

The Week Ahead

Hi everyone,

I hope you're all having a good week and that you didn't fall for too many **April fools** jokes yesterday. For what it's worth, [this one](#) was my favourite.

We've got plenty for you this week, including a good spread of TV and radio, plus a **two-for-one special** on Video Thursday...

The **office will be closed** from Friday 3 April and will re-open on Tuesday 7 April, but I will be staffing the out-of-hours support line (07881783812) in the meantime.

Wishing you all a very **happy Easter** from us all at Methodist Church House,

Anna

Easter reflection

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have invited people to **step into the Easter story** with their Easter reflection. "God still seeks to raise us up to be Christ's body and live his way through what we say and do, and how we think and pray (and, in a few weeks, how we vote) in the world around us," said the Revd Kenneth Howcroft and Gill Dascombe. [Click here](#) for the full text.

Hail Easter with an Aussie sunrise

Each year, the Wesley Mission in Sydney Australia, holds a nationwide televised **Sunrise Service on Easter Day**. This year for the first time the program will be webcast around the world, which means you be able to view it online at 9pm on Saturday evening, UK time. The theme this year is **For You** and, as the sun rises over Sydney's harbour, music including Wesley Mission's Samoan Choir, special guests and interviews will complement an address by the British Methodist Minister, Rev Keith Garner, who is Superintendent of Wesley Mission. Find out more [here](#).

Tomorrow's Country

Churches in the West Midlands have produced **Tomorrow's Country**, a churchgoers' manifesto for the 2015 General Election. It's based on regional research that highlights the key political issues for members of their congregations, and aims at better

The ITV Leaders Debate

Tonight, 8pm, ITV

ITV News anchor Julie Etchingham presents a live two-hour debate between the leaders of the Conservatives, Labour, Liberal Democrats, UKIP, SNP, Green Party and Plaid Cymru ahead of the General Election next month.

The Gospel of John

Friday, 8am, BBC2

An account of the life of Jesus of Nazareth. In the opening of the Gospel, Jesus is introduced as the Word of God appearing in human form.

In the Footsteps of St Peter

Friday, 9am, BBC1

Actor David Suchet goes in search of one of the most puzzling characters in history - the man we know today as Saint Peter.

Easter from King's

Saturday, 5:30pm, BBC2

Music and readings for Easter from the chapel of King's College, Cambridge.

Live Easter Sunday

Sunday, 10am, BBC1

enabling churchgoers to question parliamentary candidates on the topics that matter most to them. Find out more [here](#). If you're wondering how to get people engaged in your churches, don't forget to check out the Joint Public Issues Team's fantastic [election resource pack](#).

The Methodist Council

The Methodist Council will take place in Leamington Spa, **11-13 April**. The agenda and all the Council papers are available [online here](#).

Get resourced

The next **Christian Resources Exhibition** will take place in London from 19 to 22 May. [Click here](#) to buy tickets to CRE International at a discounted rate.

Fandom and Religion

Looking a little further ahead, the **Fandom and Religion** conference will take place in Leicester, on 28-30 July. It will explore interactions between religion and popular culture. How does fandom work? What is happening to fans as they express their enthusiasms and allegiances? Has fandom replaced or become a form of religion? Find out more and book your place [here](#).

Opportunity in Jerusalem

Do you have an understanding of the complex issues surrounding Israel/Palestine? We're looking for a long term mission partner and short term volunteers to fulfil a variety of roles within the **Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem** including administration, website development, social media, networking and advocacy. To find out more please [email Steve Pearce](#).

Reflections

A live service from the magnificent setting of Manchester Cathedral. Uplifting hymns and inspiring music combine with traditional readings and prayers to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

King of Kings

Sunday, 1:30pm, BBC2

Colourful dramatisation of the birth, life and death of Jesus Christ.

What Friday?

Friday, 6:32am,

BBC Radio Scotland

Mo McCullough asks how the meaning of Good Friday can connect with everyday life, and finds some answers at a South Leith food bank.

At the Foot of the Cross

Friday, 8pm,

BBC Radio 2

Diane Louise Jordan introduces an evening of music and reflection for Good Friday from Central Hall, Westminster. She is joined by the BBC Concert Orchestra, conducted by James Burton.

Sunday Worship

In the coming week the [Prayer Handbook](#) will be encouraging us to pray with Christians in West Africa, Southern Africa, East Africa, Britain and Ireland. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time](#) Bible studies is **The Risen Lord**.

Video Thursday: The Easter Story

I was searching for a video this week that captures the Easter story simply and beautifully... and [I think I found it](#). **Happy Easter everyone!**

Video bonus! A sneak peek

A new video will soon be released about **Methodist Pioneering Pathways**. It will provide an insight into pioneering ministry, encouraging individuals, churches and circuits to explore the possibilities. In the meantime, you can check out [this trailer](#). And if you're discerning the call to pioneer ministry or considering the appointment of a pioneer in your church, circuit or district, [this booklet](#) might be helpful.

Sunday, 8:10am,

BBC Radio 4

The first female Bishop in the Church of England, the Rt Rev Libby Lane, Bishop of Stockport, gives her first Easter sermon, live from Chester Cathedral on Radio 4.

Pause for Thought

Monday, 5:45am,

BBC Radio 2

The Revd Tony Miles on 'What I would change about myself'.

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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