



Hello everyone and welcome to 'The Week Ahead'.

Staff at Methodist Church House are now working remotely and will continue to provide support.

Regular updates will be given on social media pages, on the [website](#), and with occasional updates via newsletter.

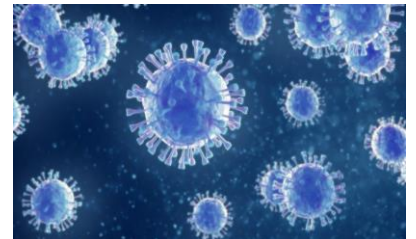
The media support line is available on 020 7467 5170.

Yours, in prayer,
[the Communications team](#)



Coronavirus: updated guidance

The Methodist Church has announced the closure of all its church buildings for the foreseeable future. The only exception will be for churches that are offering essential social outreach such as foodbanks, soup kitchens and night shelters, but these activities must be carried out within government guidelines. Click [here](#) for further information and advice .



BBC Local Radio

At 8.00 am this Sunday, all 39 BBC local radio stations will be joining together for a service from [Methodist Central Hall, Westminster](#). The act of worship was recorded 'as live' in Methodist Central Hall Westminster Chapel last Sunday, before stronger social distancing instructions were issued. You can find how to listen to your BBC local radio station [here](#).



People in exile and people of hope

The Revd Ruth Gee, Assistant Secretary of the Methodist Conference, reflects on how we can offer hope in the desert of fear that coronavirus has brought to communities in this [blog](#).



Church community

While we are unable to physically meet or visit one another, there are ways in which we can remain and strengthen our church communities. You can find reflections and ideas [here](#).



Worship

Details of streamed worship, printed services for use at home and other ideas for worship during this time can be found [here](#) on the Singing The Faith Plus website.



Serving neighbours and speaking with friends

During this global crisis, we have a unique opportunity to be Gospel people: to act lovingly, speak graciously, and live humbly for the common good of all people. In addition to taking the necessary precautions, [there](#) are steps you can take to serve neighbours and speak with friends in this time of great anxiety and isolation.



Coronavirus and our global connections

The Global Relationships team is working to keep the Methodist Church in Britain closely connected with our mission partners, partner churches and organisations around the world. Their [webpage](#) is updated with messages of support and prayer.



Talking to young people

The Children, Youth and Families team continue to update their [resources](#) to help children and those who care for them during the on-going situation.



MHA

The ride to mark the 75th anniversary of MHA that was due to take place this September has been postponed. MHA are continually reviewing their response to the coronavirus and you can read their most up to date guidance [here](#).



The Methodist Podcast

This week's [podcast](#) discusses how the Methodist Church is continuing to respond to the on-going crisis, how families can be supported, we hear an update from the Methodist Church in Italy and how the National Methodist Choir of Great Britain is bringing the world together in song.



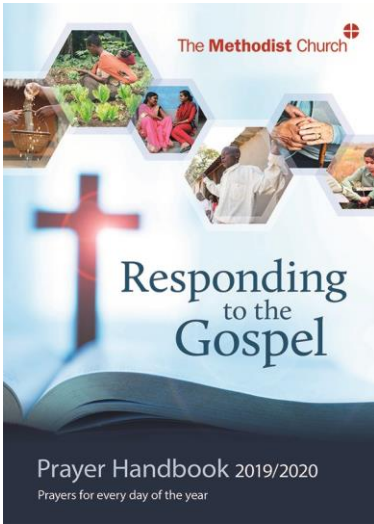
Video: A prayer from the President of the Methodist Conference

The Revd Dr Barbara Glasson reads a prayer for our global partners during the current crisis.



[Reflections](#)

[Parliament](#)



In the coming week, the 2019/2020 Methodist Prayer Handbook, 'Responding to the Gospel' encourages us to pray with All Creation and with Christians around the world. The theme for next week's [A Word in Time Bible studies](#) is "Enduring Love". [Order your Prayer Handbook here.](#)



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