



Dear Friend, Member of IMPC or Member who hasn't been able to attend meetings recently,

Our opening service on 25th September was part of our campaign for RISE UP against domestic abuse. I have now taken 4 large collections of toiletries, cleaning items and nappies to the Refuge. They were particularly grateful as they had run out of nappies and have sent a thank you letter. We continue to collect for them.

On 30th October, 24 attended the interesting talk about Life in Algeria by Wendy Ouali. The evening group had a Desert Island Discs Evening on 8th October with thanks to Katy and Jenny for organising it. Then on 12th November, Rev John Squires spoke to us. Our evening Christmas Get Together will be at Jennie Sly's on Tuesday 10th December. Our next afternoon meeting will be on Wednesday 27th November when Penny Walters will talk about 'Called or Collared'. Then on Wednesday 11th December we will have our Christmas lunch at Stanley Park Golf Club.

How well do you know your Bible?

Some arithmetic for your to do this month. Add up the number of years the kings and one queen reigned. See if it agrees with the total on the other side!

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. King David | 1 Kings 2v11 |
| 2. King Solomon | 1 Kings 11v42 |
| 3. King Rehoboam | 1 Kings 14v21 |
| 4. King Abijah | 1 Kings 15v2 |
| 5. King Asa | 1 Kings 15v10 |
| 6. King Jehoshaphat | 1 Kings 22v42 |
| 7. King Jehoram | 2 Kings 8v17 |
| 8. King Ahaziah | 2 Kings 8v26 |
| 9. Queen Athaliah | 2 Kings 11v3 |
| 10. King Joash | 2 Kings 12V1 |

On a Christmas light hearted note

Why did the Christmas tree go to church? *To find its roots!*

Why was the Christmas tree at church so bad at knitting? *It kept dropping its needles!*

How did Mary and Joseph know Jesus' weight when he was born? *They had a weigh in a manger.*

The Three Gifts

After the Christmas play, I asked my 6-year-old son if he remembered the gifts that the Magi brought to Jesus. He thought for a minute then said "gold, frankincense, and humour". We could all use that!

Actual children's versions of Christmas Carols

"...sleep in heavenly peas";

"Joy to the world, the Saviour rains";

"While shepherds washed their socks by night"

Transformation Emmanuel– Bearer of Light

'O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Malachi 4.2

Lord, for the times when darkness overpowers us, be our guiding light.

Creator of light and darkness, as we make our footsteps in faith to the dawn of salvation, may your Word be a lantern to our feet and a light upon our path.

May your presence be a light of comfort, peace and understanding to those for whom Christmas time holds difficult memories.

May your Light illumine the dark places of danger or despair bringing hope and courage.

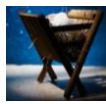
God be with us in light and dark. Amen.

"I learned to manage our household and save for our family's future."



Francine from Burundi

Francine's story is one of transformation. Thanks to the One More Step programme, Francine not only lifted her family out of poverty but strengthened her faith and her community. *"I learned to manage our household and save for our family's future. I also learned how to strengthen my relationship with God. I pray deeply and also I am able to pray for me, my children and others. I now have confidence and hope."* she says. Francine turned her life around, buying a goat, which has now turned into a herd of four. By supporting literacy circles and savings groups, we empower women to overcome gender inequality, improve agricultural practices, build business knowledge and reduce gender-based violence in their communities.



Gill Ireland and nearly 20 members from several deaneries in the diocese came together for a short service in the Jesus Chapel of Blackburn Cathedral on 25th

November. Afterwards most of them went outside to give out leaflets to raise awareness of the problem of domestic abuse. This was to start the 16 Days against Gender Based Violence for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.



Some MU Branches are holding a Blue Christmas service as their Advent service this year. This service creates a reflective, compassionate space for those who find the Christmas season difficult. We talk about 'feeling blue' to denote sadness. In a Blue Christmas service, people can come as they are, with all their feelings of sadness or grief, and find solace in knowing they are not alone. The service typically has quieter music, subdued lighting and a calm, serene environment – offering a contrast with the festive nature of other seasonal activities. Lighting candles or using other symbolic actions can provide a visual and participatory element to the service, representing the light of hope in times of darkness.

A Christmas Prayer

Gracious and loving God, In this holy season of Christmas, we give thanks for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the light of the world and the hope of all nations.

As we celebrate His birth, help us to open our hearts in love, to share Your peace and joy with those around us. May we remember the humble manger, and find Your presence in the quiet moments of our lives. Guide us to be generous in spirit and kind in action, reflecting the love and compassion of Christ, so that in all we do, Your glory may shine through. Bless our families, our communities, and our world with peace, hope, and unity in Your Holy Name. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Answers to reigns of monarchs
1.40 2.40 3.17 4.3 5.41 6. 25 7. 8
8. 1 9. 6 10.40 **Total =221**

Triennial York Provincial Service



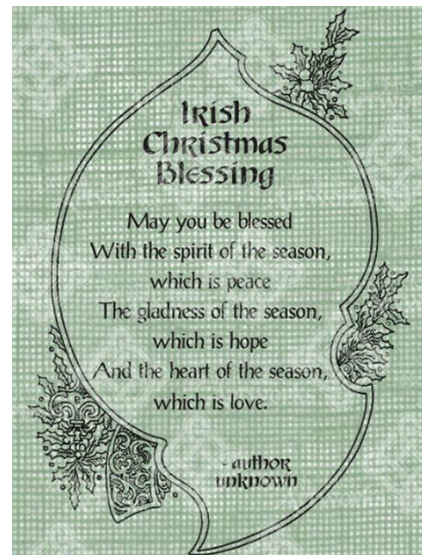
Some pictures of the MU Triennial Provincial Service at Blackburn Cathedral on November 2nd

The new Worldwide President Elect is Kathleen Snow from Canada and will replace Sheran Harper.

Please pray that Blackburn Diocese will find a replacement for Gill Ireland who is retiring this year.



She was presented with gifts from members on November 7th.



With best wishes to you all
June