

5 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](#)

Advent reflection

The Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Conference, has written an Advent reflection on Isaiah's call to preach a word of comfort which, "is not simply about making people feel better, either by ignoring or shutting out the reality of their situation.



The comfort that is offered is a combination of sympathy and strength; it is established on God's continued identification with God's people; it recognises that rough places need to be made smooth; it speaks from love to give confidence and hope."

[Read the full message here](#)

JPIT: #LovePrayVote



In the last few days before the General Election, we encourage everyone to look at the [JPIT briefing notes](#) on key election issues.

For those who are preaching on the subject this weekend there is a [useful blog here](#).

And what about your church [giving a pair of gloves](#) to those standing in the election?

Natwivity – are you following?

The Natwivity is proving to be very popular.

Have you followed yet?

Find The Natwivity [on Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



Volunteering opportunity: Chair of the Faith and Order Committee

Are you a member of the Methodist Church seeking to use your theological skills, expertise and gifts in a new way?

Do you have a research degree in theology and a breadth and depth of theological knowledge and expertise, with a gift for chairing meetings and working collaboratively to enhance the mission of the Church?

Could you make a significant contribution to an important and hardworking body in the Methodist Church?

We are seeking a Chair of the Faith and Order Committee from 1 September 2020, for a term of up to six years.

[More information is here:](#)

Welcome cards

Provide a warm welcome in your church this Christmas with our new Welcome Cards.

Order your copy now from [Methodist Publishing](#)



Community businesses in places of worship

The Historic Religious Buildings Alliance and [the Plunkett Foundation](#) are looking at how places of worship can accommodate community businesses that sustain and improve services for local residents - as well opening the doors of much valued buildings in the process. Examples might include: shops, cafes and even accommodation. For this purpose, they are defining a community business as community enterprises that are owned and run democratically by members of the community, on behalf of the community.

[Share your stories with Becky Payne](#)

All We Can visit to Uganda

Jude Levermore, Head of Mission has been on a visit to Uganda with Graeme Hodge from All We Can.

[Follow them on Twitter here](#) and check out the charity's resources and gifts for Advent and Christmas on the [All We Can website](#).



#ShareyourJoy



We have had a great response to our request for Advent and Christmas stories for social media.

Make sure to search [#ShareyourJoy](#) on Twitter and Facebook and engage with this – let the world know what your church is doing this year.

Action for Children secret santa campaign

For most of us, the festive season is a time of joy and family celebrations. Unfortunately, there are thousands of children in the UK right now who are facing a Christmas without food, warmth or love. Action for Children is working to change this – and they need your help.

They are asking you to be a Secret Santa for a vulnerable child this Christmas to help them make a vulnerable child's Christmas safe, warm and bright.

You can sign up to become a Secret Santa and donate by **texting, APPEAL to 70607** or visiting the [Secret Santa website](#)



Video Thursday: God For All consultation

“There’s a really strong sense of the land, and of being a people of place.” - The final reflection from Barbara Glasson on her recent trip to Israel/Palestine.



Reflections

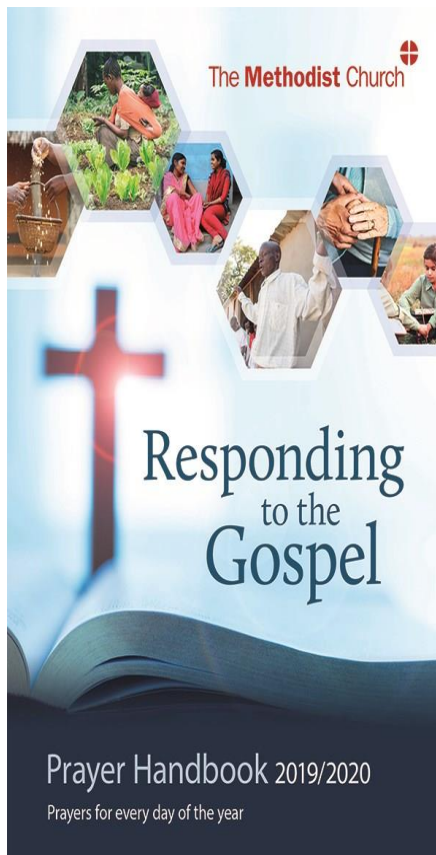
In the coming week, the 2019/2020 Methodist Prayer Handbook, 'Responding to the Gospel' encourages us to pray with Christians in Latin America as well as Britain and Ireland. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time Bible studies](#) is

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](#).



"Vision and Promise".
[Order your Prayer Handbook 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