

The Methodist News

23 December 2020

Hello everyone and welcome to The Methodist News.

The last day of business for the Connexional Team is Wednesday, 23 of December, returning to work Monday 4 January.

The out-of-hours media emergency support line will be available throughout Christmas on 07799 902580.

The next edition of the Methodist News will be published on the 7 January.

Wishing you a joyful, prayerful Christmas,

Yours

[The Communications team](#)

New Guidance



Update 20 December 2020

Following the Prime Minister's statement on 19 December 2020, a number of significant changes have been made to restrictions during the Christmas Period and for the rest of 2020.

There are now four Tiers of restrictions across England, with Communal Worship still allowed in all four tiers, but with different restrictions for mixing and attendance in each.

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

President and Vice-President

Presidential visit to Bethlehem



The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have made a virtual visit to Bethlehem. See them meet with our mission partner, chat with residents about life there during the pandemic and enjoy some short films from the city [here](#).

Christmas Messages



Watch the Christmas message from Richard and Carolyn, President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, as we come towards Christmas and the end of the [year](#).

Secretary of the Conference



In a Time of Disappointment

Many of us have had our plans for Christmas changed this year. But Christmas is not cancelled and in this blog from the Secretary of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler shares his thoughts on how we we respond In A Time of Disappointment. Read [here](#).

#GodIsWithUs

#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](#).

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 still available to stream and download [here](#).

News

Why do we sing?



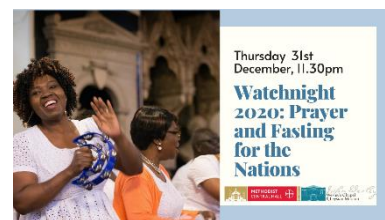
John Wesley encouraged the early Methodists to 'sing lustily and with good courage', an instruction that became a characteristic of Methodism. Dr Martin Clarke, author of *British Methodist Hymnody*, explores why singing is so important to our expression of Christian faith. Read [here](#).

Faith and farming in Devon



In the final blog in our series about faith and farming, we hear from Bridget Down who lives and farms in Devon with her family. Read more [here](#).

Watchnight Service



See out this year and greet the new at 11.30pm on the 31 December with Wesley's Chapel, London. Join them for their annual watchnight service which will be streamed using [this link](#).



Methodist Central Hall Westminster

Methodist Central Hall Westminster will be streaming services on Christmas Eve at 11pm and at 10:30am on Christmas Day. You can watch the services [here](#).

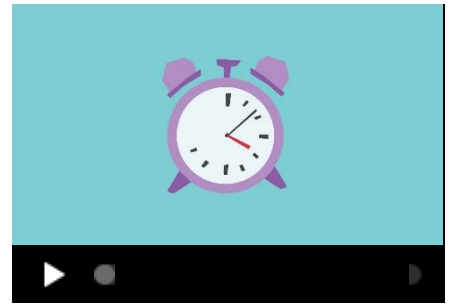
Fridays@5:17



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

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

5:17 because 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says 'Never stop praying'. Fridays@5.17 starts on **Friday 1 January**. Read more [here](#).



Year of Prayer

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

Participate



The first Year of Prayer meeting of the New Year takes place on **Tuesday 5 January** at 12:45 and is led by Deacon Theresa Sam, minister for special projects in Ealing Trinity Circuit, London. 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 Jonathan Hustler, The Secretary of the Conference, you can watch again, [here](#).

Media

The Methodist Podcast



The Methodist Podcast is taking a break until the New Year. You can find all of the year's previous podcasts [here](#).

Dial a Prayer



Freephone lines for prayers and messages from the Methodist Church.

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to the Presidents' Christmas messages:
0808 281 2478

Guidance

Email: mediaoffice@methodistchurch.org.uk