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The Methodist News

11 March 2021

Hello everyone and welcome to the Methodist News.

Please note the updated government guidance regarding 'out of school settings for children' in England that can be found [here](#).

Yours,

[The Communications team](#)

International Women's Day

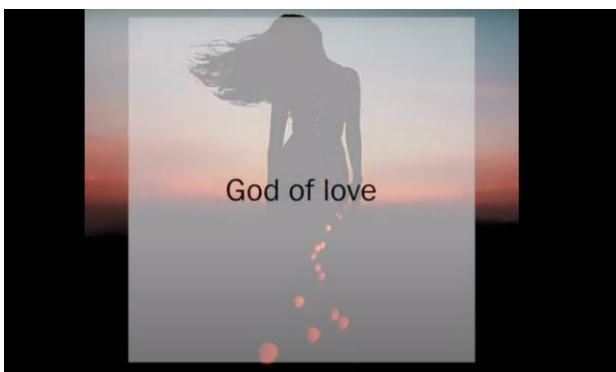
This week, the Methodist Church marked International Women's Day



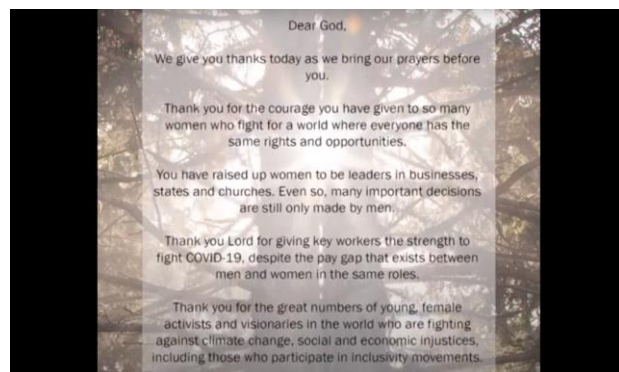
Women have always been vital to Methodism, from supporting mission and teaching, through to preaching and evangelism, it's not hard to find women in the Connexional collections of the Methodist Church, held at the John Rylands Library in Manchester. Read more in this [article](#).

"It was difficult to persuade them that someone could be married with children and have time to do ministry." To mark International Women's Day, the Revd Dr Kathleen Richardson, the first female President of the Methodist Conference, discusses her career. Watch [here](#).

Prayers for International Women's Day



Written and read by Joy Nnamani, a steward at Deptford Methodist Mission, and a powerlifter who has travelled all over the world for competitions. Watch [here](#).



Written and read by Nora Viacava, the National Coordinator of Methodist Women in Argentina. Watch [here](#).

Easter Celebration Service

The Easter Celebration Service on a CD includes Easter hymns, readings and reflections from the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference. Orders are now closed and the CD is currently being distributed. You can download the Easter Celebration Service as an MP3 [here](#).



News

Global Relationships



The Global Relationships team now have their own quarterly e-Newsletter. You can read the first edition [here](#) and sign up for future editions [here](#).

Next Steps in Evangelism and Growth



A new booklet from the Evangelism and Growth team provides an overview of some of the key programmes and resources to help churches, circuits, districts, and leaders take an intentional step into action. Paper copies will be distributed widely in the post in May, but you can download and share an online version now [here](#).

Myanmar



The President of the Methodist Conference has recorded [this](#) prayer in solidarity with the people of Myanmar. You can read how the Christian charity Cord is working to support the people of Myanmar and the #marchformyanmar [here](#).

Coronavirus National Day of Reflection



Since the beginning of the pandemic, many thousands of people have died and millions have been bereaved.

On the 23 March, the anniversary of the first UK lockdown, a National Day of Reflection is planned to mark our collective loss and support those who have been bereaved. You can read more about the event, being organised by Marie Curie, [here](#). If your church is planning to participate, the Communications Team would like to hear, email us [here](#).

Census

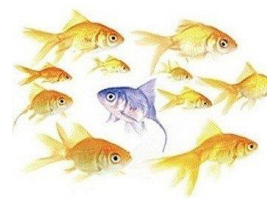


The census is a survey about all the households in England and Wales. The next census takes place on Sunday 21 March 2021.

Everyone must complete the census which helps to decide how public services are funded in your area.

You can find out more information regarding the census [here](#).

Chaplaincy



A Kaleidoscope of Faith Exchanges and Spiritual Interactions, this webinar is the second e-event looking at the changing needs of chaplaincy in the challenging times of Covid. 'No longer can we remain in silo-land... we must share and pull together for the good of humanity.' You can read more about the online event, that takes place on the 16 March, [here](#).

Lent



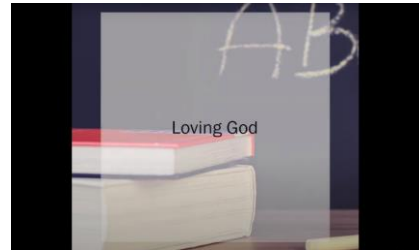
Methodist Youth President, Phoebe Parkin, considers Lent and her theme of "God's World, Our Home" in [this](#) blog.

Local Elections



The lessons of lockdown have shown how many congregations in the UK are now ideally resourced to help their neighbourhoods to engage with the upcoming elections in 2021. You can find out more about how to do this from the Joint Public Issues website. Read their introduction to the local elections [here](#) and their blog on hustings [here](#).

Schools



A prayer for those returning to school, and those already back - written and read by Phoebe Parkin, Youth President 2020/2021. Watch [here](#).

Year of Prayer

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

Participate



Next Tuesday's service will be led by Sally Rush, community worker with young adults at Wesley's Chapel and local preacher. More information about the Year of Prayer can be found [here](#) or use this [direct link](#) to register.

Watch Again



This week's Year of Prayer service was led by Revd Margaret Mwilu. Margaret trained at Luther King House, Manchester and currently serves in the Derbyshire North East Circuit, Sheffield District. You can watch the service again, [here](#).

Media

The Methodist Podcast



As some children and young people return to school, the latest edition of The Methodist Podcast considers the impact of the pandemic on education. We talk to a head teacher, a parent, pupils, the Methodist Youth President and the principal of Cliff College. Listen [here](#).

'Dial-a-Prayer' phonelines



Prayer: 0808 281 2514

Pastoral message from the President and Vice-President: 0808 281 2695

Methodist Podcast: 0808 281 2478

You can download a print-and-cut-out sheet with details to send to others [here](#)

BBC Jersey



Revd Dawn Saunders, Channel Island District Chair, discussed LGBT+ issues and same sex marriage on BBC Radio Jersey. Listen [here](#) from 1hr 38mins

BBC Radio Two



Our Director of Evangelism and Growth, Revd Trey Hall, was Pausing for Thought with Vanessa Feltz on BBC Radio Two last Friday when he considered World Book Day. Listen [here](#) from 1hr 16mins.

Video and Audio resources



Have a look at this week's video and audio content that can be downloaded and used in online worship, e-newsletters or social media. We update the page twice-weekly with audio reflections and prayers from the President and Vice President and interviews from our podcasts. Find the resources [here](#).

Guidance



Government guidance for 'Out of School Settings for children' in England has been updated, which may affect some churches. You can read this guidance [here](#).

As restrictions continue, read the latest guidance [here](#), including links for other nations.

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