

The Week Ahead

The Methodist Church 

Hello


everyone, and welcome to the **New Year** and the first Week Ahead of 2017.

In this week of **Epiphany**, we'll be offering wise words of support to people overcoming the excess of Christmas and advice to those promoting and securing their churches.

Toby Fairclough will be staffing the out-of-hours support line this week on 020 7467 5170.

Wishing you all a wonderful year,

Michael Ivatt
Lead Media Officer

 On the box

[Why the Industrial Revolution Happen Here](#)

**BBC Four, 7:00pm
Saturday, 7 January**

Professor James Black asks why the industrial revolution happened when it did, and why it happened in Britain?

[An Island Parish](#)
BBC Two, 8:30pm

Dry January

Are you, or someone you know, beginning 2017 with a healthy new start? Dry January is **Alcohol Concern's** flagship campaign to ditch the drinks by **giving up alcohol** for the month. For more information and support click [here](#).

Promoting your church

A range of customisable resources, such as **banners and posters**, have been designed to help your local Methodist church **reach out** to the local community. They can be purchased through a new partnership with CPO. To visit the website and see what's on offer, [click here](#).

Church safety

There's so much to think about when it comes to **keeping your church and its members safe**. To help, Methodist Insurance have a **monthly email full of tips** to manage the risks faced by churches. If you'd like to sign up, please click [here](#).

Religious freedom consultation

Would you like to meet people from **around the world** to discuss and learn more about the **discrimination and persecution** faced by peoples of faith among some of our overseas partners? The Joint Public Issues Team and World Church Relationships are looking for **ten people** from across the Connexion to take part in an **international consultation** between 13 and 16 March 2017. For more information, [click here](#).

Methodist Diaries

Methodist Publishing are now offering their 2017 diaries at half price! To order yours, click [here](#).

Children and family ministry

Monday, 9 January

The latest series of An Island Parish visits the island of Anguilla, one of six British Overseas Territory in the Caribbean.

[The War on Loan Sharks](#)

BBC One, 10:45pm

Tuesday, 10 January

Investigation into illegal money lenders who prey on the vulnerable, charging huge interest rates and use violence and intimidation to ensure payment.

Radio

[Tony Blackburn's Golden Hour](#)

BBC Radio 2, 7:00pm

Friday, 6 January

Tony Blackburn returns to BBC Radio 2 with a new series challenging listeners to identify what year records were released.

[Something Understood: Immorality](#)

BBC Radio 4, 6:05am

Sunday 8 January

Rabbi Shoshana Boyd Gelfand explores our fascination with immortality, its significance within both the scientific and faith communities.

[Making the Grade](#)

BBC Radio 4, 11:30am

Tuesday, 10 January

Why are more and more older people taking up instruments and putting themselves through music exams?

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

There is still time to book for this year's **Hand in Hand Conference**, taking place 3 - 5 February 2017 in Eastbourne. Covering all ages from **toddlers to mid-teens**, the conference will detail the five key areas for life long faith: encounter, dialogue, community, milestones and action. To find out more and to book, click [here](#).

This week in Parliament

You can find this week's **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](#).

Reflections

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

Song of the Week: Jesu, Lover of My Soul

[This week's song](#) is Charles Wesley's **Jesu, Lover of My Soul** with Maddy Prior & The Carnival Band. If you've got a song that you'd like to share, please do [get in touch](#).

Video Thursday: Covenant prayer doodle

With many churches holding Covenant services, [this week's video](#) from **Christian Blogger Jules Middleton**, shows her demonstrating a **Covenant prayer doodle**. The doodle could be a great way to help those young, and not so young, to reflect on the words of the Covenant as they plan their year ahead. A further resource on the meaning of the Covenant can be found [here](#).

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.