

## The Week Ahead

*Hi everyone,*

*I'm pleased to report that the sun is shining here in London and it finally feels like spring is here.*

*This week's mailing is all about elections and events - enjoy!*

*I will be on leave tomorrow, but I'm staffing the out-of-hours support line for those that need urgent advice or assistance (07881783812).*

*Wishing you all a wonderful week,*

*Anna*

### An Island Parish

**Friday, 8pm, BBC2 (in Wales, Saturday, 6:30pm)**

It's Christmas on the Falklands - high summer.

## Election reflections

Next week we're expecting the major political parties to launch their election manifestos. The Joint Public Issues Team will be sharing stories and reflections [on their website](#) every Monday in the run-up to the election. These will be based around the four key themes featured in their [election resource](#): **Truth, Justice, Peace and Well-being**.

## Methodist Council

The April meeting of the Methodist Council will take place this weekend (**11 - 13 April**) and the papers are [online here](#). Please keep Council members in your prayers as they discuss some of the key issues affecting the life of the Church today.

## Sudanese elections

On **Monday 13 April**, Sudan will be holding its presidential and parliamentary elections. Please pray for the nation during this time.

## A Politics for the Common Good?

Also on Monday, [Together for the Common Good](#) will bring together a panel of parliamentarians from different parties to discuss their **approaches to key election issues** in the light of Christian social and ethical teaching. The panelists will be responding to questions posed by theologians Dr Sam Wells, Dr Anna Rowlands and audience members. Find out more [here](#).

## The Leaves of the Tree

The islanders are singing carols and preparing their traditional Falklands roast lamb, but there's one important person missing.

### Unreported World

Friday, 7:30pm,

Channel 4

Reporter Seyi Rhodes visits Zimbabwe to meet comedians who are risking their security by satirising the country's politicians.

### Sex and the Church

Friday, 9pm, BBC2 (not Wales)

Diarmaid MacCulloch explores how Christianity has shaped Western attitudes to sex, gender and sexuality throughout history, beginning by examining how the early Christians transformed intercourse from a biological necessity into a vice and from a pleasure into a sin.

### Sunday Politics

Sunday, 11am, BBC1

Special edition of the weekly political digest show hosted by Andrew Neil. Show comes from Sheffield Hallam constituency where Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg is the sitting MP.

Circuits up and down the country are about to begin holding **Easter Offering services** on the theme of "The Leaves of the Tree". If you're not sure where your nearest service will be, you'll soon be able to find out on the Methodist Women in Britain [website](#). A service will also be live-tweeted via the [@MethodistWomen](#) twitter account from 7:30pm on Tuesday 14 April.

## the connexion: Chaplaincy special

The latest version of **the connexion** magazine will soon be winging its way around the, erm, Connexion. But if you simply can't wait to receive your copy, you can check it out [online here](#) where you can also view our Chaplaincy Everywhere video.

## A good and beautiful life

On 5 June, [Lyfe](#) and the [London Mission Collective](#) will host a Masterclass with James Bryan Smith on **Living as apprentices in the Kingdom of God**. Smith is a seasoned communicator, author of eight books and a prominent voice in the area of spiritual formation and discipleship. Details [here](#).

## Preach it!

**Preach it! 2015** is one-day event for everyone who preaches and believes in the value of communicating the word of God in a way that leaves no one unchanged. The keynote speech will be given by Leonard Sweet who is author of more than 200 articles, 1300+ published

### Any Questions

Friday, 8pm,

BBC Radio 4

Topical discussion chaired by Jonathan Dimbleby, in which an audience canvasses the opinions of four leading figures.

### The Meaning of Life According to AJ Ayer

Saturday, 8pm,

BBC Radio 4

Philosopher AC Grayling explores the work of his former tutor, the celebrated public intellectual AJ Ayer, to determine what his old university professor had to say about life's big questions.

### Good Morning Sunday

Sunday, 7am,

BBC Radio 2

Clare Balding hosts the topical faith show and speaks to author, Jemma Wayne.

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

sermons, and more than fifty books. It will take place on 23 June in Reigate and you can find all the details [here](#).

## Reflections

In the coming week the [Prayer Handbook](#) will be encouraging us to pray with Christians in Latin America, the Caribbean and the Americas, North and Central America, the Middle East, Britain and Ireland. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time](#) Bible studies is **The Gospel of the Spirit** written by the Revd Graham Jones.

## Video Thursday: Lift up your voice

The [Royal School of Church Music](#) has launched a course for churches where there is no one to lead the music. **Lift up your voice** is a day course for worship leaders, whether lay or ordained, which offers them not just musical ideas, but practical ways of giving their congregations a singing voice. In this video, Rosemary Field, the RSCM's Head of Education, introduces the course and you can find out about the next two events [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.

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