

Trinity News



Covenant Service
10th September at 10.45 a.m.

September 2023

Join us for our Trinity Harvest Lunch

Saturday 7th October 12.30pm

Please inform a steward or

E-mail sbewley45@gmail.com

if you would like to attend.

**Please let us know your
dietary requirements.**

Donations are welcome.

Also join us for our Harvest Festival

8th October 10.45am

Join us for our

Third Thursday Fellowship Group

Enjoy fellowship

and a bowl of tasty soup with a roll.

every third Thursday of the month 12am to 2pm.



Deacons Muse

Dear Friends

As I sit to write this letter for what will be the beginning of a new church year September 2023, we worship an amazing, awesome God who can do so much more than we could ever imagine.

This year the theme for the President and Vice President of conference is ‘hidden treasures.’ Deacon Kerry Scarlett said this

Our treasures, as Methodists, are in our roots as a movement built on deep and authentic relationality and accountability. One in which faith was a whole life thing, where leaders emerged from and developed within local communities, particularly amongst working classes. Where social justice and evangelism were inseparable strands of a Methodist way of life, and people were compelled by faith to seek justice and transformation for all. This movement of Methodists happened because the Wesley’s, and in turn the other leaders who developed within it, knew that these things were the treasures at the very heart of the gospel. They had a deep understanding that these are the means by which Good News is shared to all in our communities.

The treasures are the stories in which our community is rooted, and which, when recalled, summon hope and fresh faith and a renewed courage for a community in a time of change.

She goes on to say

I came to Methodism knowing very little of its story and tradition. I stayed because what I discovered resonated deeply with me as I began to understand what God was calling me to, and which eventually led to me Candidating to the Methodist Diaconal Order, into a ministry focused on prayer, witness and service – both as order of ministry and religious order.

It is as a deacon that I have seen again and again how treasures are there, in our churches and communities, where we share stories and seek justice and transformation together – whether as long-established congregations or as new places for new people. Treasure, as I’ve shared in my own stories, is very often found in the hidden places; perhaps smaller churches, where folk may not feel they are doing anything particularly special but are ‘just’ living as authentic followers of Jesus. But, through what they do and say, others discover the treasure of the good news in all kinds of beautiful, tiny, unexpected ways.

Being a deacon myself I have seen and witnessed the ‘hidden treasures’ in our congregation. Do you know you are treasure? If not, I pray that you will know this. You are treasure in the way you care for each other, are welcoming and inclusive and in so many other ways. In this next church year let’s discover together more ‘hidden treasure’ as we seek to be church in this changing world.

So, as we come to our Covenant service in September in which as a Church, we joyfully celebrate God's gracious offer to Israel that "I will be their God and they shall be my people".

What God offers is a loving relationship. The Covenant is not a contract in which God and human beings agree to provide particular goods and services for each other! It is not something that we have to do to create a relationship with God. God has freely and graciously already made it possible.

Rather, the Covenant is the means of grace by which we accept the relationship and then seek to sustain it. It is therefore not so much about getting into a relationship with God as it is about staying in it. It is not about acquiring a relationship with God, but living within the loving relationship that God has already offered us.

Taken from The Methodist Church website <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/what-is-distinctive-about-methodism/a-covenant-with-god/the-covenant-service/>

The Covenant service is an opportunity for us to gather in person and online and recommit our lives to deepening our relationship with God both individually and as a Church family.

One of the ways we do this is in small groups where we have the opportunity to gather together and discuss topics that are important to us. In a small group you build a closer relationship with each other. At our Church Council we decided to begin a Fellowship Group.

This will be on the third Thursday of each month from 12 noon until 2pm. We'll begin with hospitality sharing a simple lunch of soup and a roll followed by a time of fellowship. Gavin and I will be leading this; however, we will be having a conversation together to decide what we'd like to do. We'd love for at least six people to commit to being part of this.

September sees all our community groups returning after their summer break. We have many different groups meet ... you may be interested in the following:

Monday is Tea Dance Day a time of laughter, dancing as you are able. To find out more contact Alan Barker.

Tuesday is Hand in Hand ... a wonderful 2 course meal and a time of fellowship together. To find out more contact Deacon Gail Morgan.

September sees our Open the Book team returning to the Primary Schools in the area. Please pray for us as we prepare to tell the story of 'Joseph the Dreamer.'

I'm excited about what 'hidden treasure' we may discover this year. I hope you are too.

Loving God, help us all to trust in you for everything. Help us to discover more 'hidden treasure' and to discover what it means to be church in this changing world. May we know that you will enable us to play our part in growing your kingdom here on earth. Will you bless us with hearts that are open to be surprised by you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Deacon Gail Morgan

Bible a Month: The Gulf

“No one could distinguish between the joyful shouts and the crying, because the noise they made was so loud that it could be heard far and wide” Ezra 3, vs 13 (GNB)

The Gulf states include Oman (population 3.8 million); Bahrain (population 1.3 million); Kuwait (population 3million); Qatar (2.5 million) and United Arab Emirates (population 9.9 million). They all border the Persian Gulf. Languages include Arabic and English, plus many other dialects and languages. The literacy rates vary between 93% and 97%.

Thanks to your support of Bible a Month, Bible Society was able to help provide copies of John’s Gospel to thousands of migrant workers and football fans in Qatar during the FIFA World Cup Finals. The football might be over, but the suffering of migrant workers in the region continues. They work long hours for low wages, and most are stuck in migrant camps outside of regular society.

Your support in providing them with Bibles is crucial, but they also require guidance, and thanks to you, training courses for pastors and other Scripture resources continue to be regularly provided in Kuwait, Bahrain, the Unites Arab Emirates and Oman. This year a series of seminars focuses on questions Jesus asked during his ministry, even when he was a child. (Luke 2, vs 49).

Budding Bible-worker Ramesh said of the seminar, “What was driven home to me is that the believer is a servant of God, and that he has to do God’s work according to the gift given by the Holy Spirit. I decided to start praying to see what gift I have to serve the Lord”.

Prayers

- Please pray for pastors in the Gulf region, that they will be firmly grounded in the true teachings of the Bible. Pray that their faith will be strengthened as their understanding of the Scriptures grows.
- Pray for Ramesh that the Holy Spirit will work through him as he ministers to others.
- Pray that more laws will be passed that improve the living conditions of migrant workers.

Bible a Month Autumn Newsletter.

Eyewitness Report from the Gulf: Bibles galore.

By Lydia Abraham, Bible Society representative in Oman.

Every time a housemaid picks up her first copy of the Bible in her own language and feels such a joy that she hugs it tightly, I say a little prayer.

When someone so far away from home is surprised they can find a Bible in Kiswahili or when a pastor asks for a Bible in Kannada and hands it to a new believer from Andhra Pradesh, I praise the Lord for translators.

And I thank God for supporters such as you at Bible a Month whose regular contributions help all of this Bible work take place. Indeed, we are not simply providing Bibles in many languages to the Christian population here in Oman, we are in some form aiding them in their decision to live a life of faith and also in furthering their knowledge of the hope that is found in Christ.

Scripture distribution is at the core of what the Bible Society in the Gulf is about. The challenge is to always make sure that our centres are constantly stocked with Bibles and New Testaments not in one, two or three different languages, but in more than 60 different languages. But we are used to this work, we love it, and we are grateful that we have always been able to support all the churches in the Gulf with all their Scripture needs. We distribute Bibles in English, German, Hindi, Kannada, Kiswahili, Malayalam, Nepali, Punjabi, Sinhala, Spanish, Tagalog, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu- and well, the list goes on.

The fundamental aspect of the Scripture distribution ministry is the impact it has on its recipients and the changes Bible engagement makes in peoples' lives. Migrant workers make up 95% of congregations and due to social and economic circumstances they are under a lot of pressure and are in dire need of Jesus. Bible Society in the gulf is here for them.

Pastor Ricardo of the Open Bible Baptist Church, told me: “ We are growing amazingly in our ministry as a result of the books and the scriptures that Bible Society is providing. In Oman, it is really difficult to find good Christian reading material and resources, and the Bible Society is such a blessing to us. For this reason we are eternally grateful. As we all wait for the Lord's return may we all continue to be a blessing and reach and win more lost souls in this region.

Teresa, a church worker at the Living Waters International Church, touched on the struggle of migrant workers to make ends meet. “We try to provide Bibles to everyone because many cannot afford to buy them. We are thankful that the Bible Society runs the shop at our local compound” .

One way to reflect God's love in a tangible way is by meeting peoples' needs. Many migrant workers experience social and financial difficulties, and when the challenge seems overwhelming, they become depressed. God draws these people to us to meet their immediate needs. However, we know that it is not primarily the immediate basic needs they need but a provision that will last for eternity-Jesus. By sharing God's word with them, it brings new hope and an assured future.

God of Friendship prayers

For the friends who walk the way with us, looking for signposts and helping us overcome obstacles,

Marking the milestones on our journey: *We give thanks to the God of Friendship.*

For the friends we take for granted: A steady presence to lean on,

A hand outstretched in our need: *We give thanks to the God of Friendship.*

For the friends who help us, lifting our spirits with humour and fun,

Sparking off our imagination and dreams: *We give thanks to the God of Friendship.*

For the friends who work alongside us in the companionship of shared tasks,

building our hopes and plans together: *We give thanks to the God of Friendship.*

For the friends who cry with us, holding us when we are hurting,

And embracing us with tender care: *We give thanks to the God of Friendship.*

For the friends who break bread with us, sharing food and conversation,

Putting the world to rights and laughing with us: *We give thanks to the God of Friendship.*

For the friends who dream with us, praying and longing for justice,

And working for a vision of new humanity: *We give thanks to the God of Friendship.*

Let us pray:

To those who are cut off from friends because they suffer illness or disability which makes social interaction difficult, or because unemployment has severed the daily routine of working with colleagues: God, companion of all – offer the hand of friendship.

To those who nurture friendship in unlikely places, finding support and community in hospital wards or prison blocks, or deprived areas where the shared struggle helps community to survive: God, companion of all- offer the hand of friendship.

To those who are separated from friends, where distance has cut former ties, where work or new relationships cause isolation; for those moving to new areas, needing to make connections and build networks: God, companion of all- offer the hand of friendship.

To those making friendships in the midst of diversity, crossing barriers of race or culture, class or age, finding connections and common ground that increase understanding and empathy, and discovering differences that enrich sharing: God, companion of all- offer the hand of friendship.

To those whose friends have turned away, forgetting to visit or failing to keep in touch in the stress and pressure of daily life; or rejecting them because of their way of life, turning friendship to condemnation and betrayal: God, companion of all- offer the hand of friendship.

For those in churches seeking to offer friendship, looking beyond the familiar group and language to welcome and befriends the stranger: God, companion of all- offer the hand of friendship.

Author unknown.



1st Wallsend Girls' Brigade Camp

Littlehampton, West Sussex

5th – 12 August 2023

Hi All,

We had a very small camp of 6 girls aged 9 - 15 and 5 leaders (1 leader was with us for 5 days). We stayed at Littlehampton Baptist Church. The church offers their building to groups for them to have budget stays near the beach during school holidays. We had the use of 2 small halls, a fully equipped kitchen, 4 small rooms for bedrooms and a bonus of 2 showers. The 4 younger girls travelled by train with Jean and 2 other leaders while the 2 older girls travelled by minibus with all the luggage and cases with myself and Allan (who was also camp cook). Jean had to think on her feet when trains were cancelled and she had to find out an alternative route to get to Littlehampton – 2 trains, the underground, and 2 buses got her there. While Allan drove the minibus in torrential rain all the way.

Bedrooms were chosen and airbeds blown up – the girls helping each other so well.

Our mission at Camp was to give our campers wonderful experiences to last a lifetime, forging new friendships and learn new skills.

We believe that in this high paced modern world there is a real need to give children a relaxed atmosphere where they will be encouraged to try new things, to grow in confidence, to enjoy being with friends from different backgrounds all whilst having good old-fashioned fun.

What a good camp we had. We certainly achieved our objectives. The girls were exemplary, sleeping at night, helping, joining in with all activities taking turns and understanding we are all different. It makes the leaders job easy and certainly meant our theme of 'Working Together' was achieved.

On Sunday we took part in the church service we were asked to write and read a prayer. We were asked about our group and where we came from. In the afternoon it was down to the beach for a picnic lunch and fun in the sea with body boards.

Monday, we stayed in Littlehampton for a visit to Littlehampton Museum, the Lifeboat Station, Harbour, fish n chip lunch, fun at the fair and crabbing.

Tuesday was a day in Arundel at the Boating Lake, mini golf, picnic lunch and lido followed by hot chocolate.

Wednesday a day in London sightseeing and included was a visit into Westminster Abbey which the girls were amazed at the stained-glass windows. They managed to fit in some shopping and where did they want to go – Primark!

On Thursday we spent the day at Outward Bounds Activity Centre. This was a fantastic centre offering crazy golf, 'clip and climb' on climbing walls and slides, bowling and adventure nets where they could climb, jump, crawl and slide.

Friday, we went to Paultons Theme Park where they had a fantastic time on the rides. Not all the girls liked the big fast high rollercoasters, but the daredevil girls were great understanding this and made sure they all chose rides they wanted to have a turn and waited for each other. The leaders also had fun on the Carousel and the big teacups hahaha.

Our evenings were taken up with crafts and games.

I would like to thank our leaders who gave up their time to make this all possible, for donations for the girls to enjoy ice creams and treats and all the prayers.

What is the Girls Brigade? We are best known for our weekly uniformed community groups which are open to all girls and young women. Children can earn badges by completing individual topics that explore their characteristics, their world and the Christian faith. From games, craft, and cooking to singing, fundraising, sleepovers, outings and camps there's plenty of fun to be had at 1st Wallsend Girls' Brigade! Our weekly activities enable children and young people to grow and develop in confidence, resilience, wellbeing and life skills. We love to celebrate achievements at Girls' Brigade especially when our members earn their badges. 1st Wallsend Girls Brigade is:

- Fun! In GB we laugh a lot – there are smiles because we enjoy activities and feel at ease in our relationships.
- Sound! GB is safe and secure. We take care in training and equipping leaders to operate responsibly in everything we do. Safeguarding children and leaders and taking care to manage risk is important to us.
- Friendship! Children, young people, and leaders make friends through GB. We have time to get to know one another, to care and support each other like friends do. GB friends often become life-long friends.
- Discovering Jesus! Through GB, children, young people and their wider families discover the story of Jesus for themselves. They have opportunities and space to learn about Him and to become people who live like Him in this world.
- Living it! GB enables children and young people to discover gifts, develop their potential, take up opportunities to develop leadership and life skills and to express their values and faith in the way they live.
- Yes! GB is full of applause, encouragement, certificates, awards, smiles and simple 'well dones'. 1st Wallsend GB loves to affirm young people – to acknowledge their gifts, skills, achievements, and efforts and to celebrate who they are.

If anyone knows a child who would like to join our group, we do not have a waiting list. We charge £2.50 each week. This goes towards insurance, weekly activities, juice and biscuit snack.

Our 4 groups n:vestigate – ages 4 to 7, n:gage – ages 8 to 10, n:counta – ages 11 to 13 and n:spire – ages 14 to 18 meet on Tuesdays at Trinity Methodist Church, Station Road Wallsend NE28 8SA from 5.15pm - 6.45pm.

Nicaragua News

Greetings dear family & friends!

Well the time has come again where I'm packing up my room here in Bluefields to return home. The Nicaraguans struggle as to why their government will only allow me to stay in their country for only 6 months, but that's the situation now. My time from now on will be both 6 months in Bluefields & equally at home.

It has been a strange 6 months with the economic situation getting worse through new government rules, but thankfully the children are still being educated - and that's my prime reason for being here. More of our families have left Nicaragua to seek work & a better life in other countries, things have become so dire.

The children who we sponsor are getting ready for the most important occasion in Nicaragua – Independence Day. Each school will march with pride around the town in their fresh uniforms and new shiny shoes. A number of our students will be wearing a sash which has printed on 'Student of Excellence' – a great achievement when we think that if these children didn't have a scholarship, they might not have been so fortunate to receive such an excellent education.

This occasion is where I would usually take lots of photos as the children march by to send to their sponsor. That can no longer happen as I will be home before this takes place on the 14th September.

Aside from my work, I use my personal time with the projects I undertake using the donations I receive.

Since I last wrote, the two main objectives have been in making a huge difference in the life of two families living conditions. It's heartbreaking to have not realised how these people have been living, because they are so humble, or ashamed to let people know. They never complain and never come begging.

The first family consists of mum Rosa and her 3 girls, all in education. Last October when Bluefields was hit by a hurricane, their small wooden home was demolished. They lost everything. I heard of this quite quickly and even though I was home at the time, I was able to send donations to have their house rebuilt on the posts that were still in the ground. When I returned to Bluefields in March I visited the new home to take photos to send to the donors. It was then that I saw how they were living, which hit me to the core! In this one roomed house was one single bed, a very small table and one borrowed chair. Two of the girls slept in the bed and Rosa and her youngest, 5 years old daughter, slept on the floor on a blanket. They cook outside in the yard and their 'bathroom' is out there too. I couldn't see any signs of electricity.



One of the girls sponsors, after seeing the photos asked if she could pay for an extension onto the house.

That has now happened and they are blessed with a ten foot extension, giving them a proper bedroom for the first time in their lives.

A bunk bed has also been paid for and another donor provided the paint. But then I realised they still had virtually nothing inside, so when another donor told me she was sending money for me to use as I felt best to make a difference in someone's life, I suggested some chairs for this family. I took one of the girls shopping with me and she chose 4 pretty plastic chairs. I still had money left over, so I asked her if she should like anything else for the house – and she asked for 4 soup bowls! Still more money left from this donation so we were able to buy more items to help this lovely family out who lost everything in the hurricane and who are slowly trying to rebuild their lives again.



The second family is mum Lilian with her daughters, son and grandchildren all living in a fairly large house but in such a bad condition. The roof leaked so bad their clothes had to be kept in polythene bags and the concrete floor was so badly broken that when the heavy rains come for 6 months of the year, the land gets so flooded that the water comes up through the floor. They don't have proper bathroom facilities either. After realising how shocking their living conditions were, my funding pot was in a state that I could offer to help with some repairs, though I really felt the house needed to be rebuilt. Lilian said she would be overjoyed if I could buy the 20 sheets of corrugated iron to make a new roof or the concrete for a new floor. Another

donation came and I was able to help with both. Lilian just cried and said she felt like what she imagines children must feel when they are opening their gifts at Christmas. Nobody has ever shown her such kindness and she thanks the people in England who have given her something she could have only dreamed about.

While I was home last time, I was given a donation specifically for the new Bluefields diabetic clinic. I have now handed over this money and it is going to help them to buy the next lot of medication.

The Saturday adult lunch club still thrives and I had some aprons made for the volunteers. The material is what is used to make umbrellas, so very durable for working in a kitchen.

And so to finish I want to share two more short happenings.

For years I've always avoided people offering me mundongo – cow soup. But on this occasion that I was invited to a home for a soup lunch, I never dreamed it would be mundongo, it's like the cheapest of cheap meals. I try to keep to the saying, 'when in Rome, do as the Romans', but cow soup was the exception. But this huge bowl was put in front of me and I didn't want to make a fuss, so I told myself it might be tastier than I imaginedwell it wasn't. (just for your information, cow soup is made from the innards of the cow) Fortunately there was an empty bowl near me that I could keep putting in the lumps of fat and bone which helped reduce the amount in the bowl. I got over it, but my stomach didn't so easily.



The other is the problem I am having with one of my knees. I've been to the hospital for an X-ray and it has shown up that the gel in between two of the bones in my knee, has gone, so the bones are grating together. I was given medication, but Nicaraguans are very much into natural remedies. I was advised to buy chickens feet because they contain much gelatine which

help put the liquid back into the knee. So I bought one pound of feet. They got cleaned well and the nails cut off and boiled with onion and peppers. You're supposed to drink the liquid and chew on the feet. Well, I met this suggestion half way, I drank but didn't chew. Another not to be repeated!

So I say goodbye and I look forward to catching up with many of you while I'm back home.

Every blessing, love *Margaret*.

Teaching a new generation to love the Bible in Egypt

Claire Smith, Bible Society

Samir is a young engineer from Egypt. He is one of 1000 young people who've been trained as Bible study group leaders in Egypt over the past year. He's part of an extraordinary ministry which is seeing a new generation engage with Scripture in a way we can barely imagine here at home. God is clearly at work.

“Egypt is a collective culture and much more religious than the UK. Children and young people here are receptive to God’s word”, says Lois Nagieb, from the Bible Society in Egypt. Egypt has an overwhelmingly young population. More than half of people are 24 or under and a third are aged under 14. Around one in ten are Christian and the majority of these are from the Coptic Orthodox Church.

As an ancient, minority and often isolated community, life for Egypt’s believers revolves around church. “In Cairo, there’s a church with 3000 kids and teenagers” said Lois. “The church is everything; it provides summer activities, a safe social community, entertainment for the children, health clinics, tutoring. Going to church is not an obligation, but a privilege and a joy”

Alongside this powerful sense of fellowship and togetherness, Egypt’s churches place a high value on Scripture. God’s word is central to the rich, meaningful liturgies which are celebrated in community. In response to this, Bible Society run three vital projects for young people. The first is about training leaders like Samir. Bible Society works hand in hand with the church to equip young people. Then they too step up to support church activities, including leading Bible study groups.

The second element is training Sunday school teachers. Even providing basic support to 500 teachers a year can impact more than 20,000 children. Leaders receive tips on effective teaching, classroom management, understanding how children develop and how to bring biblical themes to life.

Finally, your support is providing the Bible online. Social media is huge in Egypt- the country has one of the highest rates of social media use in the world- and culturally, Egyptians prefer oral storytelling to reading. So the team are providing bespoke audio Scriptures for children and teens, and more social media content.

The impact of all this is plain to see. Walk into any Egyptian church and you’ll see children and young people everywhere, delighting in God’s word and engaging in Bible groups. Through Bible Society, the church is being supported with biblical materials and creative resources which are not only appropriate to the traditional context, but are helping young people love the Bible.

Kestrel

The natural world teaches us many lessons. The Kestrel, a bird of prey teaches us one very important truth. It has always been a well-known country bird living well from open fields where food is easily available. But a number of years ago there was a dramatic change in the way humanity managed the countryside. In order to provide more and more food for an ever growing population, farmers were encouraged to plough right



up the edge of their fields. Around the same time scientists began working on discovering and consequently manufacturing on an industrial scale, pesticides to give a more bountiful harvest. They succeeded in protecting the crops from pests but at the same time killed off much of the other wildlife that survived in the fields. Many birds that nested on the ground and small creatures were destroyed or at least greatly affected.



The kestrel, however, managed to survive quite well. It's secret for success? Flying overhead, it realised that the verges on either side of busy motorways and railroads were not cultivated for crops and therefore were not sprayed with the deadly insecticides and pesticides. This meant that by changing the focus of their search, they were still able to eat well and raise a family of young chicks every year.

Adaptability is the important lesson that we learn from the kestrel. When things get difficult, it is easy to moan and grow despondent but if we can learn this important lesson, we are more able to survive. Learning to adapt and change the way we look at things and do things can often mean that we are still able to achieve the desired goals and rise above our problems. As St Paul puts it, 'I have learnt to be content whatever the circumstances'. (Phil. 4:11) Difficult? Yes, but worth trying.

From the blog of Mavis Andradez

Niger fact file: one of the world's poorest countries

Niger is one of the poorest countries in the world, but we're working hard to defeat leprosy and transform lives across the country.

Niger is one of the poorest countries in the world

Niger is a landlocked country in West Africa, with a population of about 20 million, of which more than 97% are Muslim. It is a nation that suffers from multiple droughts and few arable areas, placing it among the poorest countries in the world.

Life expectancy is low, at 54 (CIA statistics), whilst infant mortality is high, with 25% of children likely to die before their 5th birthday. The risk of a woman dying from giving birth is 1 in 9. Niger is a country with a high proportion of young people, of whom 45% are under the age of 15. The literacy rate is also among the lowest in the world, with ratios ranging between 21% and 33%.

Poverty and extreme poverty rates are high, with 80% living on less than 2 euros per day. For even more vulnerable populations, such as people with disabilities or those suffering from debilitating diseases such as leprosy, poverty is chronic and even more dismal.

Although Niger Republic's peace has been under threat due to some terrorist attack in the far north, and some insecurity and threats from neighbouring countries that border Niger in the East and West, (Nigeria, Chad, Mali, Libya) the communities and cities in the central still enjoy relative peace.

French is the official language of Niger. However, apart from the main languages, Hausa and Djerma, Fulfulde and Tamasheq, there are many other local languages. Only 30% of the general population speaks French (the majority of whom are based in the Nation's capital – Niamey).

Leprosy in Niger

In 2018, there were 317 new cases of leprosy that were diagnosed in Niger, and 245 of these cases were MB leprosy, which is a more serious infection, which affects the nerves and is more likely to lead to disability.

These new cases are mostly from the endemic districts, where cases discovered were above the prevalence rate if compared to the population of those districts, meaning that leprosy still poses a challenge in the country.

Furthermore, 84% of new cases live far away from district health centres (more than 5km) and have difficulties in accessing the treatment that they need.

Because of this high rate of MB leprosy, it's important that work is done to identify new cases of leprosy in Niger before they are able to spread further, which can lead to disabilities.

The Leprosy Mission in Niger

The Leprosy Mission has been working in Niger as an independent organisation since 2011. Lead by the Country Leader, Mr Bunmi Oluloto, we work across six regions (Maradi, Zinder, Touha, Dosso, Tilaberi, and Niamey). Our work is concentrated on providing leprosy awareness training, supervision of health workers, Community based rehabilitation and social economic development.

Empowerment in Niger

Our team in Niger works with IDEA, an association of people affected by leprosy. We work with them to provide advocacy training and empowerment. Our hope is that, through this training, people affected by leprosy will be able to talk with local governments and officials and secure their rights and entitlements.

Community Development in Niger

Our community development programmes in Niger are designed to make life better for people affected by leprosy in Niger. We provide opportunities for people affected by leprosy to receive micro credit or grants so that they can create a livelihood for themselves. We support adult literacy programmes, vocation training, and education for children of people affected by leprosy.

Our community development work also provides clean drinkable bore hole water, we build ventilated latrines in communities and promote hygiene. Our hope is that this area of our work will allow us to prevent water-borne diseases. There is also a housing project in Niger that caters for homeless people who are affected by leprosy.

The vision of our team in Niger is to see the lives of people affected by leprosy transformed through access to sustainable leprosy and community services.

The Leprosy Mission blog/website, August 23.

Prayers of intercession

Lord, when the storms get close: save us, lift us, and help us keep our eyes fixed on you

Lord, you are our God and we worship you. You are with us through fair weather when life is good, and you are with us in the storms when life is so very hard. Thank you that you never take your eyes from us even though we may forget you when things get on top of us. Help us always to reach out to you for support and help. Give us the courage to follow you even when we can't see the way ahead. Increase our faith and strengthen us as we call out to you to hear our prayers.

Lord, when the storms get close: save us, lift us, and help us keep our eyes fixed on you.

Lord, we bring our world to you. There is so much turmoil and unrest. We see on the news the storms of war. We pray for those who are caught up in conflicts: for soldiers having to fight for their country; for their families worrying about their safety; for those living in fear of their homes being destroyed. Lord, help everyone to look to you to be their support and guide. We pray for all those caught up in ongoing conflicts in Yemen, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Niger. Help them to find their comfort in you, we pray.

Lord, when the storms get close: save us, lift us, and help us keep our eyes fixed on you.

Lord, we pray for those whose livelihood is on the sea. We pray for fishermen and those who work on cruise ships and cargo ships. We pray for their safety. And we particularly focus our thoughts and prayers on migrants who are travelling in tiny boats across huge seas trying to reach safety and a better way of living. We ask you to bring them safely to shore. We pray for

their families who wait anxiously for news of their safety. We pray for the people smugglers too, that you would give them eyes to see that they are dealing with human beings, made in your image, who deserve respect and love. We pray that you will convict them and help them turn away from what they are doing.

Lord, when the storms get close: save us, lift us, and help us keep our eyes fixed on you.

Lord, we pray for those who are living through rough seas at the moment: for those who are suffering with constant pain; those facing difficult diagnoses; those who are sad at the loss of a beloved family member or friend; those who are depressed or anxious. Lord, reach out and lift them. Help them to know your presence and reassure them that you will never let them go.

Lord, when the storms get close: save us, lift us, and help us keep our eyes fixed on you.

Lord, we think about this summer and the bad weather that many places have had for many weeks – so wet in some, life-threateningly hot in others. We remember those in tourist industries, just recovering from the pandemic, seeing their livelihoods under threat again. We pray for farmers watching their crops ruined by rain, while fire ravages that of others. We pray for those who are on holiday, looking forward to time outside enjoying your creation, but cannot because of the weather. We remember the summer camps and missions that depend on good weather for so many activities. Help each of these groups of people to find solutions to the problems of bad weather and give them hope for the future, we pray.

Lord, when the storms get close: save us, lift us, and help us keep our eyes fixed on you.

Lord, as results day has come for many during last month, we pray for all who have taken exams this summer. We rejoice with those who have been successful, and we ask for your wisdom and guidance for those who have not achieved the grades they hoped for. We pray for all who will be going off to university and college, leaving their comfort zones and entering new pastures and life experiences. And we pray for their families who will have an empty place at the table. Be with them all as they negotiate the storms and calms of this new season.

Lord, when the storms get close: save us, lift us, and help us keep our eyes fixed on you.

Lord, we commit our time to you. Go before us into all the places we expect to be and help us to find you in any new and unexpected places and situations. Help us to listen to your voice beyond our busyness, relaxation, boredom, anxiety, difficulty. Help us to keep our eyes fixed on you; keep us from looking down and seeing only the difficulties. Give us your perspective to see all the possibilities that you have in store for us.

Lord, when the storms get close: save us, lift us, and help us keep our eyes fixed on you.

Thank you for being there for us in all the storms of life. Help us to step out in faith and follow your lead, secure in the knowledge that you are always there to lift us up. Amen.

Roots on the web prayers

Acronyms

An acronym is a word formed from the initial letter of a group of connected words and pronounced as a word, such as NIMBY (Not in my back yard), BOGOFF (buy one get one free), SWALK (sealed with a loving kiss) and ERNIE (Electric Random Number Indicator Equipment). The acronym likely to put the fear into head teachers and teachers is the dreaded OFSTED (Office for Standards in Education).

(Did you hear of the teacher who was called a PRAT ? She was really the Peripatetic Remedial Advisory Teacher.)

A recent tendency is for the names of certain organisations, movements and charities to spell out an expressive or punning acronym rather than a meaningless word. Some examples could include:-

| | |
|--------|---|
| SMART | Special Measures Action Reform Team. |
| SEALS | Sea, Air, and Land Service. |
| STEP | Special Temporary Employment Programme. |
| CHIME | Churches' Initiative in Musical Education |
| EUREKA | European Research Cooperation Agency. |

Early imaginative alternatives for the names of airlines included :-

| | |
|-----------|--|
| AIR INDIA | After I Return I'll Never Do It Again. |
| ALITALIA | Aircraft Lands in Turin And Luggage In Ancona. |
| BOAC | Better On A Camel |
| DELTA | Don't Expect Luggage To Arrive |
| EASYJET | Economy Airline Slows Your Journey Every Time. |
| KLM | Keeps Losing Money |
| QANTAS | Quite A Nice Trip, All Survived. |
| SABENA | Such A Bad Experience, Never Again. |
| TWA | The Worst Airline |

And finally, did you hear of the speechwriter who, having worked for a politician for many years, was sacked? The politician had all his speeches written for him, and he would collect the speech a few minutes before addressing the audience, not having read it through. The speechwriter composed his most witty and erudite final effort, and the audience were appreciative. Then the penultimate page. The politician read, "I would like now to make some very important points about which I feel very strongly". He turned over the page. There in large letters was the acronym YOYO. He looked in desperation at the speechwriter who was sitting, smiling on the front row. He mouthed, "You're On Your Own"

Points to Ponder

- One day at a time is all we should be dealing with. We can't go back to yesterday, and we can't control tomorrow, so live for today. *Good Mental Health*
- When you are important to another person, that person will always find a way to make time for you. No excuses, no lies and no broken promises.
- The biggest communications problem is that we do not listen to understand. We listen to reply. *Good Mental Health*
- Two things prevent us from happiness: living in the past and comparing to others.
- If I'm wrong, educate me. Don't belittle me.
- A true friend is someone who knows how crazy you are and is still willing to be seen in public with you!
- It is so important to love someone a little extra on their bad days. We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone.
- Love is caring for each other.....even when you're angry.
- Learn to sit back and observe; not everything needs a reaction.
- Hard times will always reveal true friends.
- Let your light shine so brightly that others can see their way out of the dark. *Healing Hugs*
- I love people that have no idea how wonderful they are and just wander around making the world a better place. *Clergy Coaching Network.*
- Life gets busy. Its easy to run on fumes. But you must remember to fuel your own heart. You cannot give if you are empty.
- What if today, we were just grateful for everything?
- I'll never forget who helped me in difficult times, who put me in difficult times, and who left me in difficult times.
- I am nothing, have nothing and can do nothing without God.
- My personality confuses people. I enjoy being alone, a lot, but I am very outgoing and social. My environment dictates how I behave. Sometimes I'm loud, sometimes I'm quiet. I adjust. There are times when I want to turn up and then there are moments when I want to read a good book, or process thoughts, alone.
- Love begins by taking care of the closest ones- the ones at home. *Mother Teresa.*
- Just because I don't react, doesn't mean I didn't notice.

All the above quotes are freely available on the Internet.

Smile !

- What do you call the security outside a Samsung store ? Guardians of the Galaxy
- My email password has been hacked. That's the third time I've had to rename the cat .
- What did E.T.'s mother say to him when he got home? "Where on earth have you been?"
- Writing a horror play. It starts off with a ringing phone. The person answers and it's their mum saying, "I have a computer question".
- Definition of a kitten: a small homicidal muffin on legs; affects human sensibilities to the point of endowing the most wanton and ruthless acts of destruction with near-mythical overtones of cuteness. Not recommended for beginners. Get at least 2.
- A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kick boxing.
- A clean house is a sign of a broken computer.
- Where did the IT guy go? He probably ransomware.
- Maybe if we start telling people the brain is an app they will start using it.
- Cant see an end. I have no control and I don't think there's an escape. I don't even have a home anymore. Think its time for a new keyboard.
- Every morning I announce to my family that I'm going jogging but then I don't go. It's a running joke.
- Freddy Mercury, Venus Williams and Bruno Mars all walked into the same bar. They didn't planet.
- I phoned my wife earlier and asked her if she wanted me to pick up Fish and Chips on my way home from work but she just grunted at me. I think she still regrets letting me name the twins.

A few more smiles!

- When someone needed a boat made, what did the people in town say?
"We Noah guy".
- Why didn't anyone want to fight Goliath? - It seemed like a giant ordeal.
- Which Bible character was the best musician? - Samson- he brought the house down.
- Who in the Bible knew the most people? - Abraham knew a Lot.

Walking With Donations Request

Walking With are in desperate need of more food donations at the moment. Donations can be put in our BOBOF BOX in the lounge.



| <u>Donations list</u> |
|-------------------------------------|
| <u>Food (tinned/packets)</u> |
| Potatoes |
| Peas/carrots |
| Kidney beans |
| Chickpeas |
| Pasta |
| Spaghetti (Dried) |
| Tea bags |
| Basmati rice |
| Long grain rice |
| Tinned tomatoes |
| Tuna |
| Toilet rolls |
| Tinned fruit |
| Jam |
| Custard |
| Microwave rice |
| Rice pudding |
| Sweetcorn |
| Pulses |
| Chocolates/ biscuits |
| Sardines |
| Long life milk |
| Noodles |
| |
| <u>Extras</u> |
| Sanitary towels |
| Coffee |
| Shampoo / shower gel |
| Toothpaste |
| Washing up liquid |
| Soap powder |
| Sugar |
| Oil |

We also need:

- Good quality clothes and shoes
- Young men's clothing.
- Household goods (pots/ pans)
- Bedding
- Bikes (in good repair)

Please contact the centre prior to donating the above items as we have limited storage space and may not always be able to accept donations.

Thank you for your support!

Sunday Rotas

| Sunday | Door Steward | Flower Rota | Flowers Donated To |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---|
| September 3 rd | Mick Watson | David Ashley | During the last month the communion table flowers have brought our prayers to – Lorna Morgan, Mark Burdon, Janis Duff, Mabel Bell, Jean & Bill Christie and Alan & Pam Emery. |
| September 10 th | Maureen Mills | Doreen Kirtley | |
| September 17 th | Derek Ormston | Mabel Bell | |
| September 24 th | Howard Hedley | Susan Bewley | |
| October 1 st | | Bill & Shirley Filmer | |

| Sunday | Preachers | Church Steward |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| September 3 rd | Chris Carroll | Mark Burdon |
| September 10 th | Rev Gavin Hume and Deacon Gail Morgan. Covenant Service | Susan Bewley |
| September 17 th | Miss Sam Cree | Alan Barker |
| September 24 th | Deacon Gail Morgan | Mark Burdon |
| October 1 st | Mr Keith Jones | |