

The Week Ahead

The Methodist Church 

Hi everyone, and welcome to The Week Ahead.



This week we give thanks for all the

volunteers helping to open chapels and churches as part of Ride and Stride and the Heritage Open Days.

I will be staffing the out-of-hours support line this week (07881 783812). If you have any non-urgent inquiries do please [email](#) and I will be happy to help!

Wishing you all a wonderful week,

*Mike Ivatt
Lead Media Officer*

Ben Hur

The rebooted Ben-Hur film is in cinemas this week starring, among others, **Morgan Freeman**. Online resources are available to help churches explore the film's religious themes of faith, hope and **redemption**. There is also a youth activity pack. Click [here](#) for more information.

Ride and Stride

This weekend will see thousands of people **visiting** churches and chapels across the UK with both Ride and Stride and Heritage Open Days taking place. Many **Methodist buildings** are taking part, including The New Room Bristol. You can read about Ride and Stride [here](#) and the Heritage Open Days [here](#).

Connexional Conversation

The deadline to take part in discussions on Connexionalism as agreed at the 2015 Conference has been extended until 31st October. The 2015 **Issues of Connexionalism** report can be found [here](#) highlighting some of the challenges to Connexionalism, as well as the strength and support it brings. **Responses** to the report can be sent to faithandorder@methodistchurch.org.uk

World Alzheimer's Month

Throughout September, an international campaign is highlighting the **impact** of Alzheimer's. There are events as well as resources available to **understand** more about dementia. Click [here](#) for details.

Minister Retirement Courses

Places are still available for the **Practical Guide to Retirement** courses taking place 11-13 October in West Sussex and March 2017 Leicestershire. It is recommended that people attend this course 18-24 months before they are **due to sit down**. For information on the courses please click [here](#).

On the box

[Songs of Praise](#)

**Sunday 11 September
BBC1, 5:10pm**

On the anniversary of 9/11 Sally Magnusson talks to Christians who have turned to faith in the face of tragedy.

[Stacey Dooley Investigates](#)

**Tuesday 13 September
BBC1, 10:45pm**

Stacey travels to Russia exploring the two very different sides of sex work in the city of St Petersburg.

[Horizon](#)

**Sunday 11 September
BBC2, 9:00pm**

Irreverent comedian, Jimmy Carr, takes a look at the science of laughter.

Radio

[Prayer of the Day](#)

**Friday 9 September
Radio 4, 5:43am**

A prayer to begin the day with the archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Justin Welby.

[Sunday Feature](#)

**Saturday 10 September
BBC Radio 3, 6:30pm**

Fiona Shaw explores the Church's enthusiasm for contemporary art.

[Beyond Belief](#)

**Monday 12 September
BBC Radio 4, 4:30pm**

Ernie Rea and guests discuss the religious response to trauma.

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

3Generate - Volunteers

Volunteers are still needed for this year's 3Generate **event**, taking place 25-27 November near Swindon. For more information and to **register** as a potential volunteer, 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](#).

Reflections

In the coming week the [Prayer Handbook](#) will be encouraging us to pray with Christians in the Americas, the Caribbean, Britain and Ireland. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time](#) Bible studies is **Goodness and Mercy**.

Video Thursday: Ability Sunday

This Sunday, 11 September, is Ability Sunday where we are reminded that God's love is freely given to all regardless of **ability and disability**. This week's film is from the charity Prospects, the Christian organisation for people with learning disabilities, and features readings from 1 John 4 verses 7-17. Click [here](#) to watch.

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.

