

The Methodist News

25 November 2021

Hello everyone and welcome to the Methodist News.

Yours,

[The Communications team](#)

Advent and Christmas

Great joy for all the people!

Recognising everyone's fatigue and the Covid-19-related uncertainty that surrounds the approach of Christmas, this year the Methodist Church is encouraging congregations to simply reach out to their communities with the angel's message – to near neighbours and to people living on the margins.

Resources for Christmas 2021

To help you to pray and connect with your community this Christmas, we have a number of resources available, all featuring Nativity, a painting by Dr He Qi – a Chinese artist living in California, USA including posters and postcards. This year's Christmas Service on a CD, God's Table: an Invitation for All is also available. Click to [order](#) resources.

Contemporary Reflections

Throughout Advent, we will post a series of contemporary reflections online, linking Luke 2:10 with characters in this painting, and current affairs and concerns in Britain and around the world. These will be available [here](#) and on our social media channels, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).



News

A prayer for those whose lives were ended in the English Channel

Following the tragic deaths of 27 people in the English Channel, the Revd Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton, the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, have offered a prayer. Read [here](#).



Evangelism and Growth

Hope and Anchor

You can watch last week's Hope and Anchor with special guest, Marcelo Leites, General Secretary of the World Student Christian Federation. [here](#).

Next week, join us on Tuesday at 12:45 when when we chat with Methodist Youth President, Daud Irfan. Find out more about Hope and Anchor and details of how to register for email news alerts about the show [here](#).



Church planting intensive

Residential event: Cliff College, 4-6 February 2022 (then monthly online)

We are keen to equip our pioneers and planters. A key part of this is the launch of our Church Planting Intensive. The Church Planting Intensive is a fully-funded year-long hybrid course. It begins with a residential at Cliff College 4-6 February 2022 and then we meet online each month on the 1st Thursday between 7-9pm.

The course will be a mix of teaching and reflection, times of prayer and deepening our calls, a place to celebrate and be vulnerable, growth as individuals and of the projects we are passionate about. It is going to be a wonderful journey together! If you would like to join this years cohort please fill in the form via this link to register your interest. Places are limited to 40, so get in quick if you are interested.

If you have any queries please email pioneering@methodistchurch.org.uk

Find out more about this and our other events [here](#).



Pioneer stories

New Places for New People are projects focused on forming new Christian communities for those not yet part of an existing church. They may look quite different from established churches because they will always reflect the new people encountering the love of God.

The Methodist Church hopes to plant many New Places for New People over the next five years. Find out more [here](#).

We've brought together a series of short testimonies from some of our pioneers. Take a look at our playlist [here](#) and watch Deacon Tracey Hulme tell us about Recovery Church which developed during the first lockdown following engagement with the addiction community. .



In other news...

Youth Rep Elections

Elections for the roles representing children and young people are now open until 5 December.

You can find out more about who is standing on 3Gen TV here:

[Youth Rep candidates for 2022 - YouTube](#).

Minister trains as hairdresser

The Revd Darren Middleton spent his sabbatical training to be a hairdresser. He says, "My hope is to give this experience to people who need it but can't afford it; those who cannot go to a salon for whatever reason - the homeless and the outsider, the refugee, those suffering with mental illness and those who just need to be loved and given space to be...". Read more [here](#).

Investment and Ethics

The Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church will be holding its annual conference on Investment and Ethics remotely via a Zoom webinar on 14 December 2021 and all are welcome to attend. Read more details about how to join them [here](#).

Growing church ministry with families

There's a great opportunity to invest in your skills and do some learning about working with families by joining us for this short course at Cliff College from 24 to 28 January 2021. Gail Adcock, one of the course leaders, explains more [here](#).

Global Mission Fellows 2022 Application is open!

Who do you know who is passionate about working with partner organisations to create stronger communities? Invite them to learn more about serving as a [Global Mission Fellow](#) in the international track.

Features

Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon

Cameroon is beautiful country, formerly considered the food basket of Central Africa. In recent years, the central government has increasingly imposed assimilation approach of socio-political engagement with the Anglophones. Dr Olubunmi Olayisade, Africa Partnership Coordinator, shares [this update](#) on the situation.

She's With Me

Lynne Norman, Mission and Community Engagement Development Officer with the Methodist Church, shares the background to one of her favourite songs, She's With Me by Collin Raye, a musical tribute to his granddaughter, Haley, who spent her short life battling a neurological disorder. Read more [here](#).

Global Church Youth Rep: A Nuclear Methodist

Liddy, the Global Church Youth Rep, has written this personal reflection on her role as a 3Generate Youth Rep and her current job with Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CCND). Read more [here](#).

Media

The Methodist Podcast



To mark Remembrance, this week's Methodist Podcast hears from a military chaplain and those serving past and present, plus we learn of the sacrifices made by animals during conflict and the legacy of the German graves on the island of Jersey. Listen [here](#).

'Leadership on a Journey'



As part of the 'Leadership on a Journey' exhibition at Wesley's Chapel, London, this video features leading Methodists and an academic speaking about their background, inspirations and hopes. [Watch here](#). With Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal OBE, Dr Maraget Byron, Revd Nigel Cowgill, Mr Bala Gnanapragasam, Revd Sonia Hicks, Mr Daud Irfan, Revd Irfan John and Mr Norman Mullings MBE.

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