

The Week Ahead The Methodist Church 



Hi everyone, and welcome to the final Week Ahead of 2014.

As promised, it's a bit of a Christmas video-fest - and there's a ton of seasonal telly and radio, too.

*From tomorrow afternoon, the communications office will be **closed for the Christmas break** - but don't worry, all our on-call details are listed on the right.*

*While many of us will be celebrating with family and friends this Christmas, please do **remember in your prayers** all those who have been affected by the tragic Peshawar school massacre and the attack on a cafe in Sydney, Australia.*

*This is the last edition of the Week Ahead until **8 January**, so until then I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year,*

Anna



On the box

Songs of Praise

Sunday, 5:25pm, BBC1

Katherine Jenkins and Jermain Jackman join Bill Turnbull and David Grant in the Royal Albert Hall for a glorious celebration of the first Christmas.

Carols from King's

Wednesday, 5:25pm, BBC2

The traditional celebration of Christmas from the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge marks the sixtieth anniversary of the

Christmas greetings from the President and Vice-President

The Revd Kenneth Howcroft and Gill Dascombe asked me to share the following greeting with you all on their behalf:

Glory be to God on high, and peace on earth descend!

As President and Vice-President, we send our greetings to Methodists whose Conference we represent, and to those in other churches and organisations to whom we represent it.

As we come to a season of grace, we are filled with gratitude for all the love we have seen in you as we have travelled around.

May God bless you.

As we celebrate our Lord coming to earth, may earth be turned to heaven in us and through us.

Don't forget to look out for their **official Christmas message tomorrow**, which will be online [here](#) as a press release and available [here](#) as a podcast.

Media support over Christmas

The office will be closed from tomorrow afternoon until Monday 5 January, but if you need media advice or support you can **contact the on-call person** listed below:

- 19 - 24 December - Toby Scott (07974208360)
- 25 - 31 December - Anna Drew (07881783812)
- 1 - 7 January - Karen Burke (07969985376)

Angels We Have Heard on High

If you're still not quite feeling that **Christmas spirit**, [this should get you in the mood](#) - a beautiful a cappella medley of Christmas carols.

On Angel Wings

first programme being broadcast.

**Christmas Celebration
Wednesday,
11:45pm, BBC1**

Sally Magnusson presents a celebration of Christmas in words and music with a Commonwealth theme.

**On Christmas Night
Thursday, 11:55pm,
BBC1**

Adjoa Andoh reflects on the implications of this night for the mother of Jesus.

 **Radio**

**Prayer for the Day
Sat, Mon-Fri, 5:43am,
BBC Radio 4**

A spiritual comment and prayer to begin the day, with the Rev Dr Stephen Wigley.

**Sunday Worship
Sunday, 8:10am,
BBC Radio 4**

The last in the Advent series from Methodist College Belfast.

**Pause for Thought
Monday, 5:45am, BBC
Radio 2**

A reflection from the Revd Tony Miles.

**A Festival of Nine
Lessons and Carols
Wednesday, 3pm,
BBC Radio 4**

Live from the candlelit Chapel of King's College, Cambridge,

**Midnight Mass
Wednesday, 11:30pm,
BBC Radio 4**

The Archbishop of Westminster Cardinal Vincent Nichols celebrates the First Mass of Christmas live from Westminster Cathedral.

**We Three Kings
Thursday, 6:30am,
BBC Radio 4 Extra**

Ian Hislop examines the myths and realities surrounding the Three

On Angel Wings is a half-hour animated re-telling of the Christmas story from the viewpoint of an adventurous young shepherd boy who is taken on a secret, enchanted night-flight to witness the Christmas miracle. It's based on a book by Michael Morpurgo, and features the voices of Juliet Stephenson and Michael Gambon. It will be on **BBC1 on Christmas Eve at 4:15pm** and you can watch a trailer [here](#).

The Brick Nativity

Ever wanted to see the story of Jesus' birth **retold using Lego**? Look no further - [this lovely video](#) was created by Methodist minister the Revd Mark Stennett.

Mary & Jo

[This video](#) is another Mark Stennett production. It's a modern retelling of the Nativity story using volunteers from the **Burton Road Methodist Church**, Lincoln.

A Christmas Miracle

The Rhema Theatre Company, who performed [The It's Not Fair](#) at 3Generate in November, have been working on a **child-friendly retelling of the Nativity** - [click hereto](#) watch episode one.

The parents who never expected to see their child in a nativity play

How do you put on a nativity with children who have severe and complex needs? It is a difficult yet rewarding task taken up by many special schools around the country at this time of year. [This video](#) shares the **excitement and preparations** for a play at a special school in Southwark, London.

365 Paintings for Ants

So [this one's not Christmassy](#), but I hope you'll forgive me for that when you see **just how beautiful** it is.

Reflections

In the coming week the [Prayer Handbook](#) will be encouraging us to pray with Christians in Asia, East Asia, Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific, Britain and Ireland. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time](#) Bible studies is **Child of Hope**, written by the Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler.

Kings of the Christmas story.

Christmas Meditation
Friday, 12:15am,
BBC Radio 4

Famous for his 10 Second Sermons, comedian Milton Jones offers witty and winsome thoughts on the spirit of Christmas at the conclusion of the day's festivities.

Pause for Thought
Tuesday 30 December,
5:45am, BBC Radio 2

A reflection from the Revd Michaela Youngson.

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.

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