Hi everyone, and welcome to the Week Ahead.

Today is A-level results day! Whatever the grades, well done for all of the hard work you’ve put in. If you didn’t get what you were hoping for, here’s an article from the BBC to help.

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

God bless,

Toby Fairclough
Media Officer

Sierra Leone

Earlier this week, Sierra Leone's capitol, Freetown, was struck by extreme flooding and a landslide which has led to more than 300 confirmed deaths and hundreds of people still missing.

Our Africa Partnership Coordinator, Dr Olubunmi Olayisade, and the President of the Conference, the Revd Loraine N Mellor, have offered their reflections and prayers here.

If you would like to make a donation toward the relief effort, the World Church Relationships Team and All We Can are collecting funds to be passed directly to our partners in the area. Click here to find out how you can help.

Embrace love

As people of faith struggle to make sense of the recent racial violence in Charlottesville, America, the United Methodist Church has responded with a statement and resources, embracing love and denouncing racism.

New Chair for MHA

Methodist Homes, MHA, has announced the appointment of John Robinson as the new Chair of its Board of Trustees. See here for more details.

Creation Time

This year’s Creation Time theme is Journeying with God, exploring God’s invitation to join the journey of care for all creation, with contributions from the Church of Scotland, the Roman Catholic Church, the Salvation Army and the Scottish Episcopal Church. Marking the start of the month of reflection, the Pope has also called for Christians around the world to join in a Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on September 1.

Prayer and fasting

As well as being the Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, September 1 also marks the new Methodist Connexional Year. To mark the occasion and encourage us to share the love of God, the 2017 Methodist Conference called on churches to share in a
day of prayer and fasting. Resources and reflections can be found here.

Changing church

The Susanna Wesley Foundation is holding their annual conference on Wednesday 6 September, providing an opportunity to explore the importance of change and transformation. Practitioners, church leaders and academics will be providing thoughtful debate and reflections. To register your place for this free event, click here.

Chirp for Joy!

All We Can, Methodist relief and development, has a range of new materials to help you celebrate this harvest time. Including videos, posters and more, the campaign aims to help inspire your church to 'chirp for joy' at God's creation and make a practical difference in the world.

All Together Now

It's not too late to register your interest for the All Together Now Conference. This free-to-attend, online event will explore what it means to be an inter-generational Church, featuring a variety of speakers. For more information and to register your interest, click here.

Advent Offering

Did you know, it's only 130 days until Christmas? That means it's 108 days until the beginning of Advent! With that in mind, the Fundraising Team are hard at work on producing new Connexional resources to help you reflect on the great works of chaplains and the Mission in Britain Fund. Click here to find out more and sign-up for updates.

Prayers and reflections

In the coming week the Methodist Prayer Handbook will be encouraging us to pray with Christians in India, Asia, Australasia, Britain and Ireland. The theme for next week's A Word in Time Bible studies is One True Foundation by the Revd Judith Rossall.

Video Thursday: 2017 Conference Highlights
The 2017 Methodist Conference Highlights video is finally here (just in time for autumn Synods!), bringing you a 6 minute round-up of just some of the great things that happened at this year's Methodist Conference.
This video is available to watch online or download to make it easier for showing at your Synod.