

The Methodist News

6 August 2020

Hello everyone and welcome to The Methodist News.

Yours, in prayer,

[The Communications team](#)

Guidance



Worship and re-opening churches during the pandemic

There are suggestions for worship opportunities and worship sheets to print at home [here](#). There is also a short act of [spiritual communion](#).

There is also a range of [resources](#) for open air worship, advice on face coverings, weddings, house groups and wider community use of church buildings. A service to celebrate a return to public worship, Beyond Exile, can be found [here](#).



Face coverings

The government's guidance on face coverings has been updated to make it mandatory to wear a covering in places of worship from August the 8th. [Our guidance](#) has been updated accordingly.



Dial a prayer and podcast

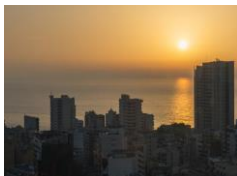
During lockdown we heard that many people didn't have access to online services so we set up free [phone lines](#) that are updated on a Thursday with a new prayer and our podcast. We are delighted that nearly 6000 people have used this service and would ask you to share the numbers with anyone you know who might not wish to use online services.

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to news: 0808 281 2478

News

Prayer



Beirut

As we continue to see and hear reports of devastation in Beirut, we pray for those who are bereaved or injured and for those responding to the catastrophe that has engulfed the city. You can read a prayer from the Revd Ruth Gee, Assistant Secretary of the Conference, [here](#).



New trustee

it has been announced that Revd Dr Jongi Zihle is joining All We Can's board of trustees, acting as the official representative of Methodist Council on the board. Currently Chair of the London District, Jongi has a wealth of exceptional experience and we are honoured that he has chosen to work with All We Can in this way. Read more [here](#).

HSBC



Hong Kong

The Central Finance Board and the Director of Finance and Resources for the Methodist Church have written to their bank, HSBC, concerned at the organisation's continued support for the new security laws introduced by the Chinese government in Hong Kong. Read more [here](#).

Survey



Online engagement

The Communications Team of the Methodist Church are seeking to discover how churches, circuits, districts or other projects across the Connexion have engaged online during lockdown. The aim is to learn from examples of good practice and help equip the Church as the world moves into a new digital era. The survey can be found [here](#).

Evangelism and Growth



Website

The Evangelism and Growth section of the Methodist Church [website](#) has had a makeover. There is new content on church growth, pioneering and congregational discipleship, downloadable resources to help with mission planning, New Places for New People and developing leadership skills. You can also watch all of the 'Mission in Lockdown' webinars on topics such as anti-racism, community engagement and resilient mission-planning.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki



Interfaith statement

A global, joint interfaith statement, signed by 189 Churches and faith organisations, including the Methodist Church, has been released on the 75th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. You can read the statement [here](#).

Methodist Publishing

Resources for the new Connexional Year



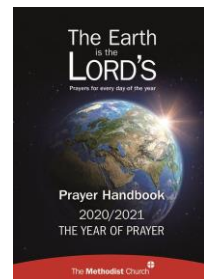
Presidential Diary and Prayer Card

During the Year of Prayer 2020/2021, use the [Presidential Year: diary and prayer card 2020/2021](#) to pray for the President and Vice-President as they represent the Methodist Church during their term in office.



Methodist Diary

[The Methodist Diary 2021](#) is available to pre-order. Publication date is late August, 2020.



Prayer Handbook

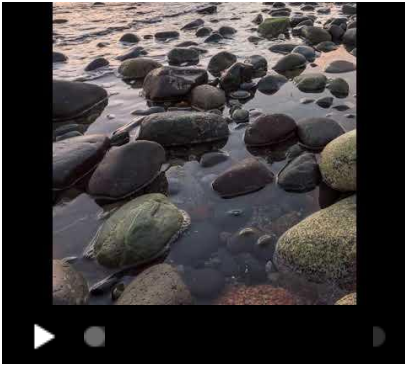
[The Methodist Prayer Handbook 2020/2021](#): The Earth is the LORD's is now available to order.

Media

Video

Podcast

Newsletter



A Prayer for August

The President of the Methodist Conference, Revd Richard Teal shares with us this prayer for the month of August.



The Methodist Podcast

This week we talk to the Central Finance Board about the letter to HSBC, signed by themselves and the Methodist Church, challenging its position on the situation in Hong Kong. We consider the legacy of the atomic weapons detonated above Japan 75 years ago and we hear how the Learning Network are engaging young people with issues of faith through online fitness videos.

Listen [here](#).



Methodist Ministers' Housing Society

The summer edition of Roof 'n' Roots, the newsletter of the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society, is out now with ideas of how to beat the lockdown blues. Roof 'n' Roots can be downloaded free from the [MMHS website](#).

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