

The Week Ahead The Methodist Church 




*Hi everyone,  
We've got a packed mailing for you today - and it looks like a great week for radio and telly, too. Don't forget to check out our podcast with David Oyelowo, star of Selma.*

*I will be staffing the out-of-hours support line this week (07881783812).*

*Wishing you all a wonderful week,*

*Anna*

 **On the box**

**Britain's Biggest Primary School**  
**Tonight, 9pm, Channel 5**  
Documentary chronicling life at Gascoigne Primary School in Barking, east London, following the pupils, parents and staff.

**The Big Questions**  
**Sunday, 10am, BBC1**  
Nicky Campbell presents the moral, ethical and religious discussion series live from Northumbria Students Union, Newcastle.

**The Casual Vacancy**  
**Sunday, 9pm, BBC1**  
Drama adapted from the novel by JK Rowling, set in an English village whose seemingly idyllic facade hides a community at war.

**Indian Summers**  
**Sunday, 9pm, Channel 4**  
Drama set in 1932, telling the story of the decline of the British Empire and the birth of modern India.

**UKIP:**  
**The First 100 Days**  
**Monday, 9pm, Channel 4**

### Churches launch major credit union

Yesterday, Churches leaders promoted access to responsible credit and savings with the launch of the **Churches Mutual Credit Union (CMCU)**. The Archbishop of Canterbury joined the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and the President of the Methodist Conference in London, to celebrate their churches' collaboration in forming the flagship credit union. Find out more about CMCU and how to join [here](#).

### What's on offer in your area?

The new **learning pages** are now available on the Methodist website. [Click here](#) to find out:

- All about the Learning Network
- Events across the Connexion and in your region
- Who's in your regional Team

These pages will continue to develop into a central hub for resources and support.

### Make a difference on global scale

Do you consider yourself as a member of the World Methodist and Wesleyan family? Are you interested in discovering more about and being in fellowship with Methodist sisters and brothers globally? Do you have the time and enthusiasm to be involved in the work of the **World Methodist Council**? If so, [click here](#) to find out about the opportunities that are available.

### World Church trip to Ghana

How is the World Mission Fund helping to support **Methodist projects in Ghana**? Tomorrow a Methodist delegation from Britain will be travelling to Ghana to see numerous projects in action. David Friswell, World Church Relationships Team Leader, Karen Burke, Media Officer, and William Davies, chaplain to the Ghanaian Methodist Fellowship in Britain, will visit Methodist churches, social projects and institutions in Accra, Cape Coast, Kumasi and Wa. Keep up to date with news from their visit by following the World Church Relationships [blog](#).

Docu-drama set in a future where UKIP has won a shock victory in the general election and Nigel Farage is prime minister.

## Radio

### **How did I get here?** Friday, 2:15pm, BBC Radio 4

Rebecca looks after her children as well as her father, who is not the person he used to be - multi-infarct dementia has made him confused and forgetful of people and his past, and his daughter longs to be able to talk to him properly again and ask him questions.

### **Read My Lips - Why Politicians Speak the Way They Do** Saturday, 8pm, BBC Radio 4

Jonathan Powell, who served as Chief of Staff to former prime minister Tony Blair, explores the linguistic principles that have become staples of political rhetoric.

### **The Sunday Hour: Love** Sunday, 6am, BBC Radio 2

Diane Louise Jordan plays spiritually uplifting and inspiring music through hymns, Gospel and choral classics.

### **Sunday Worship: Fifty Shades of Love** Sunday, 8:10am, BBC Radio 4

Dave Tomlinson writer of 'The Bad Christian's Manifesto' and 'How to be a bad Christian' reflects on God, love and passion for Valentine's Day.

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

## Congratulations to the New Room!

We were delighted to hear the news that the New Room in Bristol has been awarded a grant of **£2.5 million** from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This, alongside a grant of £1.4 million from the Bristol Methodist District, will enable the existing facilities to be updated and the trustees are planning to create a new three-storey building in the Horsefair Courtyard. Find out more [here](#).

## Hymns & Hollywood

In 2014, Singing the Faith went to **the Oscars**. They took a look at four of that year's multi-award nominated films and asked how the words of certain hymns may pick up on their themes and develop them from a Christian point of view. That admittedly unusual approach to film-viewing was well-received - [so they've done it again](#).

## Check out the archives

One of the world's most important research collections documenting the **history of British Methodism** and the 18th-century Evangelical Revival has been deposited at the John Rylands Library. The special collections of Wesley College in Bristol and its predecessor institutions, Headingley and Didsbury contains personal papers of iconic figures from evangelical history including John and Charles Wesley, John and Mary Fletcher and George Whitefield, as well as rare and unique items from chapels and Methodist-related organizations. An itemised catalogue is available to download [here](#).

## Be a souper hero!

This Lent, you can join forces with thousands of souper heroes across Britain by **hosting a soup lunch** to raise funds for Christian Aid. Easy to plan, they are a fun, tasty way to bring friends and family together in church halls, community centres or your home to raise money for our vital work. Find out more and download resources [here](#).

## Reflections

In the coming week the [Prayer Handbook](#) will be encouraging us to pray with Christians in the Caribbean and the Americas, North and Central America, the Middle East, the Indian Subcontinent, India, Asia, Britain and Ireland. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time](#) Bible studies is **Faithful in Life and Service** written by the Revd Neil Cockling.

## Video Thursday: Do Lent generously

If everyone did one small act of generosity every day, what would your church and community look like? **Lent is nearly upon us** (Ash Wednesday is 18 February) - maybe you'd like to mark it by joining the 40 Acts movement?

***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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