

# Rainbow

WINTER/SPRING 2024

FLOURISH

GOD'S CREATION

A STREET FEAST  
IN BIRMINGHAM

VEGETABLE GARDENS  
IN SOUTH AFRICA

PLENTIFUL



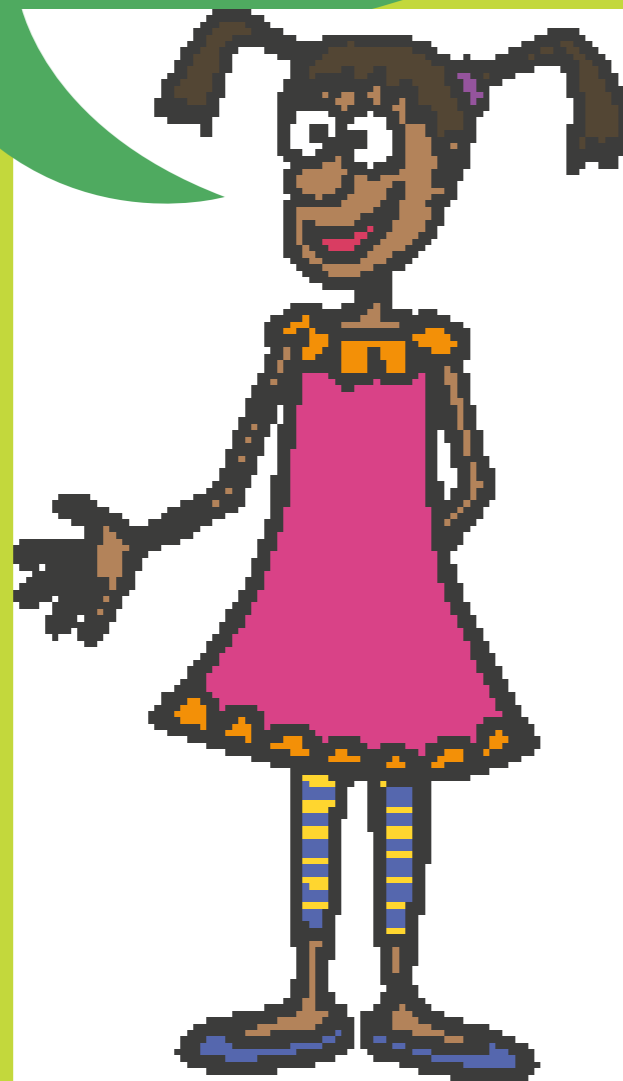
The Methodist Church



# Welcome

to your winter/spring edition of Rainbow.

This issue of the magazine is about the **abundance of God's creation**, which means how big and wide and different it all is. And how, in John 6:1-15, Jesus was able to feed 5,000 people. There was **plenty** of food to go round and even some left over!



The JMA promise is to:

"Learn, pray and serve with the worldwide Church of Jesus Christ."

# Meet our friends

## from the Caribbean and Americas

Members of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas (MCCA) attended 3Generate 2023 as our guests. Here Abigail, Christine and Kristen share some thoughts about their time at 3Generate.



**Abigail:** "I really liked the tech that was on display, and also the badge collecting. It was a fun thing to try and complete while at 3Gen. The climbing wall was also good! And obviously The Globe!"

**Christine:** "I really enjoyed the interaction with the young people. Youth work is my passion so being able to spend time with them was great."

**Kristen:** "I really enjoyed the atmosphere; it was a feeling of openness and acceptance and that is something that you should feel at an event like this."

This visit was made possible by your kind donations to the World Mission Fund so THANK YOU!

## WHAT IS 3GEN?

3Gen is the Children and Youth Assembly of the Methodist Church. The name 3Gen is a short version of 3Generate.

3Gen helps you to tune into God, speak out and take action and live a life of discipleship in your church and community.

Tune in to God  
What do  
you hear?



Tune into the world  
Be a champion  
for change!

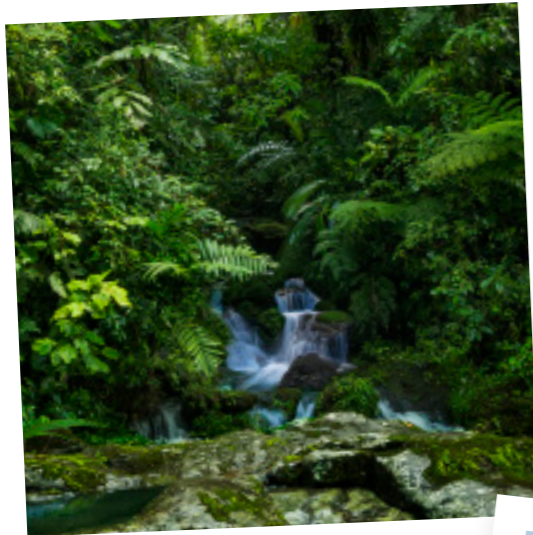


Tune into each other  
Listen, talk, action - in your  
church and community



3Generate calls the Church to listen and talk to you - the children and young people of the Methodist Church - so that we can make change happen together!

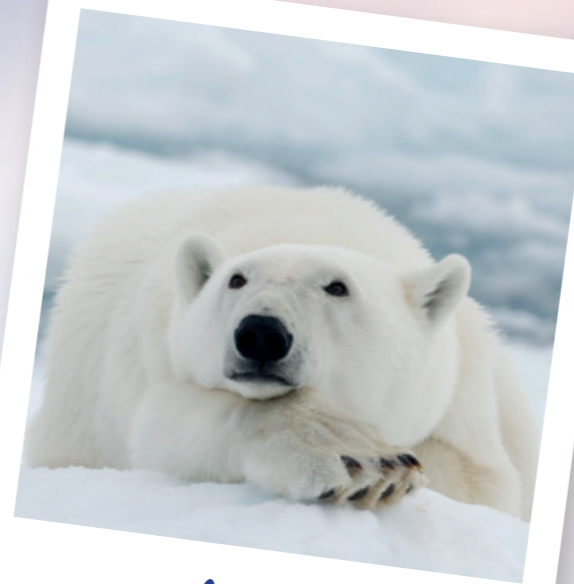
# Let's explore the different climates of God's creation



Rainforest

God created not just humans, but every animal and plant. By learning about God's love for creation and our place within it, we can learn to take care of the world we live in.

A Methodist Way of Life commitment to Flourish



Arctic

Look at the pictures on these pages

What do you love about God's creation? Write your answer or draw your own picture below.



Desert

We want all of God's created kingdom not just to survive but to flourish. Flourish means to grow and do well. By understanding that we are part of creation and that it is our job to care for the world around us, we can help make sure that all creation gets to be its best.

A Methodist Way of Life commitment to Flourish



Mountain

## Pray

THANK YOU GOD  
THAT IN YOUR LOVE  
FOR US YOU LENT US  
THIS PLANET.  
MAY WE TAKE  
CARE OF IT.

AMEN.

# A street feast in Birmingham

The Street Ecclesial Community is a place where everyone comes together to serve one another – helping each other so that everyone feels welcome.



At the Street Ecclesial Community, people eat a meal together, talk to each other and pray together.

## Think

IF YOU COULD START A NEW ACTIVITY TO HELP BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER WITH FOOD, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

## Pray

THANK YOU GOD  
THAT THE MONEY WE  
RAISE CAN HELP PEOPLE  
LIKE OUR FRIENDS  
IN BIRMINGHAM.

AMEN.



The money you raise for JMA helps to support  
'New Places for New People' funded by the Mission in Britain Fund.

# Vegetable gardens in South Africa



In Cape Province, South Africa, Methodist churches are developing food sustainability projects to increase food supplies for local people in need. Food sustainability means growing food in a way that protects the environment and is healthy and safe.

In Otters Rd, Terence has started a food sustainability project using part of the church grounds to grow a large vegetable garden. The garden is not only helping local people in need but is used to teach church members and young people – like you – how to grow their own food!



In Heidelberg, near Cape Town, the Minister, the Revd Ralph Afghan, has started growing a small vegetable garden in an inner courtyard of the church. Church members look after it and the vegetables that grow can be picked for free by any family that needs food. This church also gives away over 300 parcels of food every week to people who need them.



Your JMA collections are helping Methodist churches around the world, like the ones in South Africa, develop food-growing projects in their local areas.

## Think

CAN YOU AND YOUR JMA GROUP GROW VEGETABLES?  
DO YOU HAVE A VEGETABLE GARDEN IN YOUR CHURCH?  
WOULD YOU LIKE TO START A VEGETABLE GARDEN AT YOUR SCHOOL OR CHURCH, OR IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?

The money you raise for JMA helps people and projects  
funded by the World Mission Fund.

# Jesus feeds the 5,000

"Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.'"

John 6:11-13 (NRSV Updated Edition)

## So, what's the story?

In the Bible story, we read that Jesus took five loaves of bread and two fish, thanked God for the food, and then shared it out among all the people who had come to see him. There were 5,000 of them! After everyone had taken some, there were still 12 baskets of food left over. What a miracle! In this painting we see what Jesus' miracle looked like for the artist Eularia Clarke. For her, it meant a church picnic with people eating fish and chips!



Eularia Clarke, *The Five Thousand*

## What does this story mean to you?

Write your answers or draw some pictures in the boxes below.

### God's story

John 6:1-15.  
What is God saying?

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### My story

What do you notice?  
What is God saying to you?

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### What's next?

What should we change?

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# Plenty

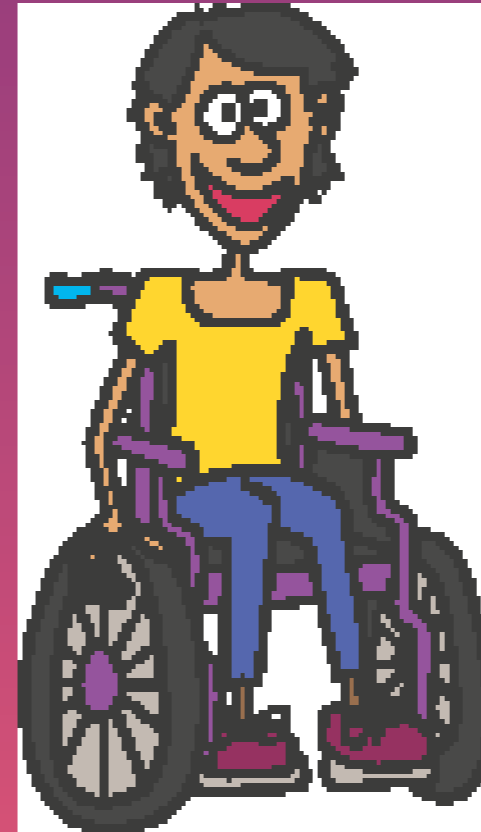


Let's get creative.  
Colour in this page  
any way you like.

# Puzzle

Complete the puzzle with the words below:

- FISH
- LOAVES
- THANKS
- TWELVE
- BASKETS
- JESUS



## Action

WHY NOT SHARE  
THE JMA PROMISE  
WITH A FRIEND?

The JMA promise is to:  
"Learn, pray and serve with the worldwide Church of Jesus Christ."



Methodist Children & Youth Assembly

# TUNE INTO GOD. GROW IN FAITH. SPEAK OUT AND TAKE ACTION.

Come together –  
be part of something bigger!

**4-6 OCTOBER 2024**  
**NEC BIRMINGHAM**

**Save the date and get your tickets  
from April 2024**

Scan the QR code to order your tickets  
or visit **3Generate.org.uk**



JMA will be at 3Generate 2024  
Find us in the Globe venue

The Methodist Church  
[methodist.org.uk/jma](http://methodist.org.uk/jma)



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