

The Week Ahead

Hi everyone,

Have you ever wondered what the point of singing hymns during the run-up to an election might be? [Laurence Wareing has](#).

Britain might be going **election crazy** (and so are we) but this week's mailing is also crammed full of upcoming events, opportunities - and a few things to pray about.

Due to the bank holiday weekend, the office will be closed from 4pm on Friday until 8:30am on Tuesday, but Toby will be staffing the out-of-hours support line this week (07974208360).

Wishing you all a wonderful week,

Anna

Question Time

Pray and give for Nepal

The **earthquake that hit Nepal** last weekend was the worst the nation had seen in 81 years. It caused devastation in the capital city Kathmandu as well as in isolated mountainous areas of the country including Gorkha district. Keep an eye on [this web page](#) for news from our partners there. Please pray for all those affected and consider donating to All We Can's [emergency appeal](#).

One week to go

One week today Britain will go to the polls in the **2015 General Election** - and in some areas there will be local elections too. However you might vote, please make sure that you plan to do so and please pray for all those standing for election and for Britain's next government.

Reflecting on peace

Every Monday in the run-up to the General Election, we've been posting a reflection from one of the JPIT partner Churches on the four themes of JPIT's [election pack](#). This week's theme is Peace and you can read the reflection from **Gill Dascombe and the Revd Ken Howcroft** [here](#). Look out on Monday for a reflection from the Church of Scotland on the theme of Wellbeing, which you'll be able to [find here](#), alongside a whole host of election resources.

Tonight, 8pm, BBC1

With just seven days until the people of the UK go to the polls to choose their next government, David Dimbleby presents a change to the usual format as Conservative leader David Cameron, the Liberal Democrats' Nick Clegg and Labour's Ed Miliband come on in turn and face questions from the audience.

The Big Questions

Sunday, 10am, BBC1

Nicky Campbell presents the moral, ethical and religious discussion series live from the Pyramid and Parr Hall, Warrington.

The C-Word

Sunday, 8:30pm, BBC1

Sheridan Smith stars in this drama based on the blog and book by Lisa Lynch, an account of her life after being diagnosed with breast cancer.

An Immigrant's

Guide to Britain

Sunday, 10:05pm, Channel 4

Comedian and first-generation immigrant Henning Wehn leads an irreverent guide to life in Britain from the perspective of some of its most notoriously polarising inhabitants.

Mass for Migrants

On **Sunday 3 May**, the Metropolitan Cathedral of St George in London will host the annual Mass for Migrants. Held in honour of St Joseph the Worker, Archbishop Peter Smith and Cardinal Vincent Nichols will be co-celebrating the mass. It begins at 10:30am, all are welcome and you can find out more [here](#).

Commemorating VE Day

Friday 8 May will be the anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe Day), marking 70 years since the end of the second world war in Europe. The occasion will be commemorated with events across the UK. Find out [more here](#).

8 minutes 20 seconds

It takes 8 minutes and 20 seconds for the light from the sun to reach the earth. From 16 May to 4 June, the **Holy Biscuit** in Newcastle is collaborating with Northumbria University for an exhibition that will be an artistic interpretation of the science behind the sun. Find out more [here](#).

Party time!

There are three events we know of that have been organised to celebrate **MAYC's 70th birthday**:

- Saturday 16 May: Lindley Methodist Church, Huddersfield. Contact: [Margo Atkinson](#).

VE Day:

Remembering Victory

Monday, 8:30pm, BBC1

David Attenborough, Bruce Forsyth, Miriam Margolyes and June Whitfield are just a few of the well-known figures sharing their memories of the end of the conflict.

Daily Politics

Election Debates

Tuesday, 2pm, BBC2

BBC political show, hosted by Andrew Neil and specialist BBC correspondents, holds debate on welfare. Participants to include Work and Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith, Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary Rachel Reeves, Liberal Democrat Steve Webb, Ukip's Suzanne Evans and the Green Party's Jonathan Bartley.

The Vote Now Show

Friday, 11pm,

BBC Radio 4

Steve Punt and Hugh Dennis present a round-up of election news recorded in front of an audience at the Radio Theatre, featuring the views of

- Sunday 17 May: Priory Methodist Church, Newnham. Contact [Eileen Davis](#).
- Sunday 31 May: Tewkesbury Methodist Church, Gloucestershire. Contact [Michael Jebson](#).

Celebrating George Whitfield

The life and commitment of Gloucester preacher George Whitefield, born in the City **300 years ago**, will be celebrated at an open air service in the grounds of Gloucester Cathedral on Sunday 17 May at 6.30pm. The guest preacher will be the Revd. Lord Leslie Griffiths. [Email David Bennett](#) for more info.

All: The Cliff College Festival

The **Cliff College Festival** (22-25 May) is fast approaching and the programme has [just been published](#). The title of this year's Festival is simple "All". Indoor accommodation is almost sold out and camping plots are filling up fast. Find out more and book [here](#).

Beauty in Creation

The 2015 Manchester Wesley Research Centre's Annual Lecture will be given by Dr David Rainey on Tuesday 16 June. The topic will be **Beauty in Creation: John Wesley's Natural Philosophy**. Find out more [here](#).

Reflections

In the coming week the [Prayer Handbook](#) will be encouraging us to pray with Christians in Southern

comedians, journalists and commentators.

Sunday Worship

Sunday, 8:10am,

BBC Radio 4

Gerard Brooks directs the renowned Methodist Central Hall Choir in a feast of traditional hymns live from Methodist Central Hall Westminster, directly opposite the Houses of Parliament.

Pause for Thought

Monday, 5:45am,

BBC Radio 2

The Revd Tony Miles contributes.

Daily Service

Monday, 9:45am,

BBC Radio 4 LW

A space for spiritual reflection with a bible reading, prayer and a range of Christian music, led by Michael Wakelin.

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

Europe, West Africa, Southern Africa, Britain and Ireland, around the world and with all creation. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time](#) Bible studies is **Apostles to the Nations**, written by the Revd David Wynd.

Video Thursday: Where does it all go?

One of the biggest talking points in this election campaign is the **UK economy**. Politicians from all of the major parties are arguing over how much money they should spend and where they should spend it. But where does the £648bn in taxes that we pay go? [This is your video guide](#), hosted by Newsbeat's Nick Rotherham, to where the government spends your cash.

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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