

The Methodist News

12 August 2021

Hello everyone and welcome to the Methodist News.

Yours,
[The Communications team](#)

News

Stories of Change Hope, Faith and Love



Between Saturday 4 September and Sunday 3 October 2021, the Methodist Modern Art Collection will be displayed as an Art Trail across churches in Coventry and Nuneaton for City of Culture. The trail consists of 34 selected works, providing unique moments of healing and contemplation. For more information and timings for each church, please click [here](#).

All We Can



What are your next steps as a church or individual? That's the question All We Can are asking us to consider as they invite us to take the next steps alongside communities facing Covid-19 and climate change.

Find worship materials, prayer resources and more [here](#).

CTE: New Presidents



[Churches Together in England](#) has announced the appointment of new incoming Presidents. Archbishop Nikitas, of the Ecumenical Patriarchate Archdiocese of Thyateira and the United Kingdom, will be the new Orthodox President. Bishop Tedroy Powell of the Church of God of Prophecy, will be the new Pentecostal and Charismatic President. Revd Helen Cameron, Methodist Chair of the Northampton District, will succeed Rev Dr Hugh Osgood, the current Free Church President and Moderator of the Free Churches Group, of which Helen Cameron is the Moderator-elect.

Season of Creation: JPIT resources



The Season of Creation runs from 1 September – 4 October each year. JPIT has created a suite of resources to support churches in preparation for this special time when they are encouraged to focus on creation in their worship, and explore the joys and challenges of living responsibly as part of God's creation. For many churches this falls over harvest, the perfect time to explore this, and this year the run up to COP26 makes it even more apt. Find out more [here](#).

Take Part

Youth Mental Health First Aid training



Conference on disability and Church

The 10th annual conference on disability and church, *Still Calling from the Edge*, takes place online on Sat, 16 October 2021. The event is a space for disabled people to gather and resource each other and the Church through

Climate Sunday



The Children, Youth and Families Team have arranged online Youth Mental Health First Aid training for parents and carers of secondary school aged children. The four sessions will run from 10am to 12.30pm on 16, 18, 23 and 25 November, with self-guided learning to complete ahead of each session. [Book early to avoid disappointment](#). The cost covers the price of the course materials (which will be posted to your home address).

art, music, story and theology, in plenary talks, small groups, workshops and liturgy.

Read more and book [here](#).

Over the past year, over 1600 churches from a number of denominations have held a Climate Sunday service, to worship, commit and speak up on the climate crisis. On 5 September, we'll gather together to celebrate all we've achieved, and present our commitments to government. Join us online [here](#). Find out more about Climate Sunday and our other environment resources [here](#).

Evangelism and Growth

Sticky Theology



God's will, free will, the reason for suffering... all pretty sticky things to discuss, we know! Well, here's the recording of our 'Sticky Theology' debate on the topic of: 'does everything happen for a reason?' with host Revd Simon Sutcliffe and panellists Professor Clive Marsh and Deacon Eunice Attwood.

This is part of our summer series exploring different perspectives on 'sticky' theological topics. Don't expect concrete answers – do expect to go away with lots to think about. Watch it [here](#).

Pioneers around the Connexion



This week we feature another creative story of pioneers in their local communities – Geraldine Allen and Sarah Rodgers, who joined [Pioneering Pathways](#) at the beginning of 2020, talk about [The Hive in Norfolk](#), and their quest for a new and meaningful language about spirituality. Read [here](#).

Features

Southern Africa: Community support



Read [here](#) how the the Methodist Church in Southern Africa is working with those affected by the recent unrest in the region using assistance provided by the World Mission Fund.

Retired ministers feature in a new series of films



A new series of inspiring videos about retired Methodist ministers – 'Stories From The Society' – has been produced. Featuring former President Revd Richard Teal, 'Strictly Elvis' chaplain Revd Derek Aldridge and Meryl Bedford, who contributed to the Christmas campaign 2020 'God Is With Us'. You can view the films [here](#).

Refugees in Lampedusa



As people take the dangerous journey across the English Channel in flimsy boats, there is much that we can learn from our Church partners in Italy and the Mediterranean Hope project. Read more [here](#).

Prayer



A prayer for those awaiting exam results, by Phoebe Parkin, Methodist Youth President. Watch [here](#).

Media

The Methodist Podcast



Parents are already having to think about how they will afford uniforms for the return to school this September. With schools now considering themselves "brands", the costs involved in meeting a school's demands can be considerable. In this week's Methodist Podcast we talk to two Methodist churches who are helping families by recycling school uniforms. Listen [here](#).

Pause for Thought



The Reverend Dawn Saunders Paused For Thought on Radio Two on Monday morning to consider this week's theme 'Reaping What You Sow'. 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' phonedines



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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