



St Michael's Church
Stoke Gifford



Mission Partner of the Month - July 2026



Embrace the Middle East is 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.

Updates on Embrace's Work

- The East Jerusalem YMCA works to reduce the long-term trauma among survivors of political violence and children who've been imprisoned by the Israeli authorities. Their services include psychological first aid, individual and group counselling and vocational training to help survivors reintegrate into their families and communities
- The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre has a satellite unit in Gaza City. The clinic provides rehabilitation services for children with disabilities. Many of their patients are those who suffered life-changing injuries in the recent conflict. To tackle the psychological trauma many children suffered, the clinic now offers play therapy as part of their treatment.
- In Lebanon, women's prisons are overcrowded and neglected, often housing four times the official capacity. After release, prisoners face social stigma and difficulty gaining employment. Embrace partner Beit el Nour, helps the female inmates of Tripoli prison



to learn skills in tailoring and embroidery, and supports them to generate an income upon release.

- Although the Middle East's wars often hit the headlines, communities there face an additional devastating prospect – the impact of climate change. The Ankawa Humanitarian Committee, in Erbil, Iraq, educates young people about climate challenges, which range from loss of farmland to desert expansion. The scheme encourages students to write proposals for environmental initiatives and put them into action in their communities.
- In Cairo's Zabbaleen community, long working hours recycling rubbish and low earnings often leads to stressful home environments. Children can end up living in chaotic situations or sent to orphanages by parents who feel it is their only option. Embrace partner Life Vision runs a project, The Rock, which helps families stay together and provides the holistic support they need to create safe and stable homes for their children.



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

- Pray for the launch of the 'time to act' campaign with other Christian organisations in the UK, calling for a just peace for all who call the Holy Land home (more info at justpeacecoalition.com)
- Pray for Embrace's 40 partners, including all the projects mentioned here, across the Middle East as they seek to bring healing and hope to all.

www.embraceme.org

St Michael's Link Person: Lydia Nash

Other St Michael's Mission News

- John, Poppy and Ben give thanks for many answered prayers for their visit to South Sudan in June. They stayed healthy throughout, the flights with MAF were great and all their visits and meetings in Yei went very well.
- 22 people from Poland will be staying in Gotesti, Moldova from 16 to 24 July. Please pray for the six optometrists doing vision tests in the villages and providing glasses where needed, and for 16 teenagers, who will help Dinu with football, give practical help in the village and have evening events with local teenagers.
- Don't miss Katia Rocks preaching at the 6:30pm service on Sunday 12th July.
- Give thanks for the encouraging and unexpected news that the Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter has been invited to apply for further funding from the Council for this coming winter to be able to run the shelter again.