

20	Christian	A Boy was born in Bethlehem; rejoice for that, Jerusalem! Alleluia. He let himself a servant be, that humankind he might set free : Alleluia. Then praise the Word of God who came to dwell within a Human frame ; Alleluia. <i>(Based on a German 16th Century prayer)</i>
21	Christian	Almighty God, you created us from the dust of the earth. Let these Ashes be for us a sign of our repentance and a symbol of our mortality. May we always remember that by your grace alone we are given eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen ... In the name of Christ, I invite you to receive on your forehead the sign of the cross. <i>(Methodist prayer for the 'Ashing Service' on today, Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, a time of preparation)</i>
22	Baha'i	From the sweet-scented streams of Thine eternity give me to drink, O my God, and of the fruits of the tree of Thy being enable me to taste, O my Hope! From the crystal springs of Thy love suffer me to quaff, O my Glory, and beneath the shadow of Thine everlasting providence let me abide, O my Light! <i>(Bahá'u'lláh – the faith's founder)</i>
23	Muslim	O humankind! We created you from a single pair of male and female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other, not that you may despise each other. Verily, the most honoured of you in the sight of God is the one who is the most righteous of you. And God has full knowledge and is well acquainted with all things. <i>(Teaching on Justice and Equality from the Qur'an 49:13)</i>
24	Jewish	Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your might. Blessed be His name whose glorious kingdom is forever and ever. <i>(Part of prayer in the Sabbath Evening Service from Deuteronomy 6:4-9)</i>
25 SUNDAY	Christian	Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. <i>(The 'Doxology')</i>
26	Sikh	One Universal Creator God. By The Grace Of The True Guru: By the actions we have committed, we are separated from You. Please show Your Mercy, and unite us with Yourself, Lord. We have grown weary of wandering to the four corners of the earth and in the ten directions. We have come to Your Sanctuary, God. <i>(Barah Mahaa)</i>
27	Hindu	O Lord, lead us from untruth to truth, lead us from darkness to light, lead us from death to immortality, Aum <i>(the universal sound of God)</i> . Let there be peace, peace, peace. <i>(Peace Prayer – Rig Veda)</i>
28	Christian	Be with us, Lord, to defend us; within us to refresh us; around us to protect us; before us to guide us; behind us to encourage us; and above us to bless us – for your own name's sake. AMEN <i>(10th Century Celtic Prayer)</i>

FACE TO FAITH

PRAYING AND ACTING FOR GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT FAITHS



2006 was a year in which we made a commitment to PRAY WITHOUT CEASING in the Methodist Church. Our District, our Circuit and your Church played an active part in it. It was a blessing, and the beginning of new experiences and ideas for us. The voyage of prayer has not ended.

A MONTH OF PRAYER AND ACTION – FEBRUARY 2007

In February 2007 Methodists are asked to devote the month to :

- Prayer for better relationships between people of different faiths.
- Action to encourage interfaith understanding in their community

Kirklees is a vibrant and diverse part of Yorkshire. Members of the main faith communities – including Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh – play a very positive role in our society. We need to continue to be serious about the reality of the mixed cultures and faiths where we live, and to be committed to understanding and working together more effectively. Ignorance of each other can be dangerous.

As Methodists, we are clearly and rightly rooted in Christianity. There is much to share from our own faith – we are people of the Kingdom and a missionary movement. At the same time, we can learn a great deal from other traditions and be enriched by them. It's an important part of our wholeness as individuals, a Church, and as a community. It's a gift.

This booklet offers you a reading, prayer, or thought for each day of February from a range of faiths. Use them as seems right to you in your daily walk alongside God. We hope that they will enhance your prayers, illuminate your journey, and increase your confidence in your own faith. Will it lead to better relations with others? That's up to God and you.

10	Jewish	Lord, open our eyes to the beauty of the world and its goodness. Let us be the servants of your peace, which brings all life together: the love of mother and child, the loyalty of friends and the companionship of animal and man. <i>(Part of prayers at the Sabath Evening service)</i>
11	Christian	In our living and loving : the blessing of God. In singing and praying : the blessing of God. In giving and acting : the blessing of God. In strength and in vulnerability : the blessing of God. In seeking justice and peace : the blessing of God. On our brothers and sisters throughout the world : the blessing of God, this day and every day. <i>(Prayer for Christian Aid Week 2006)</i>
12	Hindu	Oh Lord kindly forgive my wrong actions done knowingly or unknowingly, either through my organs of action (hand, feet, speech) or through my organs of perception (eyes, ears) or by my mind. Glory unto Thee O Lord, who is the ocean of kindness. <i>(Bedtime Prayer)</i>
13	Baha'i	O God, Thou art more friend to me than I am to myself. I dedicate myself to Thee, O Lord. <i>(‘Abdu’l-Baha)</i>
14	Christian	As Christians we follow the teachings of Jesus Christ who commanded us to love our neighbours as ourselves. We reject the ways of violence, and commit ourselves to honouring and respecting our neighbours in Kirklees. <i>(Statement made after the July 2005 bombings in London)</i>
15	Sikh	The good ones, who are absorbed in "The Truth", do service; They do no evil. They travel on the right path and do what is just: They break worldly bonds. They eat and drink, little. <i>(From Gurb Nanaak's teachings, 15th century)</i>
16	Buddhist	This food is the gift of the whole universe. Each morsel is a sacrifice of life, may I be worthy to receive it. May the energy in this food give me the strength to transform my unwholesome qualities into wholesome ones. I am grateful for this food, may I realise the Path of Awakening, for the sake of all beings. <i>(A Buddhist mealtime prayer)</i>
17	Jewish	In God's eyes the man stands high who makes peace between men – between husband and wife, between parent and children, between management and labour, between neighbour and neighbour. But he stands highest who establishes peace among the nations. <i>(From the Talmud)</i>
18	Christian	Give us grace to follow Jesus the healer, Jesus the peacemaker, Jesus the Saviour of the world, Jesus the Lord of all life. Restore us and make your face shine upon us that we may be saved. <i>(Methodist Church in South Africa)</i>
19	Muslim	Fools laud and magnify the mosque, while they oppress the holy ones of heart. But the former is mere form; the latter, spirit and truth. The only true mosque is the one in the heart of saints. <i>(Rumi – teacher, Sufi mystic and poet)</i>

1	Jewish	May it be Your will, O Lord, that no man foster hatred or envy of us in his heart and that we foster no hatred or envy in our hearts of any man. <i>(From the Talmud)</i>
2	Christian	Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light of revelation to the nations and for the glory of your people Israel. <i>(Words from Luke 2:29-32 for today marking the presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple)</i>
3	Jewish	I believe in the sun even when it is not shining. I believe in love even when feeling it not. I believe in God even when He is silent. <i>(Inscription on the walls of a cellar in Cologne, Germany, where Jews hid from the Nazis)</i>
4	Christian	Open thou mine eyes, and I shall see. Incline my heart and I shall desire. Order my steps and I shall walk in the ways of thy commandments. O Lord God, be thou to me a God, and beside thee let there be none else, no other, naught else with thee. You chose me to worship thee and serve thee according to thy commandments : in truth of spirit, in reverence of body, in blessing of lips, in private and in public. <i>(Lancelot Andrews 1555-1626)</i>
5	Baha'i	He is God! Thou seest us, O my God, gathered around this table, praising Thy bounty, with our gaze set upon Thy Kingdom. O Lord! Send down upon us Thy heavenly food and confer upon us Thy blessing. Thou art verily the Bestower, the Merciful, the Compassionate. <i>(Grace at the Table, ‘Abdu’l-Baha, Mahmud’s Diary, page 327)</i>
6	Sikh	Death or frustration can no longer affect those, in whose hearts, dwells the all-pervading Lord! ... In the realm of truth abides the Formless One. He watches over all he has created with bounteous eyes! <i>(The basic teachings of Guru Nanak from Japji Sahib verse 37. Guru = Teacher)</i>
7	Hindu	OM BHUR BHUVAH SUVAHA. TAT SAVITUR VARENYAM. BHARGO DEVASYA DHEEMAHI. DHIO YO NAH PRACHODAYAT. <i>Translation : We meditate upon the glorious splendor of the Vivifier Divine. May He Himself illumine our minds! (Gayatri Mantra – from Rig Veda)</i>
8	Buddhist	Let the wise person do righteousness: A treasure that others cannot share, which no thief can steal; a treasure which does not pass away. <i>(Khuddakapatha 8:9)</i>
9	Muslim	All praise is for Allah, the Lord of the universe, the merciful and kind, master of the day of judgment. You alone we worship, from you alone we seek help, guide us to the straight path – the path of those whom You favoured and not of those who earned your anger or went astray. <i>(Translation from the opening chapter of the Quran. Allah=God, Arabic word used by Muslims & Arab Christians)</i>