



Hello and welcome to 'The Communication Update'  
This is an additional newsletter of updates, guidance and resources to support the Connexion during the coronavirus pandemic.  
Regular updates will also be given on social media pages and on the [website](#).  
The media support line is available on 020 7467 5170.  
Yours, in prayer,  
[the Communications team](#)



## Closure of church buildings

The Methodist Church is [announcing a closure](#) of all its church buildings for the foreseeable future. The Methodist Church suspended worship services last week with some churches remaining open for quiet prayer and reflection. **This must now also be suspended.** The only exception is for churches that are offering essential social outreach such as foodbanks, soup kitchens and night shelters, but these must be carried out within government guidelines. If you are running a night shelter, there is advice available [here](#) and [here](#). If you are running a foodbank or soup kitchen we would urge you to seek advice on how to operate as safely as possible from central bodies such as the [Trussell Trust](#) or [IFAN](#).

## Church posters

Posters are available to help Methodist churches inform their local community about worship arrangements during the coronavirus crisis. These posters are available to print out [here](#).

## Morning prayers

Methodist churches are sharing weekday morning prayers online:

**09:00 Wesley House, Cambridge**

[www.facebook.com/wesleycambridge](http://www.facebook.com/wesleycambridge).

(Resources for the prayers and readings are available [here](#))

**10:00 Wesley's Chapel, London**

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA)

## COVID-19, Poverty and Universal Credit

It is expected that the COVID-19 crisis will mean many more families will come to rely on Universal Credit, a benefit paid to people who are not working due to unemployment, caring responsibilities, illness or disability, as well as working families with a low income. In [this blog](#) Paul Morrison, a policy advisor with JPIT, reflects on the changes to Universal Credit as the crisis has developed.

## Care of yourself and those around you

Our increasing isolation, the bombardment of negative and worrying news stories and concerns for those we love can heighten anxiety levels and cause depression. [Here](#) are some resources that can boost wellbeing and mental health to help build resilience at this difficult time.

## National Methodist Choir

The National Methodist Choir want to provide singers from all denominations, and all corners of the globe, with an opportunity to come together and worship God with their voices. You are invited to add your voice to a virtual church choir [here](#).

## Podcast: The Methodist Church in Italy

Past. Mirella Manocchio, President of OPCEMI, the Methodist Church in Italy, discusses her experience of the difficult situation in her country and the Church's response in [this podcast interview](#).

## Tell us how you're helping

Many individuals and churches will be helping their members and communities during the current crisis. Please send stories of how you and your church are responding to the situation for us to share by emailing the [Communications Team](#).

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