

The Week Ahead

The Methodist Church 

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

On the 26 March we'll be celebrating mothers, sisters, friends and daughters during **Mothering Sunday**. For resources, hymn suggestions and more, please visit the [Singing the Faith Plus website](#).

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

God bless,

Toby Fairclough
Media Officer

 On the box**Comic Relief**

**Friday 24 March,
BBC One, 7:00pm**

A host of celebrities present this year's extravaganza, for a night of fundraising fun and games.

Songs of Praise

**Sunday 26 March,
BBC One, 11:45pm**

A Mothering Sunday special, featuring a boxing coach helping her community and a foster mother who has taken in three asylum-seekers from Afghanistan.

Storvville

**Monday 27 March,
BBC FOUR, 10:00pm**

Westminster attack

The President and Vice-President of the Conference have **called for prayer** following yesterday's attack in Westminster, London. For their response, and for **thoughts and prayers** from the **United Methodist Church** and the **London District**, [click here](#).

Conversation Welcome

In readiness for the impending triggering of **Article 50** next Wednesday, the Joint Public Issues Team are inviting people to **take part in discussions** in churches across the UK and ask 'What kind of society should we be seeking to create?' Accompanying resources, including **videos, prayers and reflections**, can be [downloaded here](#).

Rachel & Rachel do Red Nose Day

The Vice-President of the Conference, **Rachel Lampard**, and the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District Chair, the Revd **Rachel Parkinson**, have agreed to take up a Red Nose Day challenge. The pair will be attempting to **persuade Walsall shoppers to donate** food to Ablewell foodbank from their top 30 most wanted list. They're **seeking donations** of just £1 to support them and there will be photos! [Click here](#) to visit their fundraising page.

The Conference is coming!

Bookings for tickets to special events at the Methodist Conference 2017 open on [the website](#) this Monday, 27 March. You'll be able to book tickets for:

- **The opening of the Conference and the induction of the President and Vice-President** (Saturday 24 June)
- **The reception into full Connexion and Sunday worship** (Sunday 25 June)
- **The ordination services** (Sunday 25 June)

Tickets are free, but limited, so don't delay!

Nuclear Ban Treaty Negotiations

Documentary about the effects that long-term solitary confinement have on prisoners.

Radio

[Law in Action](#) **Thursday 23 March, Radio 4, 8:00pm**

The specialist legal programme this week asks if current legislation is adequate to deal with the phenomenon of fake news.

[Moral Maze](#) **Wednesday 29 March, Radio 4, 8:00pm**

Michael Buerk chairs this week's topical debate show.

[Pause for Thought](#) **Pause for Thought, Radio 2, iPlayer**

"We face a new day with great sadness in our hearts and yet determined to get on with life as best we can." Leslie Griffiths reflects on the Westminster attack.

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

Five Churches, including the Methodist Church, have [sent a letter](#) to the United Nations representatives who are meeting in New York next week to negotiate a nuclear weapons ban treaty. To read the letter, [click here](#).

Migration Matters

This **online course** run by the University of Roehampton, explores migrant stories, causes of migration and policy approaches **through theological themes**. [Click here](#) for more information and to join in.

BMYC Taster Weekend

Love singing? Aged 14-27? Then the **British Methodist Youth Choir** are holding a **weekend of events** just for you! The Taster Weekend will be taking place **5-7 May** in Newbury. For more information, [click here](#).

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 the timetable for the **National Assembly for Wales** [click here](#).

Song of the Week: God's Delight

With the 26 March being **Mothering Sunday**, [here](#) is a song written by **Gillian Collins** which draws upon biblical stories to highlight some of the particular physical, emotional and social challenges faced by many women.

Prayers and Reflections

In the coming week the [Prayer Handbook](#) will be encouraging us to pray with Christians in the Pacific, Europe, Britain and Ireland. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time](#) Bible studies is **Spiritual Gifts** written by the Revd Dr Caroline Wickens.

Video Thursday: "Spectacularly Bad"

This week's video is an interesting piece of **food-for-thought**, featuring an interview with the Revd Richard Coles discussing how the Church can be **"spectacularly bad"** at handling the world of media and communications.

[What do you think?](#)

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.