



**News from the Global Relationships Team  
of the Methodist Church in Britain**

Welcome to your Spring issue of the Global Relationships newsletter.

## **A Prayer for Ukraine**

**Holy and Gracious God**

**We pray for the people of Ukraine and the  
people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders.**

**We pray for all those who are afraid; that your  
everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.**

**We pray for all those who have the power over life  
and death; that they will choose for all people life,  
and life in all its fullness.**

**We pray for those who choose war; that they will  
remember that you direct your people to turn our  
swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.**

**We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they  
are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.**

**Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.**

**And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.**

**Lord have mercy.**

**Amen**

Please keep in your prayers particularly United Methodist congregations in Ukraine who are themselves organising aid and refuge in homes and

churches for those fleeing the war. We continue to pray for peace with all in the region and partner churches who are affected by the invasion of Ukraine.

Find more prayers and resources for Ukraine on the [Methodist Church website](#) and the [Joint Public Issues team website](#).

### **The Methodist Podcast**

In this week's Methodist Podcast we talk to two Methodists in Ukraine who are fleeing from the invasion to find safety, we hear how peace can stand up to aggression and learn how to talk to children about worrying news events.

[Listen here](#)

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### **Methodist Church and All We Can launch joint Ukraine appeal**

The Methodist Church in Britain and All We Can have opened a joint appeal, the situation is rapidly changing but a huge need is growing with persons displaced by conflict. Donations will be used to support the response to the crisis happening in Ukraine, and ensure that critical humanitarian assistance is available to those who need it.

[Read more](#)

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### **New Partnership Coordinator for Africa**

The Revd Dr. Andrew Ashdown has been appointed Partnership Coordinator for Africa for the Methodist Church in Britain. He is a Church of England priest, ordained for 30 years, and has served as Incumbent in 4 parishes in Britain.



Most recently he has been working as Manager of Advocacy and Good Governance for the International charity, Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust

(HART) UK, which has included high level advocacy work on Nigeria, Sudan and South Sudan. He has also worked as Regional Officer for South Asia for the Anglican Mission Agency, USPG.

Andrew spent his childhood and formative years in Zimbabwe as a child of missionary parents. During the last 30 years of ministry, he has been Chair of Diocesan and Deanery links with Uganda, Burundi, Ghana, and Tanzania; and has developed partnership strategies, and organised and led numerous link visits to partners. Andrew's Doctoral research on Christian-Muslim relations in Syria, was published by Routledge in 2019. The importance of this field for Africa was recognised at a Church of Kenya Conference in Mombasa in 2019, at which he spoke on how the Church in Africa might address the rise of religious extremism in the African context. Andrew very much looks forward to getting to know our Partner Churches and Organisations, and Mission Partners in the region.

Please remember Andrew in your prayers as he takes on this new role.

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## **New 3Generate Global Church Youth Rep**

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### **Eli Atif**

3Generate has recently appointed a new Global Church Youth Rep, Eli Atif, who will work with our current rep, Liddy Buswell, to encourage more youth participation in MCB's global relationships.

[Read Eli's article.](#)



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## **Global Mission Fellows**

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### **Global Mission Fellow - Erick**

Erick Hunter is a Global Mission Fellow who has arrived from the USA to work with Wesley's Chapel in London in the variety of ministries that they are doing. Please keep Erick in your prayers as he makes this transition.

### **Global Mission Fellow - Ben**

An interview with Ben Rose - Global Mission Fellow in Portrush with the Surf Project

[Read more](#)



Global Mission Fellows is a two year programme that takes graduates between 20-30, from anywhere to anywhere in the world. Each fellow has a focus to Engage with the community, Connect the church in mission and Grow in personal and social holiness.

The deadline has passed for the September 2022 start but Young Methodists who are interested in a



September 2023 entry to the programme can find out more on [this page](#).

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## Mission Partners updates

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We have updates from serving mission partners.

### **Melissa Newell**

Melissa is in Ecuador to work with the Methodists there. You can follow Melissa on Instagram at: **melissa.in.ecuador** and [read Melissa's newsletter](#).



To download Melissa's prayer card and for more information about Melissa's work please visit the [Methodist Church website](#).



### **Rachel and Sylvester Deigh**

You can [read the blog](#) for Mission Partners Rachel and Sylvester Deigh, who are working with the Methodist Church in Sierra Leone. Rachel and Sylvester remember significant moments in the life of Sierra Leone and the historical milestones in the life of that nation, its foundation and football.

To download Rachel and Sylvester's prayer card and for more information about their work please visit the [Methodist Church website](#).

You can view videos and read interviews from our mission partners via the [Methodist Church website](#).

We hold all Mission Partners in our prayers.

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## Blogs and News

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### [Mike Long's blog](#)

Mike is currently on sabbatical and has travelled to the Theological College Lanka, Sri Lanka. His blog contains some really good reflections on his time there so far, including Sri Lanka's independence day celebrations, colonialism, nationalism and jubilee year.

Partnership Coordinator for the Latin American and Caribbean, **Sandra Lopez** is in Guatemala. You can read her blog regarding her visit [here](#).



Photo taken by Sandra: The town of San Juan Cotzal in Guatemala

News from Global Relationships

[Church of South India - Flood Relief Diocese of East Kerala](#)

[Church of North India - Covid support](#)

[Historic moment in Hungary](#)

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## Global Relationships Anytime Sunday

There is no set date for Global Relationships Sunday so the worship materials offered by the Global Relationships Team can be used at any point in the year. The teams suggests that church councils coordinate with local preachers' meetings to agree a date for using it. [Read more](#)



## Looking and listening for God in Scripture, and the world

One of the 'A Methodist Way of Life' commitments for our worship life is that; "...We will look and listen for God in Scripture, and the world...".

As Methodists, our connexionalism is also global and you can enter into that by using the wealth of Global Relationships worship resources that are available for you to download.

[Download your FREE worship resources](#)



## Caring for those around us

The Methodist Way of Life commitments for Learning and Caring include that: 'We will care for ourselves and those around us' and 'We will practice hospitality and generosity'.

As Methodists, we believe in learning and caring as part of our discipleship and there are plenty of opportunities for us to support the Church whether that's in prayer, the giving of our time or the giving of our money.

**The World Mission Fund (WMF) supports projects and individuals around the world and this work is only made possible by kind donations.**

If you would like to support our work and donate to the World Mission, do so [here](#).

Your kind donations benefit so many people who are helped by the World Mission Fund.

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## Date for your diary

4<sup>th</sup> March - World Day of Prayer

[click here to find resources for Scotland](#)

[click here for England, Wales and Northern Ireland](#)

8<sup>th</sup> March - International Women's Day #BreakTheBias – [click here to find out more](#)

22<sup>nd</sup> March – World Water Day

[click here to get involved](#)

25<sup>th</sup> March - UN International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade

[click here to find out more](#)

22<sup>nd</sup> April – World Earth Day – [click here to find out more](#).

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## Get in touch

For a World Church Speaker to come to their church/circuit/district email us at [gr.admin@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:gr.admin@methodistchurch.org.uk).

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