

Spring 2018

# RAINBOW

READ HOW THE  
CHURCH BEGAN

MAKE A PRAYER  
SPINNER

PLAY OUR BOARD  
GAME

MISSION STORIES

CUBA • UGANDA • UK



The Methodist Church  
*Living generously*



Welcome to *Rainbow!*

# SOMETHING IN THE AIR...

The days are getting longer! Summer's nearly here! This can be a time of year when it feels like something exciting is about to happen. Maybe that's how Jesus' friends felt too, when the Holy Spirit came to help them a few weeks after Jesus had gone to heaven. In this *Rainbow*, we're going to explore a bit more of that story and see what it means for us and our JMA groups.

We're feeling excited at JMA HQ because we're planning some changes to your next edition of *Rainbow*, which we're looking forward to showing you later in the year. Until then, grab your pen for puzzles, get comfy... and enjoy *Rainbow!*

## What things do you look forward to?

Write or draw them here. (We've added one to start you off.)

- Seeing a new-look *Rainbow*



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

On 20 May, Christians around the world will be celebrating Pentecost – a festival that happens 50 days after Easter. At Pentecost we remember when the Holy Spirit – God’s helper – visited Jesus’ friends after Jesus had risen from the dead. It was the Holy Spirit who gave them courage and power to do God’s work. This

was the start of the Christian Church, so Pentecost is a celebration of the Church’s birthday!

It was also the start of the disciples’ ‘mission’ to tell other people throughout the world about God’s love for them – something that God’s followers are still doing today, and you

are helping to do through your JMA group as you support and pray for Methodist mission projects.

Read all about Pentecost in the book of Acts, chapter 2, in the New Testament part of your Bible. Then fill in the missing words in the story from the list below.

The \_\_\_\_\_ were all together in a room in Jerusalem. Suddenly, there was a strong \_\_\_\_\_ from heaven and God’s helper, the Holy \_\_\_\_\_, appeared like \_\_\_\_\_ that touched each person. The disciples found that they could then \_\_\_\_\_ in different languages! There were people from lots of different countries in \_\_\_\_\_ and the disciples spoke to them in their own \_\_\_\_\_ telling them the \_\_\_\_\_ news. Thousands of people became \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus that day.

Spirit

wind

fire

Jerusalem

good

speak

followers

disciples

languages

*The disciples spoke to the people in Jerusalem, but in what other ways can we share God’s love with others?*

# ON A MISSION

Find a friend or two and play our game to take God's love to the world. First one to reach our heart-shaped world is the winner.

## YOU WILL NEED:

- a dice
- a counter or small piece of paper for each person playing to move round the board.

## HOW TO PLAY:

- Roll the dice to see who goes first: the person with the highest number starts.
- Throw the dice and work your way round the board.
- If you land on a square with a question or action, follow the instructions.
- Throw the exact number to win.

We can show God's love to others in so many ways. Read the stories on these pages about how people are doing that across the world.

## NEW CHURCH ALERT!

In Cuba in the Caribbean, people learn from an early age not to believe in God. Despite this, the Methodist Church in Cuba has been growing and growing. Christians are telling others about God's love and lots of new church groups have started with many people being baptized. What a great thing to celebrate on the Church's birthday!



### Start



If you know how many days after Easter Pentecost is, then you can move forward 1 square. (It's on page 3.)

Jesus' friends are waiting in Jerusalem. Miss a turn.



The disciples told others about God's love. Move forward 1 space.

Say something in another language to move forward 2 squares, or if not move back 1.

How did the Holy Spirit appear to the disciples? Move forward 1 space if you know.

It's the Church's birthday! Sing Happy Birthday to you! to move forward 2 spaces, or if not move 2 back.



A strong wind has blown you forward 3 squares.



Name a way you can tell others about God's love, and then move forward a space.



## PIGS ON A MISSION!

In Uganda in Africa, Methodist churches have been running training for pig farmers in their church buildings. Not only has this helped the farmers who were badly affected when drought damaged their crops, but it has also strengthened friendships between the farmers and church members. Who knew that pigs could be such a help?



## YOUNG PEOPLE KEEP CHURCH ALIVE

In a small village called Bladon in England, the Methodist church would have closed if it wasn't for the children. The church had only a few adults attending, but lots of children still came each Sunday to take part in drama. £400,000 was raised to give the church a makeover. See the cover photo when our Youth President, Michael Pryke, opened the new Bladon Methodist Church with some of its Junior Church members.

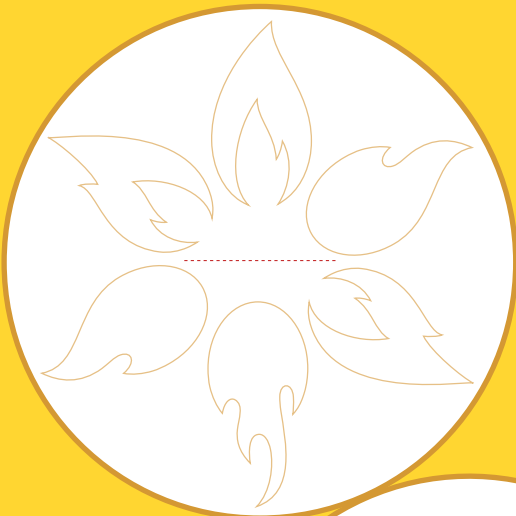


# PRAYER SPINNERS

Make one of our prayer spinners to pray and play at the same time!

## You will need:

- a circle of white card (about 6 cm across – you could use a mug to draw around)
- a penny
- coloured pens or pencils
- glue
- scissors.



## Instructions

1. Cut out your circle.
2. On one side, write a short prayer about God's love being known throughout the world or to pray for one of the stories you've read about in *Rainbow*.
3. On the other side, draw a fire-like pattern with orange, red and yellow pens.
4. Ask a grown up to make a slit for the penny in the middle of the circle.
5. Use a little bit of glue to secure the penny in the slot.
6. Holding the penny, spin your spinner and watch what happens to your fire pattern.

Father,  
thank you for showing  
your love for me and  
all people by giving your  
son Jesus Christ.

# JMA Secretaries' news

## JMA Centenary

Barbara Evans, JMA Secretary at Acocks Green Methodist Church in the Birmingham Circuit, wrote in September 2017 to tell us that JMA groups have collected there for 100 years. How does she know?

"We have a very old, big shield at the side of the pulpit," Barbara told us. "This is covered with small shields that JMA groups at different churches won over the years. The first was 1917 and, apparently, we won it. Each small shield bears the name of the church that won it. When the big shield was full, Acocks Green Methodist Church was allowed to keep it as we were the church that had won the most small shields.



"It was not just about money. Each year our circuit chose a country for its JMA groups to learn about; each church then had to make a display and submit a team on a special day each year to answer questions on that country. At least that is how it was when I first led our team."

This year Acocks Green Methodist Church JMA collected £2,678, of which £858 was raised through their annual sponsored

walk. Barbara has been the JMA Secretary since 1975 and you will see from the photograph that most of the collectors are now mothers and grandmothers. However, Barbara encourages the adults to have boxes and continue collecting – and even to read *Rainbow*. "Parts of it are quite instructive even for adults," she said. "Keep up the good work! ... the work has to go on, we cannot stop now."

**Amen to that!**

## Beast kills off beetles!



Members of The Drive Methodist Church, Ilford, were deeply disappointed when the annual JMA Family Beetle Drive and Tea had to be cancelled due to snowy weather brought by the so-called Beast from the East earlier this year on 3 March.

The Beetle Drive has been a regular fixture in The Drive Church's calendar for the last 26 years as part of the church's ongoing support for JMA and encouragement of its young collectors.

Although the event was cancelled, we applaud the generosity of church members and friends from the wider community. They kindly gave their ticket money and made donations in spite of the Beast killing off the Beetle Drive.

As a result, even without any beetles, The Drive Methodist Church's Beetle Drive raised over £200! JMA Secretary for more than 25 years, Diane Foster, was overwhelmed with this response and vowed that the Beetle Drive would be back!

**Thank you JMA-ers at The Drive Church, Diane and all who supported the Beetle Drive that had no beetles!**

# Relaunching *Rainbow*

Church activities for young people have changed a great deal recently, with many congregations embracing new models of church for the whole family. How we support you to help young people learn about mission and get involved in social justice now needs to change too.

Providing more material to encourage young people to pray and make links from mission to the Bible were two of your top requests for new resources in our recent survey. We also appreciate you need ideas that will fit in with the way Junior Church groups are run now.

## World outlook

JMA (Junior Mission for All) encourages young Methodists to “Learn, pray and serve with the worldwide Church of Jesus Christ”. *The Constitutional Practice and Discipline* encourages every church and circuit to have a JMA group and every meeting that involves young people to proactively seek a “world outlook” (SO 1003).

Since the early nineteenth century, JMA has raised funds for mission work globally and, more recently, also for the UK. We are keen to find and resource new ways to support the Church to engage its young people with mission. However, your recent survey responses showed that only a very small number of churches are continuing the historic practice of collecting money from specific ‘sponsors’ and doing so ‘competitively’, and very few respondents to the survey are likely to use our other existing JMA resources next year.

Therefore, we shall continue to produce only *Rainbow* magazine, the collectors’ badges, ‘thank you’ certificates and the collecting boxes. We are discontinuing printing all other resources, such as collecting books and annual challenge charts.

## Commissioning service

It seems about two-thirds of churches annually focus on mission with young people through the JMA commissioning service, but the current format is not popular. Outlines for worship that focus on mission and involving young people are clearly attractive to you.

So we will develop new worship and prayer resources and support service plans with images in PowerPoint – supplied to you in the best format, possibly through downloads from our website.

## More and better

While you considered *Rainbow* magazine suitable for half our young readers to engage with on their own, and for more than three quarters if it is read to them, we clearly do not get the pitch and content right for everyone. You requested better games, more puzzles, things to make, stickers and colouring pages. There was a definite plea for material for teenagers (maybe in poster form) and for additional online content for you to use to back up the stories in the magazines.

## Planning ahead

For Christmas 2018, we shall develop a completely new design and way of organising the content – to better reflect the style of magazines your children may get from other charities or local newsagents. We will continue to publish three editions of *Rainbow* a year, in time for Christmas, Easter/Pentecost and Harvest.

Then, to support you in sharing mission stories with young people, we plan to develop extra online content and a new e-newsletter for Secretaries and other JMA adult organisers and supporters.

**Look out for your invitation to sign up!**