

enough

Our responsibility to meet families' needs



Children without enough to meet their basic needs are denied a decent start in life. These children can expect fewer qualifications, lower-paid jobs, more illness and shorter lives than their richer classmates. That is unnecessary and unacceptable.

Poverty is not being able to do things that are necessities. Things that are important like gas and electric, showers, bus fares, and having to worry that your daughter has a hole in her shoes. She needs new shoes and I don't have the money. What do I do? Do I get gas or do I get shoes?"¹.

Enough asks that we keep the link between a family's needs and the support it is offered by the benefit system. The Welfare Reform and Work Bill currently being debated in Parliament seeks to break that link for millions of families with children. Enough asks that children have enough.

The Bill's "two child rule" means that families with three or more children will receive the same support as a family with two children – although their needs will clearly be greater.

The Benefit Cap will be lowered and the limit on welfare will bear no relation to a family's needs or even average incomes (its initial rationale). Should a family be smaller than average the cap is reduced, yet should a family be larger than average it is not increased.

The result will be many families, and many children, living long term without enough.

Visit www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/enough/ to find out what you can do in response.

Connexional News is compiled by Rev Andy Fyall

Any suggestions for items should be sent to Andy by 10th of April 2016

News from The **Methodist Church** 
May 2016

An Address to the Bishop of Rome

One of the most significant Ecumenical events of recent years took place on Thursday 7th April when the Secretary of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Gareth J Powell, with other senior Methodist representatives from around the world, were received by Pope Francis in a private audience at the Vatican.

During the audience the Revd Gareth Powell gave the following presentation to Pope Francis:

Your Holiness,

We bring you the greetings of the Methodist people.

It is a particular pleasure to greet you in the year when the English speaking Methodist community, here in Rome, celebrates 60 years of worship and ministry at Ponte Sant' Angelo Church.

The work of that local church, and the ecumenical commitment of its ministers, has led to important exchanges of insights and wisdom as together we seek to proclaim the love of God.

The dialogue between Methodists and Catholics continues to enrich our understanding of each other and also of ourselves.

That the formal dialogue takes place at an international level is vital to our understanding of the breadth of God's creation. That churches in this City and in a whole variety of local communities give expression to our common faith in Christ is vital to our faithful search for deeper unity.

We are grateful to you for the encouragement you give that together we must strive to be one in faithfulness to Christ and the mission of the Church.

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Your Holiness's declaration of a Year of Mercy is one in which the Methodist people take a most particular interest. The proclamation of the mercy of a loving God stands at the heart of all that John Wesley, our founder, stood for. His brother Charles expressed it in one of his hymns;

Prepare the vessel of thy grace, Adorn me with the robes of praise, And mercy shall be all my song; Mercy for all who know not God, Mercy for all in Jesu's blood, Mercy, that earth and heaven transcends; Love that overwhelms the saints in light ... [584, Methodist Hymn Book]

We are grateful to your Holiness for offering us fresh understandings of the Mercy of God. Your call to a renewed understanding of God's mercy is one that must surely find expression in our common endeavours and in the way that we live out our mission and shape our ecclesial communities.

In this gift of a copy of the Hymns on the Lord's Supper by John and Charles Wesley you will find something of the Methodist emphasis on the depth of God's loving purposes.

We pray that together we may find a deeper sense of our shared calling. Through our sharing in the celebration of the victory of love over death may we have a more dynamic and urgent sense of our mission. In these hymns and in all that we do as followers of the risen Christ, let us raise our voices in the proclamation of our common gospel and the offer of mercy.

The events followed the dedication of a new Methodist Ecumenical Office held at Ponte Sant'Angelo.

Revd Dr Stephen Skuce to become new Acting Principal of Cliff College

The Revd Dr Stephen Skuce is to be seconded from working in the Methodist Connexional Team to the role of Acting Principal of Cliff College in Derbyshire from 1 June 2016.

The Revd Dr Stephen Skuce, currently Director of Scholarship, Research and Innovation for Methodist Church, said of his new secondment: "It is an honour to be stepping in as Acting Principal of Cliff College in this interim period while a new Principal is found."

In previous roles at the College, Stephen has been Postgraduate Tutor, Director of Research and Academic Dean.

He added: "I've been privileged to serve at Cliff College in the past and I look forward to this new opportunity to help lead its development and ensure that the College continues to fulfil its mission.

"My experience at Cliff, lecturing in a number of other colleges and universities in Ireland and Sri Lanka and the insights gained as an External Examiner are all helpful in the challenges of contemporary academic leadership and enabling the College to make a difference for the Church and in the world."

As well as the secondment to the role of an Acting Principal, the College Committee and Methodist Council have agreed on further action points to ensure the continuation and development of the College's mission and ministry as it looks to the future, including the creation of a 'clear and strategic vision statement' and further provisions of pastoral support to College staff.

The Revd Rachel Deigh, Chair of the Cliff College Committee, added: "I am delighted with the secondment of Stephen as the Acting Principal of Cliff College and look forward to welcoming him back to the College in this new role. I believe that he has the experience and expertise that is needed at this time as we move forward into God's future for the College. We assure Stephen of our prayers during this time of transition and change for both him and the whole College community."