

The Week Ahead

The Methodist Church



Hello everyone, and welcome to the first Week Ahead of 2018.

In this edition we highlight the latest **connexion magazine** and look forward to Bible Month in June.

The out-of-hours media support line can be contacted by calling 020 7467 5170 or via email [here](#).

Wishing you all a wonderful week,

Mike Ivatt
Lead Media Officer

On the box

[Workers or Shirkers?](#) [Ian Hislop's Victorian Benefits](#)

BBC One, 10:00am
Saturday, 7 January

An entertaining, provocative film in which Ian Hislop explores the colourful history behind one of the most explosive issues of our times - welfare: who deserves to be helped, and who doesn't.

[Songs of Praise](#)

BBC Four, 7:00pm
Sunday, 7 January

Sean Fletcher visits a light festival for Epiphany Sunday in Durham, examining the city's Christian history and introducing hymns celebrating light.

[The Biggest Little Railway in the World](#)
Channel 4, 8:00pm

the connexion magazine

In the next few days, the latest edition of *the connexion* will be arriving in churches and through letter boxes. Focusing on *Our Calling*, you can read an online version of the magazine [here](#). The articles can also be downloaded as Word documents for use in local newsletters and magazines.

Covenant service

For Methodist churches holding their Covenant services, a handy resource from the Roots team is available. Click [here](#) to download the PDF.

Methodist Student Weekend 2018

You can still get tickets for this year's Methodist Student Weekend that takes place 26-28 January at Cliff College. The theme for the weekend will be *Practical Faith: what can we do, as students, to grow and live out our faith?* You can find out more and book [here](#).

Bible Month

Bible Month is an opportunity for churches and circuits to spend 30 days focused on a single biblical book. In June 2018, Bible Month will focus on the book of Jonah. You can find out more [here](#), with resources available from Methodist Publishing [here](#).

Methodist Churches Forces Board

The Methodist Churches Forces Board is seeking lay workers to support families at RAF Marham and RM Poole. To find out more about these, and other opportunities, click [here](#).

New Room lunch choir

If you happen to find yourself in Bristol over the next couple of months (apart from February half term) you can pop into the New Room and take part in their Community Choir. They meet on Wednesday lunchtimes 12.15pm – 1pm. No auditions, no need to read music – everyone is welcome! Click [here](#) to read more.

Sunday, 7 January

Dick Strawbridge and a team of model railway enthusiasts attempt to build the longest model railway in the world, 71 miles across Scotland, from Fort William to Inverness.

Radio

[Across the Red Line](#) BBC Radio 4, 10:15pm Saturday, 7 January

Working with conflict resolution specialist Gabrielle Rifkind, Anne McElvoy invites figures on opposed sides of a political issue to listen to each other. This first edition of the series, discusses if it is ever acceptable to be wary of those from other backgrounds?

[One to One](#) Dame Kelly Holmes talks to Helen Glover

BBC Radio 4, 9:30am
Tuesday, 9 January

The Olympic rower, Helen Glover, speaks to Dame Kelly Holmes about 'life after gold' - how to cope after retiring from sport.

[The Ideas That Make Us Character](#)

BBC Radio 4, 9:30am
Wednesday, 10 January

Bettany Hughes examines the building blocks of philosophy as she traces the development of concepts from the dawn of civilisation to modern times.

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

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, Latin America, the Caribbean, Britain and Ireland. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time](#) Bible studies is Baptism written by The Revd Andrew Murphy.

Video Thursday: Canterbury Blooms

Back in the summer, St Peter's Methodist Primary School, Canterbury, took part in their local "In Bloom" initiative. You can see how the children's green fingers got to work by watching the film [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.