

## The Week Ahead

The Methodist Church 


Hi everyone,  
and welcome  
to **The Week Ahead**.

This will be the **final issue** of 'The Week Ahead' for 2016, so have a **lovely Christmas and see you next year!**

To check who will be covering the out-of-hours media support line over the holidays, please see the **Media Support** segment on the right.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Toby Fairclough  
Media Officer

 On the box**Midnight Mass**

**Saturday, 24 Dec,  
BBC One, 11:45pm**

Midnight Mass from St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham.

**[Songs of Praise: The Christmas Big Sing](#)**

**Sunday, 25 Dec,  
BBC One, 11:00am**

A feast of favourite carols and festive music are sung in this Christmas special from the Royal Albert Hall.

**[The Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year Message](#)**

**Sunday, 1 Jan,  
BBC One, 1:50pm**

The Most Rev Justin Welby reflects on the past year from Coventry Cathedral, contemplating on the

## Christmas message

This year's **Christmas message** from the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, will officially be **released tomorrow** (Friday) morning. Please check our [website](#), your [emails](#), [YouTube](#), [Vimeo](#) or the Methodist Recorder to **read, watch, download or listen** to it.

## Attack in Berlin

Bishop Rosemarie Wenner, of the **Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche** in Germany, has [written a letter](#) following the tragic attack in Berlin on Monday.

## Media support

The **out-of-hours** support line will be available over the Christmas break for media emergencies on **020 7467 5170**.

From the **22-28 December** Andy Jackson will be on call and from **29 December - 4 January** Michael Ivatt will be on call.

And for anything that's not urgent, please do [pop us an email](#), we'd love to hear from you!

## Is Advent good news for animals?

We came across an **intriguing article** this week exploring the nativity story and the impact it has had on stewardship and **our view on animals**, by Christian Animal Welfare Charity **SARX**. [Read on](#) for more.

## An exhibition in art

Methodist minister the Revd Dr David Palmer will be bringing his art exhibition '**Seeing the New Testament for what it is**' to Hull from **2-8 January**. For timings and information on the exhibition, [click here](#).

## Climate change in the Pacific

topics of forgiveness and unity.

### [Songs of Praise](#)

**Sunday, 1 Jan,  
BBC One, 1:55pm**

At the start of the year, Aled Jones looks back at highlights from 2016.

## Radio

### [Tinsel and Tea Towels](#)

**Saturday, 24 Dec,  
Premier Radio, 6:00pm**

Lisa Mainwaring speaks to comedians, authors and broadcasters about their childhood experience of the nativity.

### [The Queen's Christmas Message](#)

**Sunday, 25 Dec,  
Radio World Service,  
3:06pm**

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II delivers her annual address in the Christmas Message to the Commonwealth (also shown on BBC1 at 3pm).

### [Prayer for the Day](#)

**24-30 Dec,  
Radio 4, 5:43am**

A spiritual comment and prayer to begin the day, with the Revd Dr Leslie Griffiths.

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

Mission partner, **Dr Julia Edwards**, will be back in the UK on furlough from **January 9 to 24 March**. Julia has spent the past six years researching climate change and advocating climate justice in **Fiji** and would love to tell you all about it. For more information and to invite her to speak at your event, [click here](#).

## OneSound live in concert

On Saturday 7 January, one of the UK's **top Christian Youth ensembles** will be performing in **Wandsworth**, with a programme full of contemporary hits as well as traditional songs with a twist. [Click here](#) to book your ticket.

## Methodist Safeguarding Conference

You are invited to the **Methodist Safeguarding Conference 2017**, taking place in Wakefield on Tuesday **17 January**. The three day event will focus on how the Church can better meet the care and support needs of victims and survivors of abuse. To book your ticket, [please click here](#), using the password 'safeguarding2017'.

## Song of the Week: O Come All Ye Faithful

[This week's song](#) is **O Come All Ye Faithful** as performed by the **Pentatonix**. This upbeat, a cappella rendition of the famous Christmas Carol is just one of their many festive covers.

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

## This week in Parliament

Parliament is **in recess** over the Christmas break. In the meantime, why not have a look at **the Joint Public Issues Team** [website](#) for the joint Church's work on social justice issues.

## Reflections

In the coming week the [Prayer Handbook](#) will be encouraging us to pray with Christians in Asia, Australasia, Europe, Britain and Ireland. The theme for

next week's [A Word in Time](#) Bible studies is **A Son is Given** written by Julian Bond.

## **Video Thursday: Christmas in the Army**

[This week's](#) video comes from the **British Army** and features our very own Chaplain to the Armed Forces, the **Revd (Padre) Darren Middleton**, as he takes his troops for a colourful Christmas Physical Training session.

***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.*