

# The Methodist News

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2 December 2021

Hello everyone and welcome to the Methodist News.

Yours,

[The Communications team](#)

## Covid Guidance

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There has been no change in the Government advice with regards to worship (there is no requirement for people to wear masks in church). However, since September the Methodist Church has been encouraging local congregations to continue to wear masks in worship for the sake of others who are gathered.

Given that a new variant has been identified it seems wise that local trustees encourage members of congregations to wear a mask during worship. Further Covid information can be found [here](#).

## Advent and Christmas

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### Christmas Service on a CD

This year's Christmas Service is now available to [download here](#). The service follows the presidential theme of God's Table, An Invitation For All. We meet those who extend that invitation into our communities; and enjoy carols, readings and reflections. The Christmas Service is now out of stock on CD.

### 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. 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](#).



## Evangelism and Growth

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### How we live together in our communities - South London Mission

An inspiring story from South London Mission demonstrating how our church communities work with local partners to bring sustenance to families across Southwark. In this short film we share the story of how the church, a local record company, butcher, grocer and volunteers have come together at the Mission to create weekly meal kits for hundreds of school children to take home and make with their families.



### Hope and Anchor - Christmas special to round up the series

Next week (7th December at 12.45) will be the last show in the series. Bring a friend to join the show for some Christmas fun and a look back at the highlights from the series.

You can watch last week's Hope and Anchor with special guest, Youth President, Daud Irfan [here](#). Find out more about Hope and Anchor and details of how to register for email news alerts about the show [here](#).



### Everyone an Evangelist

Launching in January, Everyone an Evangelist is a course designed to help groups from local churches and circuits explore the ways you and your church community are called to share your faith and to grow in confidence as evangelists. Find out more [here](#).

# EVERYONE AN EVANGELIST

### Transformational leadership course - places still available

If you have a desire for transformation in your circuit and you're wondering how to bring it about...

If you are you looking to develop your leadership skills and those of your team....

If you sense that change is afoot, and that you need some help to lead change well.... the Transformational Leadership Learning Community can help.

Spaces available for the 2022 Cohort beginning in January! Find our more [here](#).



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](mailto:pioneering@methodistchurch.org.uk)

## Church at the Margins - new webinar and course for 2022

As a church we are committed to nurture and build new Christian communities amongst economically marginalised people. Church at the Margins is an initiative to support us on our journey. We have two key events coming up in the New Year:

- Discover Church at the Margins: A 90 mins online introductory session in each region of the Learning Network. Find out more and book [here](#).
- A free online course, Beginning a Church at the Margins will be held on 15th March, 29th March, and 12th April from 7-9pm and repeated on 8th June, 22nd June and 13th from July 7-9pm led by Eunice Attwood and Kerry Scarlett. Find out more and book [here](#).

# News

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## Yet More Trying Times



Wesley Memorial Methodist Church has published a second book of "Cartoons for a Pandemic" in perfect time for Christmas - available for £5 including postage from [their website](#), with profits going to Action for Children. Jim Godfrey drew cartoons every week from the start of the pandemic for the church's newsletter, the Wesley Mem Weekly. The first book of 32 cartoons was published last year as Trying Times, selling nearly 1000 copies and raising over £2500 for Action for Children. Yet More Trying Times picks up the story with a further 32 inspired offerings.

## Global Mission Fellows

British Methodists aged 20 - 30, live out your faith, seek justice and peace, and serve in another country. The Global Mission Fellows programme is recruiting NOW for its 2022-24 international track (deadline 15 January).

Successful applicants would take up their placements from September 2022 onwards, following a period of training in July. You can find out more and apply [here](#).

# Features

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## Praying with Hymns

The new booklet Praying with Hymns is now available both as a [downloadable PDF](#) and as an A5 booklet, which [you can order from Methodist Publishing](#), price £3.50. This is a resource for anyone who wants to use hymns as prayers. It is packed with easy-to-find suggestions grouped under themes familiar from Sunday worship, and includes suggestions of hymns written in the ten years since the hymn book was first published.

## Church of South India Synod Department of Ecological Concern

The Church of South India department of Ecological Concerns has published this [Eco-bulletin](#). It shares their fantastic work as a Church with a whole department devoted to creation care in God's mission. It details action for COP26, webinars, projects, training and awards.

# Media

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## The Methodist Podcast

In this week's podcast we hear how people of faith around the world are persecuted for their beliefs.

We talk to people who have experienced oppression and prejudice because of their religion, those who are raising awareness of the situation and hearing how some are bringing people of faith together. Listen [here](#).



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