

Hello everyone and welcome to 'The Week Ahead'.
Mike Ivatt will be staffing the out-of-hours media emergency support line on
020 7467 5170.

Wishing you all a wonderful week,
[the Communications team](#)

Marriage and Relationships

The report, study guide and film being provided to support discussions around marriage and relationships can be found online [here](#). These resources are also available to order from [Methodist Publishing](#); orders will be dispatched after the 23 September. District synod orders are being collated and handled directly in time for forthcoming meetings. More resources to support prayerful reflection are to be added online in the next week.



New Youth President

Thelma Commey was welcomed into her role as the new Youth President for the Methodist Church on Sunday, 1 September at Christ the Cornerstone Church in her home town of Milton Keynes. Read about Thelma and her work [here](#).



Prorogation of parliament

As parliament continues to work through the complex situation around Brexit, JPIT has published a blog to help us consider the prorogation of parliament. You can read the blog [here](#).



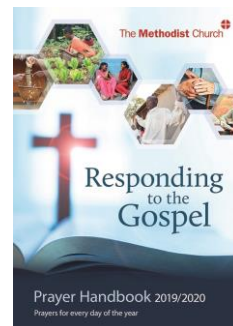
DSEi

This week has seen Christians protesting against the arms trade at one of the world's largest weapons fairs, DSEi, held in east London. JPIT have updated their briefing document on arms sales and oppressive regimes. You can read it [here](#).



New connexional year

As we mark the beginning of the new connexional year, there is still an opportunity to purchase the new 'Prayer Handbook 2019/2020 - Responding to the Gospel' from [Methodist Publishing](#).



Education Sunday

As children and teachers return to school, Sunday 8 September, is Education Sunday, a national day of prayer and celebration for everyone in the world of education. Resources are available to download [here](#) from Churches Together in England.



Transformational Leadership

A day course on transforming our churches into places where discipleship is nurtured is to take place at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster on Tuesday 29 October. The day explores leadership that cultivates healthy and holy teams and creates disciple making environments. You can find out more [here](#).



Methodist Modern Art Collection

The Methodist Modern Art Collection, in association with the Royal West of England Academy and Victoria Methodist Church, present their autumn talk and guided tour: "Hope and Reconciliation" & 167th Open Exhibition. Taking place on Saturday 12 October in Bristol, you can discover more and book tickets [here](#).

Methodist Modern
Art Collection

People, Protest and Politics

There will be a celebration of the Primitive Methodist movement this Saturday, 7 September at Mow Cop Castle organised by [The National Trust](#), in partnership with [Englesea Brook](#) and Mow Cop Methodist Church. The day will feature singing, speakers and poetry.



Divine Darkness, Divine Light

A few places remain for 'Divine Darkness, Divine Light', the 'Five-Day Community for Spiritual Formation' taking place at Cliff College from 24 to 29 November 2019. Revd Cathy Bird and Revd Steve Radley will be leading discussions. For more details email [Jill Baker](mailto:jill.baker@cliffcollege.org) or visit the [Community for Spiritual Formation](http://www.communityforspiritualformation.org) website.



Thursday video: The work of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group

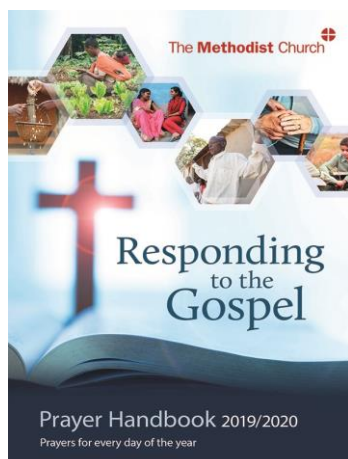
The Revd Lansford Penn Timmity reflects on what it's like being a Methodist minister.



Reflections

In the coming week, the 2019/2020 Methodist Prayer Handbook, 'Responding to the Gospel', encourages us to pray with Christians in the Americas and the Caribbean,

as well as Britain and Ireland. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time Bible studies](#) is 'Worthy is the Lamb'. [Order your Prayer Handbook here.](#)



Parliament



Parliament is in recess. If you want to find out about the Scottish Parliamentary calendar, [click here](#) and the timetable for the National Assembly for Wales, [click here.](#)

'The Week Ahead' is a regular mailing that gives you a heads-up on forthcoming events and opportunities, as well as highlighting new information and resources across the Methodist Church. We cannot know about everything that's going on, so please [do email us](#) if you have any feedback or ideas for items to include.

Email: mediaoffice@methodistchurch.org.uk