

The Week Ahead

The Methodist Church 

Hi


everyone, and welcome to The Week Ahead.

With **Christmas preparations** in hand, we are reminded that for **migrants** and those living in **poverty**, Christmas may not bring the **relief and good cheer** they would wish.

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

Wishing you all a peaceful pre-Christmas week,

Mike Ivatt
Lead Media Officer

 On the box**[Project Children: Defusing the Troubles](#)**

**Thursday, 15 Dec
BBC Four, 10:00pm**

The story of how NYPD bomb disposal expert Denis Mulcahy set up a scheme to help children from Northern Ireland escape the Troubles by taking them to America to spend the summer holidays there.

International Migrants Day

With ever-increasing numbers of **refugees and migrants** moving throughout the world, the UN General Assembly has declared Sunday 18 December as a day to **celebrate** those who have lost forever their lives over the past year. Click [here](#) to read more.

Sanctions letter

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference are among those who have signed a letter calling for a **review** of benefit sanctions. The letter, published in the Guardian, follows a National Audit Office report showing that the **sanctions regime is not an effective tool in tackling poverty**. To read the letter, click [here](#).

Methodist student weekend

There is an opportunity for Methodist students to share **fellowship, food and fun** on the 27 - 29 January at Cliff College. The theme for the weekend is **Agents of Change** and there will be workshops on evangelism, interfaith relations, inclusive Church and the refugee crisis. For more details click [here](#).

Risen film reviewed

The film Risen, cert. 12, starring Joseph Fiennes as a world weary Roman tribune searching for **the body of Christ**, is **now showing** on Sky Movies and other film channels. It also stars Peter Firth (Spooks) and Tom Felton (Draco Malfoy in the Harry Potter films). You can read a review by George Luke on the Wesley's Horse blog [here](#).

Getting the copyright right

One thing your church may need to renew (or arrange) is the **right type of copyright licence**, for reproducing words of hymns and worship songs, photocopying, the performance of live music, the playing of music, audio and video recording, the showing of films, the use of some song lyrics and much more. You can find a **quick**

**[Best of British:
Victoria Wood](#)**

**Sunday, 18 Dec
BBC Two, 8:20pm**

The late comedian and writer looks back on her career in a programme originally broadcast in 1998. She reflects on her childhood in 1960's Lancashire and her long and successful career as a performer.

**[Inside the Christmas
Factory](#)**

**Tuesday, 20 Dec
BBC Two, 9:00pm**

The fascinating factory processes and surprising history behind our favourite festive treats including mince pies, tinsel, wrapping paper and the explosive history of Christmas crackers.

 **Radio**

[India's Silent Terror](#)

**Thursday, 15 Dec
BBC Radio 4, 11:00am**

Less than three years after India's Hindu nationalist government came to office, the country is gripped by a rising tide of extremism - from a stifling of free speech to brutal attacks on religious minorities, all in the name of radical Hinduism.

[Paying for the Hostage](#)

**Sunday, 18 Dec
BBC Radio 4, 5:40pm**

John McCarthy examines the history of politically motivated hostage taking 30 years on from his own kidnapping, and discovers how government responses have changed.

[Psychology of Money](#)

**Wednesday, 21 Dec
BBC Radio 4, 8:00pm**

Claudia Hammond explores the complex relationship people have with cash, from how attitudes to

guide to the types of licences needed on the CCLI website [here](#).

Song of the Week: O Little Town of Bethlehem

We bring you Christian music, song or hymns to inspire and encourage you during the week.

This week, we head out on to the Christmas streets, to a **Victorian market** where members of **Leominster** Methodist Church are wowing the crowds with their warming rendition of "[O Little Town of Bethlehem](#)"

If you've got a song that you'd like to share, please do [get in touch](#).

This week in Parliament

You can find the last of this year's **parliamentary business** online [here](#). If you want to find out about the Scottish Parliamentary calendar, [click here](#). The National Assembly for Wales is in recess from 19 December until 8 January. The House of Commons is in recess from 20 December to 9 January and the Scottish Parliament from 24 December to 8 January.

Reflections

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

Video Thursday: Shopping Doreen & Derek's Christmas Dilemma

This video is from last year's Lancashire Methodist District *Step into Christmas* Advent reflections. The reflections were aimed at giving people an opportunity to reflect on the Christian Christmas message in a unique way. To watch click [here](#).

money begin taking shape early in life, to the development of bargain-spotting skills.

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

***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.*