

# Lent, Holy Week and Easter around the Circuit

**Ash Wednesday**  
**Aldersgate 6th March 7pm**

**Taize Service**  
**Aldersgate**  
**24th March 6pm**

**Palm Sunday**  
**Wibsey**  
**14th April 6pm**

## Holy Week

**Photography exhibition** the upper room of **The Peacock Bar** (25 North Parade) beginning on **Palm Sunday**. (See inside for further information)

Information on services during Holy Week will be sent out later

**Easter Day PM**  
Horton Bank 21st April 6pm  
Beer & Hymns 7.30pm (see below)

**Circuit Fair Trade Lunch**  
**Saturday 6th April**  
**Horton Bank**  
**Further details soon**

**Pray First**  
Our Circuit Prayer time is at  
Java Joe's, Dudley Hill  
**Every Wednesday at 9.30am**  
Feel free to join us.

**St Arnold's**  
**One@11**  
**24th February**  
**28th April**  
The Peacock Bar  
25 North Parade  
Bradford BD1 3JL

**St Arnold's**  
**Beer & Hymns**  
**24th February 7.30pm**  
**21st April 7.30pm**  
The Peacock Bar  
25 North Parade  
Bradford BD1 3JL

News from around the Bradford South Methodist Circuit

- Lead Letter
- St Arnolds
- 3Generate
- Chattabox holiday club
- Pray First
- Safeguarding, onerous or joyful?
- Service of Remembrance
- Beacon
- Hymnbooks to Malawi
- The Methodist way of life
- Christmas themes at Aldersgate
- Modern slavery
- Holy week photography exhibition
- Fair Trade news
- Events and news
- Circuit Services

## LEAD LETTER

Dear Friends,

Exercising the Faith.

Isaiah 40: 30-31

'Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint'.



I have been reading an article about exercise, by Vybarr Cregan-Reid, which made me think about exercise and faith. Why do we need exercise? What do we expect it to do for us? We all know that we should have more exercise, but many of us can't actually face doing it. Is the problem the idea of exercise itself?

Exercise involves movement of muscles and limbs to keep you in trim and help you to feel better about yourself. But it has become another additional item, on a long list of responsibilities. Because the main people who will benefit from exercise are ourselves, it's an easy thing to neglect.

As industry and technology have solved the physical demands of manual labour, they have created new challenges for the human body. Technological innovations have led to countless minor reductions in our movements. To clean a rug in the 1940s, most people took it into their yard and whacked it with a carpet beater for as long as needed. Today we just push a vacuum cleaner.

The fossil record tells us that many prehistoric humans were stronger and fitter than today's Olympic athletes. The reason is that people long ago had to be active foraging for food, finding water, constructing basic shelters, manufacturing tools and evading predators.

Modern urban environments do not invite anything like the same kinds of work from the body. We are not assisted by our environments to move like we used to for reasons tied up with motivation, safety and accessibility.

As we step through various innovations, we tend to think of the work that is no longer required as 'saved.' As a result of our leisurely lifestyles; our bones are thinner and our muscles weaker which means that we are more susceptible to heart disease and strokes. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) it is responsible for 17 million deaths each year.

Exercise is not an optional extra, it is vital for our wellbeing. But when physical activity is not connected with the real work of our lives, we will find reasons for not doing it.



## Events and News

**Horton Bank  
Chattabox Holiday Club**  
takes place  
at Horton Bank Methodist Church,  
891 Great Horton Road  
on **Good Friday, 19th April**  
**9.45am to 12.15pm.**  
£1 dress for mess  
Essential to book your place:  
Christine on 01274 576651 or  
Jean on 01274 571074

**Southfield Lane  
Gift Day Coffee Morning**  
**Saturday 16th February**  
**10am—12 noon**  
**Usual stalls**  
**Drink and biscuit £1**



Action for  
Children  
Coffee Morning  
Saturday 27th April  
10am-12md  
Cornerstone Methodist Church

## Clayton

### Coffee Mornings

Our monthly Coffee Mornings are a great time to meet up with friends, family and meet new people.

**Saturday 10-12 noon**

**9th February**

**9th March**

**13th April**

**11th May**

**8th June**

### Tea Party Worship

Remains popular with an average attendance of 30 appreciating different styles of worship led by ministers and speakers.

Everyone is welcome once a month on

**Fridays from 2pm until 4pm.**

**Fridays 2-4pm:**

**22nd February**

**22nd March**

**26th April**

**24th May**

**21st June**

**Place of Welcome—Tuesday morning**  
**10.00 - 12 noon.**

A growing network across the country encouraging churches and halls to open their doors, inviting people to come in for a free drink and biscuit and a chat.

**Every Monday**

**'Ping' - Table tennis—10.30am**

**Tuesday**

**Bright hour 2-4pm fortnightly**

**Every Thursday**

**Prayer Group -10-11.30am**

The next newsletter will be distributed in June Please send all contributions to the Circuit Office by **Friday 17th May 2019**



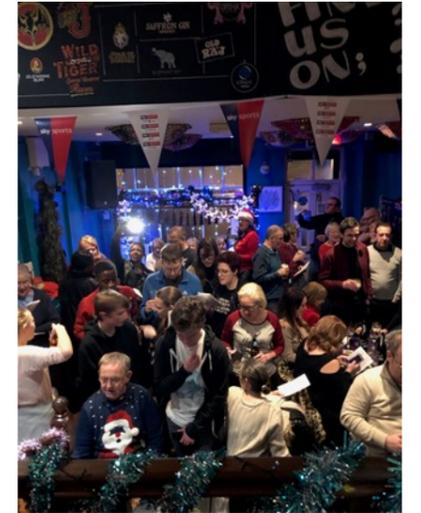
## Curry and carols

My favourite event of the year!

Once again I thought this service, held at The Peacock bar on the Sunday evening before Christmas, was wonderful. I love that it draws such a diverse crowd of people, something that was enhanced this year by having a local singer and guitarist play a couple of sets in-between our carol singing.

For me it's always as much about the conversations that service opens up with people, during and after the event, as it is about the singing. It gives me such a unique opportunity to talk about faith with people who might not normally go anywhere near a church. Those conversations have continued into the new year, especially questions about the blessing I offered people.

Each year I bless some water in God's name and then set off through the crowd to make the sign of the cross on the doors of the bar, asking that God would always be present in that building and that people who go into the bar would always feel the peace of God in that place. As I walk past people I say that if they would like to receive their own, personal blessing from God they can hold out their hand as I pass and I will make the sign of the cross in water on their hand and pray for them.



As soon as I stepped out amongst people I was surrounded by hands! Church people, bar people, young people, old people, people I knew well, people I'd never seen before all reaching out their hands for a blessing from God. It was such a special and emotional experience for me as I signed cross after cross on eager, open palms.

At the end of the evening we all went out into Oastler Square, at the back of The Peacock to sing a few carols round the Christmas tree and afterwards, in the light of that tree, the conversations about God's love and the blessings of Christmas carried on...

Upcoming services and events...



Be Sure 27th Jan  
Be New 24th Feb  
Be Still 28th April  
Be Full 26th May  
Be You 30th June  
Be Holy 28th July

Beer and Hymns  
'All you need is Love'  
Feb 24th

Easter  
April 21st



## **3Generate - A weekend of fun and faith (November 23-25<sup>th</sup> 2018)**

This year's 3Generate, the annual Methodist Children and Youth Assembly took place over the weekend, 23-25 November, when 1,200 young Methodists, aged 8-23, along with youth leaders and volunteers gathered in Southport. **Several of our CYG were among those young people along with many from our Yorkshire West District.**

The Youth President Jasmine Yeboah, who was elected at last year's 3Generate said: "My theme for the year is Courageous. Many of the events looked at how young people can be courageous, in challenging themselves and to be agents of change in making a difference to their home churches, their communities and to the issues facing our wider society."

Trey Hall, Director of Evangelism and Growth for the Methodist Church in Britain, attending his first ever 3Generate, said, "This was truly one of the most exciting, integrated, inspiring, deep-diving gatherings of Methodists I've been to. All led by and centred on the full inclusion and participation of young people. I challenge every circuit to bring young people and every District Chair to attend and serve in 2019. I promise that you won't regret it!"

The event mixes activities of all kinds – creative, sporting, reflective, musical and cerebral – into a programme that is intentionally built around times of challenge, times that allow participants and the wider church to encounter children and young people as prophets, and times for them to meet the Saviour who loves them, calls them by name, offers them relationship, and asks for a response.

Children and young people come as part of a group, with leaders. Participants can access a programme that they choose in a variety of venues. For example, this year Cliff College ran a venue called The Den with multiple activities interspersed with times of bible study and liturgy. Children and young people are encouraged to think about how they can be 'agents of change' in the world. Speakers in that venue included the Revd Dan Woodhouse, who was arrested after breaking into a BAE Systems base in Warton to disarm warplanes set to fly to Saudi Arabia. In another venue a group of young people from the Methodist Church of Mexico gave talks on how their Church is engaging with drug traffickers and prisoners to tackle the problem of gang violence.

An exhibition made up of letters from the 1000 letters campaign from Methodist Church members of all ages was displayed to inspire and encourage the young people at 3Generate and participants were invited to respond to the themes. There was worship in a variety of styles from contemplative, to urban praise and Gospel, sessions of Godly play, drumming and storytelling.

The event is the culmination of months of work, and the whole church is touched by its impact. The manifesto and report produced at 3Generate will influence and shape the Church's direction.

Penny Fuller, Children, Youth & Family Coordinator, with responsibility for the event explained: "The event is really important to the life of the Church, bringing together young people of all ages from across the country. The weekend enables them to live out their calling as Methodists to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ and then to live that calling out in the world. When they gather together they know they are not alone, but part of a Church that believes in transformation."

## **Holy Week Photography Exhibition**

For Holy Week this year we're hoping to do something special with the help of some local photographers and The Peacock Bar on North Parade.

For the last few months photographers have been busy creating scenes and images using Holy Week Bible passages as their inspiration. The quality of these compositions has been incredibly high and I'm very excited about the opportunity to curate them into, what I hope will be, an inspiring and moving exhibition.

This exhibition will be housed in a gallery in the upper room of The Peacock Bar (25 North Parade). An opening event for the gallery will be held on Sunday 14th April (Palm Sunday) and the Gallery will be open each day through Holy Week whenever the bar is open.

Some of the images will also be used during our Circuit Holy Week services hosted by various churches. These services will all have their own unique style of worship.

Each photographer has also been asked to capture their interpretation of 'Resurrection'. These photographs won't form part of the initial gallery display but will be unveiled as part of our Easter Beer and Hymns.

Further details of services and timings for events will be made available as soon as they are finalised but please take this as an early invitation to journey with us through all the emotions of Holy Week, to the foot of the cross and beyond.

Graeme Dutton



### **Fair trade news**

Keep the date!

We are hoping to hold a Circuit Fair Trade lunch at Horton Bank on Saturday 6th April to raise money for Traidcraft Exchange. Where possible, we will use fairly traded products. Please put the date in your diaries. Details will be sent to churches nearer the time.

### **Traidcraft**

You may have heard that Traidcraft has experienced financial problems. An update issued in November states that Traidcraft will continue trading, maximising the profitable parts of the business, phasing out loss-making lines, creating a membership culture and setting a new high bar for ethical trading in the UK.

Fair trade fortnight takes place this year between **25th February and 10th March**. This would be a good opportunity to support Traidcraft within our churches by having some of their products available for sale after church services, or on other occasions, during this period. Goods can be provided on a sale or return basis.

If anyone is interested in involving their church, please contact Jean Tomlinson 01274 571074)

# MODERN SLAVERY SYMPOSIUM

16 March, 10am-3pm

Leeds Church Institute

20 New Market St, Leeds LS1 6DG

In partnership with the Salvation Army and All We Can we will be exploring through a series of talks:

- What modern slavery means, how to spot it and how to support survivors
- Understanding the circumstances that drive people into slavery
- Learning what we can do to help prevent slavery

Visit the marketplace – your opportunity to talk to organisations working with survivors

Take part in a panel discussion with Ashiana; Palm Cove Society; City Hearts; and Hope for Justice – listen to the experiences of those who work with survivors.

The event is free, but lunch is included, so please book your place.

To Book: Sian Henderson, [admin@yorkshirenemethodist.org](mailto:admin@yorkshirenemethodist.org), 01904 786275

Elections were held for the next Youth President with two candidates taking part. The candidates were asked questions by young voters during hustings and produced promotional videos and displays as part of their election campaigns. The announcement of the Youth President designate will be made later this week.

Some of our own young people attended again.

This is what they had to say:

'Amazing' 'Engaging' 'Exciting' 'Reflective' 'Energetic' 'Different' 'Introspective'

'Gave me space to think' 'A great chance to make new friends'

'When it came to the shop - expensive' 'Sweaty!'

John said it was 'interesting to go as a leader for the first time'.

## 'Chattabox' Holiday Club

17 children attended our 1 day October Session during half term where we enacted God's wonderful

Creation. The children took part in activities which ranged from creating potato people and pipe cleaner bugs to making animal bookmarks and sweet scarecrows and tackling code breakers and making a creation collage. They also enjoyed playing games and singing appropriate songs.

We also looked at how we are spoiling God's Creation and how it feels to have something which has been lovingly created destroyed (one of our helpers created a beautiful fruit and cream flan which another volunteer came along and destroyed).

A good time was had by all.

Christine Peacock, (Horton Bank )

## Pray First at Java Joe's

We continue to meet on a Wednesday morning to drink coffee together and pray using a Celtic liturgy.

A gentle way to take time out with God in the middle of the week.

All are welcome to join us.

9.30am Java Joe's Dudley Hill



## Safeguarding, onerous or joyful?

I came to work in the Methodist Church 5 years ago. The Connexion was in the middle of a major review of how they had dealt with safeguarding issues in the past, right back to 1950. I understand that the aim was to put right anything that could still be dealt with, and learn from the mistakes that had been made at a time when our knowledge of the scale of the problem, and the long term affect it had on those who were abused, was not understood. I did not grow up in the Methodist church and I am not a member, so I was surprised at how much that investigation touched me. I had something very unpleasant happen to me in the church I grew up in, I told my parents and while they believed me, nothing happened. (It was not a criminal act but should have raised concerns with social services for the family concerned.) I felt as though an official church body was finally saying, 'what happened to you as a child all those years ago matters'. It touched me deeply.

I have recently done the new advanced safeguarding module which has been revised on the basis of what has been learnt from the past. One of the highlights for me was a piece from someone who researches abuse. He talked about a man who abused children in his care in 2 places, but in between he did not abuse, even though he was working in a children's home. The reason why was because the safeguarding training was so good, the practise in the home was so good, it would have been too risky to abuse any of the children.

What we want to do is build a culture, not of suspicion, but of awareness, with really thorough safeguarding practice. This would mean that those who wish to abuse will be unable, and those with tendencies in that direction but who do not want to give in to temptation, will be kept safe too. I believes as those who follow Jesus, who championed the poor and vulnerable, this is something for which we should strive. So when you are asked to do safeguarding training to make your church and our circuit a safer space, when you realise you have more paperwork to fill in, when recruiting volunteers seems onerous, please don't see it as one more thing you have to do, another box to tick. Please see it as another means of bringing in God's Kingdom, because God's Kingdom is somewhere where all should feel safe and welcome.

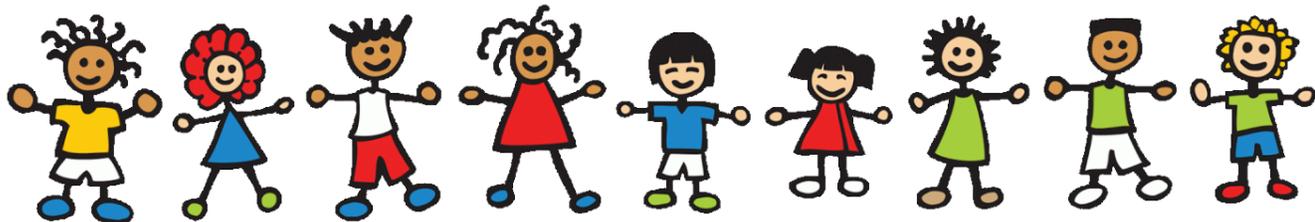
As Jesus said:

"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

"Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great."

We may not have many children in our churches but they matter, and we all carry the small child we once were, for many that is a wounded child who needs a safe space for healing to take place.

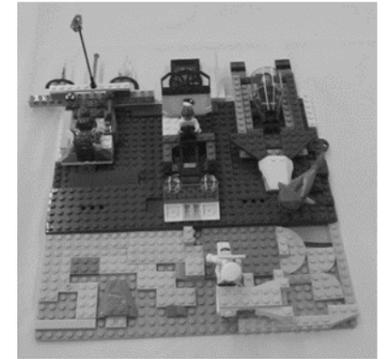
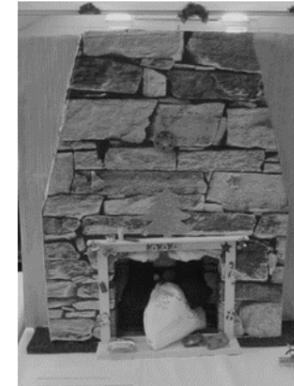
Alison Terrell



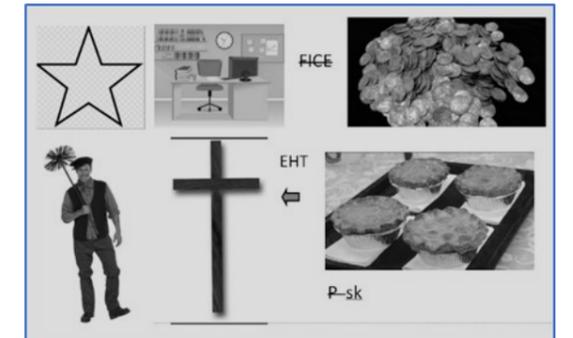
## CHRISTMAS THEMES AT ALDERSGATE

For the past few years we've had a theme for our Christmas Coffee Morning at Aldersgate. Our first was Christmas trees when we asked our members, friends and groups who met on our premises to decorate one themed to their own interest or that of their group. We wondered if people would join in. We need not have worried! All sorts of weird and wonderful trees appeared and over the years more and more people and groups joined in as we moved on to shoebox nativity scenes, angels and wreaths The after school club at one of local schools challenged parents and scholars to join in, CYG got their thinking caps on and then the Parents and Toddlers Group offered to do a giant welcome poster which has become a feature every year now as you enter the building.

This last Christmas we asked people to depict a verse from a carol or Christmas song in some creative way. We said you may wish to knit it, paint it, sew it, draw it, stuff it, mould it, bake it, photograph it, built it in

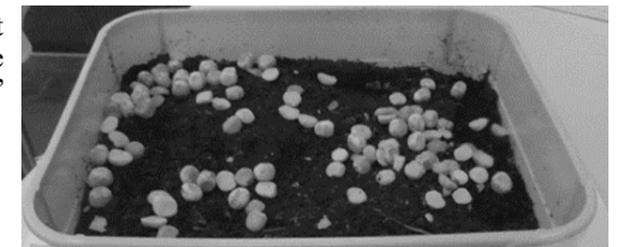


(1) left (2) above (3) right  
(4) Below Left (5) Below right



But that wasn't all. We had a cunning plan! We took photographs of all the entries and made a list of all the carols and songs depicted and Jenny Hardy managed to put them in some sort of order to tell the Christmas story for our Carol Service. We sang selected verses from most of them, and let the stewards take the collection to the strains of "Frosty the Snowman" and "When Santa got stuck up the chimney" as slides showing each entry were displayed. It was really enjoyable.

As you may have guessed some of the depictions were not straight forward (see the answers below) – and we'll leave you with the final hymn – "Hark the herald angels sing." Go on sing the first verse and see if you get it!  
Mary Twentyman



Answers to carols. (1) When Santa got stuck up the chimney. (2) and (3) I saw three ships (4) Silent night (5) Star of silver sweep across the sky (2<sup>nd</sup> verse of See him lying in bed of straw. Last one 'Peas on earth – get it?')

## The 'Methodist Way of Life' postcards – part 2.

By now many of our congregations will have received the postcard produced by Rev Dr Roger Walton, of which I spoke in the last newsletter.

For those who have not yet had sight of one, these postcards offer a 'Rule of Life' based on the 'Our Calling' commitment adopted by the Methodist Church a number of years ago. The 'rule' focusses on the four elements of 'Our Calling' (Worship, Learning and Caring, Service, Evangelism), offering commitments to be made by us within each of these elements.

The 'rule' begins very simply by stating we will commit ourselves to the rule 'As Far As We Are Able', clear acknowledgement that we are all human and will find somethings easier than others at different times in our lives.

The commitments are:

**Worship** – to pray daily, worship regularly, look and listen for God each day.

**Learning and Caring** – to seek to learn more of God and God's world, practise friendship and care for others and ourselves, honour creation and tend the environment, practise hospitality and generosity.

**Service** – to be good neighbours to those in need, challenge injustice, seek the common good.

**Evangelism** – to witness to the love of God in Jesus, speak of faith to others, help each other to be better disciples.

Whilst this has been distributed to those attending church services, it is clearly not a 'rule' restricted only to those who are able to attend church regularly. Those of us who are unable to attend worship, for whatever reason, are just as able to make a commitment to this rule as any other.

We can, for example, all be welcoming in our home, we can all be mindful of our use of the world's resources and the needs of others, we can all speak of our faith to others when the opportunity arises, we can all pray.

If you have not received a card and would like one, please ask your minister, pastoral visitor or church steward. Will we do our best to make one available to you.

God bless,  
Rev Lyn Gregg

'A small group of people from the circuit who have committed to trying to live out this 'Methodist Way of Life' meet together each Saturday morning.

These meetings start at 10:30am at Tiffin Coffee in Bradford City Centre (in The Wool Exchange, next to Waterstones).

Each week the group considers the questions from one section on the back of the Way of Life cards.

If you would like more information about this group please either join us on a Saturday morning or contact Graeme'



## Annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving

Over the past few years, services of Remembrance and Thanksgiving have become increasingly popular within Methodist churches. A practice that would have pleased John Wesley, who believed that All Saints Day was an opportunity for 'giving God solemn thanks for the lives and deaths of his saints' - those who are 'famous or obscure'.

Each year, on a Sunday near to All Saints' Day, the Circuit arranges a Service of Remembrance and

Thanksgiving for those who have died in the previous twelve months, and for whom our circuit ministers have conducted funeral services. Those services may have been held in a church or crematorium chapel. Families are invited to join us in that service. On 4<sup>th</sup> November last year, many accepted the invitation to a simple service at Aldersgate Methodist Church to give thanks and remember their loved ones before God.

The introduction to worship includes these moving words:

'We welcome you. We hope you will find peace in this place.

We remember those whose lives may not have left their mark in dramatic and spectacular ways in the eyes and authority of the church, but who we know have indeed left a significant and indelible mark in the life of the world.

We remember those who have lived amongst us, those who, being made in the image of God, have now inherited their place in heaven. They dwell in that place where, although they are beyond our seeing and knowing, they are held in God's embrace as gently and eternally as they are held in our hearts.'

Reading the names of those who have died and lighting of candles is at the centre of our worship. As the names drop into the quietness, each life is honoured and the bereaved upheld. The congregation is invited to come and light a candle in memory of their loved one – an invitation which is eagerly taken up. There is a profound sense of shared gratitude, grief and remembering.

Although everyone's way of dealing with loss and grieving is different, many find strength and comfort from knowing that there are others on the same journey. Following the service, the opportunity to share experiences, tears and smiles is offered over a welcome cuppa.

For all who attend, we trust this is a helpful step through their journey of grief.

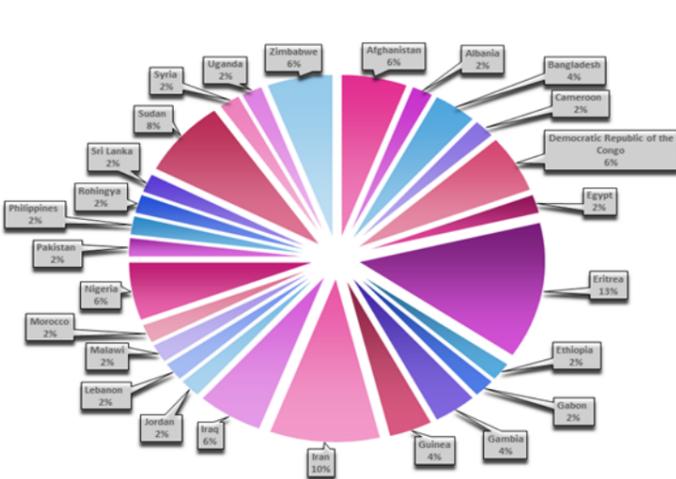
Thank you, Aldersgate for your hospitality!

Sarah Jemison



**‘The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it’ (John 1<sup>5</sup>)**

Asylum seekers, refugees, displaced persons are never long out of the news. Recently, a small number of these desperate people have risked the cold and dangerous shipping lanes of the English Channel to reach our shores. Often described as ‘migrants’ – so disguising the real nature of their plight. This is not a journey, they’d chosen or wished to make simply to better themselves. Still there are reports of capsized dinghies in the Mediterranean with children, babies, women among those losing their lives. It’s a pretty dark picture. Into this situation, BEACON continues to bring a flicker of light and glimmer of hope.



BEACON’s McKenzie Friends have supported people from those four countries and many others: including Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rohingya people.

“I am pleased and grateful for all the help and support that all of you gave me. I wouldn’t do this journey without people like you by my side. I can’t thank you enough for being there in my time of need. From the bottom of my heart, a big thank you.”

*Individual supported by McKenzie Friends*



BEACON’s light shines to the volunteers, who are amazed and inspired by the asylum seekers and refugees they meet. There is mutual enrichment.

“For me, coming to the class is a weekly reminder of the power of love and compassion - we meet people with amazing strengths and we share laughter.”

*CHAT English Club volunteer*

Light also shines to professionals who encounter the CHAT hospitality volunteers at Bradford Immigration and Asylum Tribunal Centre, Phoenix House, “Your service is certainly a thoughtful one and very much appreciated by those who are often extremely nervous about attending a hearing. A hot drink, a biscuit and a chat is a great way to settle nerves. You are to be commended for your efforts.”

*Bradford social worker*

please continue to pray for the work of BEACON.

Visit our website <https://beaconbradford.org> where you can read our latest Annual Report.

Copies of the Annual Report will be available for each church at the Circuit Meeting. To learn more about BEACON, or any of its projects, request a speaker for your church by contacting me!

Rev Sarah Jemison (Chair)

## Hymnbooks to Malawi



During 2018 we at Cornerstone decided we should do an audit of our old hymnbooks. We had received newer copies of Mission Praise from Circuit churches which had closed in the last few years and these are in general use. Secondly we had obtained brand new copies of Hymns and Psalms from Methodist Publishing. This meant we had put our older copies into storage and subsequently they were gathering dust!

As some of you may be aware, we are blessed to have the Kuyeli family working and worshipping with us at Cornerstone and therefore we asked if it would be possible to send our surplus hymnbooks to Churches in their former homeland of Malawi. Our suggestion was graciously accepted and 150 copies of Mission Praise and 50 copies of Hymns and Psalms, along with music copies were sent to five Malawian Churches. These were received with absolute joy and we have been sent photographs of the presentation ceremony from some of the Churches, along with a lovely greeting from Michiru Central African Presbyterian Church. It is wonderful to know that our old hymnbooks are being put to good use and God’s name can continue to be praised in Malawi.

Andrew Reader  
Cornerstone Church

