

The Methodist News

1 July 2021

Hello everyone and welcome to the Methodist News.

Yours,

[The Communications team](#)

The Methodist Conference 24 June - 1 July 2021

The Methodist Conference is available to watch again online [here](#).

President and Vice-President elected and inducted



The new President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton were elected and inducted. Read more [here](#).

Conference confirms resolutions on marriage and relationships



Following prayerful consideration by the whole Church, the Methodist Conference has voted to confirm provisional resolutions on the principles or qualities of good relating, [understanding of cohabitation](#) and [same sex marriages conducted on Methodist premises or by Methodist office-holders](#). Read more [here](#).

Ordinations



You can watch the weekend's ordinations again using the links below.

[Kenilworth Methodist Church](#)

[Shirley Methodist Church](#)

[Solihull Methodist Church](#)

[Central Hall Methodist Church, Walsall](#)

[The Methodist Church at Coventry Central Hall](#)

Justice, Dignity and Solidarity



The Methodist Conference has voted to adopt a far-reaching Strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity, underpinned by Methodist theology, which will see “a profound change in the culture, practices and attitudes of the Methodist Church”. Read more [here](#).

Youth President and 3Generate



In her report to the Methodist Conference, Youth President Phoebe Parkin detailed the impact of the pandemic on young lives and spoke of how young people should not just be heard in their churches, but be listened to. Read more [here](#).

President and Vice-President for 2022-23



The Methodist Conference has elected the Revd Graham Thompson and Anthony Boateng to serve as President and Vice-President for 2022-23. Read more [here](#).

Connexional Secretary



Doug Swanney, discusses the Conference and his role as the Connexional Secretary, in conversation with the Revd Jenny Pathmarajah.

Watch [here](#).

Secretary of the Methodist Conference



The Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Methodist Conference, chats with the Revd Jenny Pathmarajah about the work of the Conference.

Watch [here](#).

Educational Strategy



The Revd Dr Roger Walton discusses the Schools' Educational Strategy report to the Methodist Conference, with the Revd Jenny Pathmarajah.

Watch [here](#).

Year of Prayer

Participate



The last Year of Prayer service on Tuesday 6 July has been extended and will take place from 12.45 to 1.15. This final service will focus on some of the testimonies and reflections on rhythms of prayer in personal and church life. More information about the Year of Prayer can be found [here](#) or use this [direct link](#) to register.

We'd love to hear what difference the Year of Prayer has made for you. What impact does it have on your week? How have you seen prayers answered? Have you been inspired to embed rhythms of prayer in your own life? Let us know: [email us](#) or record a quick video on The Story Project [here](#).

Watch Again



This week's Year of Prayer service was led by Tim Baker, Churches and Volunteers Manager at All We Can. You can watch the service again [here](#).

News

Marriage and Relationships FAQ's



On 30 June the Methodist Conference voted to confirm provisional resolutions on same sex marriages conducted on Methodist premises or by Methodist office-holders. A resource of frequently

Pastoral Letter



The President and Vice-President have issued [this](#) pastoral message following the Conference vote on Marriage and Relationships.

Sermon of the Year



Catharine Hughes, a Methodist local preacher at Mobberley Methodist Church has been announced as winner of

asked questions about the report and its implementation can be found [here](#).

World Council of Churches Communicators



World Council of Churches

The World Council of Churches (WCC) invites communicators from around the globe to be part of a professional online communication team to support the WCC 11th Assembly in 2022. They are looking for both young communicators between 18 and 30 years old and senior, more full-fledged communicators, to assist us in covering the assembly through multiple WCC communication channels globally. Read more [here](#).

Prisons Week 10-16 October



In preparation for Prisons Week this autumn, churches are invited to hear about this year's campaign, its theme and the prayer resources available, and to consider how we can best encourage others to pray.

This online event takes place Tuesday 20 July 2021 at 10:30am, register [here](#).

Tree of hope



At the end of their challenging year, which has prevented them from meeting Methodist people in person, the now ex President and Vice-President of the Methodist Church, Revd Richard Teal and Carolyn have commissioned a tree of hope at The Queen's Foundation in Edgbaston. Read [here](#).

Media

BBC Local Radio



The President of the Methodist Conference, Revd Sonia Hicks and Kieran Bohan from the Open Table Network, discussed the vote on God in Love Unites Us on a number of BBC Local radio stations. You can listen to the discussion on BBC Radio Merseyside [here](#).

BBC Radio 4

The Sunday Programme



The President of the Methodist Conference, Revd Sonia Hicks was heard on BBC Radio 4's Sunday programme discussing God In Love Unites Us. Listen [here](#) from 1 min 10 sec.

Sunday Night Live



Last week's Sunday Night Live featured a report from Deacon Angleena Keizer in Jerusalem following the recent conflict between Israel and Gaza, and an interview with the new President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Sonia Hicks. Watch [here](#).

The Voice



Sonia's appointment made her the first female black President of the Methodist Conference in Britain, as reported in [this article](#) from The Voice.

BBC News



BBC News reported that the Methodist Church has become the largest religious denomination in Britain to permit same-sex marriages. Read more [here](#).

BBC local radio



This Sunday, Revd Jenny Pathmarajah will be leading the 08.00 service on all [BBC local radio](#) stations. This week's service is about change and includes members of Jenny's Guide unit on the island of Jersey.



This week's Methodist podcast reports from the Methodist Conference. We hear about the historic vote on marriage and relationships, talk with the new President and Vice-President, discuss online communion, look at the JDS report and hear from the Methodist Youth President. 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](#).

'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](#)

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](#)