

The Methodist News

3 December 2020

Hello everyone and welcome to The Methodist News.

Yours, in prayer,

[The Communications team](#)

Updated Guidance



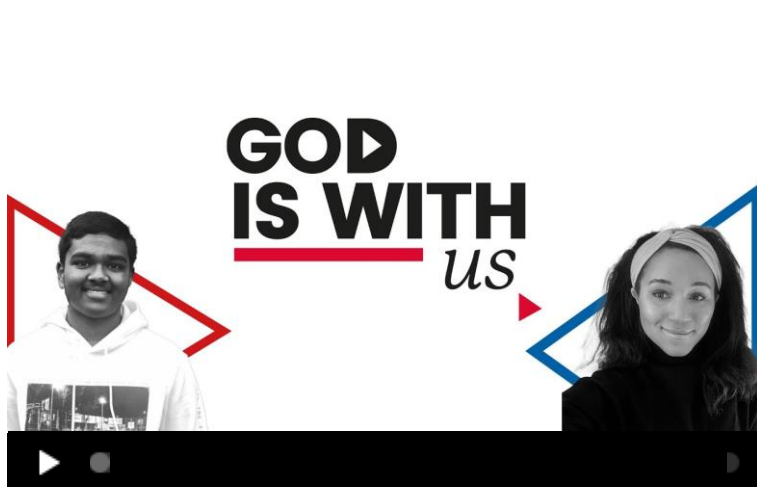
The government has published guidance for the Christmas period in England, which includes a section on carol singing.

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 other nations.

#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](#).

#GodIsWithUs CD and Resources



There is still time to order the Christmas Service on a CD but this is the last chance to buy as stock is running out fast! The service will be available to download and stream from mid-December.

You can order this, and other resources, [here](#).

News

Government



West London Mission



Global Relationships Committee



Faith Engagement Survey

The government's Faith Engagement Adviser is leading a review into how the government should engage with faith groups in England. The call for evidence poses a series of questions around how those of all faiths, or none, perceive the government's engagement with faith organisations. You can complete the survey [here](#).

#AreYouOK

The West London Mission has launched a new digital campaign, #AreYouOk, to raise awareness and funds for vulnerable people at this difficult time for so many. Read more [here](#).

Chair

The Methodist Council is seeking applications for a new Chair of the Global Relationships Committee. This voluntary role is an appointment of the Methodist Council. The closing date is 12pm on Monday 14 December 2020. Read more [here](#).

Domestic Abuse



Webinar

The Methodist Church held its first domestic abuse webinar with over 450 delegates. Contributors included the Commissioner for Domestic Violence, Mandy Marshall from the charity Restored and the President and Vice President of the Conference. [Watch again here](#).

Sports Chaplaincy UK



Carol Service

A virtual Christmas carol services hosted by Sports Chaplaincy UK and Hope Together takes place on Tuesday 15 December at 7.30pm and Sunday 20 December at 6.00pm, online and on social media, SCUUK will be offering a full Virtual Christmas Carol service, with readings from the community of sport, music including the Blessing sung by children across the UK and Christmas messages from UK Christian Leaders. Find out more [here](#).

Young Preacher Weekend



Communications

Frontline - the event for young communicators in the Methodist Church takes place on the 3 February. If you are a preacher or evangelist, a worship leader or small group leader then sign-up for an evening of inspiration and training, an opportunity to share with others and to be equipped. Register [here](#).

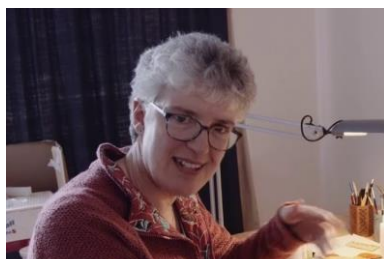
Global Relationships



Guatemala

How does the media shape women's identity in Guatemala? Read about the impact in [this](#) article.

Mission



at home

The Revd Rachel Parkinson, Chair of the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District, shares how the people of the Methodist Church in her area have brought mission home through the pandemic. Read [here](#).

Scotland



Coronavirus

Jill Baker, Chair of the Methodist Council, reflects on life in the Methodist Church in Scotland during 2020 in [this blog](#).

National Methodist Youth Brass Band



Methodist Ecumenical Office



Charity Commission



Christmas Concert

The National Methodist Youth Brass Band virtual Christmas concert is to be premiered on YouTube this Saturday. You will be able to watch [here](#).

Rome

The Methodist Ecumenical Office Rome is hosting a special 1-hour webinar on Thursday, 10 December on the international Methodist-Catholic bilateral dialogue. In this webinar entitled "God in Christ Reconciling: Methodist and Catholic Understandings of Reconciliation," the webinar will explore the recent work of the Methodist-Roman Catholic International Commission. To learn more about the webinar, visit the MEOR [website](#).

Exception extended

Methodist charities with gross annual incomes under £100,000 in England and Wales are 'excepted' from registration with the Charity Commission. The Government and Charity Commission have now confirmed that the Regulations will be extended for ten years, until 31 March 2031. Read more [here](#).



Registration to vote in the 3Generate elections closes on 5 December. Children and young people aged 8-17 years must be registered by either their group leader or parent/carer.



Voting is now open for both the Youth President 2021/22 and the 3Generate Youth Representatives.

[Find out how to vote and more here.](#)

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 8 December at 12:45, are led by Revd Teddy Siwila from the Wolverhampton Circuit. Read more and register [here](#).

Watch



If you missed Tuesday's prayer meeting with the Deacon Stephen Roe of Synod Cymru, who led the meeting partly in Welsh, you can watch again, with a BSL translation, [here](#).

Media

[The Methodist Podcast](#)

[BBC Bristol](#)

[BBC Radio 2](#)



This week, we hear about the Methodist Christmas campaign for 2020, #GodIsWithUs, we learn about a service to remember those who have died in hospital and discuss the winner of this year's Bake Off. Listen [here](#).



Revd Philip Turner, Deputy Team Chaplain at Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust spoke to BBC Bristol about his Light and Love service. Listen [here](#) from 3hrs 54mins



Channel Island District Chair Revd Dawn Saunders broadcast a Pause for Thought on the OJ Borg programme on BBC Radio 2 on the 2 December. Listen [here](#) from 1hr 29 mins.

Premier



UK church leaders, including the Methodist Presidents, and 57,000 others urge PM to set bolder targets for cutting emissions. Read [here](#).

Oxford Mail



[Read about](#) the fundraising book of humorous cartoons that has been published in time for Christmas by Jim Godfrey at Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, Oxford.

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.



Guidance

The latest coronavirus updates for churches are available here, and are updated regularly following government announcements.

[Read the latest guidance on England's new tier system here.](#)

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