

The Week Ahead

The Methodist Church 

Hi everyone, and welcome to The Week Ahead.

This week we'll be looking at what the Methodist Church has been doing to support refugees and looking forward to Advent.

Andy Jackson will be staffing the out-of-hours support line this week (020 7467 5111).

If your message is not urgent then pop us an [email](#), we would love to hear from you!

Mike Ivatt
Lead Media Officer

 On the box

[The Severn Bridge at 50: A High Wire Act](#)

Saturday 17 September
BBC2, 7:00pm

Celebrating the 50th birthday of the Severn

Refugees sponsorship

Methodists in Birmingham together with Birmingham City Council have **announced** that the city will be the first local authority to support the **community sponsorship** of Syrian refugees. Details of the announcement are can be read [here](#).

Call to change to refugee rules

The Vice-President of the Methodist Church, Rachel Lampard MBE, has chaired the launch of a letter from more than **200 faith leaders** to the Prime Minister calling for more help to be given to refugees fleeing Syria, Iraq and other areas of **conflict**. You can read more about the letter, which has been signed by 17 District Chairs, [here](#).

Thy Kingdom Come

The Methodist Church will be participating in Thy Kingdom Come, a week of prayer leading up to **Pentecost 2017**. This worldwide **interdenominational** initiative was launched last week by Churches Together in England. You can get more information by clicking [here](#).

Peace making Sunday

This Sunday is Peace making Sunday, the Sunday before United Nations' **International Day of Prayer** on 21 September. You can find **resources** from the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) [here](#).

Advent is coming!

The Advent offering service is a Connexion-wide event that raises money for the ongoing work of the **Mission in Britain Fund**. To register your church and for more information on the resources available click [here](#).

Wesley's Horse

Bridge, revealing the behind-the-scenes battle to maintain the iconic structure and keep traffic moving.

Poldark

**Sunday 18 September
BBC1, 9:00pm**

Ross and Demelza face financial ruin, and George plans revenge on Jud. Francis, meanwhile, tries to rebuild his life and extends an invitation to Ross and Demelza.

National Treasure

**Tuesday 20 September
Channel 4, 9:00pm**

Robbie Coltrane and Julie Walters in a new drama examining the impact of accusations of historic sexual offences against a fictional much-loved public figure.

Radio

Archive on 4: Don't be Rude on the Road

**Saturday 17 September
Radio 4, 8:00pm**

Alan Dein fastens his seat-belt and takes a breakneck tour through the history of the Public Information Film, from its post-war origins to its digital present.

Something Understood

**Sunday 18 September
Radio 4,
6:30am and 11:05pm**

Mark Tully considers the importance given to manual labour by philosophers, poets and composers.

Sunni-Shia: Islam Divided

**Monday 19 September
Radio 4, 8:00pm**

The first of two programmes explaining the Sunni-Shia divide and how Islam split after the death of the Prophet Mohammed.

A new update on the Wesley's Horse **blog** reviews the remake of the movie **Ben Hur**. Click [here](#) to read the blog.

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 for 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 North America, the Middle East, India, Asia, Britain and Ireland. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time](#) Bible studies is **Words of Wisdom**.

Video Thursday: Inspiring stories, our buildings

See the churches of the York & Hull Methodist District Mission Group and hear **testimonies** of how these buildings have helped mission and outreach. This week's film can be watched [here](#).

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*