

The Week Ahead

The Methodist Church 



Welcome to **The Week Ahead**.

As you'll soon see, this week's issue is full of important news and updates from the week just gone.

But in looking forward, don't forget to wish the Queen a **'happy birthday'** next Thursday (21 April) as Her Majesty turns 90. Events will be taking place across the country and you can find information and resources on the [Hope Together website](#).

I will be staffing the out-of-hours support line this week **07969 985 376**.*

*If it's not an emergency why not [pop us an email](#)? We'd love to hear from you!

God bless,

Toby



On the box

[90 Glorious Years](#)

Friday 15 April
Channel 5, 10pm

Documentary looking back at the reign of Her Majesty the Queen, as she celebrates her birthday.

[Songs of Praise](#)

Sunday 17 April
BBC 1, 4:25pm

As Her Majesty the Queen reaches her 90th birthday on Thursday, Pam Rhodes finds out more about her faith.

Methodist Council Report

Notes from the latest Methodist Council meeting, which met 2-4 April in Leamington Spa, are **now available** [on the website](#). **Including updates** from the Marriage and Relationship task group, the Strategy Resources Committee and the Property Development Committee.

Cliff College Update

The Revd Dr Stephen Skuce is to be seconded from working in the Connexional Team to take on the role of **Acting Principal** of Cliff College, from 1 June 2016. For more information, [click here](#).

An address to the Bishop of Rome

Senior Methodist representatives from around the world were **received by Pope Francis** at the Vatican last week, following on from dedication celebrations for the new Methodist Ecumenical Office in Rome. [Click through](#) for **the Revd Gareth Powell's address, photos, audio and video from the events**.

Asbury round up

Hundreds of people attended a day of special events at the Black County Living Museum, Dudley, on Saturday 9 April, to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the death of Bishop Francis Asbury. You can **read** about it [here](#), **look at** some photos from the day [here](#) or **listen** to the President's and Vice-President's addresses [here](#).

Harold 'Knievel' Robson

On **Saturday 16 April** Whitley Bay Methodist, Harold Robson (93) will be doing a daring **zip-wire ride** off the Tyne Bridge in aid of *the Alzheimer's Society* in memory of his late wife, Joan Robson. You can **donate** through Harold's [JustGiving Page](#), or [click here](#) to **listen** to an interview with him on *Premier Christian Radio*.

[Jerusalem: the Making of a Holy City](#)

**Tuesday 19 April
BBC 4 10pm**

Simon Sebag Montefiore explores how Jerusalem became a sacred place in Islam.

Radio

[Sunday Programme Catch Up](#)

BBC Radio 4

Geoff Bird reports on the little known story of Francis Asbury.

[Something Understood](#) **Sunday 17 April**

BBC Radio 4, 6:05am

Novelist Rachel Cusk reflects on 'the suspension of disbelief' inspired by Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

[Pause for Thought](#)

**Monday 18 April,
BBC Radio 2, 5:45am**

The Revd Tony Miles reflects on 'Preserving Mother Earth' on International Mother Earth Day.

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](#).

Reflections

In the coming week the [Prayer Handbook](#) will be encouraging us to pray with Christians in the Middle East, India, Asia, Britain and Ireland. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time](#) Bible studies is **God's everlasting love** written by the Revd Nicola Price-Tebbutt.

Video Thursday: Your Will is Your Legacy

The Methodist Church in Britain has launched a **new [set of materials](#)** encouraging people to consider their legacy, act generously and think about the Church when writing a will. [This week's video](#) features **Rachel Lampard**, Vice-President Designate of the Methodist Conference 2016/17, as she talks about **her life and what Methodism means to her**.