



St Michael's Church
Stoke Gifford



Mission Partner of the Month - September 2025



St Michael's NEW Mission link is with Embrace the Middle East, the Christian Development Charity tackling poverty and injustice in the Middle East. Embrace partners with Christians in the Middle East as they work to transform lives and restore the dignity of some of the most excluded and marginalised communities.

Embrace currently works with Christians in Egypt, Iraq, Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, Lebanon and Syria, supporting health, education and community projects, which bring vital services to those at risk of marginalisation and exclusion. All are working to transform the lives of those most forgotten and on the margins; all are inspired by the Gospel.



Christians in the Middle East



The Middle East is home to the oldest Christian communities in the world and has a rich diversity of Christian traditions. Embrace works with the whole breadth of the church from Greek and Coptic Orthodox Christians to Catholics, Anglicans, Evangelicals and many others in between. The size of the Christian community in each of the countries that Embrace works in varies from up to 25% of Egypt's population of 109 million people to

only 1,000 in Gaza (0.05% of the population).

Embrace's Work

- Hay el Gharbeh, in southern Beirut, is home to families living in extreme poverty. Embrace's partner Tahaddi runs several projects in this community, including special education services for young children with complex needs.
- Gender-based violence is widespread in Syria, reflecting the ongoing effects of conflict, poverty and social instability. A project Embrace supports provides

legal and psychosocial support, as well as counselling and healthcare services for women and girls who have experienced gender-based violence in Homs.

- Many people living on the streets of south Tel Aviv have lost everything as a result of drug addiction. The staff and volunteers at Aviv Ministry respond to the practical and spiritual needs of these people, treating them with compassion and dignity
- Al Ahli Hospital continues to provide essential healthcare for Gaza's sick and injured whilst operating in a dangerous and highly unpredictable context
- Gender inequality means that many women in rural Egypt have not had the opportunity to complete their education. Think and Do is teaching women basic literacy and numeracy to help improve their life skills and employment opportunities.



How can St Michael's pray for Embrace the Middle East?

- Pray for a ceasefire in Gaza. Consider joining the #FastForGaza campaign by fasting every Wednesday and writing to your MP to call for a ceasefire
- Pray for Embrace's Christian partners as they work to bring healing and hope.
- Pray for wise leadership and good relationships with the wider community

www.embraceme.org

St Michael's Link Person: Lydia Nash

Other St Michael's Mission News

- Mary Cottrell and the five others from St Michael's who fly to Moldova on 10 September (this Thursday) for a Mission Trip to Gotesti with Ruslan & Larisa's church
- For Lindsay, the new Chair of the Trustees of InHope as they plan for the future including appointing a new InHope CEO and a new Finance Officer
- For Luke working as Shift Leader in the Galley of the OM Ship Doulos Hope. This is a very busy month for him!
- Wisdom for John & Poppy as they plan the potential Mission Trip to Yei, South Sudan, in October.