

The Week Ahead

The Methodist Church 

Hi everyone,
and welcome
to **The Week Ahead**.


Don't forget,
this Sunday

(12 February) is **Racial Justice Sunday**. For resources and more, please see the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland [website](#).

Michael 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**[The Big Questions](#)**

**Sunday 12 February,
BBC One, 10:00am**

Nicky Campbell presents this week's topical debate live from Leicester Grammar School.

[Songs of Praise](#)

**Sunday 12 February,
BBC One, 5:00pm**

Aled Jones visits Bardsey Island, North Wales, reputed to be the resting place of 20,000 saints.

[The Big Painting Challenge](#)

**Sunday 12 February,
BBC One, 6:00pm**

The Revd Richard Coles helps to host in this new series, searching for Britain's best amateur artist.

Confident Apologetics

The Secretary of the Conference, the Revd Canon **Gareth J Powell**, reflects on the importance of **talking about God**, in the latest Wesley's Horse [blog post](#).

Church Investors Group takes action

The Church Investors Group, which handles the investments of many UK Churches (including the Methodist Church and the Church of England) has written a letter to the 350 largest companies in which it invests, outlining their **proactive intentions** for investing. Issues include **executive pay inequality, gender diversity and climate change**. To read the press release, [click here](#).

MWiB writing competition

The Methodist Women in Britain have launched a **new writing competition**, inspired by the life and works of the **Revd Julie Hulme**. Your 500 word reflection or poem on the theme of **'Stepping Out'** can be submitted following the details [here](#).

Appreciating Church

A **new book and online resource** has been launched today at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, which looks to share how the Church can use **'Appreciative Inquiry'** for **positive transformation** in local communities. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Count your blessings

Action for Children is asking you to join them for **40 days of counting your blessings** to help make life better for children across the UK. [Click here](#) for free resources and to see how you can **get involved**.

Fairtrade Fortnight

Radio

Daily Service

**Friday 10 February,
Radio 4 LW, 9:44am**

The Daily Service explores faith in the workplace with services from people of different occupations around the country.

The Sunday Hour

**Sunday 12 February,
BBC Radio 2, 6:00am**

Diane Louise Jordan looks ahead to Valentine's Day and discusses unconditional love.

Pause for Thought

**Catch Up,
BBC Radio 2**

London District Chair, the Revd Michaela Youngson, reflects on what it means to do our duty.

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

27 February - 12 March will be Fairtrade Fortnight, highlighting the issues behind exploitation in the food production business. Fairtrade has produced some **helpful resources** for churches to get involved, including **sermon notes, prayers and more**. [Click here](#) to see for yourself.

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](#).

Song of the Week: Able

[This week's song](#) comes from our cousins in the **United Methodist Church**, celebrating the success of their **Imagine No Malaria** campaign.

Reflections

In the coming week the [Prayer Handbook](#) will be encouraging us to pray with Christians in the Americas, Caribbean, Middle East, India, Britain and Ireland. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time](#) Bible studies is **Responding to Glory** written by the Revd Jonathan Mead.

Video Thursday: Children & Youth in the Birmingham Circuit

[This week's video](#) comes from the Children & Youth Team in the Birmingham Circuit **introducing the team** and some of the **great work** that they do.