



Hi everyone,

Thanks so much to all of you who have emailed us with news of what your church is up to this advent and Christmas time - please do keep them coming. We'll be sharing the stories on social media using the #advent hashtag.

We've got lots of lovely videos for you this week - and it's a good week for Methodism on both national and local radio.

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

Wishing you all a wonderful week,

Anna



On the box

The Billion Pound Base: Dismantling Camp Bastion

Sunday, 8pm, Channel 4

For eight years, Britain's biggest overseas base since the Second World War has been the powerhouse of UK and US military operations in Afghanistan, and now Camp Bastion has closed down for good. This documentary follows the men and women assigned to the task.

Wild Weather with Richard Hammond **Monday, 9pm, BBC1**

The host continues his investigation into the secrets of weather, focusing on the crucial role played by water, without which there would be no

Podcasts: pioneering and loss

Over the last week we've added two brand new podcasts to the Methodist website. Click [here](#) to listen to Karen Burke exploring the partnership between the Methodist Church and the **Pioneer Network** - a Christian connexion of churches founded in 1985. And in [this podcast](#), **Saying Goodbye's** Zoe Clark-Coates tells me about faith, miscarriage and supporting people through the loss of a baby.

Mary and Joseph go viral

While other churches in the area sent Mary and Joseph to travel around Bradford, Wyke Methodist Church decided to take a different dimension. They waved Mary and Joseph off on Facebook, asking people to send them on their 'virtual way'. Already, the picture of the holy couple has been shared more than 21,000 times and has received **nearly 26,000 comments**. Check it out, share it or comment [here](#).

#FollowtheAngels

This year's **Nativity Factor** competition has taken on a new form. Instead of submitting videos, two teams of contestants joined professionals for a weekend of Christmassy filmmaking. Check out the Green Team's entry [here](#) (written by Methodist minister Sally Binymin) and the Red Team's [here](#).

Radio Vixen 101

Radio Vixen is a local radio station in Market Weighton and this Saturday (6 December) they've invited the **Revd Sue Pegg** to host her very own Christmas show from 2pm until 3pm. Don't worry if you're not local - you can listen online [here](#).

Human Rights 365

Next Wednesday (10 December) is **World Human Rights Day** - a day to raise awareness of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This year's theme, 'Human Rights 365', encompasses the idea that every day should

rain, no hail and no clouds.

Kids' Hospital at Christmas

Tuesday, 9pm, Channel 5

Documentary following staff and patients at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital over the festive season.

Radio

Act of Worship

Friday, 9:45am, BBC Radio 4 LW

An Act of Worship led by the Revd Dr Leslie Griffiths.

Prayer for the Day

Sat, Mon - Thurs, 5:43am, BBC Radio 4

A spiritual comment and prayer to begin the day with the Revd Dr Calvin Samuel.

Sunday Worship

Sunday, 8:10am, BBC Radio 4

The second in the Advent series live from St Joseph's Church Bradford.

Daily Service

Wed, Thurs, 9:45am, BBC Radio 4 LW

A space for spiritual reflection with a bible reading, prayer and a range of Christian music. Led by the Revd Peter Whittaker (Wed) and the Revd Dr Mark Wakelin (Thurs).

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

be Human Rights Day. It celebrates the fundamental proposition that each one of us, everywhere, at all times is entitled to the full range of human rights, that human rights belong equally to each of us and bind us together as a global community with the same ideals and values. Find out more [here](#).

StreetLink

On any given night there are estimated to be around **2,400 people sleeping rough** in England. StreetLink is a phone-line, website and mobile app that allows members of the public to send an alert when they're concerned about someone sleeping rough. StreetLink then passes the information to the relevant local authority or homelessness agency who can help get them the support they need. It's easy to use and just a few minutes can help turn someone's life around. Next time you see someone sleeping rough call 0300 500 0914, visit www.streetlink.org.uk or send an alert via the free mobile app.

Let Us Play

In March 2015, Cliff College is introducing a brand new weekend course exploring issues of **spirituality and play** amongst children. The weekend should be helpful for those who work with or alongside children, especially focussing on 5-11 year olds. It's an ideal introduction to issues of child spirituality, and for those exploring the healing and therapeutic aspects of play with children. Details [here](#).

Summer fellowship in Manchester

The Manchester Wesley Research Centre is now inviting applications for their summer 2015 **Visiting Fellow Programme**. In addition to accommodation, they are offering a modest weekly stipend to the fellowship recipient. Applications are due by 31 January and you can find out more [here](#).

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 West Africa, Southern Africa, East Africa, Latin America, Britain and Ireland. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time](#) Bible

studies is **Promises Fulfilled** written by the Revd Jonathan Mead.

Video Thursday: #Deedcember

I cannot express just **how much I love** [this video](#) (and the idea behind it), but here's a clue: it's a lot.

***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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