



Hi everyone,

*It's a bit of a shorter mailing this week as we all continue to ease in to the new year. But we do have news of some recent work on UK poverty, a special hymn in response to recent events in France and a great video about the dreaded 'e-word'.*

*Toby will be staffing the out-of-hours support line this week (07974208360).*

*Wishing you all a wonderful week,*

*Anna*

## On the box

### Cyberbully

#### Tonight 9pm, Channel 4

When teenager Casey Jacobs is targeted by an advanced computer hacker, the dark depths of the internet are exposed. Director Ben Chanan's chilling real-time thriller is inspired by real-life cases.

### Question Time

#### Tonight, 10:35pm, BBC1

David Dimbleby chairs the debate from Lincoln, where Conservative Defence Minister Anna Soubry MP, Labour's Shadow Foreign Secretary Douglas Alexander MP, President of the Liberal Democrats Baroness Brinton, journalist and broadcaster Mehdi Hasan and historian David Starkey face topical questions from the audience.

## Benefit sanctions

Benefit sanctions are supposed to be part of a system that helps people back to work. But critics say they penalise the vulnerable and are among the reasons for the growing use of food banks. We have contributed to **aspecial edition of the radio programme File on 4** about the issue (see listings).

## Hopeless to help

This hymn was written by Andrew Pratt as an immediate response to the **"Charlie Hebdo" shootings** and sieges in Paris last week. However, it also reminds us of the many countries and violent situations in our modern world in which the causes of religion are invoked as the inspiration for human actions and policies – often at the expense of those with other beliefs.

## More honours!

Many thanks to everyone who got in touch to let us know about the Methodists they had spotted on the New Year's Honours list. So, without further ado, **congratulations** go to Ann Eden, Brenda Swithenbank, Alan Eccles, Yvonne Chamberlain and Judy Stephens. We also understand Barbara Smith from Derby received her MBE shortly before she passed away. Barbara raised 750,000 million pounds for Action for Children in her lifetime and collected the MBE just weeks before she died.

## This week in Parliament

This week's **parliamentary business** can be found online[here](#).

## Reflections

In the coming week the Prayer Handbook will be encouraging us to pray with Christians in the Middle East, the Indian Subcontinent, India, Asia, East Asia, Britain and Ireland. The theme for next week's A Word in Time Bible studies is **One in Christ**, written by the Revd Neil Stubbens

## Radio

### **Pause for Thought**

**Friday, 5:45am, BBC Radio 2**

The Revd Tony Miles contributes.

### **Thought for the Day**

**Monday, 7:45am, BBC Radio 4**

The Revd Dr Jane Leach contributes.

### **File on 4**

**Tuesday, 8pm, BBC Radio 4**

Benefit sanctions are supposed to be part of a system helping people back to work. But critics say they penalise the vulnerable and are among the reasons for the growing use of food banks. With contributions from Methodist policy adviser Paul Morrison.

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

## Video Thursday: The E-Word

If you're a Methodist office-holder, chances are you'll have received your three free copies (one to keep, two to give away) of the brand new magazine, **the connexion**. If not, don't worry - more people will be receiving them over the next few days. This edition focuses on the issue of evangelism - so [this week's video](#) features Martyn Atkins and Doug Swanney in an in-depth conversation about the 'e-word'.

*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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