

## The Week Ahead

*Hi everyone,*

*We've got a packed mailing for you this week, with events, opportunities, resources and some cracking TV and radio.*

*Don't forget that the clocks go forward on Saturday night.*

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

*Wishing you all a wonderful week,*

*Anna*

**Cameron & Miliband:  
The Battle for Number  
10**

**Tonight, 9pm, Channel 4**

In the lead-up to the 2015 General Election, Channel 4 and Sky News broadcast a

### #RethinkSanctions: An update

We heard the news this week that the Work and Pensions Select Committee is recommending a full independent review of the benefit sanctions system. **Thank you so much** to all of you who have engaged with the campaign and written to your MPs about this crucial issue (more than 1,400 people so far). **Please continue** to share the report and video and encourage others to join the campaign.

### We are Family: Correction

We're sorry that the flier we circulated last week about the **upcoming Family Ministry Conference** contained some inaccuracies. Please click here for the final, definitive version.

### Lights out

**Earth Hour** is a global annual event where hundreds of millions of people switch off their lights for one hour to show they care about our planet. It's taking place on Saturday (28 March) between 8.30 and 9.30pm and you can find out more here.

### The countdown begins

Monday will see the formal dissolution of Parliament ahead of the **2015 General Election**. You can checkout

live discussion featuring interviews with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

### **An Island Parish**

**Friday, 8pm, BBC2 (8pm in Scotland)**

The first in a series following the community on the Falkland Islands, a British territory 8,000 miles south of the UK in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean.

### **The Big Questions**

**Sunday, 10am, BBC1**

Nicky Campbell presents the moral, ethical and religious discussion series live from Hayesfield Girls' School, Bath.

### **Songs of Praise**

**Sunday, 5pm, BBC1**

For the start of Holy Week Pam Rhodes visits Liverpool Cathedral for the final rehearsals of their Passion Plays and climbs the tower to ring the highest and heaviest peal of church bells in the world.

### **The Ark**

**Monday, 8:30pm, BBC1**

David Threlfall stars in this re-telling of the biblical story of Noah and the Ark.

the Election timetable [here](#). And don't forget that the Joint Public Issues Team has created a [special resource pack](#) to help Christians engage with key issues ahead of the election.

## **Taking a holiday close to home?**

Next week is [British Travel Week](#) (30 March - 6 April). If you're planning a UK holiday, don't forget to order your free copy of the latest edition of the **[Methodist Heritage Handbook](#)**.

## **Visit Taize**

Are you **aged 18-29** and interested in visiting Taize?

There is an opportunity for Methodists aged in that age group to join a group of students from Cliff College to experience a week of worship, reflection and spirituality with the Taizé community in France. This will take place on 14th- 21st June 2015 but the **booking deadline is 13 April**. There is an additional option to complete a Cliff Certificate in Christian Spirituality using your reflections on the week in Taize. More details [here](#).

## **Photography competition**

Don't forget our photo competition is up and running. **If you have a smart phone, you have a camera**, so why not have a go? It's open to everyone, and the most important thing is imagination. Submit your entries [online here](#).

## **Job: Director of Methodist Formation**

Are you passionate about the work of **theological education** in the service of the mission and ministry of the Methodist Church? The Methodist Church and the

### **EBU Day:**

#### **Music for Holy Week**

**Sunday, 1pm,**

#### **BBC Radio 3**

Ian Skelly presents the European Broadcasting Union's annual day of music to mark Holy Week, with live and pre-recorded concerts from the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Britain, Poland, the USA and Germany.

#### **Pause for Thought**

**Monday, 5:45am,**

#### **BBC Radio 2**

The Revd Tony Miles talks about Holy Week.

#### **The Essay**

**Monday, 10:45pm,**

#### **BBC Radio 3**

Author Ali Smith begins this series of essays on the Lord's Prayer. She focuses on the first lines, "Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name".

#### **Lent Talks**

**Wednesday, 8:45pm,**

#### **BBC Radio 4**

Contributed by Sir John Eliot Gardiner.

Queen's Foundation are seeking to appoint a Director of Methodist Formation who will be responsible for the oversight of the learning and formation of Methodist student presbyters and deacons at the Queen's Foundation. Find out more [here](#).

## **Reflections**

In the coming week the [Prayer Handbook](#) will be encouraging us to pray with Christians in Northern Europe, Europe, central Europe, Southern Europe, Britain and Ireland, for the Church around the world and with all creation. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time](#) Bible studies is **The Hour of Glory**, written by the Revd Dr Calvin Samuel.

## **Video Thursday:**

## **Volunteering for the future**

In [this week's video](#), Mike MacCormack (National Trust General Manager at Stourhead and non-stipendiary Anglican priest) asks what churches might learn from the National Trust's experience of successfully **working with large numbers of volunteers**.

## Daily Service

Thursday, 9:45am,

### BBC Radio 4 LW

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

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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