

The Week Ahead

The Methodist Church 

Hi everyone,
and welcome to
The Week Ahead.

The
Connexional

Team is looking for new volunteer members to join the **Grants Committee**. If you've received a grant and want to give something back, or enjoy enabling inspiring projects to get off the ground, there could be **a role for you**. [Click here](#) for more information.

Mike Ivatt will be staffing the out-of-hours support line this week on **020 7467 5170**.

God bless,

Toby Fairclough
Media Officer



On the box

[Songs of Praise](#)

Sunday, 11 Dec
BBC One, 5:20pm

Rev Kate Bottley takes a group of children with serious illnesses on a trip to Lapland.

[Choir of the Year](#)

Sunday, 11 Dec
BBC FOUR, 8:00pm

The best British choirs battle it out for the ultimate accolade of Choir of the Year.

[Muslims Like Us](#)

Monday/Tuesday,
12/13 Nov
BBC One, 9:00pm

A two-part documentary following 10 British

Christmas friendship appeal

Methodist Homes (MHA) are encouraging people to **give a gift of friendship** this Christmas by writing **an extra Christmas card** to an older person. [Click here](#) to find out how you can get involved.

Still after that perfect tree?

Not bought your Christmas tree yet? If you buy a Christmas tree from [Pines and Needles](#) and quote '**AFC**', the company will **donate 10%** of your purchase to **Action for Children** and you'll also receive a free bonus mini Christmas tree as well!

Knitted Christmas angels

It's not too late to join in the fun and "yarn-bomb" your community this Christmas. Last year, **more than 20,000** angels were knitted to share the Christmas message and bless local communities. For information, knitting patterns and more, [click here](#).

Silence

Damaris Media have released [a free resource](#) for churches based on the new film **Silence**, by famed director Martin Scorsese. The film, **released on New Year's Day**, follows the story of two young Jesuit priests as they journey to Japan.

Consultation on Religious Freedom

In **March next year**, the Joint Public Issues and the World Church Relationships teams will be holding a special Consultation on Religious Freedom; sharing and learning from people with direct experience of what it means to be **denied freedom of faith**. The teams are looking for **ten people** from across the Connexion who would like to take part and be willing to host an overseas guest during the event. For more information, [click here](#).

Muslims with contrasting world views who have been placed in a house together.

Radio

[The Sunday Hour](#)

Sunday, 11 Dec
Radio 2, 6:00am

Diane Louise Jordan explores the 'Christmas Canticles' and Zechariah's song, the Benedictus.

[Daily Service](#)

Monday, 12 Dec
Radio 4, 9:44am

A space for spiritual reflection led by Michael Wakelin.

[We Need to Talk About Death](#)

Wednesday, 14 Dec
Radio 4, 8:00pm

Joan Bakewell explores what happens in the moment of death and the time immediately surrounding it.

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

Connecting Disciples 2017

Tickets are still available for the **Methodist Conference for Lay Employees and Children and Youth Workers**, taking place **9-11 June 2017**. This year's theme is '**Be the change - Holiness and Justice**'. To book your place [click here](#). Or to watch a video overview from this year's event, [click here](#).

Song of the Week: So Good to Me

[This week's song](#) is **So Good to Me** by Matt Gilman and Cory Asbury. This funky song focuses on the love, joy and peace found in God even in the hard times. If you've got a song that you'd like to share, please do [get in touch](#).

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 the Africa, the Americas, Europe, Britain and Ireland. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time](#) Bible studies is **Expectancy and Hope**.

Video Thursday: A Very British Nativity

[This week's](#) video comes from our very own **Joint Public Issues Team**, who've re-imagined what the nativity would look like were Mary and Joseph asylum seekers in Britain today. The video's already **taken social media by storm** and is [available to download](#) for viewing at your church here. There are also further resources and details about the issues raised available [on their website](#).

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.