

The Week Ahead

Hi everyone,

We turn our attention to some challenging international issues this week, but also some good news and exciting opportunities.

The **London Marathon** will take place this Sunday (26 April) - good luck to all those running, including Methodist minister the Revd Andrew Mofoot. There's still time to sponsor Andrew [here](#).

I will be staffing the out-of-hours support line this week (07881783812).

Wishing you all a wonderful week,

Anna

Mediterranean migration crisis

The news has been full this week of speculation about and responses to the current crisis that has seen thousands of migrants drowning in Mediterranean waters. You can check out a range of Christian responses [here](#). Methodist General Secretary the Revd Dr Martyn Atkins will be visiting our church partners in Lampedusa in May - look out for his report in the Methodist Recorder in a few weeks' time. Most of all, **please pray** for all those affected by this matter and for those who are working on ways to address it.

Justice

The second of the Joint Public Issues Team's **pre-election reflections** is now [online here](#). Look out for a further reflection on the theme of Peace this coming Monday. You can check out all the resources [here](#).

Xenophobic attacks in South Africa

In the wake of **escalating violence** against foreign nationals, refugees and asylum seekers in the Republic of South Africa, the World Methodist Council has expressed concern and disappointment at these clear violations of human rights. Read their full statement [here](#).

School Choir of the Year?

Our congratulations and best wishes go to the choristers from Methodist school **Kent College in Canterbury**. They have made it through to the semi-finals of BBC1's

Question Time

Tonight, 10:45pm, BBC1

West Bromwich in the West Midlands is the setting for this week's discussion of the latest political issues, chaired by David Dimbleby.

Unreported World

Friday, 7:30pm,

Channel 4

Krishnan Guru-Murthy heads to Cambodia to meet families who were torn apart by Pol Pot's regime 40 years ago, and are now being reunited on a local TV show.

Sex and the Church

Friday, 9pm, BBC2

Diarmaid MacCulloch concludes his exploration of how Christianity has shaped Western attitudes to sex, gender and sexuality throughout history.

Songs of Praise:

School Choir of the Year 2015

Sunday, 5pm, BBC1

Aled Jones presents the junior semi-final of the School Choir of the Year competition from Nottingham, with six top choirs hoping to impress judges Tim Rhys-Evans, Yvie Burnett and JB Gill.

Songs of Praise Choir of the Year Competition. Details of the programme are on the left.

Get snapping!

The **Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Photo Competition** aims to showcase the diversity of worship leaders and local preachers across the Church. Remember, if you've got a smartphone, you've got a camera - please enter your photos and help us to celebrate the amazing work and ministry of our local preachers and worship leaders.

Mental Health Matters

We're delighted to say that all of the residential tickets for the Mental Health Matters conference (5-7 June) have now sold out. But there are still a **limited number** of day tickets available - grab them while you can.

Weaving Women's Wisdom

Weaving Women's Wisdom is an interfaith project, empowering women to engage in creative activity and to form and deepen friendships. Launched by Touchstone in Bradford in the Autumn of 2014, Weaving Women's Wisdom has worked alongside 20 groups in Britain and Pakistan, to enable women to converse differently about matters of life and faith. The Carpet of Wisdom will be making a **tour of the UK during 2015** and be exhibited in mosques, churches, cathedrals, schools and possibly even the Houses of Parliament. Find out more here.

Michael Ramsey Prize

Prayer for the Day

Friday, 5:43am,

BBC Radio 4

A spiritual comment and prayer to begin the day the Rev'd Dr Martyn Atkins.

Sunday Worship

Sunday, 8:10am,

BBC Radio 4

Live from Sunderland Millfield Salvation Army and Celebrating 150 years since William and Catherine Booth founded this worldwide movement.

Choral Evensong

Wednesday, 3:30pm,
BBC Radio 3

Live from Exeter Cathedral.

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

Have you read a **theology book** in the past couple of years that has continued to stand out and resonate with you long after the final page? If so why not nominate it for the Michael Ramsey Prize? The prize is awarded every three years to the best theological writing in the service of the Church and you can make your nominations [here](#).

Reflections

In the coming week the [Prayer Handbook](#) will be encouraging us to pray with Christians in Australia, the Pacific, Northern Europe, Central Europe, Britain and Ireland. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time](#) Bible studies is **Salvation History**.

Video Thursday: Show Up

The [Show Up campaign](#) encourages Christians in the UK to **positively engage in politics** this election year and beyond. They've seen MPs, Christian organisations and church networks all uniting behind [this message](#) of showing up and serving our communities.

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.

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