



Thoughts, notices and reminders
January 14 2018

From afar off, sound the first notes of the angel's song,
not yet discernible as a song or a melody.
The new song of God's future is still far off
and only just announced and foretold.
But fulfilment is happening.
It is occurring today.
And tomorrow the angels will tell
what has happened with loud, rejoicing voices
and we will know it and be glad.

Alfred Delp

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but please remember that his usual day off is Friday.
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Any items for this weekly sheet should be received by Rachel Fleshbourne
no later than Wednesday evening.

If you would like to receive this weekly sheet by email, please e-mail Rachel:
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THE PRAYER PAGE

Saint's Day	Prayer in the parish	Prayer in the diocese
Sunday Epiphany 2	Ruckland Court; Lincoln Cathedral Quarry workers Residents of: Langdale Close, Langton Close, Laughton Crescent, Laughton Way	THE MINISTRY OF THOSE WHO ARE GIFTED AS EVANGELISTS
Monday	The Neighbourhood Management team Residents of: Laughton Way North, Lenton Gardens, Manton Road, Midville Close	THE CHURCH SCHOOLS IN BELTISLOE DEANERY
Tuesday	Housebound communicants Residents of: Millbeck Road, Minting Close, Moorby Close, Natal View	THE RINGSTONE IN AVELAND GROUP
Wednesday St Anthony of Egypt Hermit	Health care services; Social Workers Residents of: Nene Road, Nocton Drive, Oxen Park Close, Pietermaritz Street, Pietermaritz View	THE BOLINGBROKE DEANERY Canon Fr Peter Coates (Rural Dean)
Thursday Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	Work with children and young people on the estate Residents of: Pine Close, Queen Elizabeth Road, Queen Mary Road	THE SOUTH ORMSBY GROUP Revd Teresa McLaughlin
Friday St Wulfstan Bishop of Worcester	The PCC and Parish officers Phil Betts, David Rudeforth, Sue Young, PCC members Residents of: Ravendale Drive, Redbourne Drive, Retief Close, Retief View	THE ALFORD GROUP Revd Ros Latham
Saturday Richard Rolle Spiritual writer	Community Police and Neighbourhood Watch Helen Kumar, Amanda Allen, Craig Mobbs and Tina Worden Residents of: Ridge View, Riseholme Road, Riverton Close, Riverton View	THE PARTNEY CLUSTER Revd Teresa McLaughlin

Give thanks for:	The week of prayer for Christian Unity
Special prayers this week for:	Victims of domestic violence; famine in the Congo and Yemen The people of Syria still experiencing daily violence
People in need:	Mary Bayston, Vicki and Terry Barnes, Doug Bradley, Fr John Clark, Betty Hoy, Jan Hunter, Sarah Lusby, Sheila Lusby, Joan Pratt, Janice Rutherford, Vanessa Williamson, Doug and Anita, Gerrard
Rest in peace:	Jacqui Coney, Stephen Devisme, Paul Rhodes

Coming up this week:

Sunday 14	10:00am	Eucharist
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	2:30pm	Ruckland Court Songs of Praise
Tuesday 16	7:00pm	Eucharist and PCC Meeting
Wednesday 17	9:30am 12:00pm 3:00pm 4:00pm	Eucharist Lunch club in the hall Staff meeting Holocaust Memorial Day meeting
Thursday 18	9:00am 11:45am 1:30pm 7:00pm	Philippa taking assembly at St Francis school Funeral in church Bingo and coffee in the church hall Ermine voices
Sunday 21	10:00am	Eucharist

Coming up soon:

Monday 22	7:30pm	St John's Singers
Wednesday 24	9:30pm 10:30am	Eucharist with prayer for healing Bible study group/Choir practice
Thursday 25	9:00am 2:45pm 7:00pm	Fr Ruben taking assembly at St Francis school Philippa taking assembly at Ermine Primary Ermine voices
Saturday 27	6:30pm	Holocaust Memorial Day event
Sunday 28	10:00am 12:00pm	Eucharist Baptisms
Monday 29	6:15pm	Scouts visit to church
Wednesday 31	9:30pm	Eucharist
Thursday 1	2:45pm 7:00pm	Fr Ruben taking assembly at Ermine Primary Ermine Voices
Sunday 4	10:00am 12:00pm 6:00pm	Eucharist (Candlemas) Baptisms Prayers for healing
Wednesday 7	9:30am 10:30am 11:15am 12:00pm	Eucharist Ruckland Court Eucharist Ermine House Eucharist Lunch club in the hall
Thursday	2:45pm 7:00pm	Fr Stephen taking assembly at Ermine Primary Ermine Voices
Saturday 10	12:00pm	OHP tertiaries in church
Sunday 11	10:00am 2:30pm	Family Eucharist Ruckland Court Songs of Praise

ANNUAL REPORT

The last date for all reports to be in will be by Wednesday 7th February – this gives us a couple of weeks to put the whole report together (this is a big job!). Here is the list of the reports we need (if there are any not listed, please let me know – those crossed out have already been done!):

Vicar	Ecumenical	Staff group
Churchwardens	Ermine Music	Stewardship
ALMS	Hospitality and	Brownies
Bible study	fundraising	Guides
Bingo	JJs	Website
Children's Society	Lunch club	Finance
Church Hall	Mothers Union	Christian Aid
Community Larder	Servers	Women's world day of
Curates (x2)	Songs of Praise	prayer
Deanery Synod	Choir	
Electoral roll	St Johns Singers	

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

On Holocaust Memorial Day, we will be holding a special service at 6:30pm in church in partnership with the Council for Christians and Jews and the Lincoln Independent Minyan. This is on 27th January and everyone is welcome to attend.

Thursday 18th to Thursday 25th January – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The theme for 2018 comes from the Caribbean: "That All May Be Free."

Using Exodus 15, the song of triumph over oppression reminds us that the road to unity must often pass through a communal experience of suffering.

The churches who will host services on behalf of CTLD have been invited to either use the resources provided by Churches Together in Britain & Ireland, or to host a service in their own tradition. This allows for more diversity as we take part in the pilgrimage around our member churches:

Thursday 18th, 12.30 pm, at All Saints, Church of England, Monks Road, LN2 5JN

Friday 19th, 7.00 pm, at Our Lady of Lincoln Catholic Church, Laughton Way, LN2 2HE

Saturday 20th, 12.30 pm, at Nettleham Methodist Church, High St. Nettleham, LN2 2PL

Sunday 21st, 7.00 pm, Bridge Church (Assemblies of God), 107-115 Newark Rd. LN5 8NQ

Monday 22nd, 12.30 pm, at Ermine United Reformed Church, Sudbrooke Drive, LN2 2EF

Tuesday 23rd, 7.00 pm, at St. Katherine's Traditional Anglican, Colegrave Street, LN5 8DW

Wednesday 24th, 12.30 pm, the Friends Meeting House, Park Street/Beaumont Fee, LN1 1UR

Thursday 25th, 7.00 pm, at Life Church, 127 Birchwood Avenue, Lincoln LN6 0JE

THANKSGIVING SERVICE FOR GREGORY

Philippa and Ed will be giving thanks for Gregory in a service at the cathedral on Saturday 27th January at 2pm. Everybody is welcome to join them there (and for cake afterwards!) - it would be lovely if lots of people from St John's could make it. They have chosen a service of thanksgiving and dedication instead of a baptism as they would like Gregory to be able to choose baptism for himself.

WARCHILD STREET CHILDREN'S STORIES

Abbas and Matteen from Afghanistan

What are you doing when the sun comes up?

Abbas, 15, and Matteen, 14, already work. They're good friends. They work together on the streets doing odd jobs and selling whatever they can to help make money for their families, who struggle to earn enough to buy food and pay for the basics like school and medicines. Matteen's parents died when he was quite young, while Abbas' father is addicted to drugs. The boys earn around 60p a day working from 6am till late in the evening.

What's the most exciting thing you've ever done?

Matteen's brother-in-law, Sher Khan, asked the boys if they were interested in learning how to ride motorbikes. This was an exciting prospect for the boys and they started taking lessons from Sher Khan. As he taught them to ride bikes, he became one of the boys' best friends, and he convinced them that if they could steal a motorbike, he would sell it and give them a portion of the profits. One morning Abbas and Matteen found a motorbike parked in front of a restaurant with its keys still in the ignition.

What would make you risk everything?

The boys saw a chance to earn some extra money and make their friend happy. So they stole the bike and rode it over to Sher Khan's house. But Abbas' dad spotted them going in, and later on, he confronted the boys about the bike. Abbas and Matteen admitted stealing, and Abbas' father made them promise to return it straight away.

When was the last time you did something you regretted?

The boys went to retrieve the bike from Sher Khan's house, but Sher Khan wasn't happy about the prospect of giving up the bike and threatened to report the boys to the police. Abbas and Matteen decided to ignore Sher Khan's threats and took the bike back to the restaurant anyway. It must have taken a lot of courage to return to the scene of the theft. Suddenly, the police arrived and arrested them.

Have you ever felt like it's the end of the world?

The boys were taken to a children's jail, called a Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre. Abbas' family were horrified about what he'd done. Both boys were stuck in the centre while the case went to trial, and for a while the future looked very bleak for the two friends.

Have you ever had a second chance?

Luckily, Abbas and Matteen weren't sentenced to time in prison, and finally they were released when the trial ended. After the trial, War Child workers met with Abbas' family and eventually his family agreed to take Abbas back into their home. With War Child's help, Abbas is learning to read and write in a War Child education centre. Matteen didn't even have a family to go back to. With War Child's support he moved to a local orphanage, where he is going to class. Life is still tough but thanks to War Child they're slowly turning their lives around. And as for Sher Khan, Abbas and Matteen

filed a police report about his involvement in the bike theft. He was arrested and now he's in jail.

Faheema story

What do you collect? Football cards? Lego? Badges? Key rings?

When Faheema was 12, she used to collect rubbish. She should have been in school. Instead she spent her days walking the streets, going from bin to bin. She was looking for paper to use as firewood, so she could bake bread for her family. And for plastic bottles she could wash and sell to local shops. Her family had nothing to survive on, so they had to let Faheema work on the streets. Dressed in dirty rags, she was often violently abused by the street boys. There was no one she could turn to for help.

Have you ever meet someone that changed your life?

Here's the part where Faheema's story changes. Up until recently, life had dealt her a rotten hand. But one day she was handed a lifeline by one of War Child's outreach workers who found her and took her to their drop-in-centre. It's a warm, safe haven from the dangers of life on the streets. She comes to the centre regularly and attends the literacy and numeracy classes. She also uses the children's club where she can play with toys and, for a few hours a week, enjoy the simple pleasures of childhood. War Child's team are working with Faheema's parents and are helping them find ways of earning more money, so they don't need to send Faheema back onto the streets.

What do you want to be when you grow up? App developer? Nurse? Film star? Chef?

Faheema's future is in the balance. Hopefully one day she'll go back to school and get a proper education. But this is a War Child story not a Walt Disney one—and they don't always end happily ever after. Maybe she will go on to become a teacher. Faheema has dreams just like any other teenager. But maybe, despite her best efforts, conflict in the country will force her family back into the clutches of poverty and she'll end up as a 21 year old rubbish collector...

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Praying for the unity of the Church involves a recognition not only of the brokenness of Christian relationships but also how injustice in the world at large rends asunder Christian communities and impedes our participation in God's mission. History too plays a part, casting a shadow over how we live our lives together in community.

All of these issues emerge from the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity materials for 2018. The churches of the Caribbean region describe to us their own context, how the hand of God was active in ending slavery, and how God's mission in the world is a call to us all to unite together in ending injustice, that which casts a shadow from the past and current forms of injustice such as poverty, trafficking and discrimination.

This particular Caribbean experience is a challenge to us in our context to reflect more deeply on the injustices in our own nations in Britain and Ireland which create the divisions that impede our participation in God's mission, with the call to actively work to end all division.

Within these resources you will find not only the worship service derived from the International material that is resourced by the Caribbean churches, but also additional material written by the CTBI Writers Group. I hope and pray that you will find these materials inspiring as you seek to participate in the life that sets us free to be one in God.

Bob Fyffe, General Secretary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Introduction to this year's theme and background

The material for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018 has been produced in the Caribbean. There are 1.4 Million Christians living in the Caribbean region, across a vast geographical spread of island and mainland territories. They represent a rich and diverse tapestry of ethnic, linguistic and religious traditions, with a complex variety of governmental and constitutional arrangements.

The contemporary context is deeply marked by the history of the colonialism which stripped people of their identity, dignity and freedom. Christian missionary activity, closely tied to the colonial system, seemed to support, encourage and excuse it. During five-hundred years of the colonial system, scripture was used to justify the enslavement of the indigenous people. In a dynamic reversal, those same scriptures became the inspiration and motivation for people to reclaim their liberty. Recognising the hand of God in the ending of enslavement, the Caribbean Christians offer Exodus 15, a song of triumph over oppression, as the motif of the Week of Prayer. The hymn, *The Right Hand of God*, reflecting the song of Miriam and Moses in praise of the liberating action of God, has become the anthem of the ecumenical movement in the region.



Like the Israelites, the people of the Caribbean have a song of victory and freedom to sing. Yet, contemporary challenges continue to enslave and threaten the dignity of the people. Many of the contemporary challenges are the legacy of the colonial past. The Caribbean economies have traditionally been based upon the production of materials for the European market – sometimes producing only a single commodity. They have never been self-sustaining and their development has required borrowing on the international market. The servicing of the debt has caused a reduction in spending upon the development that it was meant to facilitate.

The chosen passage from Exodus 15 allows us to see that the road to unity must often pass through a communal experience of suffering. The Israelites' liberation from enslavement is the foundational event in the constitution of the people. Although our liberation and salvation is at God's initiative, human agencies are engaged in their realisation. Christians participate in God's ministry of reconciliation, yet our divisions hamper our witness to a world in need of God's healing.

The themes of the daily material raise some of the contemporary issues addressed by the churches of the Caribbean. Abuses of human rights are found across the region and we are challenged to consider our manner of



welcoming of the stranger into our midst. Human trafficking and modern-day slavery continue to be huge issues. Addiction to pornography and drugs, continue to be serious challenges to all societies. The debt crisis has a negative impact upon the nations and upon individuals – the economies of the nations and people have become precarious. Family life continues to be challenged by the economic restrictions which lead to migration, domestic abuse and violence.

The Caribbean Churches work together to heal the wounds in the body of Christ. Reconciliation demands repentance, reparation and the healing of memories. The whole Church is called to be both a sign and an active agent of this reconciliation.

If you would like to follow the daily reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, you can find them here: <https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2018/#downloads>

The next two pages feature the reflections for day one of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

DAY 1 WELCOMING THE STRANGER

STARTING POINT

The memory of a liberated people, that they were once enslaved, should compel us to welcome the stranger in our midst. The experience of Biblical Israel resonates with the experiences of the peoples of the Caribbean region, the majority of whom were once slaves. We remember how God restores the dignity of God's people and the churches of the region play an important role in reminding their society of the duty to welcome refugees and displaced persons.

Leviticus 19.33-34 You shall love the alien as yourself

Psalms 146 The Lord watches over the strangers

Hebrews 13.1-3 Some have entertained angels without knowing it

Matthew 25.31-46 I was a stranger and you welcomed me

REFLECTION

We are good because we are loved,

not loved because we are good.
If it was up to each one of us to earn it,
we might not be loved very much.
Too much goat and not enough sheep.
And yet loved we are, since God is in all things,
even the bits we think are ugly and
unmentionable.

We are loved,
but God wants us to give some love back,
giving and receiving
in a mutual relationship.
Love makes us better
holds us together
reaching out to the other.

Being in relationship with God means being with other people,
doing some good.

Looking after the creation
and not seeing everything as being there for our enjoyment.

It means being fair and not exploiting others.

It means giving and not taking.

It means being alongside not overpowering others.

It even means welcoming and respecting the stranger in our midst since
it may be the Christ unannounced.



QUESTIONS

- How have you experienced being a stranger?
- Have you visited another church (perhaps whilst on holiday)? How were you welcomed? How did you feel?
- How might being truly hospitable be challenging? What might hold us back from being genuinely hospitable?

PRAYER

Barrier-breaking God,
You embrace all cultures and lands,
But keep a special place in your heart
For the stranger, the widow and the orphan.
Grant us the gift of your Spirit
That we may become as You are,

Welcoming all as brothers and sisters,
Your cherished children,
Citizens together in Christ's kingdom of justice and peace.
Amen

GO AND DO (see www.ctbi.org.uk/goanddo)

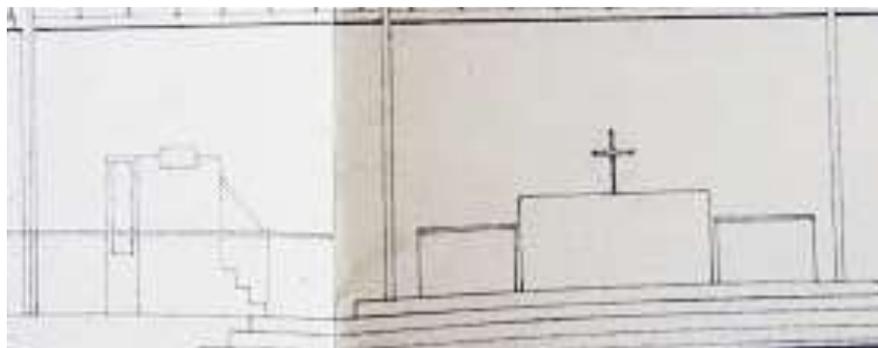
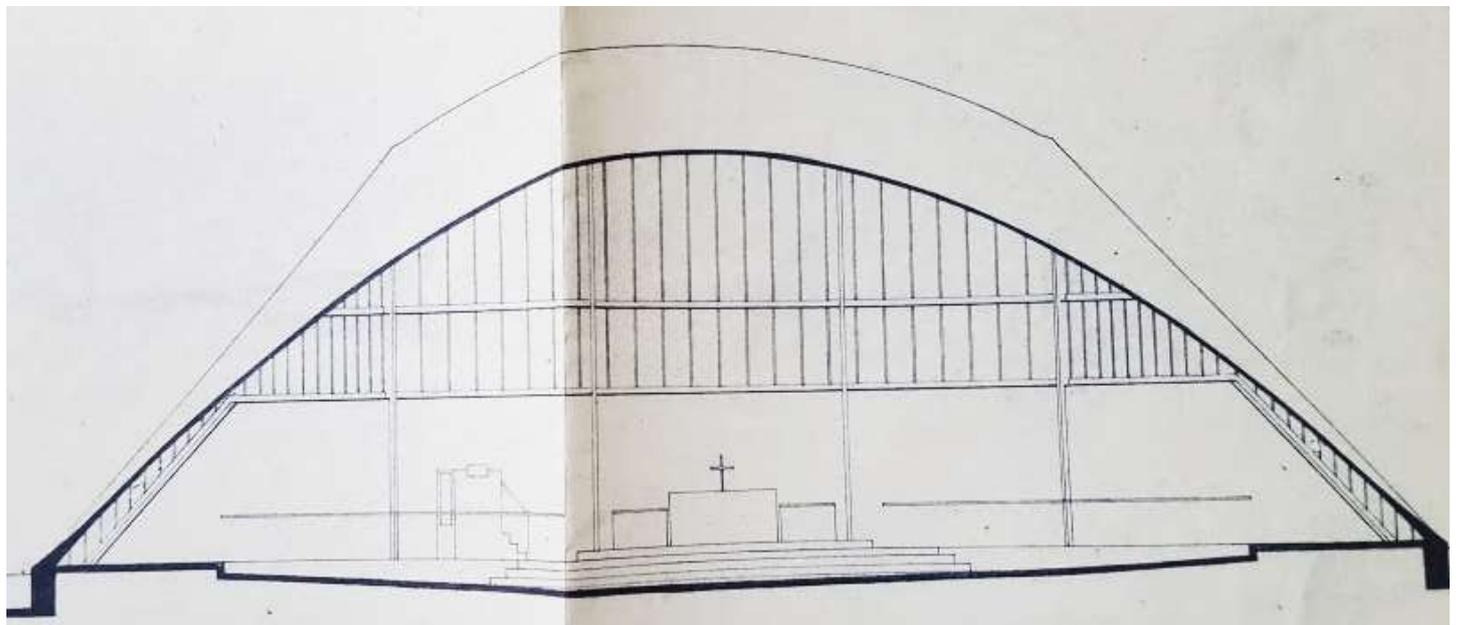
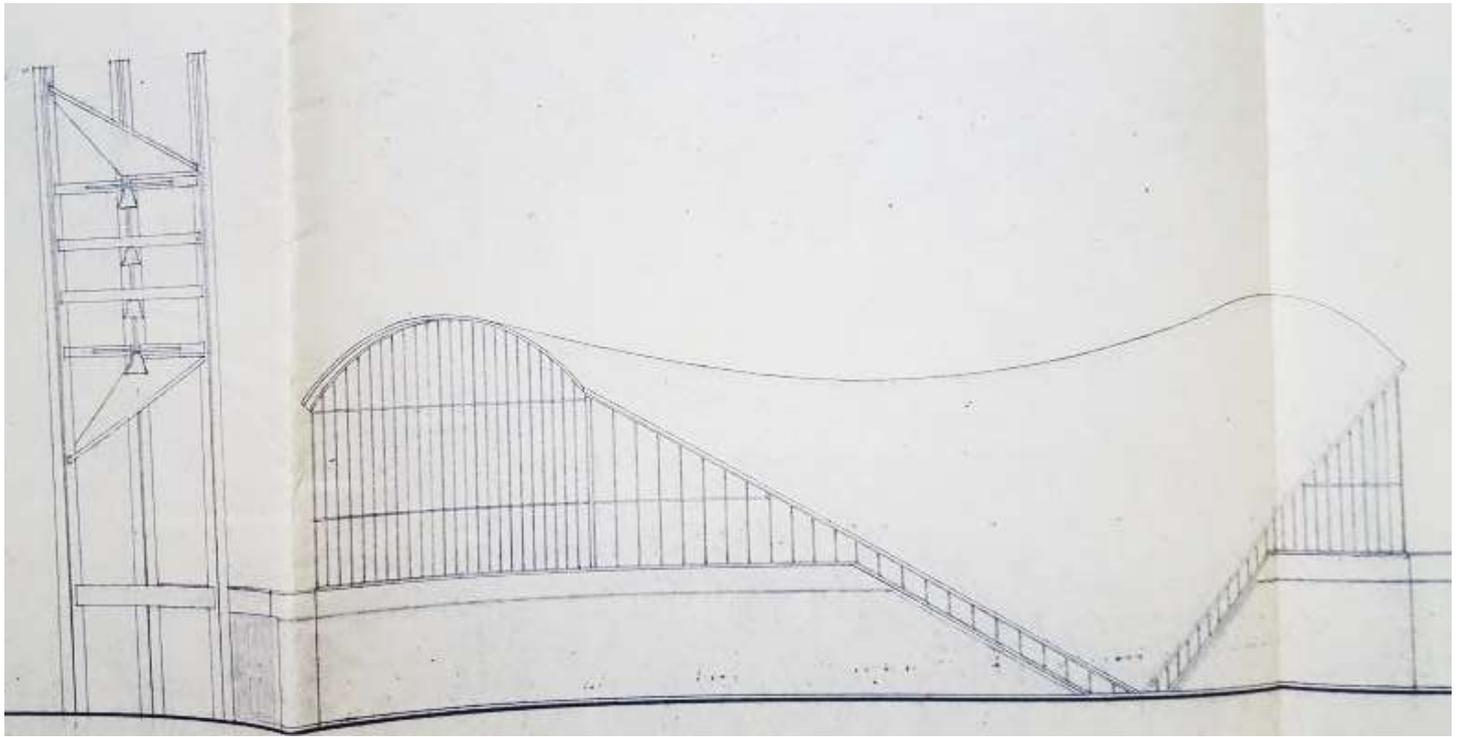
The Caribbean Council of Churches has been involved in advocacy to challenge those nations that are restricting or stripping Haitians of citizenship rights.

Visit Go and Do to read Milciades story about being denied his rights in the Dominican Republic.

Visit Go and Do to find inspiration and encouragement to keep helping those who have been forced from their homes across the world.

FROM THE ARCHIVE

Here are two designs from 1962. They show the proposed bell tower that would have been built at the front of the church and an original design for the pulpit which suggests that there would have been some steps up to the pulpit.



And here is another design for the space between the church and the church hall. This one has a triangular Lady chapel as a central feature. You can see the altar position on the right, with much reduced spaces for the vestries and additional toilet facilities.

