

The Week Ahead

The Methodist Church 

Hello everyone and welcome to The Week Ahead.


This week we mark the start of [Advent](#).

We send congratulations to the Youth President-designate following their election and also to the royal couple following the news of their engagement.

*You can call the **out-of-hours media support** line on 020 7467 5170 or email [here](#).*

Wishing you all a wonderful week,

*Mike Ivatt
Lead Media Officer*

 On the box

[Fern Britton meets Stefanie Reid](#)
Sunday, 3 December
BBC1, 10.00am

The paralympic athlete Stefanie Reid discusses how she became a Christian following a boating accident as a teenager.

[Songs of Praise Gospel Choir of the Year](#)
Sunday, 3 December
BBC1, 4.15pm

David Grant presents the final of the annual Gospel Choir of the Year competition. Five leading amateur choirs take to the stage at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster.

[Finding me a family](#)
Tuesday, 5 December
Channel 4, 9.00pm
Children hoping to be adopted meet face-to-face

Royal engagement

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have released a statement congratulating Meghan Markle and HRH Prince Harry on the announcement of their engagement. Click here to [read it](#).

3Generate Youth President

Jasmine Yeboah has been elected as the Youth President-designate following last weekend's 3Generate event in Southport. You can read more about Jasmine's election [here](#) and watch her campaign video [here](#).

JPIT Budget response

Paul Morrison, a policy adviser with JPIT, the Joint Public Issues Team, has written a blog post in response to last week's budget. To read how the announced changes in Universal Credit attempt to solve one problem but create a host of others click [here](#).

Action for Children volunteers

Action for Children, the charity founded by a Methodist minister, is taking part in Good Morning Britain's 1 Million Minutes campaign to combat loneliness with its focus on parents. Launched on Monday 27 November and running until 18 December, the 1 Million Minutes campaign aims to encourage people to volunteer. Click [here](#) to find out more.

Online Advent Calendar

The Methodist Church online advent calendar on the [Advent Offering](#) theme of 'Comfort my People' is [available to start opening here from 1 December](#) (and not a chocolate in sight!).

Community for Spiritual Formation

Community for Spiritual Formation is offering the opportunity to live for five days in community, to hear excellent teaching, spend time in worship and silence and share in small groups. The theme for 2018 is "Community in a fragmented world" and the event will take place at Hinsley Hall, Leeds, 13-18 May. Further information and registration forms available [here](#).

with potential parents at activity days that can change lives.

Radio

[Something Understood](#) [The Limits of Friendship](#)

Sunday, 3 December

BBC Radio 4, 6:05am

Journalist Abdul-Rehman Malik explores the nature and purpose of true friendship through the insights of writers from various faith traditions.

[No Triumph, No Tragedy](#)

Sunday, 3 December

BBC Radio 4, 1:30pm

Peter White discusses the ethics of disability-based humour with The Last Leg presenter Adam Hills.

[Beyond Belief](#)

[Swearing an oath](#)

Monday, 4 December

BBC Radio 4, 4:30pm

We all know that lying in a court of law carries serious penalties. Do we really need to place our hands on a holy book to affirm our sincerity by swearing an oath?

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

JPIT Conference 2018

The 2018 Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) Conference, *Brave New World? Faithful living in a time of change*, takes place in Manchester on Saturday 17 March 2018. During this period of turbulence and upheaval, the conference will be looking at how Christians can live prophetically and faithfully. You can find out more by clicking [here](#).

World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day takes place on 1 December. It's an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV and to show support and pray for people living with the illness. For more information click [here](#).

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](#).

Reflections

In the coming week the [Prayer Handbook](#) will be encouraging us to pray with Christians in Africa, Britain and Ireland. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time](#) Bible studies is **God's Word at Work** written by Marjorie Dobson.

Video Thursday: ONE Encounter

ONE Encounter provides opportunities for young people to encounter other parts of the world. It is an opportunity to encourage reflection, consider calling and support discipleship. In August this year, a trip to Haiti was organised in partnership with the Methodist Church World Church Relationships team. Watch the young people talk about their trip [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.*