

# the connexion

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## Chaplaincy special

A place of welcome  
in Brighton and Hove

.....

Along the waterways

# CHAPLAIN





# Unexpected places

**O**ne of the biggest joys of working on *the connexion* is discovering the remarkable variety of mission and evangelism that Methodists are engaged in.

Since our first issue came out in the winter, all sorts of people in a whole range of places have talked about “elevating the e-word” and wanted to share their experiences.

In this edition, we have shifted the focus onto an often unsung group – chaplains.

Many of us expect to see a chaplain in prisons and hospitals. We’re not completely surprised to find the Methodist Church has chaplains in schools and workplaces.

But I’m confident that you will find a wide range of stories covering the breadth of Methodist chaplaincy that will surprise you.

We so easily quote John Wesley’s phrase that the world was his parish. Well, chaplaincy is one of the ways in which that becomes a reality – faith becoming visible alongside people who may never encounter it otherwise.

You will read of district and circuit initiatives and healthy ecumenical partnerships that enrich people’s lives.

As we did with issue 1, we have sent you three copies. Please give two away and encourage people to make connections with *the connexion* so that we keep the Good News circulating.

If someone gave you this copy of *the connexion* and you’d like to receive it directly, please register at **[www.methodist.org.uk/theconnexion](http://www.methodist.org.uk/theconnexion)**.

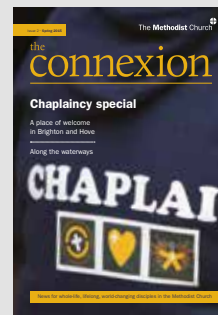
Stay connected!

Gareth Hill  
Editor  
[theconnexioneditor@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:theconnexioneditor@methodistchurch.org.uk)

## the connexion

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The innovative Bluefish chaplaincy in Wolverhampton

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25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR  
Tel: 020 7486 5502  
Email: [resources@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:resources@methodistchurch.org.uk)  
Web: [www.methodistpublishing.org.uk](http://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk)

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## Connecting with Conference

**T**he 2015 Conference takes place in Southport from Saturday 27 June to Thursday 2 July, preceded by the Presbyteral Session on 25 and 26 June. Anyone interested in the workings and content of the Conference can find all they need to know about the Conference before, during and after it at [www.methodist.org.uk/conference](http://www.methodist.org.uk/conference), including all the Conference reports and the live stream. The website also includes information on how to submit a memorial to the Conference.

The President-Designate and Vice-President-Designate for this year are the Revd Steven Wild and Dr Jill Barber.

## Chaplaincy Essentials

**T**his spring the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network launches *Chaplaincy Essentials*, six two-hour sessions suitable for varied settings, not just chaplaincy. Based on real life scenarios and practical exercises it's ideal for new volunteer chaplains.

*Chaplaincy Essentials* is part of *Chaplaincy Everywhere*, a suite of resources on the Methodist Church website. They describe chaplaincy as a form of mission for a variety of settings. Here are six of the best:

- *Chaplaincy Everywhere* Course: six-session course for those thinking about chaplaincy
- *Chaplaincy Essentials*: flexible course for new and more experienced chaplains
- *Chaplaincy Everywhere* exhibition: stories and pictures
- *Chaplaincy Everywhere* film: short film about chaplains
- *Chaplaincy Everywhere* e-news: sign up for stories and news
- *The Spiral of Chaplaincy Development*: simple how-to graphic, with supporting resources

All are free to download; many can be used in worship and small groups. Don't forget to send us your own chaplaincy stories!

[www.methodist.org.uk/chaplaincy](http://www.methodist.org.uk/chaplaincy)

## New futures for historic landmarks

**T**wo historic Methodist landmarks are set for major changes with more than £4,000,000 to be invested in their future. The New Room in Bristol has a grant of £2,500,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. That, plus £1,400,000 from the Bristol Methodist District, will help to create a three-storey education centre and café in the Horsefair Courtyard.

Meanwhile, in Tolpuddle, Dorset, a former Methodist Chapel built in 1818 has been bought by the Tolpuddle Old Chapel Trust. It plans to complete major conservation by 2018. This will coincide with the 200th anniversary of the opening of the building, where at least four of the six Tolpuddle Martyrs worshipped.

In Bristol, the plans are to create a contemporary building alongside the 276-year-old Grade 1 listed building known as "the cradle of Methodism". In 1739, John Wesley bought a plot of land to build a meeting room for those who were responding to his message of faith and social justice.

The ground floor will feature a shop and a café. On the other levels there will be a large multimedia lecture room, an extensive resource library on Methodist history, an archives room and offices.

The existing museum will be completely revamped to reflect John Wesley's work in Bristol, in eighteenth-century Britain, and around the world. The interior of the chapel will not be changed.



*The former Methodist Chapel, where at least four of the six Tolpuddle Martyrs worshipped*

## Preachers in the frame

**C**alling photographers to put Methodist local preachers and worship leaders in the frame!

The Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Photo Competition will showcase worship leaders and local preachers. Entrants should submit two photos. The first should be a local preacher/worship leader engaging a congregation. The other should depict them in an aspect of their daily life – for example their day job or enjoying a hobby.

The competition is open to UK residents. Smartphone images (high quality) are welcomed.

# JPIT Election materials

**A**t the recent 'Think, Pray, Vote' conference, Archbishop Justin Welby, urged Christians to resist narratives of self interest and vote for the common good. He said: "It's impossible to love Jesus and not care about people's welfare in every respect."



*The Archbishop of Canterbury  
the Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin  
Welby*

tell them to stop being followers of Jesus who told us to love God and our neighbours."

The conference launched JPIT's 'Think, Pray, Vote' election pack.

It explores four themes – Truth, Justice, Peace and Well-being – through films, postcards and Bible studies. It is

designed for church and small group use in the four weeks immediately before May's general election and available from Methodist Publishing [www.methodistpublishing.org.uk](http://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk).

Rachel Lampard, Joint Public Issues Team Leader (JPIT), said: "Telling Christians that they should not be involved in political life is to

**S**ecuring a larger venue for 3Generate 2015 is the way organisers have responded to last years' event, when some ticket types sold out within days.

The Methodist Children & Youth Assembly takes place from 7.30pm on Friday 20 November until lunchtime on Sunday 22 November at the PGL Adventure Centre in Liddington, Wiltshire.

Focusing on fun, faith and friends, there will be three streams: school years 4-6 (8-11s), years 7-13 (11-18s) and 18-23 year olds.

It costs £99 for the weekend (including meals, accommodation and activities), with limited £45 Saturday day delegate places.

The 3Generate Well Weekend is a separate, concurrent, event for leaders and workers. It offers time and space for fellowship, networking, Bible study and for exploring how to connect with 3Generate locally and at home. The weekend costs £99 (Saturday delegates £60).

See 2014's event at [www.youtube.com/3GenerateTV](http://www.youtube.com/3GenerateTV). For 2015 information and tickets (from 9am on Saturday 6 June), visit [www.3Generate.org.uk](http://www.3Generate.org.uk). Email any queries to [3Generate@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:3Generate@methodistchurch.org.uk).

The lead judge is internationally renowned photographer, Martin Parr. Martin's interest in the competition relates to his childhood experience of Methodism. He says: "My grandfather was a Methodist local preacher and keen photographer, who introduced me to the camera."

## There are four categories:

- Pictures of worship leaders: entrants aged 18 or younger; entrants over 18
- Pictures of local preachers: entrants aged 18 or younger; entrants over 18

Winners in each category will be awarded a cash prize of £75, with £40 awarded to second and third place. All entries will be showcased online.

The closing date for entries is Sunday 31 May. More details at [www.methodist.org.uk/lpwlphotocamp](http://www.methodist.org.uk/lpwlphotocamp)

## Methodist pioneers



**T**he numbers of people who are unaware of the Christian message are increasing. As a result, the challenge of connecting with them is becoming ever greater.

Pioneering ministry is one approach the Methodist Church is pursuing vigorously to address this issue and Methodist Pioneering Pathways are being developed through the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network, building on the experience of the VentureFX scheme.

For the first time, the Methodist Church is officially affirming that, for some people, pioneering is a distinctive focus of the ministry to which God has called them.

Rather than creating a different order of ordained ministers, the Pioneering Pathways will recognise that pioneers come in all shapes and sizes: ordained and lay, part-time and full-time, paid and self-supporting.

The plan is to set up communities of pioneers in each region with each pioneer offered a coach or mentor, appropriate formal learning opportunities and a personal portfolio that records their journey and personal formation.

To find out more about how individuals, churches and circuits can get involved in pioneering mission, go to [www.methodist.org.uk/pioneeringpathways](http://www.methodist.org.uk/pioneeringpathways) or email [pioneering@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:pioneering@methodistchurch.org.uk).

# Making a place of welcome in Brighton and Hove

**A vision that anyone with HIV could go to any church and feel at home is part of what drives Heather Leake Date's work as a chaplain.**

*“Part of my ordination testimony was that if we are to be the Body of Christ we need to reflect the community we are part of and HIV is a significant factor in Brighton and Hove”*

**H**eather has been the bedrock of an eight-year ministry to people with HIV in Brighton and Hove and the surrounding area.

“Part of my ordination testimony was that if we are to be the Body of Christ we need to reflect the community we are part of, and HIV is a significant factor in Brighton and Hove,” said Heather, a consultant pharmacist with Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust.

She is also a minister in other appointment, working in the Brighton and Hove Circuit one day a week, including in the Sussex Ecumenical HIV Chaplaincy.

“I was ordained in June 2004 and during my probation I was exploring how I could have a more active focus on HIV in church as well as my secular life,” she said.

It was always important for Heather to work ecumenically and so Churches Together in Central Brighton and Hove became the supporting organisation when the chaplaincy was born on World AIDS Day 2004.

So how does it work?

“It’s flexible. The chaplaincy is not limited geographically but the majority of the people I work with are in the Brighton and Hove area. The chaplaincy itself is me, a phone and an email address. It’s not a place people go to but I can be contacted fairly easily for people to see or talk to.”

The length and intensity of the conversations can vary. For example, Heather has been talking to one young woman over a period of eight years while other conversations may be weekly for a much shorter period.

“I’m available for people of any faith or none but the people know where I’m coming from,” said Heather. “Sometimes I do pray with them or they need someone who will appreciate their faith or give a response that appreciates their faith as well.”

Heather’s background as a pharmacist and an ordained minister means, she

believes, that people can come with confidence in her medical training and a trust in her spiritual support. This trust has helped when some church leaders have suggested that people with HIV only need faith and not medication.

“Some patients go to a church but feel that HIV has been an issue where they can’t talk to their leaders so they might call me to have a chat. I offer a safe space; a non-judgemental listening ear, a place to share what you want to share.”

“They know my background is professional as well so I have been able to share that having faith is not incompatible with accepting treatment.”

As well as providing a place to talk, the chaplaincy also offers some structured events, with support from Dorset Gardens Methodist Church where Lunch Positive every Friday offers a three-course lunch for people with HIV. Heather said, “I go along every two or three weeks, share lunch and mingle. I can occasionally have a deep theological discussion but often it’s about being a presence and showing the human face of the Church. Quite a few people also know me from my hospital role.”

The support of Lunch Positive has been one example of the Brighton and Hove



*The Revd Heather Leake Date (HIV chaplain) with Gary Pargeter, Lunch Positive Project Manager*



Circuit's consistent support of Heather's work.

"Dorset Gardens is in an area of town where a lot of LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) businesses are based and a lot of people with HIV live. If we didn't relate to that we would be a very isolated enclave."

The main event in the calendar is World AIDS Day on 1 December. Heather meets with Brighton and Hove Community Partnership, the Terrence Higgins Trust and the local authority's LGBT officer to plan the annual candlelit service. Her role is to add new names to the list for the vigil. She also plans the ecumenical service.

"It's very important that we have a two-way learning and sharing. We have to share the Good News. We believe we have the Good News to share with everybody but also believe the rest of the community has plenty to share with us. My role is particularly as a bridge that allows these experiences to be shared in both directions.

"Dorset Gardens is a very inclusive congregation, especially since Lunch Positive began, and a number of people with HIV have come along to church, either regularly or occasionally."

Heather's wish is that, while engagement with this subject may seem natural for Methodists in the Brighton area, it should be a concern for more Christians.

She said: "It's almost more important to have chaplaincies in areas with low prevalence of HIV to raise awareness and inform people. There is still a lot of stigma. My vision is that anyone can take a person with HIV to church and they would be welcome."

**Gareth Hill**

*"Some patients go to a church but feel that HIV has been an issue where they can't talk to their leaders ... I offer a safe space."*

## A Methodist gamble

**I**t was an interesting question to ask a Methodist minister:

"We're putting in a bid to the council for the available 2005 Gaming Act Licence, and wondered if we could put a bit about you in the application."

It is nice to know I am considered an asset, but an interesting concept: a Methodist minister featured in an application for a gaming licence.

Seven years ago the Rank Group approached the mainstream churches with a request for a chaplain in a casino. Only the Methodist Church showed interest, so Stephen Wiley, then chair of the Methodist Workplace Chaplains Forum and chaplain to the NEC Group, was asked to lead on the set-up.

The pilot was proposed for the Grosvenor G Casino in Luton and knowing I was resident there, Stephen invited me to be involved in the planning group for chaplaincy and for local funding for debt counselling as part of the company's social responsibility strategy.

I realised I was interested in this quirky opportunity, declined to be on the interview panel and instead applied for the job. I have now been there more than five years.

It is an interesting place to be, in a casino, trying to understand the complexities of a dealer's job, adding up in their head. Do you know your 17 times table?

There are, of course, varied reactions from Methodists to my role, many of them expressing opposition to gambling – and yet these same people wouldn't take part in a Roehampton research project into the social effects of a casino.

But then there are the conversations when I think, "That's why I am here". The young woman feeling guilty at the excitement of her forthcoming first child while her husband was preoccupied with his mother dying on the other side of Europe; another harassed by a neighbour who has caused previous tenants to leave; a young man involved in a racist attack...

A recent review showed me the importance of being 'a smiling face in the staff room', at times when I felt I wasn't doing a lot. I am not good at 'being', but it is often what this job needs.

I much preferred the evening I assisted taking drinks orders from the restaurant to the bar! That's another interesting role for a Methodist minister!



*The Revd Jenny Spouge,  
casino chaplain at  
Grosvenor G Casino in Luton*

**Jenny Spouge**

# The call to be guests

Chaplaincy is a 'portable ministry' of transformation. Stan Brown explains why.



The Revd Stan Brown works in the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network as a Church and Community Development Officer specialising in chaplaincy

**M**ost of us are familiar with chaplains in large institutions – hospitals, prisons, the armed forces, universities, schools and industry. The trouble is, this makes us think of chaplaincy as a role – a particular office held by highly trained people.

The new wave of chaplaincy featured in this issue takes us out into all kinds of communities, public spaces, town centres, places of leisure and places of work. It reaches distinctive groups of people each with their own culture and concerns.

Chaplaincy remains strong in our institutions but more and more it is about networks, groups, communities and spaces. This is chaplaincy as a portable way of doing things, a method for being there and bearing witness beyond the visible boundaries of the Church. Above all this, chaplaincy is something you can do – many chaplains are volunteers.

Two years ago, researchers from Bristol University took a close look at some of the new volunteer based chaplaincy teams the Methodist Church is developing. They concluded that these chaplaincies bring about three transformations:

- changes in the host community which receives the chaplaincy

- growth in the discipleship of the volunteer chaplains
- change in the missional culture of the local churches which commissioned the chaplains

This is a form of practical discipleship that can bring change for you, your community and your church.

Chaplaincy works by inviting us to step outside the Church to become guests in a space controlled by someone else. Chaplains need permission to enter – we have to negotiate access for chaplaincy to take place. In the Gospels we read of Jesus depending on the hospitality of others. He deliberately made himself vulnerable as our guest and had no place to call his own.

Yet so much of our thinking about mission is focused on the Church as host and house – inviting people in to come and join us. Our complex society is at one and the same time secular and multi-faith, yet shaped and influenced by Christianity.

In this fluid space Christians find themselves as a minority and the church is no longer the centre of the community. We need to learn the grace of being guests – chaplaincy has much to teach us about that.

*“I’m not sure where the journey will take us, but I do know it will be an exciting and adventurous time of discovery.”*

Karen Balmer



**K**aren Balmer is at the beginning of a long journey, developing new chaplaincy projects for the Cumbria District.

“I’m not sure where the journey will take us, but I do know it will be an exciting and adventurous time of discovery,” said Karen.

“I am sitting inside on a cold winter’s day with hailstones beating on the window but when the *connexion* goes out it will be spring with daffodils shouting triumphantly in the gardens. Hopefully the chaplaincy that is currently hidden to me, like the daffodil bulbs, will show its full colours.”

She has been encouraged by the Cumbria District’s commitment to new chaplaincy projects:

- releasing time for Chris Butterworth to work half time as Agricultural Chaplain for Cumbria, with the possibility of

- supporting him financially too
- starting up town centre chaplaincy in Kendal and possibly Maryport
- starting up chaplaincy with volunteers at an Action for Children centre in Barrow and in schools across the county

Karen has previously experienced the rich blessings of being beside people at their lowest point in life, just simply being there, really listening, giving a lift or sharing food.

“Being beside people going through really difficult times really opened my eyes up to see Jesus in people,” she said.



Maryport





A typical village store

**E**leven-year-old Asilevi Kekeli takes a moment to think when I ask him what his favourite subject is at school.

We are sitting under the central canopy in Rafiki Village, a Methodist-run home and school for orphans in Ghana. His classmates are singing a song of welcome to David Friswell, World Church Relationships Team Leader, and the Revd William Davies, chaplain to the Ghanaian Methodist Fellowship in Britain.

“My favourite subject is RME,” Asilevi tells me quietly. “Religious and moral education. I want to be a pastor when I grow up.”

The Very Revd Ekow Sey is the Director of Rafiki Village and has no doubt influenced Asilevi’s ambitions for the future. He became director when the Methodist Church in Ghana took over the funding and running of the orphanage from the Rafiki Foundation in America.

Founded in 2006, Rafiki Village can cater for up to 50 children. Grants, such as those given by the World Mission Fund in Britain, have helped to assist the Methodist Church in Ghana’s continued support for the 35 children living permanently at the village, and the five day-school pupils who come in from the nearby area to attend the village’s pre-schools.

There are plans to expand the facilities for up to 100 children as soon as the Methodist Church in Ghana receives the

financial assistance it needs to start the development.

“We had one case where the mother of triplets died during childbirth,” Ekow explains. “The children were in danger of being killed because the community where they are from sees triplets as a bad omen.” He passes me a photograph of three toddlers sitting on a stoop wearing little clothing.

“When we took them in they were malnourished,” he continues. “A year later, when their father came

here to visit them, he wept because he could see the transformation.” A second photograph showing three healthy-looking boys standing steadily on their feet clearly demonstrates the triplets’ transformation.

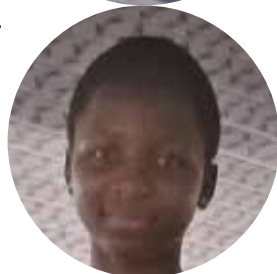
Under the canopy, sitting near to Asilevi, is eleven-year-old Naomi Haruna. She tells me she wants to be a nurse when she grows up. I am not surprised when I learn that Ekow’s wife, Eunice, is a professional nurse working part time at a local government hospital when she is not helping her husband at the village.

Eunice is a career role model to girls like Naomi, as well as a maternal figure to the orphans whom she sees as her grandchildren.

As we leave the grounds, having said our goodbyes, I turn to glance again at the motto underneath the welcome sign: “Rafiki Village,” it reads: “Home For Future Leaders.”

# Rafiki Village in Ghana

**Karen Burke meets the children of Rafiki Village, and some of the people who are offering them a new future.**



Above: Karen Burke interviews Asilevi  
Middle: Asilevi Kekeli (top) and Naomi Haruna (bottom)

# Port pastor

*Ninety per cent of everything we have and use comes to us by sea. In January, the world's largest container ship, the 19,100 TEU CSCL Globe, made its maiden call at Felixstowe. The ship is operated by China Shipping Container Line. At 400 metres long, she is the length of four football pitches and weighs as much as 14,500 London buses.*

*The port of Felixstowe*

**A** pastoral roll of 2,500 is no simple job for a minister, especially when most of them have no connection to any local church.

For Diane Smith there's the added challenge that the hundreds of people in her care work at one of Europe's biggest and busiest container ports, Felixstowe, where more than 3,000 ships a year dock.

Felixstowe handles more than 3,700,000 large metal boxes each year and provides some of the deepest water close to the open sea of any European port. Around 30 shipping lines operate from there.

Diane has been in post for just under six months, stationed in the Felixstowe Mission Area of the Ipswich Circuit, and working as chaplain to the Port of Felixstowe – a requirement of the post for the past 25 years.

"I attend the port for the equivalent of one day per week," Diane said, "and I am a

listening ear for all shore-side staff. In this context I regularly meet with individuals of different faiths and none.

"I think people may be getting used to seeing me around and I am delighted that the union office now regularly invites me to their meetings."

The port has a thriving Mission to Seafarers Chaplaincy ministering to crews coming into port from across the globe. Diane and the mission are in regular contact, but the two chaplaincies have their distinctive characteristics.

"My work is primarily with the shore-side employees," said Diane.

"Many of the workers work long shifts and some are very isolated. Working at what is currently the biggest port in the UK can be stressful to both the workers and their families.

"It is a privilege to be chaplain to the port and be alongside employees during significant periods in their lives." As well as responding to any emergency situations at the port, "part of the work also involves attending and conducting baptisms, marriages, funerals and memorial services as required."

One of the more specific areas of work that Diane has been especially involved in over the past few months is the development of ongoing bereavement care.

"This is often with individuals and on a one to one basis, but it can also involve groups of people, as was the case recently when one department saw the sudden death of a member of staff they had all worked with for well over 20 years."

All of life, it seems, sails to Felixstowe; and all of life, for sure, is Diane's concern.



*Salvation Army chaplain*

## Always on the move – care along the waterways

**I**t sounds an idyllic way to live: drifting along the waterways with the rat race well behind you. Your home is a boat and all your possessions are tucked in around you.

In fact, of the 35,000 boats on England's waterways, more than 7,000 are people's homes, rather than a quirky idea for a holiday.

For a number of them, however, it's far from a dream.

Waterways chaplain Lorraine Newman says that some of the challenges are immense.

"As wonderful as the waterways, towpaths and canals seem to those visiting them in the height of summer, there are also down times," she said.

Many boat dwellers do not have a permanent mooring and move every fourteen days to comply with their 'continuous cruising' licence. This makes it hard for children to access education and for those without transport to find permanent work.

# A broad approach to chaplaincy



Main picture: View of the Broads  
Inset: Briant Smith



The Norfolk Broads are among the more unusual places to find faith encounters being shared.

**B**riant Smith uses photography, Twitter and spiritual reflection in his role as Broads chaplain.

He's inspired by the Celtic Christian understanding that God speaks through the 'little book' of the Bible and the 'big book' of creation and by Martin Luther's quote, "God writes the Gospel, not in the Bible alone, but on trees and flowers and clouds."

He helps people engage with God as Creator and shows those who live, work and relax around the Broads that the Church cares about them. For the past four years, he has volunteered in various ways, including chaplaincy.

"The aim was for the Church to be seen to be contributing," said Briant, "showing interest and concern for those things that were most important to local people and

businesses." Briant has also set up Broads Spirituality ([www.broadsspirituality.org.uk](http://www.broadsspirituality.org.uk)), helping people to reflect on the area's riches.

"I've developed photography courses on searching for God through the lens and led monthly Catch the Spirit courses and walks."

Briant's local links have led to opportunities to present materials about the Broads to local workers, and there are conversations about a joint venture between local wildlife trusts and the Broads Authority. He is now working to form a team of chaplains. His hope is that those who encounter the Broads Chaplaincy's work will have their interaction with nature reawakened and then be prompted to engage with God.

Most people living afloat do not have a postcode, so accessing health services, opening a bank account, registering to vote or applying for benefits is really tough.

Councils find it difficult to understand this unique set of circumstances and so claims can often take up to three months to process, leaving boaters in poverty.

Lorraine said chaplains link with the Canal & River Trust (CRT) welfare officers and the boating communities are beginning to trust and value their understanding of the confidentiality of each individual case.

"Our teams of chaplains have supplied food, bags of solid fuel, replacement gas

bottles, warm boots, clothing, a reconditioned multi-fuel stove and even a new chimney," she said.

"We're also available to assist people with housing benefit applications and so on. This helps them become financially settled.

"We are building in modern communication technologies, like Twitter, email, Facebook, WhatsApp & BBM to keep in touch with the waterways users."

The Waterways Chaplaincy is part of an ecumenical organisation called Workplace

## What are the Broads?

The Broads are 303 kilometres of man-made waterways created by peat digging 800 years ago. The first written evidence of this dates back to the 12th century when much of east Norfolk had been cleared of its woodland for fuel and building materials. For the next 200 years peat digging was a major industry.

Historical records show that the pits gradually began to fill with water, making the peat more difficult to extract. Peat diggings were abandoned by the 14th century. They flooded, and this partly man-made landscape became a wetland, rich in wildlife – including a quarter of Britain's rarest species.

The waterways are usually less than four metres deep. Thirteen of the Broads are completely navigable while three others have channels open to navigation running through them.



The Fieldings,  
Salvation Army  
chaplains

continued on page 15

# More than just a tea tent



**The chaplaincy team at the Royal Cornwall Show has earned its own plaudits over years of consistent service and support.**

*The tent's team of volunteers "have long been very keen to raise our game beyond being just a tea tent with a few dog collars lurking about."*

**T**he challenge of how to 'up their game' has been constant for the chaplaincy team at one of the last truly agricultural shows.

For the 18-strong team, serving the 120,000 visitors at the Royal Cornwall Show, chaplaincy is more than "just [being] a tea tent with a few dog collars lurking around."

The Revd Roger Greene, the Methodist presbyter who chairs the chaplaincy team, says the Churches Tent at the show has been an important part of the scene for as long as most can remember.

"Refreshments, displays and a welcoming bunch of helpers are hard to miss, especially when their marquee is always given pitch number one at the massive showground in Wadebridge, North Cornwall," he said.

The big change came just over ten years ago when the team suggested that chaplaincy for the entire show would be a meaningful extension to the support farmers already got from agricultural chaplains.

The show organisers agreed, and the team was set up to cover the huge site. It was well received, and the show secretary agreed to supply free admission to the show

chaplains in future years.

"Farmers, stallholders and the public soon accepted the chaplains. Some wanted to talk and share or renew past contacts, but it was plain that others were quite simply pleased to know that chaplains were around," said Roger.

Last year the chaplaincy team included both ministers and lay people. Some chaplains cover all three days and some fewer, but all find it enjoyable and come back year after year.

Chaplains now work in shifts, one in the tent, two or three around the site and one at the Church's stand in the wedding marquee. The Methodist involvement is significant, with chaplains coming from all over the district and serving alongside people from virtually every style of church in Cornwall.

After the last show the chaplains shared their stories about precious moments, prayers offered, questions answered and above all a very friendly reception by the punters.

One of the highlights now comes even before the show officially opens with the show service on the evening before the Thursday morning start.

The congregation of 300 to 400 people assembles in the main ring with

*“Farmers, stallholders and the public soon accepted the chaplains. Some wanted to talk and share or renew past contacts, but it was plain that others were quite simply pleased to know that chaplains were around.”*

## Now in its 220th year

The Royal Cornwall Show is the county's biggest annual event, now in its 220th year. Its aim is to promote agriculture and tourism to benefit the Cornish economy and environment.

It attracts increasing numbers of animals, entered into the hundreds of classes. Year on year people travel from further and further afield in the hope of coming away with an award. It includes the traditional agricultural classes: cattle, horses, sheep, pigs as well as dog and goat sections and rare breed classes.

Alongside that are a top flower show and thriving countryside area, while Cornish-produced food is promoted in the trade section, cafes and restaurants.

Main ring entertainment is mounted on a grand scale and the traditional steam fair is a colourful extravaganza; there are stages and avenues alive with music, song and dance.

Business gets a look-in, with many stands for agricultural industry and other complementary firms but hundreds of Cornish companies see the show as a place to do business and advertise their wares, from caravans to tractors, cars to camping gear.

a welcome from the Show President and commissioning of the chaplains.

The service is always followed by a reception in the marquee itself for over 200. There are pastys, of course, free beer (donated by a Cornish brewery) and a warm welcome.

The tent's team of volunteers "have long been very keen to raise our game," said Roger. "In recent years this has included a better grade of tent, real coffee in place of instant and decent Cornish biscuits instead of the 'it will do' ones that some churches are famous for."

The Royal Cornwall Show is the county's

shop window – for agriculture and business. The excellent witness the churches show the gathered Cornish population is acknowledged by generous funding from Churches Together in Cornwall and from some additional budgets from the denominations.

The value of the hospitality is shown in the kind comments and generous donations received and the fact that people come back each year looking to pick up conversations from the year before.

The next challenge is where 'upping the game' will go next.



# Caribbean island

**Sandra Lopez discovers the social challenges below the surface of one of the Caribbean's most attractive islands – and what the Methodist Church is doing to tackle them.**



Andy Dye



*“ ... it was good to see churches opening their doors on a Friday night to local young people and helping them explore their faith in a safe and loving environment.”*

**A**s Dr Andy Dye, mission partner in Grenada, gave me a tour, the waft of spices breezed into his car, adding to the breathtaking beauty of this place of white, sandy beaches, crystal waters and tropical mountains.

The economy relies on tourism: I was not surprised to see cruise liners, private yachts and holiday makers taking advantage of all this beautiful island has to offer.

But scratch below the surface and Grenada faces challenges such as the increasing negative influence of aspects of imported ‘gangsta’ culture.

There is significant drug-taking amongst young people, particularly marijuana. Drug trafficking laws are severe, the island’s only prison is crowded and alcohol consumption amongst young and old is worrying.

Poverty exists on the island. Alongside the large, colourful houses, you can often spot a small shack.

How does the Methodist Church fit here? The Grenada Circuit, in the South Caribbean District of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA), has around 700 members, in a population of over 100,000.

Andy has been here since 2010, and his ministry has been appreciated by both Wesley College and the circuit, who warmly received him, enabling him to preach, give music lessons to children and work with local youth.

Methodism arrived here in 1790 with Samuel Painter. Described by MCCA as “a free coloured man from Antigua”, he became

a Christian under John Baxter’s ministry, a local preacher and shipwright. There was no Methodist witness then so he started a class in his home and the work took root.

The Circuit runs four schools: Andy teaches science at Wesley College Secondary School. It is vital for the disadvantaged, as many lack literacy skills and pose behavioural challenges. There is a teacher shortage because the government can’t afford to employ them, so teachers often find themselves taking classes outside their remit. Andy also teaches RE! Despite the difficulties, I was impressed by the way the school helps students tackle their issues.

The assembly I attended hosted a Health Ministry representative who gave a presentation on drug use, how it affects young people and how to avoid making wrong choices. The students went from boisterous to quiet and attentive during the talk.

Helping young people is at the heart of what the churches want to do. It was good to see them opening their doors on a Friday night and helping them explore their faith in a safe and loving environment.

A sewing ministry, with a World Mission Fund grant, enables Jackie Emmasseau, sewing coordinator and tutor, to support local women. She teaches skills that will help their families and increase their confidence in a safe supportive space. It runs most nights and is an important outreach programme, an example of the partnership with the Grenada Circuit in the Church’s mission.

## From care homes to Crufts

**H**eather Norman, lay chaplain, spends her days at Charnwood House in Coventry, run by housing and care charity MHA. She offers help and a listening ear to residents and maintains links with families of those who were cared for here and return to the home for services of remembrance, Christmas Carol services and other events.

Heather is just one of many chaplains in the Birmingham District, where the Revd David Butterworth is lead chaplain to the National Exhibition Centre's NEC Group and district chaplaincy coordinator.

"Heather is in the home 15 hours a week, and all the staff have got to know her," says David. "She hosts weekly worship, music workshops and speaks on Sundays as a local preacher. Heather is always available to chat when people are dealing with tough decisions about loved ones and at times of bereavement. Because she's not ordained she's built up a different level of highly valued trust."

At Jaguar Cars, Coventry, John Miles, a lay chaplain, is warmly received, playing similar roles at Coventry City Football Club and Ricoh Retail Park. John says his chaplaincy experience helps with contextual issues in church life, and he has been invited to speak at circuit meetings.

David says that when he began he expected half a dozen chaplains but now says, "There must be 100 chaplains in the District. Sometimes it's difficult to identify them, they're quietly getting on with it and are not on the Church missions radar."

As NEC lead chaplain, David has been welcomed in all areas. "I've been invited to Board Room meetings. I'm also part of the NEC Group People Forum, representing the businesses here, and I sit in on regular Business Recovery meetings to ensure we offer holistic care in the event of a disaster."

On the lighter side, David drew the raffle tickets at the Christmas Party for 700 staff members.

"I'm called upon if there's a tragic event, supporting staff and their families, conducting marriage blessings and funerals.

"I support quietly those working tirelessly to offer a great visitor experience at the NEC, ICC and Barclaycard Arena."



*Each year chaplains and others who are new to wider Birmingham are invited on an open top bus tour around the city and outlying industrial and commerce heartlands. The bus starts to travel around inner city areas of deprivation and regeneration sites following the demise of the automotive districts with stop off points at historic industrial sites such as Bourneville and Cadbury. This is organised by CIGB (Churches in Industry Group Birmingham) David (pictured driving the bus) is part of the Leadership Group.*

*Waterways continued from page 11*

Matters, representing six Churches: Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army and United Reformed. It started six years ago with two chaplains on a short stretch of the Grand Union Canal around Hemel Hempstead. The work quickly grew to include the Grand Union as far as Braunston, the Rivers Lee and Stort and the River Great Ouse. Now, there are more than 30 volunteer chaplains including on the Peak Forest Canal, the Birmingham Canals, Coventry, the Gloucester and Sharpness, and the Kennet and Avon.

Six chaplains live on boats while the others visit the tow path regularly.

Sometimes the chaplains find themselves alongside families at the worst possible time.

"Instances of suicide along the canal and river network are not uncommon," said Lorraine. "We have been able to share conversations encouraging and enabling people to turn away from that particular option but on one occasion it was a case of talking to the boaters after a young man had chosen to end his life.

"Our availability is key. For boaters and residents it was a terrible situation and we were able to provide pastoral support in difficult circumstances."

The average age of people who live aboard is over 50, said Lorraine.

"Many couples take to canal living in later life and when one of those partners passes away life can become difficult for the other, especially coping with loneliness and isolation.

"As we walk the towpath and say hello to everyone we find lonely people. Over a cup of tea one widow with no-one to talk to was able to share her story and find some comfort. It is always a privilege to pray with someone, whether it is on their boat or on the towpath."

Volunteer chaplains are trained and equipped with special jackets and a lock key. They walk a chosen stretch of towpath and keep in touch by email and organised meetings.

"Our volunteer chaplains include a retired consultant anaesthetist, a magistrate, teachers and ministers and Workplace Matters are calling for more people to join."

There is more information at [www.workplacematters.org.uk](http://www.workplacematters.org.uk) or by calling 07717 813682.

# A city centre shaped for mission

Rock climbing, a community choir and broadcasting on a young people's radio station are all part of the life of the innovative Bluefish chaplaincy in Wolverhampton.

**B**luefish has grown out of a Fresh Expression of church developed by Wolverhampton Pioneer Ministries, a joint Methodist/Anglican project in Wolverhampton city centre. It works with 17 to 30-year-olds, growing a vibrant discipleship movement.

"We seek to worship fully, love all and serve the city," said Deborah Walton, team leader and lay pioneer minister.

"Members of the community are encouraged to embrace opportunities to serve and grow as disciples shaped for mission. We meet regularly each Sunday evening at a gathering called Vitalise."

Because Wolverhampton city centre is mainly retail and commercial premises, the team has to find young adults and work out how to approach them in an intentionally Christian way that is appropriate and gives the opportunity to show the love of Christ.

"We decided to explore the use of

chaplaincy as our primary mission tool," said Deborah. "In November 2013 we started providing weekly chaplaincy at Badger Court, a YMCA hostel for homeless young adults.



"We consulted with chaplains working in other contexts about how to develop this idea. As a result 4 members of our community who were all under the age of 26 were trained and commissioned

as lay chaplains in July 2014 and Bluefish Chaplaincy was born."

The team gets training support and supervision from more experienced chaplains at the Black Country Urban Industrial Mission.

"The Bluefish team now provides weekly chaplaincy to YMCA Black Country at Badger Court and KicFM," said Deborah. "KicFM is a young person's community radio station based in Wolverhampton, broadcasting

Above: Team meeting  
Right: Morning Prayer in Starbucks



*"We seek to worship fully, love all and serve the city."*





*“The chaplaincy and Vitalise give our residents someone to talk to, someone to listen to their worries, achievements, problems.”*

*Above: Catherine, Deborah and Nicola (some members of our chaplaincy team)*

*Left: Bev, Alaisha (on Bev's lap) and Kadian (YMCA staff and family)*

*Below: YMCA prayer board*

24/7 online across the world!” The team ran an ambitious Christmas project last year, re-telling the Christmas story by writing a radio nativity play set in modern times and broadcast by KicFM.

Bev Momenabadi, Participation Coordinator at YMCA Badger Court, said: “The impact that chaplaincy has had on our residents and organisation has been phenomenal but is so hard to put into words.

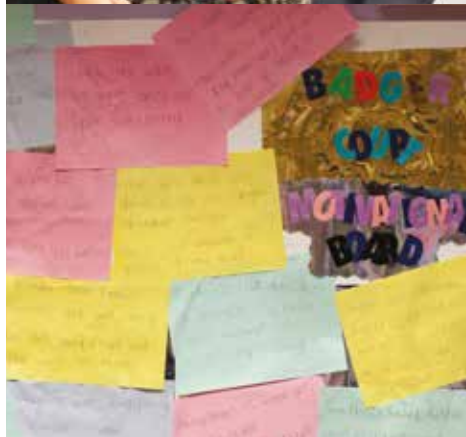
“The chaplaincy and Vitalise give our residents someone to talk to, someone to listen to their worries, achievements, problems. Surprisingly, for our young people this is something that they may never have had before.”

In addition to the traditional chaplaincy role of listening and being an intentional presence in a place where they are invited guests, the Bluefish team also offers activities for people to engage with chaplains in a different context.

Deborah said: “We have been involved in eight weeks of keep fit dance classes, ten weeks of rock climbing, monthly football and, during December, a Christmas community choir.

“We have been delighted that our chaplains have had opportunities of working with other chaplains, for example at V-Festival and the Staffordshire Show. We continue to look for other places where we can offer chaplaincy and build relationships with people who might not otherwise knowingly come into contact with Christians.”

Graham Wiggley, 26, one of the chaplains, has found serving people through chaplaincy



“not only a deeply rewarding service but a necessary one”.

Another of the chaplains, Shaz Mellis (25), said: “I’ve often thought about Church presence at events, like the Staffordshire Show, and seeing it in action reassured me that it is much needed and a successful way of engaging with people.”

# A kaleidoscope



**The Revd Julie Coates** is a presbyter who spends a third of her time as chaplain to Rosehill Methodist Community Primary School in Ashton-under-Lyne.

“I love being a part of a school community and working alongside volunteers from the circuit who support this work,” she said.

“I have lots of conversations in the corridors with the children, who are often desperate to inform me about parties, friends, grazed knees or the death of their rabbit.

“There are also opportunities to chat to family members as they collect their children and on parents’ evenings, and with staff at break times or after the pupils have left for the day.”

**Andy Jerrard’s** days are spent doing anything from discussing bovine tuberculosis to directing traffic or attending farm sales.

He’s the Plymouth and Exeter District’s Rural Support Worker and coordinates the livestock market chaplaincy.

“I’ve filled bulk tanks with milk, sales ledgers with

orders, bags with grass seed and bottles with water” he said. “Now I’m getting mugs filled with tea. This may make me multitalented!”

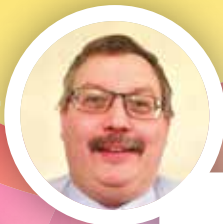
The chaplaincy covers a range of markets from the monthly livestock sales at Exeter to centres such as Hatherleigh, Tavistock, South Molton and Newton Abbot.



**The Revd Marc Morgan**, Area Minister of Ardal Glannau Maelor (Synod Cymru), has been involved with football for many years.

He’s a supporter of Newtown AFC, who play in the Welsh Premier League. “In 2009 they saw the need for a chaplain and I was asked,” he said. “I’ve become someone that all at the club can turn to.

“I have no uniform, apart from a big red coat with the word chaplain written under the club badge. I do not preach but am there, standing side by side: both at times of joy, and times of sadness.”



**The Revd Dr Jonathan Pye** is superintendent of the Kendal Circuit in Cumbria, with experience in chaplaincy and in teaching chaplaincy.

He was keen to develop work in this rural context. The relocation of Kendal auction mart to a new purpose-built site offered an opportunity to develop a weekly chaplaincy for the farming community.

Alongside pastoral contacts, there is now an annual carol service, attracting over 200 people, and the district synod has met at the auction mart.

Jonathan has also worked with the Farm Community Network, raising awareness of rural mental health issues, and is developing an ecumenical town centre chaplaincy in Kendal.



**Sarah Leeson** is a volunteer retail chaplain in the Redditch Town Centre Chaplaincy Team, where she regularly visits shops and stalls in the Kingfisher Centre, a large indoor shopping mall.

Sarah is from Emmanuel Church, a URC/Methodist fellowship in the Birmingham District.

“Our aim is to be an intentional Christian presence in the market place, building relationships with those working in this demanding, pressurised and unpredictable employment sector.”

Sarah says the chaplains want to gain an informed understanding of the challenges, issues and frustrations facing staff and management.

“Superficial conversations can develop over time into relationships of trust and deeper sharing. We do not take Christ to the market-place – we meet with him there.”



# of chaplains



As Head of Spiritual Care with Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust, **Carol Wilson** manages a culturally-diverse team of staff and volunteers supporting service users and staff across 17 hospital sites. Quite a day job for a local preacher!

Carol said, “We work with people to help them find, or reconnect with, things that help them make sense of what’s happening in their struggles and joys.

“Sometimes it’s about faith, it’s often about ‘why?’ and it’s always about listening as we walk alongside people.”

**The Revd Allison Waterhouse** is full-time community chaplain at Wandsworth Prison, creating links between the community and prison to support the change prisoners need to stop reoffending.

She said: “I walked into a prison and there was no hesitation that chaplaincy was my calling. The challenges, the brokenness, were the substance of life with which God calls Christians to work, pray, then re-mould and renew.”

Allison believes prison reveals society’s inequalities and increasing lack of social conscience. Community Chaplaincy Trust volunteers “are examples of profound care and self-giving by those who take on the task of ‘mending the broken-hearted and setting the prisoner free’.”



“Fi yw’r Parchg **Marc Morgan**, ers 2012, yn Arweinydd Ardal Glannau Maelor (Synod Cymru).

“Rwyf wedi ymwneud â phêl-droed ers sawl blwyddyn, ond yn fwy ddiweddar fel cefnogwr o dîm Y Drenewydd, sy’n chwarae yn Uwch Gynghrair Cenedlaethol Cymru. Yn 2009, gwelwyd yr angen am gaplan a fe ofynnwyd i mi. Mi ddes yn rhywun all pawb, yn y clwb, droi ato, i siarad ag o.

“Does gennyf ddim iwniform, dim ond gôt mawr coch gyda’r gair chaplain wedi ei ysgrifennu o dan bathodyn y clwb. Nid ywf yn pregethu ond yna, gan sefyll ochor yn ochor, ar adegau o hapusrwydd a thristwch.”



**The Revd Andy Halstead** served for five years to 2002 as whole-time chaplain to St Catherine’s Hospice, Preston. Currently, he is part-time chaplain to East Cheshire Hospice.

“Being a chaplain is about being available and open to all our patients, their relatives, carers, staff and volunteers,” said Andy.

“My work brings me into contact with so many people I would never meet in the usual course of circuit ministry. I listen to the stories, the highs and the lows of what is happening, to people facing life-limiting illnesses, those who face grief and loss and those who seek to support and care for them.”

He works with two volunteer chaplains, visiting people in Day Care and the Inpatient Unit, attends the weekly Multi-Disciplinary Team meeting and shares in educating others about spiritual care.



For over half a century, Leeds Methodists have supported students through chaplaincy.

**The Revd Caroline Ryder** is part of the ecumenical team covering Leeds and Leeds Beckett University.

“We play a vital role in university life by offering pastoral care and also through our work with other

counselling and mental health practitioners.

“We offer a safe space for spiritual exploration and hospitality via the many groups held on the premises – Café Church, Bible groups, midweek worship. We also use creative outreach opportunities to connect and speak up for Christian values in the study and workplace.”

Charlotte Osborn,  
chaplain to  
Newcastle  
International  
Airport, reveals  
spiritual needs  
among the  
check-in queues.



## All souls take flight in Newcastle

*“The chaplain’s task is to see where God is at work and to enable people to interpret their human experience in the light of the gospel.”*

**N**ewcastle International Airport provides employment and a sense of community for almost 10,000 people, or ‘souls’ as the industry refers to those caught up in an aviation incident.

That’s significant language for me, because that’s what the 10,000 are, and ourselves: souls for whom Christ died, whether we acknowledge it or not.

So it’s my joy to be invited into the airport community to support its life and simply to be there and to raise an awareness of the presence of God.

All of us carry a number of spiritual burdens, and my hope is to help people get things out of their system, or see things from a different perspective, or see where God might be.

The chaplaincy room is found immediately before the entrance to security, open 24/7. It provides a place of refuge for both employees and passengers, being used by

those of all faiths and none. A short prayer service is held there every Wednesday lunchtime, to remember before God those who are under particular pressure, or in any need, as well as those whose daily work is to enable others to fly.

The place of a chaplain is all about building trust, building relationships, showing compassion, being a visible reminder that there is more to life than meeting the next deadline or target.

It’s being available as an impartial listener to all, without fear or favour, without threat of confidentiality being broken, or judgement resulting; listening to the stories of life and telling the stories of faith.

It’s about being conscious of being invited across the threshold of someone else’s territory; about death and resurrection, celebration and despair, all in the moment of meeting on the corridor.

And it’s about meeting only part of an

*“We are excited to see what God does next through this work.”*

**A** positive engagement with a connexional chaplaincy course is leading one circuit to explore having a team of chaplains.

The work in the Rotherham and Dearne Valley Circuit is being led by probationer minister, the Revd Karen Beecham. She had begun work as chaplain at one of the circuit churches, supporting the user groups and staff.

“We were made aware of the *Chaplaincy Everywhere* course by Jonathan Green, the connexional chaplaincy representative,” said Karen. “I began the role of chaplain to the centre and advertised and led the course.



The Revd Karen Beecham

“My experience, combined with the success of the course, has encouraged us as a circuit staff team to continue to explore this new ministry.”

Karen and lay worker Wayne Ashton are going to run the course again, identify specific callings for people, and hold a commissioning service in September 2015.

“We have six potential chaplains – predominately lay people, all volunteers – looking towards working in the secondary school, bank, town centre, and a church centre,” said Karen.

“The venture has been well received and approved by the circuit staff, who have a shared responsibility in supporting those with a specific calling to chaplaincy ministry. We are excited to see what God does next through this work.”

*“It’s being available as an impartial listener to all, without fear or favour, without threat of confidentiality being broken, or judgment resulting.”*

individual, but always a significant part. Because in 2015 the vast majority of our colleagues in every workplace are unchurched, that visible part varies hugely. Some know nothing about religion and care even less, some are separated from or have rejected their religious upbringing, some are very antagonistic because of past experiences, and some are very committed people of faith, maybe Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, or Christian.

The chaplain’s task is to see where God is at work and to enable people to interpret their human experience in the light of the gospel. As Archbishop Sentamu has said, “We are spiritual beings having human experiences, not human beings having spiritual experiences.”

*Charlotte Osborn on the runway at Newcastle International Airport*



## Safe passage

**Roy Crowder, Partnership Coordinator for Europe, on calls for protection of migrants.**



**I**mmigration has been a major political topic since the opening shots were fired in the general election campaign. However, Churches across Europe are trying to offer a united voice on migration and people movement.

More than 3,400 people died in 2014 crossing the Mediterranean to find refuge. Hundreds have drowned already in 2015.

The Italian Protestant Federation, including the Methodist Church, has established an ‘Observatory’ on Lampedusa Island, where 366 people drowned in 2013. The staff assist migrants and document the situation.

In 2013 the Italian Navy extended search and rescue operations, saving many lives. But when Italy was left on its own to fund the high cost it could not continue.

Nor can Italian Churches address the crisis alone. Europe as a whole must tackle the issues and Churches need to stand together.

The Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) addresses these issues. It commemorated the Lampedusa anniversary by calling on EU countries to establish ‘safe passage’ procedures to protect people.

Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant leaders drafted ‘Recommendations for Safe and Legal Paths to Protection’ for recognising Protection Status and distributing people fairly.

The recommendations point out that EU member states have signed international agreements, such as the Refugee Convention, binding governments to recognise the dignity of those fleeing violence. Refugee resettlement and humanitarian admission could increase with proper coordination. Currently, Germany offers far more places than others.

Across Europe, congregations actively support migrants and asylum seekers, helping them learn their language and navigate officialdom. As we approach an election where immigration is a contentious issue, church members can ask politicians to make ‘Safe and Legal Paths’.

The commission’s recommendations can be downloaded at [www.ccme.be](http://www.ccme.be). Churches can use them to challenge candidates to endorse its contents.



# Reflection

## *The Scarborough Diving Belle*

*Now there is no going back,  
the decision is made  
and mind and body enact her irrevocable choice:  
rotating forward with deliberate intention  
her centre of gravity shifts,  
her toes lighten –  
and in a fleeting instant  
their grip is released,  
the tipping point is past  
and gravity's unseen pull  
invites her to surrender herself fully to the dive.*

*Head held high,  
eyes raised upwards and focussed beyond the far horizon,  
bathed in brilliant sunlight  
and warmed by its unconditional caress,  
her arms are flung out wide;  
a disciplined poise that speaks  
entirely of trust,  
of grace welcomed  
and embodied,  
a call heard  
and owned as her own.*

*In this decisive moment  
she is suspended between heaven and earth,  
Christ-like,  
her ego weightless,  
freely, lovingly, utterly, completely and totally  
one with the divine love  
that bids her plunge  
way down, deep down; always down  
into the depths  
and far below the surface  
of all that is unresolved  
yet never unloved  
by the One who waits there for her.*

**T**his photograph and reflection were created by the Revd Dr David Perry, superintendent of the Hull (Centre and West) Circuit. Dave is a passionate photographer who delights in seeing God in and through all things. He is an enthusiastic advocate of the practice and place of visual theology in the life of the Church. He blogs at [visualtheology.blogspot.co.uk](http://visualtheology.blogspot.co.uk).

# Chaplaincy Essentials

## *a new resource*

The Methodist Church is offering a new learning pathway, drawing together the best resources, training and development available so that chaplains can continue to grow whatever their level of experience. *Chaplaincy Essentials* is part of this pathway, written with new chaplains in mind, but the more experienced should also find ideas to stimulate new conversations and new learning.

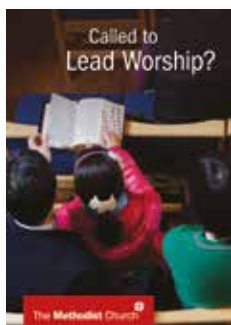
Visit this link for more information and to download *Chaplaincy Essentials* [www.methodist.org.uk/mission/chaplaincy](http://www.methodist.org.uk/mission/chaplaincy)



## *Called to ministry...?*

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