

The Week Ahead

The Methodist Church 


Hi everyone,
and welcome
to **The Week Ahead**.

This **Sunday, 15 January**, is [World Religion Day](#), a day of **promoting interfaith understanding and harmony**. If you're doing something special to celebrate, why not [pop us an email](#) to let us know?

Andy Jackson will be staffing the out-of-hours support line this week on **020 7467 5170**.

God bless,

Toby Fairclough
Media Officer

 On the box

[Transgender Kids: Who Knows Best?](#)
Thursday 12 Jan,
BBC Two, 9:00pm

This sensitive documentary explores whether 'gender affirmation' is always the right approach.

[Songs of Praise](#)
Sunday 15 Jan,
BBC One, 4:30pm

Sally Magnusson finds out about a new approach to keeping fit inspired by cathedrals.

[Girls, Guns and ISIS](#)
Tuesday 17 Jan,
BBC One, 10:45pm

Stacey Dooley embeds herself on the frontline with the extraordinary all-female Yazidi battalion.

Art on tour

The **Methodist Modern Art Collection** will be exhibited in Canterbury. From 14 January to 23 April, this **world class exhibition** will be on display at the Beaney House of Art and Knowledge. For more details and directions, [click here](#).

Bible Month training days

If you would like to take part in the upcoming **Bible Month**, 30 days of reflection on the letter of James, a number of **training days** are coming up across the Connexion, starting from 21 January. Run jointly by the Methodist Church and the Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust, these days will help you to **engage more deeply** with Scripture and **lead others** in doing so too. [Click here](#) for more information and to book your place.

Christian Unity

The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is from the 18 to 25 January and this year focuses on **2 Corinthians 5:14-20**. For resources and more, please visit the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland [website](#).

Luther and hymnody: A call for papers

A conference commemorating the **500th anniversary** of Martin Luther's 95 Theses and the place of hymnody in the life of the Church will take place on **Saturday 20 May**. As part of the conference, submissions are open for papers discussing hymnody in the life of the Church. A short abstract should be submitted by **31 January** as detailed [here](#).

Methodist Student Weekend

A weekend of **fellowship, fun and food** will be taking place at Cliff College from 27-29 January, for **Methodist Students**. Tickets cost just £25 including food and board. [Click here](#) to book now.

Radio

[Something Understood: Remember You are Dust](#)

**Sunday 15 Jan,
BBC Radio 4, 6:05am**

Writer and priest Malcolm Doney examines the cyclical nature of our existence on earth.

[The Reformation: Omnibus](#)

**Sunday 15 Jan,
Radio 4 Extra, 9:00am**

Five hundred years after the Reformation, historian Diarmaid MacCulloch explores its impact on our lives now.

[Revisiting the 14-Day Rule](#)

**Tuesday 17 Jan,
BBC Radio 4, 11:00am**

For more than 25 years it has been illegal in the UK to research on human embryos beyond 14 days. But with recent scientific developments the debate has been rekindled.

See [The Radio Times](#) for further listings.

This week in Parliament

You can find this week's **parliamentary business** online [here](#). If you want to find out about the Scottish Parliamentary calendar, [click here](#) and the timetable for the National Assembly for Wales [click here](#).

Song of the Week: The Chalk Cliffs of England

[This week's song](#) is **The Chalk Cliffs of England** by Claire Rakich. This evocative song was inspired by the life and death of **Alfred Clegg**, one of the young missionaries commemorated on the Richmond College boards, now displayed in the Richmond Room of Methodist Church House, London.

Reflections

In the coming week the [Prayer Handbook](#) will be encouraging us to pray with Christians in the Americas, the Middle East, India, Asia, Europe, Britain and Ireland. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time](#) Bible studies is **Children of God** written by the Revd Brian Beck.

Video Thursday: Bible Month

[This week's video](#) highlights the upcoming **Bible Month project**, encouraging churches and circuits across the Connexion to spend 30 days in June focused **on the letter of James**.

The Week Ahead is a regular mailing that aims to give people a heads up on upcoming events and opportunities, as well as highlighting new information and resources. We don't always remember everything, so please do [email us](#) if you have any feedback or ideas for items to include.