

The Week Ahead

Hi everyone,

Very sadly, we'll be waving goodbye to Karen Burke on Wednesday next week (18 March) as she leaves the Connexional Team to take up a new job in Paris and to be with her fiancé, David. Karen has served the Team as Media Officer for the past six years and will be sorely missed – please keep her and David in your prayers as they embark on this new adventure together.

This also means that we now have a vacancy in the press office (details on the right) – please share the details with anyone you think might fit the bill.

Toby will be staffing the out-of-hours support line this week (07974208360).

Wishing you all a wonderful week,

Anna

Methodism in Ghana

Karen recently travelled to Ghana with World Church Relationships Team Leader, David Friswell. Over the course of seven days, they visited Methodist projects and churches **all over the country**, from Cape Coast to Accra in the South, Kumasi in the Ashanti Region and Wa and Lawra in the Upper West Region. You can check out some photos [here](#) and listen to a podcast [here](#).

Four years of fighting

As the Syria conflict enters its fifth year this weekend, the **largest humanitarian crisis** since World War II continues to escalate. Over 200,000 people have been killed inside Syria and half of the population has been forced to leave their homes. More than seven and a half million people are internally displaced and a further four million have fled to neighbouring countries. To find out more about the crisis and donate to Christian Aid's Syria appeal [click here](#).

Seeking a new Media Officer

Karen's departure from the team means that we're now **looking to recruit**, on a six month contract, a new Media Officer to join me on the fifth floor at Methodist Church House. The ideal candidate will demonstrate excellent writing and communications skills with proven ability of working in print, web or broadcast media

Comic Relief:

Operation Health

Tonight, 9pm, BBC1

As part of this year's Comic Relief, Lenny Henry leads a team of celebrities on a mission to rebuild a decrepit rural health centre in Uganda.

Afghanistan: A Service of Commemoration

Friday, 10:30am, BBC1

Live from St Paul's Cathedral in London, Her Majesty the Queen leads a service of commemoration to mark the end of combat operations in Afghanistan, followed by a parade and flypast paying tribute to everyone involved in the 13-year campaign.

Comic Relief 2015

Friday, 7pm, BBC1

Red Nose Day returns with an evening of entertainment to raise money for disadvantaged people in the UK and Africa, and this year the fun comes live from the London Palladium.

Songs of Praise

**Sunday, 5pm, BBC1
(BBC 2 in Scotland)**

For Mothering Sunday, Diane Louise Jordan meets a mother who chose to

and/or in media relations. More details of this and other Connexional Team vacancies can be found [online here](#).

Speaking of job opportunities...

...Cliff College is seeking to appoint a permanent **Academic Dean** with a start date of September 1st 2015 or earlier. All the details are [available here](#).

Church of Scotland joins JPIT

We're delighted that the Church of Scotland is joining the Baptist Union, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church in the Joint Public Issues Team for **a one year pilot**. David Bradwell, the Associate Secretary for Church and Society, will become a member of the team, and senior colleagues will join the management group. We're really excited about the new possibilities that this sharing of expertise and resources will open up.

Transforming for mission?

The **Resourcing Mission Forum** focuses on envisioning and equipping people to help the Church to make best use of its resources in furthering mission and developing discipleship. This year's event takes place in Northampton from 14 to 16 April. For more information, including the programme, speakers' profiles and how to register, [click here](#).

Celebrating MAYC's 70th birthday

adopt rather than have biological children, and as we approach St Patrick's Day we hear from Eamon Martin - the Archbishop of Armagh and spiritual leader of Catholics in Ireland.

Act of Worship

Friday, 9:45am,

BBC Radio 4 LW

Led by Lord Leslie Griffiths.

Moral Maze: The Morality of Social Inclusion

Saturday, 10:15pm,

BBC Radio 4

Does trying to promote social integration go against the grain of human nature?

Pause for Thought

Monday, 5:45am,

BBC Radio 2

The Revd Tony Miles shares his thoughts on 'What makes me happy.'

Daily Service

Tuesday, 9:45am,

BBC Radio 4 LW

The Methodist Association of Youth Clubs was founded in June 1945 with a special event held in the Royal Albert Hall. On **Sunday 31 May 2015** at Tewkesbury Methodist Church, there will be a special event to celebrate Methodist youth work past and present. The celebration will start with worship at 10.30am and continue with lunch and the sharing of memories and hearing about present-day Methodist youth work. To register your interest and for more information, please email [Michael Jebson](mailto:Michael.Jebson).

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 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 **A Living Faith**, written by the Revd Geoffrey Farrar.

Video Thursday: What does Mother's Day mean to you?

Mother's Day (15 March) can be a tough day for many. Adoption and fostering charity [Home For Good](#) have created [this video](#) for use in churches, addressing a range of positive and negative feelings about the day.

A space for spiritual reflection with a bible reading, prayer and a range of Christian music, led by the Revd Dr Calvin Samuel.

Lent Talks:

Quentin Letts

Wednesday, 8:45pm,

BBC Radio 4

Theatre critic and parliamentary sketch writer Quentin Letts reflects on the Passion story.

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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