

## The Week Ahead

The Methodist Church 

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

*This week we'll  
be looking at  
Mental Health  
Matters, the Easter Offering  
and the Table Talk App for  
Easter, as well as listening  
to the Methodists who  
appeared on BBC Radio this  
past week (see the Radio  
section below).*

*I will be staffing the out-of-  
hours support line this week  
(07969985376).*

*Wishing you all a wonderful  
week,*

*Karen*



## On the box

**Songs of Praise. Sunday.  
BBC Two. 5pm.**

Aled Jones examines the inspiration behind the adopted FA Cup anthem Abide with Me, and there is a look behind the scenes at the British Library in London as the four original copies of the Magna Carta come together for the first time. Plus, the usual music and worship from locations across the country.

**The Great Comic Relief  
Bake-off. Wednesday.  
BBC One. 8pm.**

Celebrity edition of the baking show being broadcast in the run-up to this year's Comic Relief, in which each week a quartet of famous faces enter the tent to demonstrate their baking skills - or not, as the case may be.

## Mental Health Matters

Tickets will be available from tomorrow for the Mental Health Matters Conference - the first ever Methodist conference on mental health. Mental Health Matters is designed to provide training, support and advice to children and youth workers, ministers, lay employees and anyone else who wishes to learn more about mental health issues affecting members of their congregation. This year's theme will be 'Equipping Churches to Respond'. For more information, see [here](#).

## Easter Offering

The 2015 Easter Offering worship resources are [free to download](#), or can be ordered direct from Methodist Publishing [here](#) (postage and packing charges will apply). All of the funds raised from the service offerings will go towards the work of the Church's [World Mission Fund](#). See the press release [here](#) for more information.

## Table Talk for Easter App

Table Talk for Easter is a conversational Lent resource that creates space for friends to explore, articulate and engage with the great themes of the Easter story. Topics include hope, justice, forgiveness and suffering. The Table Talk for Easter app is now available in the [App Store](#) and on [Google Play](#). The Table Talk for Easter boxed game is available [here](#). See the [Table Talk website](#) for more details.


## Universal Day of Prayer for Students

Every year individuals, churches and communities around the world unite to lift up students in prayer on the Universal Day of Prayer for Students (UDPS). This year that day falls on **15 February**. The UDPS is coordinated by the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) and has been celebrated since 1898, making it one of the oldest ecumenical days of prayer. This year's theme is 'We are Many, We Are One' - inspired by the theme for the 2015 WSCF General Assembly. Find out more [here](#).

## Methodist Summer Fellowship

**Can you cure my cancer? Wednesday. BBC One. 9pm.**

Panorama special reporting on the cancer patients who are pioneering a new generation of drug treatments. Reporter Fergus Walsh visits the Royal Marsden and Institute of Cancer Research, talking to the patients, their families and medical teams.

 **Radio**

**Rethink Sanctions. BBC Radio Merseyside.**

Listen again [here](#) to Methodist policy advisor, Paul Morrison, talking to BBC Radio Merseyside presenter, Roger Phillips, about how the government's benefit sanctions' scheme is affecting people with mental health issues.

**Sally Fairfax show. BBC Radio Humberside.**

Listen again [here](#) from 01.48. The President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Ken Howcroft, and York and Hull District Chair, the Revd Stephen Burgess, were on the Sally Fairfax show on BBC Radio Humberside on Saturday talking about Methodist community initiatives in the local area.

**Sunday Worship. BBC Radio 4. Sunday. 8.10am.**

Fr Martin Boland leads Mass from the Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Helen Brentwood, Essex.

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

Booking is now open for the Methodist Summer Fellowship (MSF) week, which will take place at the [Hayes Conference Centre](#) in Swanick from 1-7 August. MSF is an opportunity to bring together a worshipping Christian community of all ages for a week of holiday, friendship, prayer, listening, reflection, conversation and fun. To book, click [here](#). For more information about the MSF experience, see [here](#).

## Tolpuddle Martyrs Pilgrimage

The Tolpuddle Martyrs Pilgrimage for young Methodists is a 10 day, 100 mile trek from Gloucestershire to Dorset for the [Tolpuddle Festival](#) on 17 July. Stopping overnight at Methodist churches along the route, the Pilgrimage will visit historic Methodist sites, including [Wesley's New Room](#) in Broadmead, Bristol, "the first Methodist Church in the World". To be part of the pilgrimage, or for further information, contact Simon Topping by email [simon.topping@methodist.org.uk](mailto:simon.topping@methodist.org.uk) or ring him by

phoning 01453 764 818.

## Local Methodist events

A couple of local Methodist church events coming up:

- **Revive** at Wellspring Methodist Church - Meetings are led by members of the congregation and supported by the worship band, One Faith. Everyone is welcome and there is a kids zone which caters for children. More info [here](#).
- **Church Organ Day on 14 February** at The Beacon at Nether Green Methodist Church, Sheffield - Contact [Drummond Gillespie](#) for more info and see the events page of the [Methodist Heritage website](#) [here](#).

(Remember that the submissions page for your upcoming local events is [here](#).)

## Reflections

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

## Video Thursday: Selma

The critically acclaimed film Selma is released in the UK this Friday (6 February). Selma tells the true story of Martin Luther King's campaign to secure equal voting rights for black people in America in 1965. Methodist editor writer, George Luke, interviewed David Oyelowo, who plays Martin Luther King, for a podcast that will soon

be available on [Methodist Podcast Page](#). Watch the film's trailer [here](#).

**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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