

The Week Ahead

The Methodist Church 

Hi everyone and Happy New Year!


I know that many of you will have taken part in covenant services, as I did, on Sunday 4 January - here's a reminder of the words of the [Covenant Prayer](#).

I'm sure that you will have seen the news of the [appalling attack](#) on the office of French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo. The Council of Christians and Jews has issued [this helpful response](#).

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

Wishing you all a wonderful week,

Anna

 On the box**The Super-Rich and Us Tonight, 9pm, BBC2**

In the first of a two-part documentary, Jacques Peretti looks at how the super-rich first exploited an obscure legal loophole to make Britain the most attractive tax haven on the planet.

Tsunami: 10 Years On Saturday, 8pm, Channel 4

The moral, ethical and religious discussion series presented by Nicky Campbell returns for an eighth series.

Songs of Praise Sunday, 3:35pm, BBC1

Sally Magnusson is in Canary Wharf to hear about a floating church

Assistant Secretary of the Conference

The Methodist Council has voted to nominate to the Conference **the Revd Helen D Cameron** for appointment as Assistant Secretary of the Conference for an initial period of six years from 1 September 2015. Since 2007 Helen has been Director of the Centre for Ministerial Formation at the Queen's Foundation, serving additionally since 2012 as the Director of Methodist Formation. Please keep Helen and her family in your prayers as they prepare for this change.

the connexion

We are excited to announce the launch of a new magazine called **the connexion**. It has news from across Methodism in Britain and the world, and you can find out more [here](#). A range of Methodist office holders will be receiving three copies in the post next week, with a request to pass two of these on. If you don't get a copy, look out for someone who did!

New Year's Honours

We know of at least **two Methodists** who have received a mention in this year's New Year's Honours list. Our congratulations go to Joyce Hicks, who has been awarded a British Empire Medal for charitable services in Melksham, Wiltshire, and to Elena Foley, who has been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the community in Castleton, Lancashire. Do you know of any other Methodists in [the list](#)? [Email us](#) to let us know.

Krunoslav Sukic Award

While we're on the subject of awards, congratulations also go to Methodist Minister the **Revd Clive Fowle**, who has been awarded the Krunoslav Sukic Award for the Promotion of Nonviolence, Peacebuilding and Human Rights by the Centre for Peace, Nonviolence and Human Rights in Osijek, Croatia. Revd Clive works in the Rugby and Daventry Methodist Circuit and also as Coordinator of the charity 'Touch of Hope', whose mission is the long term healing of the hurts of war in Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia. [Email Clive](#) to find out more.

Host an OPP

reaching out to the banking community, Pam's off to boot camp and there are hymns and songs to warm the soul.

Radio

Act of Worship Friday, 9:45am, BBC Radio 4 LW

An act of worship and music, led by the Revd Leslie Griffiths.

Thought for the Day Monday, 7:45am, BBC Radio 4

A reflection from a faith perspective on topical issues and news by the Revd Dr Jane Leach.

Daily Service Tuesday, 9:45am, BBC Radio 4 LW

A space for spiritual reflection with a bible reading, prayer and music, led by the Rev Peter Whittaker.

Can Democracy Work? Tuesday, 9am, BBC Radio 4

Nick Robinson investigates whether British democracy is fit for its purpose, beginning with an examination of whether people actually want as much of a say as they currently have.

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

The One Programme is a paid year out for young people aged 16 to 23. One Programme Participants (OPPs) are paid to work an average of 15 hours a week, the majority of which is spent working in a local project with some hours 'banked' and used for Connexional work and training. Each year the Methodist Church funds ten placements for OPPs, which are selected by a panel of young people and key workers. We are currently **searching for host projects for next year**, which will run from September 2015 to August 2016. Find out more [here](#).

Robin's Preachathon

2015 marks 275 years since John Wesley delivered his famous sermon on 'Free Grace.' Robin McEwen, a local preacher and outreach worker in Watford, has an **unusual fundraising idea** to mark this anniversary. For one week early in 2015 (dates to be confirmed), Robin will be travelling the country delivering a sermon on 'Grace' to every church that registers. He is going to try to visit as many churches as possible, across the UK within the allotted time frame. Sponsorship money raised will be split between Kettering Hospital and Lincoln Hospital Special Care Baby Units, MIND and Hertfordshire Air Ambulance. [Email Robin's team](#) to find out more.

Easter School

Following last year's success, Wesley House Cambridge is again running an Easter School for **Preachers and Worship Leaders**, featuring key note addresses by Professor Morna Hooker-Stacey, Professor Eamon Duffy and Professor Tom Greggs. The course is designed to provide access to cutting edge theological thinking as well as offering experience of worship in different styles and practical sessions that help participants embed their learning in practice. Full details [here](#).

This week in Parliament

This week's **parliamentary business** can be found online [here](#).

Reflections

In the coming week the **Prayer Handbook** will be encouraging us to pray with Christians in East Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Americas, North and Central America, Britain and Ireland. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time](#) Bible studies is **The Fountain of Life**, written by Dr Richard Vautrey.

Video Thursday: Sneak peek

I've already mentioned that the first edition of **the connexion** magazine will soon be winging its across the Connexion. Want to take a sneaky peek at what's inside?Look no further.

***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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