

The Methodist News

17 December 2020

Hello everyone and welcome to The Methodist News.

Yours, in prayer,

[The Communications team](#)

Guidance



The government has published guidance for the Christmas period in England, which includes a section on carol singing.

Carol singing is allowed indoors & outdoors by professional and amateur choirs. Guidance has also been released for Christmas celebrations.

Read the guidance [here](#), including links for other nations.

#GodIsWithUs

Christmas service



The Methodist Christmas service on a CD features carols, readings, reflections and short interviews with members of the Methodist family.

Although ordering has now closed, the service is available to stream and download [here](#).

#GodIsWithUs

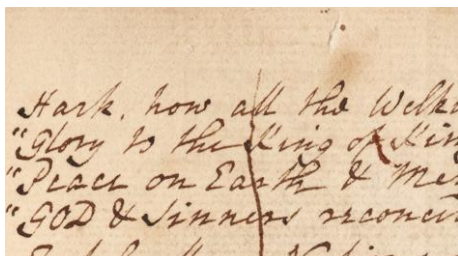


#GodIsWithUs: the first national Christmas campaign brings Methodist churches and charities together.

This year has been unforgettable, but through it all we can say that God is with us. Each of the participants in the video have their own story to tell. Find them [here](#).

News

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



The Global Mission Fellows



What links one of the most rousing Christmas carols, Charles Wesley and instigator of the European printing revolution Johannes Gutenberg? 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing' has an intriguing history...Charlotte Hoare, Special Collections Librarian at the John Ryland's Library, Manchester takes a look. Read [here](#).

Age 20-30? The Global Mission Fellows programme is a great opportunity to serve in another country, live out your faith and develop as a leader, connecting with others from around the world! Find out more & apply by 7 Jan, [here](#).

Action for Children



Secret Santa

This Christmas, vulnerable children in the UK need a Secret Santa more than ever. Be a Secret Santa with Action for Children and you could make sure more children and young people have a hot meal, a present or a safe place to sleep. Read more [here](#).

James Smetham



Blog

With a festive twist, we take a look at the life and work of Methodist artist, James Smetham. Read [here](#).

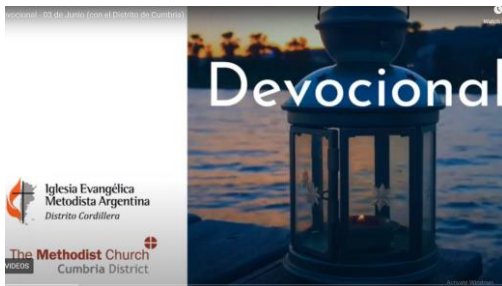
Faith and farming



Blog

Local preacher, Ian Pinhey, is a fifth generation farmer at Upcott in Devon. He shares his faith, thoughts on the role of farming in caring for the environment and what Christmas is like down on the farm in [this blog](#).

Global Relationships



Twinning

The Cumbria district of the Methodist Church have grown in their twinning partnership with the Methodist Church in Argentina during the COVID-19 lockdown. Read their story of mutual growth and watch their shared devotional video [here](#).

Vice-President



Christmas in Guyana

Carolyn Lawrence, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, recalls Christmas as a mission partner in Guyana in [this blog](#).



Voting for the new Youth President closes on 21 December. Voting is via the app or on the [website](#).



Fridays@5:17 will encourage children and young people to pray and listen to God, joining others from local groups, churches and circuits. The wider Church is urged to also join in. The 3Generate Youth Reps chose the time 5:17 because 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says 'Never stop praying'. Fridays@5.17 starts on Friday 1st January. Read more [here](#).

Stop, pray and listen to God on Fridays at 5:17pm. This video tells you all you need to know!





Year of Prayer

Join others across the Methodist Church to pray, every Tuesday from 12.45pm to 1.00pm

Participate



Next week's prayers, Tuesday 22nd December at 12:45, are led by Jonathan Hustler, The Secretary of the Conference. More information about the Year of Prayer can be found [here](#) or use [this direct link](#) to register.

Watch Again



If you missed Tuesday's prayer meeting with Jude Levermore, Head of Mission, you can watch again, [here](#).

Media

The Methodist Podcast



This week, a minister responds to the extreme poverty in her Middlesbrough community, youth elections, a new prayer initiative, drive-in carols and Christmas messages from the President and Vice-President. Listen [here](#).

BBC Radio 2



Dawn Saunders, Channel Island District Chair, gave her Pause for Thought during the OJ Borg show on BBC Radio 2 on Tuesday, listen [here](#), from 2hrs 26 mins.

Guidance



Worship 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](#) and a range of [resources](#) for open air worship, advice on face coverings, weddings, house groups and wider community use of church buildings.

Email: mediaoffice@methodistchurch.org.uk



Guidance

The latest coronavirus updates for churches are available [here](#) and are reviewed regularly following government announcements.