

The Methodist News

22 April 2021

Hello everyone and welcome to the Methodist News.

Yours,

[The Communications team](#)

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 Revd Dr Deji Okegbile, Chaplain, Nigerian Methodist Chaplaincy UK and Ireland, and minister of Askew Road Church in the Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham Circuit. 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 Matthew Forsyth, the All We Can Church and Volunteers Officer for London and South East. You can watch the service again, [here](#).

News

Stephen Lawrence Day



On the 22 April 1993, Stephen Lawrence, a black teenager who lived in South London, was killed in a racially motivated attack. His murder and the failings of the subsequent police investigation opened the country's eyes to the extent of racism in the UK.

In [this blog](#) to mark Stephen Lawrence Day, Bevan Powell, the Connexional Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity Officer, considers the on-going work to make society a just place for all and the impact of the recent government report on racial disparity.

You can find prayers to mark the day [here](#) from Bevan Powell and [here](#) from Revd Helen Watson, Superintendent Minister at Trinity Methodist Church, Plumstead, where a glass panel celebrates Stephen's life.

Earth Day

Today is Earth Day. In the first of a series of blogs, the Revd Simon Topping calls for a new way of thinking of climate justice.

Read [here](#).

You can watch a video prayer for Earth Day [here](#).



India - Covid



The Global Relationships team have received an update and request for prayer from the General Secretary of the Church of South India as the country struggles to cope with a surging Covid 19 second wave. You can read the request and a full report on the situation in South India [here](#).

Census of Youth Activities



The National Youth Agency are undertaking a census of youth sector activities to help inform the upcoming spending review and shape strategies. It is important that this census shows the breadth of youth work that the faith sector is offering. Details and registration can be found [here](#).

Youth work lockdown and beyond



The Children, Youth and Family team have updated their web pages on [Resources for lockdown and beyond](#).

This includes a complete review of the [Changing times](#) pages which offers advice and guidance on step 2 of the government roadmap and some 'things to think about' for youth workers.

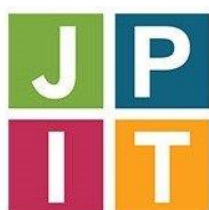
What is God asking of us now?



If you missed the recent webinar, Community engagement beyond lockdown: What is God asking of us now?, you can watch again [here](#).

Eunice and Emma from the E&G Team talk to Sarah Wallace from the Just Finance Foundation, Martin Graham from As One and Rachel Jordan-Wolf from HOPE Together.

Public Issues Lead



The Methodist Church is seeking a project and people manager with expertise in public policy issues, social justice campaigns and team management to serve as Interim Methodist Public Issues Lead in the ecumenical Joint Public Issues Team for a period of two years. Read more about the position [here](#).

Wesley House PhD scholarship



Wesley House Cambridge

Wesley House is pleased to announce a PhD scholarship for a full time student starting in September 2021 to research Wesleyan leadership, ministry or supervision. You will study and live in Wesley House full time for three years, under the academic supervision of Dr Jane Leach. Details are available [here](#).

The Free Churches Group Revd Helen Cameron



Aldersgate quiet mornings



Vocations Sunday



This month, Revd Helen Cameron, Chair of the Northampton District, became the Moderator Elect of the Free Church Group and the Free Church President Elect of Churches Together in England. In [this blog](#) Helen details who the Free Churches Group are and what do they do.

Two Reflect quiet mornings are to take place for Aldersgate on the 22nd and the 24th May 2021, 9.30am-12.15pm, via Zoom.

This is the first part of two quiet morning events exploring Wesley's spiritual journey. Part two will be held in the early autumn.

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

Vocations Sunday, 2 May, is a time to celebrate the vocations of those whose call is in gathered church, as well as those whose call is in scattered church.

Are you preaching on 2nd May?

Have you considering sharing your calling story with the congregation? If so, why not share a story that expresses your sense of calling in 2021? Read more [here](#).

Gardening



Find out how you can create a beautiful outdoor space in your community, church yard or school ground and see how three communities have transformed their outdoor space for both people and wildlife [here](#), courtesy of the Bible Society.

Racism and the Methodist Church



'Racism and the Methodist Church: Going Beyond A Theology of Good Intentions' is a lecture by Professor Anthony G. Reddie, Director of the Oxford Centre for Religion and Culture. Taking place on Friday 14 May, the lecture will explore the subterranean theological constructs of whiteness, which have assisted in framing white entitlement as a religio-cultural norm in the life of the Methodist Church over the past three centuries. Read more [here](#).

Young and called?



Young and called? Paul Boateng is a local preacher and was the UK's first black cabinet minister. To young people of colour asking vocational questions, he says; "We must never accept any limitation on our own potential."

You can watch his inspiring video [here](#).

Myanmar



The Revd Susan McIvor of Nottingham and Derby District has had links with the Methodist Church in Upper Myanmar since 1998 and visited many times. She has written [this prayer](#) in response to the current situation there.

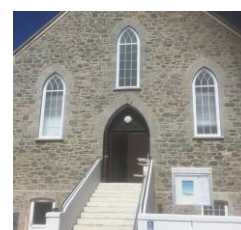
Police, community and young people



'Blue is the colour: The police, community and young people in Britain and Ireland' webinar will take place on Wednesday 5 May at 7.30pm.

Organised by CTBI, the webinar will explore police engagement with communities and young people. It will focus in particular on racism, "stop and search" and related law and order issues. Read more [here](#).

Alderney Methodist Church



Alderney Methodist Church is seeking an ordained presbyter or supernumerary for a half-time position on the Channel Island of Alderney.

The position includes pastoral responsibility for Alderney Methodist Church and to serve the island community. You can read more [here](#).

Media

The Methodist Podcast



In this podcast to mark Earth Day, we hear about the eco-district initiative and the importance of the COP 26 climate summit. The youth president tells us how young Methodists feel about the planet they are going to inherit and we consider meta ethics, faith and the environment over the kitchen table. 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

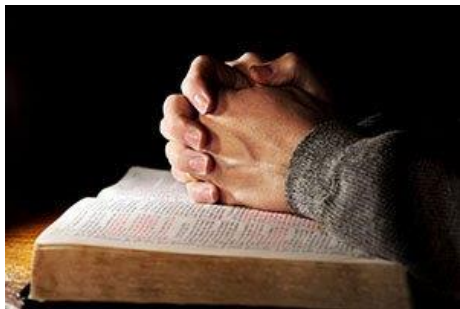
You can download a print-and-cut-out sheet with details to send to others [here](#)

Premier Radio



The Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, Carolyn Lawrence, was interviewed this week on Premier Radio about Facebook Live, ethical shopping, party Jesus and the people and Scriptures that inspire her. Listen [here](#).

Spiritual sustenance in isolation



During this time of 'lockdown' a special page on our website signposts you to resources to help nourish your spiritual life.

These are mostly resources that are provided centrally but you can also check what your local church or circuit is providing.

Click [here](#).

Guidance



The government has updated the [Safe Use of Places of Worship](#) guidance to include details of how restrictions will be lifted for churches in England. Updates for [Step 2](#) on 12 April 2021 included:

Funerals are limited to 30 people, weddings & civil partnership ceremonies, wakes and wedding receptions are limited to 15 people. Children and youth activities are allowed.

Further information can be found on [Coronavirus Guidance for Property](#). Please note that this is only for England. In Scotland, please refer to the [Timetable for Easing Restrictions](#). In Wales, please refer to the [Restrictions during our Gradual Move Out of Lockdown](#)

