

The Methodist News

15 July 2021

Hello everyone and welcome to the Methodist News.

Yours,

[The Communications team](#)

Coronavirus update



As restrictions ease, the government plan is to enable the public to make informed decisions. We are keen ministers and leadership teams do likewise. We offer [these guidelines](#) to help you, and your leadership teams make decisions linked to your local context.

Evangelism and Growth

Sticky Theology



This summer a series of Facebook Lives explores different perspectives on some hot button theological topics. You might not get a definitive answer, but you'll go away with lots to think about. You don't need a theology degree to take part in these discussions; in fact if you do have one, we'd love you to invite a friend who doesn't!

22nd July: Why is Jesus relevant today?
Rev Dr Jo Cox Darling, Rev Dr Raj Patta and Rev Ashley Cooper. More information [here](#).

Seeking Evangelists



We are recruiting Methodists to join the Community of Evangelists, launching in September 2021 offering support to people gifted as Evangelists.

An Evangelist could be somebody in a formal ministry role, or somebody who informally engages in evangelism – but either way, evangelism (in diverse expressions) is their thing! And do pass this onto anyone who may wish to apply. Find out more [here](#).

Church at the Margins



- Life on the Breadline is a research project analysing the nature, scope, and impact of Christian engagement with urban poverty in the UK. This webinar, at 7pm on Tuesday 20th July, is hosted by Paul Morrison, Policy Adviser, Joint Public Issues Team and Eunice Attwood, Church at the Margins Officer, Evangelism and Growth Team. The event asks the question: What is God's invitation to us in responding to this research? Find out more [here](#).

News

3Generate Tickets released



Tickets are [now available](#) for 3Generate, the children and youth assembly, that takes place at the NEC Birmingham from Friday 29th – Sunday 31st October 2021.

Young people can opt to stay overnight in camping villages for the weekend, travel to and from the venue daily but not be residential or join in, just for the day, on Saturday 30th October.

Presidency and Youth President condemn racism following Euros



The Revd Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton, President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, and Phoebe Parkin, the Youth President have issued statements responding to the racist attacks against England team members after the Euro 2020 final. Read [here](#).

Reaction to Commons' vote on aid budget reduction



A statement has been released on behalf of the Methodist Church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the United Reformed Church following the vote by the House of Commons to impose new financial tests before restoring the legal commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income on aid. Read [here](#).

God's World. Our Home



Phoebe Parkin, the Youth President, has launched new resources as part of her theme for the year, God's World Our Home. The resources help young people explore challenging topics and take action for climate justice. Discover more [here](#).

Worship At Home Resources



The weekly [Worship at Home](#) sheets introduced at the start of the pandemic have been downloaded, distributed by post, by hand and by email many thousands of times. Following requests by ministers and circuits, the Ministries Team is delighted to announce that these acts of worship will continue until the end of 2021.

Cliff Weekend



- Cliff College have announced they will not be going ahead with the Big Cliff Weekend on 24-25 July due to rising Covid case numbers. Click [here](#) for more information.

What has God called ME to Do?



Daud Irfan, (who becomes the next Methodist Youth President this autumn) leads us in a brief message about the calling and vocation God has planned for young people in the body of Christ, by highlighting teaching from scripture, sharing action points and offering prayer points. Watch [here](#).

Church Tourism



An informative hour of training from the National Churches Trust tourism team will help you discover the many ways your church could benefit from tourism. Taking place on Wednesday, 28 July, you can book and read more [here](#).

Pray for Haiti



Haiti's President, Jovenel Moïse, was killed by assailants at his home on 7 July. The interim Prime Minister, Claude Joseph has declared martial law and instructed citizens to stay at home. Sandra Lopez from the Global Relationships team has contacted the Haiti District of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas. Read her update and pray [here](#).

Woven Weekend

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The London District's Woven Weekend will be taking place on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th July. Speakers include Revd Dr Elaine Heath, Youth President Phoebe Parkin. Sunday's worship will be led by Professor Anthony Reddie. There will also be a chance to attend one of many workshops exploring the Woven theme of 'God's Story, Your Story, Every Story'. All events are free. For more information and to register visit the [London District website](#).

Wes Talks



- What does a pilgrimage entail and how can it change someone's life? For July's Wes Talk from the New Room, the Revd Steve Manskar and Melanie Gordon, Co-Leaders of the United Methodist Church's Annual Wesley Pilgrimage, explore why the experience of being a pilgrim is still an important one. The talk takes place online on the 19th July 2021 at 7:30 pm. Click [here](#) for more details and to book.

Walking With Micah



The [Walking With Micah](#) project launched on 13th June with a lecture by the Rt Hon Gordon Brown, entitled Justice and Hope. You can watch it again [here](#).

As we begin this project, we would love to hear from you – what would you like to see from the project, and how might we best hear you and support you? Fill in our short questionnaire [here](#) to help us gather ideas.

Media

The Methodist Podcast



The Theology of Safeguarding report received by the Methodist Conference considered safeguarding in the context of faith. To discuss the report, the Methodist Podcast talks with Tim Carter, Director of Safeguarding; Vivian, a survivor of abuse, local preacher and member of the Methodist survivor's group and Nicola Price-Tebbutt, the Secretary of Faith and Order Committee. Listen [here](#).

Foreign aid budget



JPIT policy adviser, Steve Hucklesby, spoke to UCB radio about the Commons' vote on the foreign aid budget. Listen [here](#).

Inflation and Universal Credit cut combine to hurt poorest



Paul Morrison, a policy advisor at the Joint Public Issues Team, tells Dave Piper from Trans World Radio of his fear for the most vulnerable in our society as inflation hits 2.5% while cuts are planned to Universal Credit. Listen [here](#).

Spiritual sustenance in isolation



During this time 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](#).

'Dial-a-Prayer' phonelines

Prayer: 0808 281 2514

Methodist Podcast: 0808 281 2478

Pastoral message from the President and Vice-President: 0808 281 2695 (Please note - content on this phonenumber will resume in September and there is currently a holding message to that effect)



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

Guidance



The government has updated the Guidance for Weddings & Civil Partnerships in England following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday.

It states: From 21 June, there will no longer be a maximum number cap for attendees set out in law. Instead, the number of attendees at weddings, civil partnerships and receptions will be determined by how many people the venue or space can safely accommodate with social distancing measures in place. This will be based on the COVID-19 risk assessment of the venue or outdoor space, and the measures put in place to limit the spread of COVID-19.

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](#)

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