist theology, doctrine and heritage. With no Methodist training facility in Nicaragua, the pastors travel to their nearest Methodist seminary in El Salvador for short blocks of training. With modules spread over five years, this continuing professional development is really helping the Methodist Church move forward.

Pastor Eduardo Rodriguez, head of the Iglesia Evangélica Metodista de Nicaragua, said: “Our congregations have benefited immensely with the knowledge acquired by our pastors through their

study as the skills obtained have been put into practice right away by them. Our pastors have felt highly committed to transmit such knowledge to the local congregations. And our churches are now getting to know more about Methodism and Wesleyan doctrine. We have seen our pastors and congregations very motivated in the different dimensions of ministry.”

The training in El Salvador is also attracting Methodist students from other Central American countries. This brings the added value for the Nicaraguan pastors of learning cross-culturally and being able to share joys and challenges of ministry with other Church leaders from across the region.

*Iglesia Evangélica Metodista de Nicaragua*

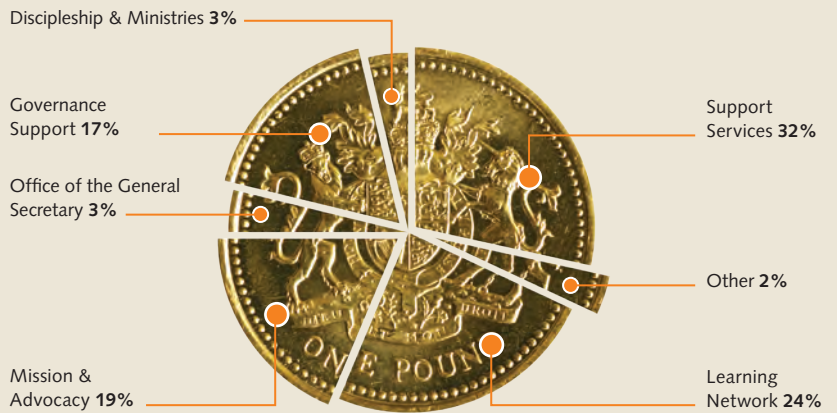


Photo: © TMCP

# How the money is used

## Methodist Church Fund

Budgeted expenditure for 2013/2014 is £16.3m.



## World Mission Fund

Giving to the World Mission Fund continues to decline and is now £1m lower than it was three years ago. We have been able to sustain our planned work only through the receipt of a large legacy and the improvement of the return on investments. Although always welcome, legacies are unpredictable and difficult to include in our budgeting, so our income remains a serious cause for long-term concern.

This downturn in giving comes at a time when Partner Churches are still facing the difficulties of a global economic crisis as well as facing rising costs in their work of mission and ministry. As we continue to see a growth in Methodism in many countries across the globe, especially in communities where there are many poor and marginalised, we receive a growing number of requests for financial help, training provision and support of local staff salaries.

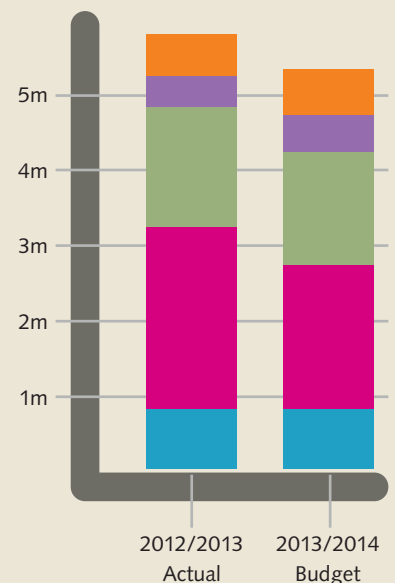
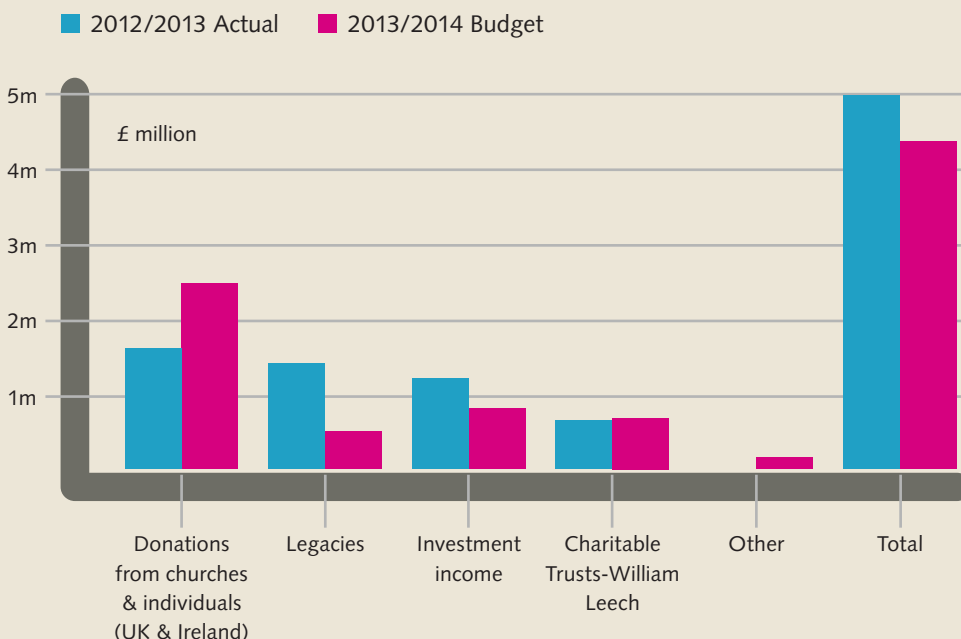
We hope that as the British economy continues to grow, the income to the World Mission Fund will also grow, enabling us to continue supporting churches in over 65 countries around the world.

## Expenditure

- Relationship Staff and Administration\*
- Scholarship Programme (SALT)
- Mission Partners
- Annual and General Grants
- Nationals in Mission Appointments

\*The following charges are made on the voluntary donations (excluding investment and other income): 10% management charge, 6% charge to contribute to the costs of the World Church Relationships Team.

## Comparative Income



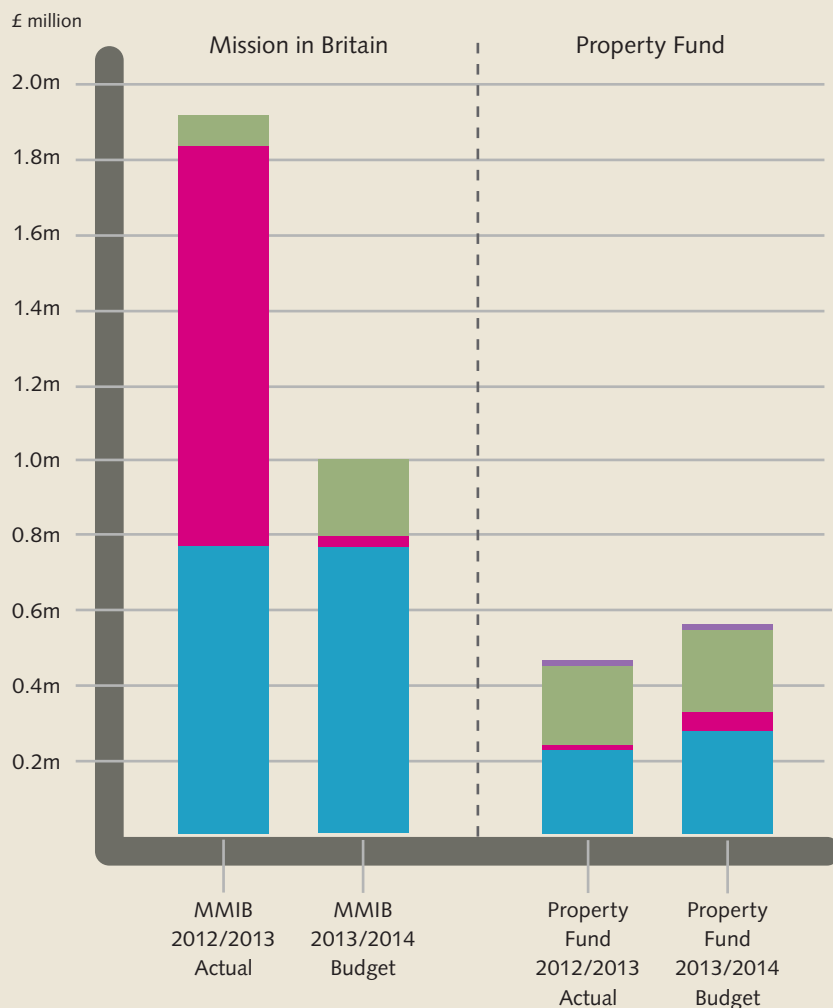
## Mission & Ministry in Britain

### Comparative Income

Although last year we saw increased income from our investments, the long-term availability of grants for property and mission projects relies heavily on donations from churches, circuits and committed Methodists like you, across the Connexion. Thank you!

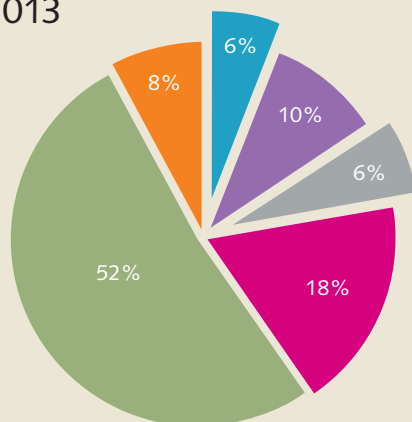
Please continue to support these funds and join in this year's annual Advent Offering.

- Donations from churches & individuals (UK & Ireland)
- Legacies
- Investment income
- Other



### Expenditure for 2012/2013

- Heritage
- Chaplaincy
- Mission alongside the poor
- Connexionally significant Mission and Ministry
- Property Fund
- Administration\*



\*10% management charge is made on voluntary donations to the Funds (excluding investment and other income)

# THANK YOU!

*for your generous support in all the ways you give...*

- Easter Offering
- Advent Offering
- Junior Mission for All
- Cheque donations
- Justgiving
- Standing orders
- Legacies





# AGENEROUSLIFE

## A Generous Life says:

As a discipleship movement shaped for mission, we are engaging with our generous God to: give more time, give more money, know more of what we are doing and can do to change the world.

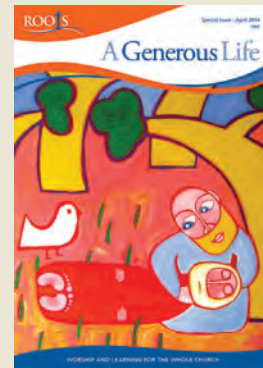
“We love because God first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)



“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” JOHN WESLEY

Available from Methodist Publishing  
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A range of resources to help us explore together what it means to be a generous disciple and to review our regular giving of time, passion and money.



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Other resources, including discussion starters for church councils and local preachers' meetings are available to download for free from [www.methodist.org.uk/agenerouslife](http://www.methodist.org.uk/agenerouslife).

To spin the wheel of generosity go to:  
[www.methodist.org.uk/wheelofgenerosity](http://www.methodist.org.uk/wheelofgenerosity)

