

12 December 2019



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

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

## Prayer Hand Book

The theme for the 2020/2021 Prayer Handbook is 'the earth is the LORD'S' (Psalm 24:1). Prayers are welcomed of thanks, penitence, intercession and resolve that, with God's help, we may take responsibility for our actions and, as stewards of God's gift to us, participate in the healing of creation. Please email your contributions, by 13 January 2020, to: [prayerhandbook@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:prayerhandbook@methodistchurch.org.uk)



## Women in the Bible

Women in the Bible is a short course developed in partnership with the [Bible, Gender and Church Research Centre](#) based at Cliff College. The weekend, open to both women and men, is for those who want an insight into some of the key characters of the Bible and to hear the voices of historical and contemporary women. The teaching will be delivered over the weekend Friday 15 to Sunday 17 May 2020. Details of the course can be found [here](#).



**JACEI**

Are you interested in how the Methodist Church uses its money ethically? The Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment is the body which advises the Methodist Central Finance Board and is looking for two new members, you can find out more [here](#).



## Global Relationships

The Global Relationships team have published reports by partnership coordinator Steve Pearce from his recent visits to the [Henry Martyn Institute](#) in India and to the [Church of North India](#). You can also read an [advent message](#) from Sheila Norris, a mission partner in Japan.



## Joint Public Issues Team Newsletter

The latest newsletter from the Joint Public Issues Team is out now. This edition features the election, advent and details of next year's JPIT Conference. Click [here](#) to read.



## Conservation, maintenance and repair

The Churches Trust for Cumbria have produced a series of videos to highlight the considerable care needed to conserve, maintain and repair church buildings. Please visit their [website](#) to view them.



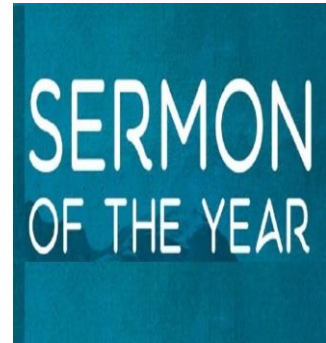
## Methodist Ministers' Housing Society

The latest edition of Roof 'n' Roots, the newsletter from the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society, is out now. This edition features an interview with the Revd Richard Teal, who will become the next President of the Methodist Conference and Revd Joyce Barrass, who served as one of the first mission partners to Bolivia. You can download the newsletter [here](#).



## Sermon of the Year 2020

Preachers are invited to submit 1,500 words on the theme of 'Made by God' for the Sermon of the Year competition 2020. Organised by Preach Magazine, entries are welcome from those aged 18 or over. The top four sermons will be preached at a live event in London and judged by an expert and friendly panel of judges. Entries should be sent to [editor@lwpt.org.uk](mailto:editor@lwpt.org.uk) by midnight, Sunday 23 February 2020.



## Faith in Politics podcast

The latest Faith in Politics podcast is now available. Cameron and Rosella interview Inderjit Bhogal, recent recipient of the World Methodist Council Peace Award, and this month's musing centres around attitudes to refugees. Listen to the podcast [here](#).



## #Shareyourjoy

We still want to hear all your Advent and Christmas stories so that we can share them on social media. Please email details and pictures [here](#).

And search **#Shareyourjoy** on Twitter and Facebook – let the world know what your church is doing this year.



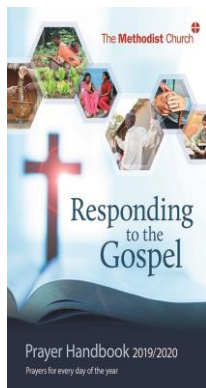
# Video Thursday: Langa Methodist Church Choir - Glastonbury 2019

With winter upon us, we look back to the summer and follow South Africa's Langa Methodist Church Choir on their journey to play at the Pyramid Stage, Glastonbury.



## Reflections

In the coming week, the 2019/2020 Methodist Prayer Handbook,



'Responding to the Gospel' encourages us to pray with Christians in Central America and Asia, as well as Britain and Ireland. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time Bible studies](#) is "Expectancy and Hope". [Order your Prayer Handbook here.](#)

## Parliament



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

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'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

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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](mailto:mediaoffice@methodistchurch.org.uk)