

May 2024 Newsletter

Services—May 2024

Services



May 2024

5th	10:30 am	Rev Jackie Case (Holy Communion)
12th	10:30 am	Kim Tame
	6:30 pm	Sandhurst Churches Together service at the Baptist Church TBC
19th (Pentecost)	10:30 am	Sharon Wright
26th (Trinity Sunday)	10:30 am	Local Arrangement

For (nearly) up to the minute news, visit our new website:
www.sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

If you're on Facebook—then 'like' our Facebook pages—
and join in the conversation -

Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Church

And **Babes and Tots—Sandhurst**

And if you tweet, we're there too:

@SandYMethChurch

To get in touch email:

Stewards: steward@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Hall hire: halls@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Babes and Tots: babestots@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Weekly notices: notices@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Monthly Newsletter: newsletter@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Multimedia: multimedia@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Musicians: musicians@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Website: siteadmin@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Anything else: info@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk



The minister writes...

In a few days' time, it will be Pentecost - the coming down of the Holy Spirit upon early believers and the creation of a new community.

As instructed by Christ, the disciples waited in eager anticipation in Jerusalem. The number of disciples has grown. The Acts of the Apostles tells us that they were one hundred and twenty. They spent their days in worship and prayer, waiting for the great day of fulfilment. We can imagine in a congregation of that size, how excited they would have been. There was certainly a time of apprehension among the disciples until the appearance of the risen Christ. But after their master's ascension, their anxiety and fear were replaced by joy and expectation for the fulfilment of the promise of Christ.



And it happened! While they were gathered together in a house, The Holy Spirit came down with a sound that of a mighty wind. This sound brought many other God-fearing people to the scene. After Peter explaining to them the miracle of Pentecost and exhorting them to repent, three thousand people presented themselves for baptism on that day alone. In all senses, Pentecost is a day of miracles!

This great occasion that gave birth to a new community by the Holy Spirit, through whom the new faith spread all around the world and still continuing with its creating and empowering activity, is regrettably 'only a Sunday' in our churches. What is more regrettable is the fact that the intervening forty-nine days from Easter, have lost their significance. Certainly, the occasion of the Pentecost is a major spiritual boost for worshippers and believers, but an eager anticipation in between, like the season of advent before Christmas or Lent and the Holy Week before Easter, is largely absent in our current church traditions.

Jesus Christ established the Kingdom of God in the world and called all believers to work for its fulfilment. It is for this sake, the empowering, envisioning and inspiring activity of the Holy Spirit first manifested at Pentecost. As we have seen in the holy seasons of advent and lent culminating great days of celebrations, a period of preparation and anticipation preceding Pentecost would enable Christians to remember and recall the values and virtues of our calling as disciples of Christ. The primary task of our discipleship is to make more disciples. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to work towards that and to make sure that is universally perpetual.

With warm greetings,

Rev. Soba Sinnathamby

Rotas May

Flowers

May

5th	Heather B
12th	Alison F
19th	Robert G
26th	Sandra W

Cleaning

w/c 20/5/24 Sandra W and Wendy H

Coffee

May

5th	Cynthia R and Alison F
12th	Dawn O and Cynthia R
19th	Alison B and Sandra F
26th	Cynthia R and Margaret H

Lifts to Church on Sunday morning

If you require a lift to church and you live in Sandhurst or Yateley, please ring through the listed names. They are happy to give lifts if they are available. Please alternate between the names if using the service regularly.

Please do take advantage of this service—people really do want to help.

Yateley

Pam Hardy 01252 870468

Tricia Needes 01252 658350

Sandhurst

Graham Fradgley 01276 36631

Barbara Rush 01252 876051

Douglas Brown 01252 655419

Spiritual Development Group



The spiritual development group organise:

Regular Prayer meetings and evening Bible Study,
every Tuesday evening
Rejoice! (usually 1st Tuesday)

Please join us
—or speak to Keg, Sharon or Sue for more details.

The Tuesday evening prayer group and bible study
will continue to be on Zoom but not for April—July
2024.

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://zoom.us/j/2799549300?](https://zoom.us/j/2799549300?pwd=YjVCazFHR0NwZE50OEhaRzhMdm13UT09)
 pwd=YjVCazFHR0NwZE50OEhaRzhMdm13UT09
 Meeting ID: 279 954 9300
 Passcode: 3v25BE

This is the same link for Stewards meetings and
Church Council.

**Note change of arrangements for Bible study in April to July.
While Sharon is on sabbatical, Bible study will be jointly with
Crowthorne MC at 7:30pm on Thursday evenings (not Tuesdays).**

Zoom link will be in the notices.

May	2024		
2nd 7:30pm	Bible study with Crowthorne MC		Zoom
7th 2:30pm	Rejoice!		Schoolroom
9th 7:30pm	Bible study with Crowthorne MC		Zoom
16th 7:30pm	Bible study with Crowthorne MC		Zoom
23rd 7:30pm	Bible study with Crowthorne MC		Zoom
30th 7:30pm	Bible study with Crowthorne MC		Zoom

What's on?

May

5th-19th: Christian Aid week

7th: Rejoice!

9th: 5@5

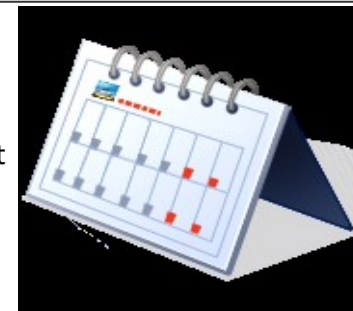
12th: Sandhurst Churches Together at the Baptist
Church—TBC

16th: Thursday house group

19th: Songs of Praise at St George's

23rd: Coffee morning

26th: Local arrangement, film night



June

1st: Action for Children walk

8th: Summer Fair

9th: Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo

Sandhurst Churches together



TBC service at the Baptist Church on 12th May

Coffee mornings

Coffee Mornings every **fourth Thursday** in
the month.

We have started a monthly Coffee Morning
at church for members and visitors. The
first one was held in January and we had a
dozen people attend. It was a lovely
opportunity to catch up over coffee and
cakes. These coffee mornings are now up
and running again.

Do put the date in your diary and pop along
if you are free between 10:30 and 12
midday.

**Coffee morning in May 2024 will be on
Thursday 23rd**



Your Church needs you! - Calling all previous stewards and assistants!

We currently have a lot of gaps in the weekly Stewarding and Assistant Stewarding Duty rotas. If you are able to do any duties then please email me and I will give you the dates which need to be filled.

Please let me know what you can do - even if you can only open up on the day and be the Steward/Assistant, I am always happy to liaise with the preacher. The Team will even pay the offering into the Post Office, if necessary!

So please do consider doing a duty or two, it would really take the pressure off the current Stewarding Team.

Many thanks in advance for your help - Keg

Flower rota

For various reasons, there are a number of Sundays available on the flower rota. If you would like to take one of these, please let me know.



You can buy a bunch of flowers to put in a vase, or flowers for an arrangement (Oasis or an alternative is always available), or make a donation (via the stewards) and one of the silk flower arrangements will be used that Sunday.

Gil F has some tips:

It is tradition in our church not to use just red and white flowers—if you particularly want to use red and white, then please also include flowers of another colour.

Because the wall behind the communion table is black, some flower colours (dark red, blue or purple—receding) don't show up very well unless very carefully surrounded by light foliage. It is probably better to use white, yellow, orange, pink—bright (advancing) colours.

It is lovely to be able to give flowers to members of the congregation—a ministry of flowers.

Dates available:

August—11th

Thanks. Sue T

Please note:

Please use the front entrance to the church when arranging the flowers if there are any hirers in the hall. The oasis and pot will be either in church or in the vestry once flowers have been distributed on a Sunday. Thanks

Minister

Rev Sharon Gardner

minister@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk
01344 774967

Church Stewards—steward@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Karen Glossop	07934 144322	Senior Steward
Sandra Wooledge	07710 066210	
Heather Brown	01252 655419	
Matt Rowell	07890 424767	

House Fellowship groups providing a friendly platform for discussion ...

Thursday House Group (third Thursday)— at 15:00

Robert Godden, 11 Scotland Hill, Sandhurst. 07543 800921

Next meeting

Thursday May 16th at Robert's



Newsletter and Website

newsletter@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Contributions for the **June 2024** Newsletter (in church on Sunday 2nd June or website) should be with Sue Truby by **Sunday May 26th 2024**

Contributions should either be:

Handed to Sue at Church,

Emailed to: newsletter@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Or posted to 58 Crowthorne Road, Sandhurst GU47 9EP (01252 879236)

Our Church Hall availability

Please keep in mind the following availability of our beautifully redecorated, light and airy church hall should you, or someone you know, be looking for such a facility.

Regular hirers as well as occasional use for children's parties or meetings always considered and most welcome.

Mondays—11am to 4pm

Tuesdays—11am to 6pm and 8pm to midnight

Wednesdays—4pm to 6:30pm

Thursdays—fully booked at present

Fridays—11am through to midnight

Saturdays—1pm through to midnight

To see our charges (plus more photographs and measurements) please click <https://sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk/blog/hall-hire/>

Regular bookings

£19.50 per hour with the use of the kitchen

£18.50 per hour without use of the kitchen

£17.50 per hour for charities with use of the kitchen

Single one-off events

£22.50 per hour for parties etc with the use of the kitchen)

£20.00 per hour for charities

Please make contact via halls@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk



SONGS OF PRAISE

Please come and join us at

St George's Church

Sunday May 19th at 6.30pm

with

LEE DEWSNAP

on organ and piano

and our own instrumentalists

Retiring Collection towards roof
repairs of £7,600



SUMMER FAIR

SATURDAY 8TH JUNE

2—4 pm

At

Sandhurst & Yateley Methodist

Gifts, toys, games , cakes,
tombola, and refresh-
ments.

All welcome



Camberley & District funeral directors

Here for you when
you need us most

- 24 hour service
- Free bereavement advice and support
- Pre-paid inflation proof funeral plans
- Wide choice of memorials for burials

Sandhurst

337 Yorktown Road,
College Town, GU47 0QA

01276 33241



www.camberleyanddistrict.co.uk

Recycling for Good Causes

In the vestibule you will notice a largish box which advertises 'Recycling for good causes.'

Please donate your unwanted items from the following list. There are some leaflets available which tell you about what can be recycled but basically it is: Unwanted jewellery - including damaged items and costume jewellery and watches

Coins and currency - any age and UK and foreign both acceptable

Mobile phones, cameras, video cameras and gadgets including ipods, tablets but NOT laptops.

Stamps - single, loose and presentation packs.

The box contains a sack. When the sack is full Recycling for Good Causes will collect it and the church will receive 75% of the proceeds from the sale of the contents within about 8 weeks of collection. (As a guide, at High Cross they received a cheque for £80 - so it is definitely worth doing this!)

Thanks,
Sharon

Reminder of more recycling

And of course you can still recycle medication blister packs, Pringle tubes, bras (any condition), pens (working or not) and Ferrero Rocher boxes (probably empty!) in the other box in the foyer!

Thanks Sue T

In memoriam plaques



I am delighted to be able to tell you that **Camberley and District Funeral Directors** (Yorktown Road, College Town) are now sponsoring our memorial plaques.

Just talk to Sue T about the words you'd like and they will provide the plaque for free! Doug W has been attaching them to the seats once done. Thanks Doug!
A donation to the church of £50 is suggested but not required.

5@5

Praying together for Sandhurst
5pm on **Thursday 9th May 2024**

If you can, please pause and pray for 5 minutes at this time.

Our focus for prayer this month is those who are involved in local government, including

- Sandhurst Town Councillors
- Bracknell Forest Councillors
- Local government officers and employees



The Apostle Paul wrote in his first letter to Timothy.
"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

1 Timothy 2:1-2, NIV UK

Our prayer might include

*Gracious God,
We ask You to fill our community leaders with wisdom, understanding, discernment, and knowledge.
May they uphold high standards of integrity and honesty in their roles.
May they possess compassionate hearts, empathizing with the struggles and challenges faced by the members of our community.
May they be shielded from harm's way as they carry out their duties.
Cause them to know and fulfil Your purposes.
In your mercy, Father, hear our prayer.
Amen*

Action for Children walk

Heather and Margaret H are planning to join an Action for Children sponsored walk on **Saturday June 1st** walking the 4.5 miles around Virginia Water. We are wondering if there is anyone else interested in joining us? or if not perhaps sponsoring us for this worthwhile cause.

Many thanks

Heather



Welcome!

It was a real privilege and pleasure to have been received into Church Membership by Sharon at the Easter morning service. Being invited to actively participate with Bible readings, prayer and testimonies about our Christian journeys and to choose our favourite hymns made the service even more special.

Each one of us came to this day having been members of other churches but feel that we have truly found our spiritual home within this loving and caring community where the love of God speaks volumes.

To be welcomed so warmly with kind words, hugs and handshakes by so many people was indeed a humbling and joyful experience to us all. It showed that God had been waiting for us quietly and patiently with his open, loving arms. "When I was lost, you came and rescued me, reached down into the pit and lifted me. O Lord, such love."

Many thanks, Sharon, for making this landmark event in our lives so memorable and for laying such a solid foundation for our future.

Lesley, Margaret, Norma and Michael



New Testament for each and every one of us, if we put the words from the four cups in the Passover meal together:- "I will free you from sin and redeem you, protect you and take you as my own and bless you".

We remember this with humble hearts and with thanksgiving for all that Jesus did for us in what we call Holy Week.

We also need to thank wholeheartedly all those who arranged this service for us, the purchasing and preparing of the food; the seating preparation of the church; the musicians, communion, for the clearing up afterwards and putting the church back in order, and for Sharon leading us in thoughtful contemplation.

May the Lord bless each and every one of you, remembering the words of Jesus "I have come that you may have life and have it in abundance" John 10:10

Keg

Local arrangement

Our next Local arrangement for Sunday **26th May** is to be with Carole Cole, who continues to run the Camberley All Night Cafe. She and her team have had to find new premises and she will update us on how and what she is doing at present. I'm sure she will also give us an important message of how the Lord is speaking to her in her work at present.

We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible, to support her in her endeavours.

Heather

Work party March 2024

The Work Party this March was mainly to cut the bushes back in the Car Park as well as tidy the other parts of the outside area. Thank you to those people who came to help Heather and Robert with the work. Good progress was made despite the select number of volunteers. Rest assured I will be contacting you for another Work Party date in the near future as this is an ongoing issue!
Alison F

Film night

The next Film night is on the **4th Sunday this month - May 26th**

and this month will be held in the church

Do join us for fellowship and pizza at around 18:30.



Maundy Supper

This year we hosted the Maundy Supper at SYMC and were joined by Crowthorne Methodist Church and some previous members from Bagshot.

We enjoyed a time of fellowship together as we ate a simple supper of bread rolls, cheese and ham with a choice of fruit for afters.

The service is always quite solemn, remembering the last supper that Jesus had with his disciples, fully aware of the distress he would feel in the Garden of Gethsemane, the kiss that would lead to his arrest, his illegal trial and finally the agony of dying by crucifixion.

Our Maundy supper is a simplified representation of the Passover meal that Jesus and his disciples would have had. During this meal they would have enjoyed four cups of wine, which is a tradition based on Exodus 6:5-7 (please read this).

The first is the Cup of Sanctification ("I will bring you out"). The second is the Cup of Deliverance ("I will free you"). After eating, Jesus and His friends drink a third time from the Cup of Redemption ("I will bless you") and then the Cup of Restoration ("I will take you as my own people and protect you"). Putting these promises together, God promised Israel to take them out from their captivity, to free them as a nation, to bless them and take them as his own people.

What we see here is that when Jesus and his disciples were remembering that first Passover and the promises God kept, that Jesus also was making a New Covenant with us (Luke 22:20), transforming the Old Covenant with Israel into a New Covenant with all believers in his Messiahship. He took an old symbol and gave it new meaning.

We ate bread rolls but at the Passover meal these would have been more like crackers, called Matzos. No leaven (yeast) was used in baking Matzos as leaven represented sin. Going further back in tradition, the original bread made during the first Passover would not have been left long enough to rise as the people left in a hurry, and so when it would have been baked, it would be flat and cracker-like.

Interestingly you can buy Matzos in the supermarket. They are crisp, they are striped all the way down and have holes pierced through so that if you lift them up you can see through them. Can you see the symbolism here? Jesus, the Bread of Life—Isaiah 53:5 "He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquity, the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed".

The Passover that was celebrated by Jesus and his disciples, and in fact all Jewish families at the time and still now do, is in remembrance of God's wonderful deliverance of the Israelites in the Old Testament. However this Jewish tradition also points to Jesus Christ and what he accomplished in the

Crowthorne Foodbank

Current shortages -

Fray Bentos pies, tinned ham and corned beef, tinned fruit, custard, long life milk, tea bags (80s pack), cartons of juice, jam, cup-a-soup, tinned tomatoes, packets of porridge, jars of pasta sauce, 1 litre bottles of squash



Bleach, antibacterial spray, washing up liquid, washing powder (tablets), toilet roll, cleaning sponges, bin bags

Bars and liquid soap, shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, ladies deodorant.

Note: the foodbank update their needs weekly here: Crowthorne.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/

Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Note—they currently have plenty of coffee, cereal, beans.

Please do consider the food bank when you do your food shopping. There are collection points in most of the major supermarkets.

E.g.

Tesco, The Meadows—please only place Tesco bought items in these bins. Co-op, the High Street, Crowthorne.

Rejoice!

From 2.30- 3.30 on the 1st Tuesday of the month a small group of us meet to sing old favourite hymns, learn new ones and share fellowship.

If you miss singing hymns that perhaps you loved years ago or are keen to familiarise yourself with different ones you would be very welcome.

Sometimes there is also a chance to select what will be sung at services either when Sharon is preaching or when we have a Local Arrangement.

The next Rejoice! will be on

7th May 2024



Christian Aid Week 5th to 19th May 2024



There will be devotional material for you to take away together with Christian Aid envelopes for your donations.

This year Christian Aid focuses on Aline, a woman from Burundi who lived in poverty and lost all she had.

In Burundi, malnourishment and poverty affect more than 70% of the population, making survival a daily struggle. Jobs and food are hard to come by, and those who have homes often have no electricity or running water. For Aline, life was a constant struggle. She was married young and gave birth to her eldest son, Fisto, when she was just 14 years old. Aline experienced constant abuse at the hands of her violent husband.

A few years later, Aline faced even more devastation. Her husband married another woman, forcing Aline to flee. He prevented her from taking their children with her, and in a further act of cruelty, told the local community that Aline was mentally ill and unable to care for her children.

Hungry, scorned and alone, Aline took her first step towards her new life. She started by participating in a transformative three-day community workshop, funded by Christian Aid.

With a small start-up loan, Aline started trading avocados and peanuts locally. With her profits, she bought a bicycle so she could transport greater quantities of goods to markets further afield. Eventually, her hard work had finally paid off, and she had earned the money she needed to rent a house.

Once Aline secured a home for herself, her three eldest sons were able to escape their father and join her. They told Aline that their father had abused them and sent their three young siblings to live with different members of his family.

Aline still hopes that she'll be reunited with her youngest children in time. Today, Aline lives peacefully on her own plot of land in a remote village in the Kayogoro Commune in Makamba Province. She's baked her own bricks and is building a strong home for her and her children in every sense.

Now Aline can afford food, clothes and essential healthcare for her family. She's also purchased solar panels so her children can do their evening homework by electric light.

'I came out with amazing knowledge and skills. The trainer restored a sense of hope and energy in me,' says Aline.

She was taught how to form a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) and establish a steady income. VSLAs mean people can save for their future and borrow money to kick-start small rural businesses. With all she had learned, Aline's dream of getting her children back finally felt possible.



present...

Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo

by Michael Flanders and Joseph Horowitz



Sunday 9th June 2024

7pm

**St John the Baptist Church,
Crowthorne
RG45 7AW**

Admission Free

Retiring Collection

Refreshments available

The rehearsals for Captain Noah have just begun, on Thursday 18th April at St Michael's 8:15-9ish.

Everyone is welcome to join -

Please get in touch with Sandra W if you're interested—or do come along on 9th June to hear the result.

Stainer's Crucifixion

St Michael's Church of All Angels in Sandhurst put on a performance of Stainer's Crucifixion. This was composed by John Stainer in 1887 with text by WJ Sparrow Simpson. This relates, as the title suggests, to the Biblical narrative of the Passion and Crucifixion of Jesus. It is particularly noted for the hymn 'All for Jesus, All for Jesus'.

There was a mixture of choral singing, baritone and tenor solo and duet and a selection of five hymns for which the congregation could join in. Interspersed between the singing there were scripture readings and reflections.

The service was one of solemnity as meditated on the Passion of Christ through song, verse and reflections. A verse from the hymn 'Cross of Jesus' speaks of the sorrow and the torture of the perfect God-man, the long-awaited Messiah who died a criminal's death:-

"Cross of Jesus, Cross of sorrow,
where the blood of Christ was shed
Perfect man on thee was tortured,
Perfect God on thee has bled."

The service talked us through the whole story of the Passion, with music and readings emphasizing our feelings of sadness, and the injustice of it all and yet trying to understand that this was God's plan for Jesus and humankind all along.

The service finished on a more triumphant hymn, because we know that with the death of our Lord, also came the resurrection, the victory over death, the culmination of thousands of years of God's plan.

The final hymn was 'All for Jesus, All for Jesus'

"Oh what wonder! How amazing!
Jesus, Glorious King of Kings
Deigns to call me His beloved,
Lets me rest beneath his wings.
All for Jesus! All for Jesus!
Resting now beneath his wings.
All for Jesus! All for Jesus!
Resting now beneath his wings."

A truly inspiring service which finished with a time of fellowship and refreshment.

Keg



Aline once said :-

"I wandered the streets, asking anyone for a place to sleep. Those who showed me kindness would let me stay for two or three days, but it was difficult. People would insult me and treat me with contempt. They forgot I was a human being. It filled me with sorrow." - Aline Nibogora.
But with the help of Christian Aid and some expertise and caring, she can now boast this:-

I like to feed my family with the produce that I grow, such as beans, vegetables and corn. I am so happy that we are together. Now my children feel supported as they have a parent who can meet their needs.

What a wonderful success story and what a difference in the life of this enterprising lady and her children.

If you wish to donate, please do so in the envelopes provided and if you are a UK tax payer, please consider Gift Aiding your donation.

With many thanks in advance, the Stewarding Team on behalf of Wilf Hardy

The Methodist Church

The Methodist Church



In the Methodist Church news this week:

The Methodist Church signs the letter to the Prime Minister over the Rwanda Bill.

The Methodist church, along with 250 other organisations from across the UK, have signed an open letter to the Prime Minister following the passage of the Government's Act.

The organisations have come together to make a stand against the Rwanda Plan, which they say breaks international law and "abandons our duty to share in the global responsibility towards those forced to seek safety."

Don't use asylum seekers as a 'political football', warn Church leaders.

23 April 2024

Senior leaders from the Church of England, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist and United Reformed Churches have expressed their gratitude for those who work alongside refugees and asylum seekers, in the face of rising hostility and unjust malignment of this support from some quarters in recent weeks.

Their statement follows the passing of the Safety of Rwanda Bill through parliament, and news of further lives lost in the English Channel overnight.

"We retain deep misgivings about the Safety of Rwanda Bill, passed in Parliament last night, for the precedent it sets at home and for other countries in how we respond to the most vulnerable. This includes victims of modern slavery and children wrongly assessed as adults, whom we have a duty to protect.

As leaders in Christian churches we wish to express our profound gratitude to those who live out Jesus's call to feed and clothe the poor, and to welcome the stranger, through their work with asylum seekers and refugees, at times in the face of opposition and prejudice.

We note with sadness and concern the rise in hostility towards those who come to these islands seeking refuge and the way in which the treatment of the refugee and asylum seeker has been used as a political football.

We are disappointed that the kindness and support offered by churches and charities to the people at the heart of this debate - those fleeing war, persecution and violence trying to find a place of safety - has been unjustly maligned by some for political reasons.

In their response to the tragic attack in Clapham earlier this year, some former Home Office ministers, MPs and other commentators sought to portray churches and clergy as deliberately facilitating false asylum claims. It was for this reason, at the request of Anglican leaders, that representatives of our Churches met the Home Secretary in February. When asked, neither he nor officials could provide evidence to support the allegations of widespread abuse. Home Office Ministers have since confirmed this in a written parliamentary answer, and on questioning by the Home Affairs Select Committee. Follow-up meetings have since been agreed to promote closer cooperation and co-working between the churches and the Home Office.

Like so many in this country, we seek to support a system that shows compassion, justice, transparency and speed in its decisions. We grieve the appalling loss of life in the Channel today. There may be differences between our churches and Government on the means by which our asylum system can be fair, effective and respecting of human dignity, but we do agree that borders must be managed and that vulnerable people need protection from people smugglers. We have pledged to continue to work with the Home Office, and we do so in good faith."

Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby
Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell
Bishop Paul McAleenan, Lead Bishop for Migrants and Refugees
Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales
Bishop of Southwark, Christopher Chessun
Revd Lynn Green, General Secretary, The Baptist Union of Great Britain
Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, United Reformed Church General Assembly Moderator
Revd Gill Newton, President of the Methodist Conference

The Leprosy Mission



**The Leprosy
Mission**
England and Wales

150 years of The Leprosy Mission!

Thanks to your wonderful generosity, the fight to end leprosy has never looked more hopeful!

As we mark the 150 years that have gone before, we commit to reach a world where leprosy is defeated, and no one suffers physically, mentally or socially because of this disease.