

20 December 2018



Hello everyone and welcome to this, the last *Week Ahead* of 2018.

Thank you so much for signing up to receive our newsletter and for the many items we have been sent during the year.

Mike Ivatt will be providing media support until the New Year on 020 7467 5170 and via email.



Praying for a peaceful Christmas,
[Rosie Winn and Mike Ivatt](#)
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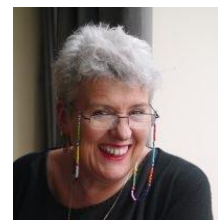
Christmas Message

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference the Revd Michaela Youngson and Bala Gnanapragasam talk about the signs of hope they have witnessed this year in their [Christmas message](#).



JPIT Advent poem

JPIT poet-in-residence, Revd Lucy Berry, is releasing a poem each week during Advent. [Here is this week's poem, The Next Day of Christmas](#).



Seeking new members of the Strategy & Resources Committee

Could you make a significant and passionate contribution to an important and hard working body in the Methodist Church? [Read more and apply here](#)



Thinking Lunch

The Bishop of St Albans, the Right Revd Dr Alan Smith, will be at [Marlborough Road Methodist Church](#), St Albans at 12.30pm on Thursday 3 January for a Thinking Lunch entitled, 'Modern Day Gambling: Jackpot or Crackpot?'

**Marlborough Road
Methodist Church**
St Albans

One Encounter Programme

[The One Encounter](#) programme offers young people a chance to have experiences that expand their horizons. The programme has two opportunities available for next year, in Ibiza, 16-28 June, and South India, 17-27 October.



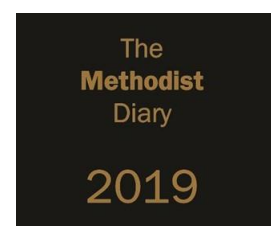
Internship Programme

The Methodist Church is seeking young people aged 21-26 who want to develop their careers and faith. The [internship programme](#) offers a year exploring faith and personal development alongside paid employment with a range of professional organisations across a variety of business and charity sectors.



Diaries

Methodist diaries are still available from [Methodist Publishing](#). Let's get planning, 2019 is almost here!



OneSound in Bristol

OneSound, one of the UK's leading Christian music ensembles, will be performing at [Victoria Methodist Church](#), Bristol on 12 January.



On the radio

[How Santa Stole Christmas](#)

BBC Radio 4, 8.00pm

Saturday, 22 December

Christopher Frayling explores how Hollywood helped to create the modern global Christmas at the expense of its religious origins.

[DNA, Me and the Family Tree](#)

BBC Radio 4, 8.30pm

Monday, 24 December

A look at the impact of the popularity of genealogy, with the results of DNA analysis revealing far more than many people had bargained for.

[Junior Choice](#)

BBC Radio 2, 9.00am

Tuesday, 25 December

Anneka Rice presents a festive gift bag full of nostalgic hits and comedy classics for kids of all ages.



On TV

[100 Years of King's Carols](#)

BBC Two, 7.00pm

Friday, 21 December

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols began 100 years ago at King's College Chapel in Cambridge. This programme meets current choristers and former members of the choir.

[Christmas at St Paul's](#)

BBC Two, 9.00pm

Monday, 24 December

Documentary following preparations for the festive season at the famous London cathedral.

[Upstart Crow: A Crow Christmas Carol](#)

BBC Two, 8.35pm

Tuesday, 25 December

The Shakespeare family faces a bleak Christmas in light of a recent tragedy, until a visit from a mysterious stranger.

Video Thursday: The New Room, 12 days of Christmas

The team at the New Room in Bristol have been having fun filming their own take on The 12 Days Of Christmas. The song is performed by the Community Choir and features staff and volunteers at various locations around the historic chapel and new visitor centre.



Reflections



In the coming week, the 2018/2019 Methodist Prayer Handbook, *A World Transformed*, encourages us to pray with Christians in Asia, the Pacific and Europe, as well as Britain and Ireland. The themes for the next two weeks in our [A Word in Time Bible studies](#) are 'Manger and Cross' and 'Christ the Lord'. [Order your Prayer](#)

[k here.](#)

Parliament



The [UK Parliament](#), [Scottish Parliament](#) and the [National Assembly for Wales](#) return from recess on the 7 January

2019.

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.

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