

The Week Ahead

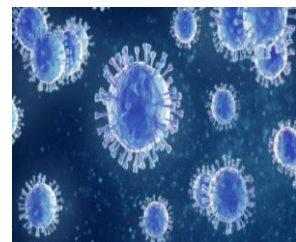
The **Methodist** Church 

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](#)

Coronavirus: updated guidance

The Methodist Church has released [updated information](#) to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus. The guidance includes advice on welcoming people, leading worship, Holy Communion and dealing with pastoral concerns. The information is likely to change, so do check for updates.



Going to Church?

If you are in poor health or displaying the symptoms of a cold, please consider staying away from the service. If you are unable to attend you can download this [service sheet](#) to use at home. Alternatively you can watch a live streamed worship service from Wesley's Chapel, London [here](#) (starts 11.00am every Sunday)



IICSA

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) will start its investigation into Child Protection in Religious Organisations and Settings on Monday March 16. The hearing will last for two weeks and the Methodist Church has been asked to take part, along with other religious organisations. You can follow proceedings live [here](#).



JPIT Conference

This year's JPIT Conference, held on Saturday 7 March, called upon churches to challenge political and economic leaders ahead of COP26. In a pivotal year for climate justice, the conference urged churches to challenge economic and political assumptions and to become agents for change in addressing the climate emergency. Read a report from the conference [here](#).



Youth President Lent Tour

Thelma Commey, Methodist Youth President, will be on BBC Radio Sheffield this Sunday as she continues her Lent tour. Thelma is in the city visiting projects including a foodbank, a board games café and helping to provide lunch for around ninety homeless and lonely people. You will be able to listen to the interview, live, at around 8.15am on [BBC Radio Sheffield](#).



A call to pray for the people of Syria

This weekend marks the ninth anniversary of the civil war in Syria, which has resulted in a humanitarian crisis, in particular around the city of Idlib. Steve Hucklesby, Policy Adviser with the Joint Public Issues Team, has written a [blog](#) about the untold suffering of the Syrian people. The Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference, has written a prayer for Syria that you can read [here](#).



Budget response

Paul Morrison, policy adviser for the Methodist Church with particular responsibility for issues around the economy including poverty and inequality, has responded to some of the key budget announcements. You can read his response [here](#) and the budget papers are available on the Government's website [here](#).



Methodist Modern Art Collection

A selection of art from the internationally renowned Methodist Modern Art Collection, one of the UK's most significant collections of modern religious art, will be on display in the Wyre Forest Gallery at Bewdley Museum each day from Saturday 21 March until Sunday 19 April 2020. Opening hours are 11.00am to 3.00pm and admission is free. Read more [here](#).



The Methodist Podcast

In this week's Methodist Podcast we consider the latest advice for churches regarding the Coronavirus pandemic and talk to British Methodists overseas who are already in lock-down, we meet a family of Syrian refugees who have been given a new home in the UK thanks to Methodists in Birmingham and we review last Saturday's JPIT Conference. Listen [here](#).



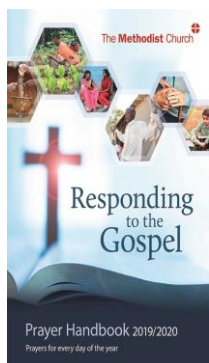
Video: British Sign Language Peace

Learning the British Sign Language version of the Peace isn't just useful during the current situation, it is a great way to become a more inclusive church.



Reflections

In the coming week, the 2019/2020 Methodist Prayer Handbook, 'Responding to the Gospel' encourages us to pray with All Creation and with Christians in North America, Asia and India as well as Europe, Britain and Ireland. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time Bible studies](#) is "Preaching and Example". [Order your Prayer Handbook here](#).



Parliament



You can find details of the UK Parliament [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](#).

'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