

Please join us in praying for Haiti and the communities affected by this devastating crisis.

Jesus, we see you calming storms-
storm tossed seas and stormy lives.
Extend your power and grace again,
especially upon these most recent storm victims.

Speak peace and healing over bodies and spirits broken by the chaos.
Jesus, speak peace.

Speak peace and hope over families and communities devastated by
sudden loss.
Jesus, speak peace.

Speak peace and unity over diverse groups of people
so they would come together for greater provision,
just distribution, and effective rebuilding.
Jesus, speak peace.

Speak peace and protection over rescue workers
as they reach out to those who are suffering.
Jesus, speak peace.

You are the Prince of Peace.
You are the Resurrection and the Life.
You are strong to save.
Our hope and trust are in you. Amen.

Connexional News is compiled by Rev Andy Fyall

News from 
The **Methodist Church**

November 2016 **Hurricane Matthew hits Haiti**

Hurricane Matthew hit the west coast of Haiti on Tuesday 5 October with devastating effect, leaving hundreds dead and thousands displaced.



The BBC reported that at least 10,000 people were in shelters along with reports of overcrowded hospitals and shortages of fresh water. The storm knocked down communications and blocked roads, hampering emergency efforts.

British Methodist Mission Partners in Haiti, John and Sharon Harbottle have managed to get a couple of emails through to us. They say: "Many areas of Port-au-Prince have suffered from extensive flooding, and the water pouring out of the mountains is likely to continue to increase for a day or two yet as it is still raining.

"Roofs have been blown off many homes and many people are in refuge centres. We understand that the authorities tried to clear people from the areas most at risk before the hurricane arrived, and everyone received text messages on their mobile phones giving guidance.

"The situation further to the west, where the centre of the hurricane made landfall, a little to the west of Les Cayes, is much worse. A few reports have been received from there indicating the town has had significant flooding, damage to buildings and trees are down.

"We have not been able to make contact with folk in that area nor in the Jeremie area, and we have now heard that one of the bridges on the main road from Port au Prince to the west has been washed away so there is no road access to the worst hit parts of the southern peninsula.

"Please continue to pray for the country and especially those in the areas closer to the central track of the hurricane."

An emergency fund is now open to support the Methodist Church in Haiti as it helps in rebuilding communities in the hurricane-affected areas.

Work Experience Church
Trinity and All Saints Church, Abingdon

For the past seven years, Trinity Learning has offered work experience placements to Abingdon's three secondary schools with great success, its year seeing their 25th student.

Every year, thousands of Year 10 pupils across the country have to find themselves a work experience placement. For many, this won't be too difficult, but for some – without family ties, or those who aren't confident in their abilities – even finding a placement can be a daunting prospect. Trinity and All Saints Church have been able to provide experience to a wide range of students with learning difficulties and disabilities. Having a work placement with the church offers young people more encouragement and care than they may receive in other environments. So far, pupils have been involved in a wide variety of tasks, including preparing for events and catering, and always leave with a sense of achievement and value.

"Church work placements are a great opportunity, not just for the young people, but for the church as well," said Rosemary Perrow, Education & Development Officer. "You don't even need a church office – just someone who's patient, able to co-ordinate the young person's week and lots of church volunteers who need a helping hand!"
"Why not, take the plunge and contact your local secondary school? They may well have someone in mind."

Email: Rosemary Perrow trinitylearning@gmail.com

Asia Bibi case postponed

Asia Bibi has been on death row in Pakistan since 2010 for allegedly breaking the country's strict blasphemy laws. Bibi denies the allegations. Pakistan's blasphemy laws are heavily criticised for their use to persecute minority faiths. Although the majority of convictions have been against members of the Sunni Muslim majority, there have been disproportionately large numbers of Ahmadi, Christian and Hindu minorities charged.

The hearing of Bibi's appeal was postponed this week after Judge Iqbal Hameed ur Rehman, one of three judges set to hear the appeal, removed himself from the case citing conflicts of interest. Immense pressure has been put on judges by hardliners threatening to act against those who would

grant Bibi her freedom. A future date for the case to be heard has not been set.

The Methodist Church asks for your prayers and action on this case and for those being persecuted in Pakistan.

We ask that you continue to pray for Asia Bibi. Please pray that her ordeal may come to an end. Pray for her and for all those fearing persecution in Pakistan and around the world.

President visits Rome

The Revd Dr Roger Walton, President of the Methodist Conference, visited Italy's capital in October to celebrate 50 years of the Anglican Centre in Rome.

As well as meeting with other Church leaders and celebrating the 50th anniversary, Roger and his wife, Marion, will be taking part in a number of activities including visiting sites of special religious significance.

Speaking about the celebrations, the director of the Anglican Centre, Archbishop David Moxon, said: "The Anglican Centre has worked for fifty years to help Roman Catholics and Anglicans work together, pray together, study and talk together.

"The journey we are on demands the laying-down of old fears and misconceptions of each other, and the building up of a shared story together. These celebrations mark the writing of a new chapter in the history of the Christian Church."

In April of this year, the Methodist Church officially opened its own centre in Rome, the Methodist Ecumenical Office in Rome.

The opening ceremony saw Methodist representatives from across the world, including the Secretary of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Gareth J Powell, meet and address the Pope.

Since 1955, a British Methodist Minister has been stationed at the Ponte Sant'Angelo Methodist, Rome, to act informally as a link with the ecumenical work of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, a body of the Catholic Church. Since 2014, a more formal arrangement has been put in place.

The President's visit will culminate in an ecumenical evening prayer service and Gala dinner with Pope Francis and the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rt Revd Justin Welby.