

Praying with Christians in Asia and Pacific Days 15 to 25

Spring 2019 update

Day 15

Deacon Angleena Keizer has successfully taken over from Revd John Howard as a Mission Partner sharing in the leadership of the Methodist Liaison Office, set up jointly by Methodist Church Britain and the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church with the support of the World Methodist Council. The office, which receives a regular grant from the World Mission Fund, is located in Jerusalem at the Tantur institute for Ecumenical Studies and helps Methodist Churches worldwide to broaden their relationships with the indigenous Palestinian churches, to access resource materials and to engage with pilgrimage/alternative tours and volunteering opportunities. Angleena's page is [here](#) where there is also a link to [her blog](#).

The World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel is in September, an initiative of the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum (PIEF) of the World Council of Churches. For further information please visit www.worldweekforpeace.org

We continue to support the Ecumenical Accompaniment programme (EAPPI).

Day 16

Tension between India and Pakistan has flared up again because of the ongoing failure to address the dispute in Kashmir. Please pray for continuing restraint and real dialogue between these two nuclear powers.

Rachel Ullmer is sent jointly by the Methodist Church and CMS to work with the schools run by our Partner, the Church of Pakistan; she helps with curriculum and teacher training. Her webpage is [here](#) and there is an evocative piece about where she lives in the [March Bulletin](#).

A deaconess from Pakistan, Evelyn Bhajan, is currently studying for her doctorate at Queen's on a MCB scholarship.

The Church of Bangladesh has a new Moderator, Bishop Samuel Mankhin. Pray for him as he begins this difficult role.

Day 17

Church of North India will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year and preparations are beginning. There is plenty about this active church on its [website](#). It is one of our larger Partner Churches with 1.5 million members and is dedicating its current triennium, 2017-20, to evangelism.

Church of South India is even bigger, with 4 million members. On its [website](#) you will find plenty of news and radical initiatives, currently including Lenten devotions and green ideas.

Day 18

Mission Partner Anne Baldwin begins her second year at the Theological College of Lanka giving pastoral and English language support to the students (the college uses Tamil, and Sinhala as well as English) and assisting the librarian. See her page and newsletters [here](#).

Methodist President Revd Asiri has not been well please remember him in your prayers.

Sri Lankan politics are once again in turmoil and an election looms this year, if you want to read about developments try <http://www.lankaenews.com/>

Leslie Dareju works at TCL but is pursuing doctoral studies with Queen's Birmingham and is currently there for one of his three-month long study visits.

Day 19

Malaysia Methodist Church has been a great support to our work with Chinese-speaking congregations in the UK, having sent first Revd Hii Kong Ching and now Revd Nguong Ung Soon as missionaries. We give hearty thanks for this.

Day 20

China Christian Council will be represented at the British Methodist Conference this year. We are delighted that two members of the new leadership have agreed to attend the inauguration of Revd Barbara Glasson as President following her participation in the CTBI Church leaders' visit to China in 2017.

The MWM conference at Swanwick (May 31-June 2) takes China as its theme this year with speakers from China and from UK Chinese congregations. <http://mwm.org.uk/>

The Lay Leader of the Irish Methodist Church will be visiting the Church in China in September.

Day 21

Sheila Norris has written in the [March edition](#) of the WCR Bulletin. If you don't receive the Bulletin each month, why not sign up for it [on this page](#).

Korea has been a particular focus over recent years as we endeavour to support our partner the National Council of Churches in Korea with their peace building efforts. [Click here](#) to read the joint peace prayer and [Click here](#) to read the Pyongyang Appeal issued at a meeting in the North at which Steve Pearce represented the Methodist Church.

Many more prayers and background reading can be found [on this page](#) they may help inform your prayer at this time of real possibilities for peace on the Korean peninsula.

Day 22

Both Aotearoa and Australia have new presidents! For the New Zealand Methodist Church it is Rev Setaita Taumoepeau Veikune, and their Vice President, Nicola Grundy, will be attending the British Conference in June.

The new President of the Uniting Church in Australia is Deidre Palmer.

Day 23

Wande Ebofin has finished her time in Papua New Guinea and has now returned to her teaching career elsewhere.

Julia Edwards will be returning as a Mission Partner to the United Church of Papua New Guinea Development Unit as soon as a visa comes through. She will help with disaster risk reduction work and also working alongside Steve Pearce on church partnerships in the Pacific.

Day 24

Revd Dr Val Ogden has now returned to a circuit in the British Connexion. PTC, the college where she worked, has a new principal, Revd. Dr. Upolu Lumā Vaai.

The Pacific Conference of Churches had its five-yearly assembly in November and elected a new General Secretary, Revd James Bhagwan. He is a good friend and we look forward to working with him over the next five years.

Samoa and Tonga, along with most other Pacific island nations, are facing challenges from climate change. The British Government is giving some attention to the issues and you can read up on the issues for island economies [in these interesting reports](#).