

15 November 2018



Hello everyone and welcome to *The Week Ahead*.

Mike Ivatt will be staffing the out-of-hours media emergency support line on 020 7467 5170.

Wishing you all a wonderful week,
[Rosie Winn and Mike Ivatt](#)
Media Office



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Trustees' report

How has the Holy Spirit been at work in your church during the connexional year 2017/2018? [Send your stories to us](#), 100-120 words, along with a photograph, for consideration to be included in the Methodist Church's [trustees' report](#). Successful items will receive a £25 voucher for Methodist Publishing.



Thinking Lunch

Paul Morrison, Policy Advisor with the Joint Public Issues Team, will be talking about the impact of Universal Credit on women as part of the Thinking Lunch programme at [Marlborough Road Methodist Church](#), St Albans on 6 December.



Engaging with the issues

The Free Churches Group will continue to engage with challenging topics when they discuss [Dying Matters](#) on Thursday 29 November at Free Church House, London. Participants will explore contemporary aspects of death and dying.



I am Santa

For most of us, the upcoming festive season is a time of joy. But there are some children who face a Christmas without food, warmth or love. This Christmas, [Action for Children](#) is asking people to become a special Secret Santa by donating £10 to make a vulnerable child's Christmas safe, warm and bright.



Fundraising conference

A [one-day annual conference](#) for Christian charity and church fundraisers will take place at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster on 20 November. Guest speakers include John Kirkby, founder of Christians Against Poverty.



Methodist studies seminars

Registration for the [Methodist studies seminars](#) at The Queen's Foundation in Birmingham closes on the 30 November. Organised by Queen's and the Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History, this free event takes place on 8 December 2018.



Prepare Ye The Way 2018

This Advent, JPIT invite you to explore what it means to step into a transformational encounter with the divine. Each week, they reflect on the transformational encounters experienced by those at [Jesus' birth](#), in the context of some of the issues we currently face as a society.



Faith in Politics

The new [Faith in Politics](#) podcast from JPIT is now available. The latest podcast features new hosts, Bethan and Will, and an interview with Lord Leslie Griffiths discussing his career in ministry and politics.



On the radio

[Faith in Freedom](#)

BBC World Service, 1.30pm

Friday, 16 November

In this first episode of Faith In Freedom, Helen Berhane tells John McCarthy about her two years of imprisonment and how she refused to denounce her faith.

[The Black Footballer's Dilemma](#)

BBC Radio 4, 8.00pm

Saturday, 17 November

Clarke Carlisle looks back at the challenges black players faced at a time when racist abuse from the terraces and insults in the dressing room were a regular occurrence.

[Something Understood](#)

BBC Radio Four, 6.05am

Sunday, 18 November

Explores bitterness as a taste and as an emotion and considers the Jewish tradition of eating bitter herbs as a reminder of the injustices of slavery.



On TV

[Inside the Foreign Office](#)

BBC Two, 9.00pm

Thursday, 15 November

Gaining privileged access over a compelling and turbulent year, film-maker Michael Waldman explores the strange and secretive world of British diplomats.

[The Unpredictable Rise of Rome](#)

BBC Four 7.00pm

Sunday, 18 November

The rise of the Roman Catholic Church, exploring how a small Jewish sect that preached humility and the virtue of poverty in Palestine became the powerful, established religion of Western Europe.

[Remembering and Understanding](#)

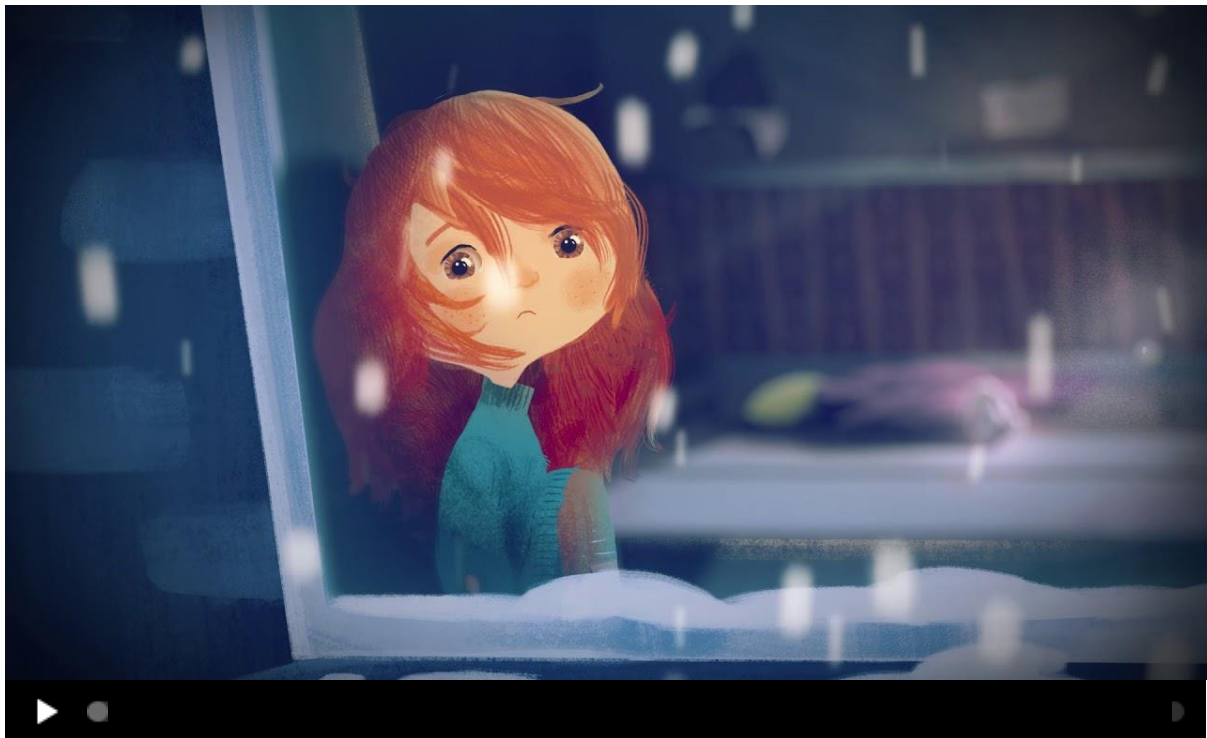
BBC Four 10.25pm

Monday, 19 November

Historian and writer David Reynolds takes a look at the legacy of the First World War, focusing in particular on the ways in which people's perception of the conflict has evolved over the past century.

Video Thursday: I am Santa

Watch how becoming a Secret Santa through [Action for Children](#) will make a difference this Christmas.



Reflections



In the coming week, the 2018/2019 Methodist Prayer Handbook, *A World Transformed*, encourages us to pray with Christians the Middle East, India and Asia, as well as Britain and Ireland. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time Bible studies](#) is 'Signs of the Kingdom'. [Order your Prayer Handbook here.](#)

Parliament



You can find the UK parliamentary business online [here](#). If you want to find out about the Scottish Parliamentary calendar, [click here](#) and the timetable for the National Assembly for Wales, [click here](#).

The Week Ahead is a regular mailing that gives you a heads-up on forthcoming events and opportunities, as well as highlighting new information and resources across the Methodist Church. We cannot know about everything that's going on, so please [do email us](#) if you have any feedback or ideas for items to include.

Email: mediaoffice@methodistchurch.org.uk

Office hours: 020 7467 5191

Urgent out-of-hours support from the Media Team:

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Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5JR

020 7486 5502 (Enquiries) www.methodist.org.uk

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