

The Methodist News

9 December 2021

Hello everyone and welcome to the Methodist News.

Yours,

[The Communications team](#)

Updated Covid Guidance



Update 9 December 2021 - Changes to Government Guidance

Following the announcement by the Prime Minister on 8 December to move to Plan B measures (ENGLAND ONLY) to combat the spread of the Omicron variant, a number of restrictions will affect those worshipping, using or working within Methodist church property settings. Read [here](#).

In Scotland please refer to the Guidance for the Safe Use of Places of Worship [here](#). In Wales please refer to the [Guidance for Re-Opening Places of Worship](#) [here](#).

In this interview, Professor of Medicine, epidemiologist and Methodist, Paul Hunter shares his views on the latest updates regarding Covid and explains how his work is influenced by his faith.

Watch [here](#).



Advent and Christmas

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](#).



Walking with Micah



Training event – Using the Walking with Micah justice conversation resources

- Tuesday 25 January 7-8:15pm
- Wednesday 26 January 1-2:15pm

In February we will be launching the Walking With Micah project's "justice conversations". These pre-launch [webinars](#) will be an opportunity to find out how you can be involved with running conversations where you are. They are open to anyone who would like to find out more about the resources available to help you get involved.

Find out more about Walking With Micah [here](#) and watch a short film from the project's leader, Rachel Lampard:



Evangelism and Growth

Hope and Anchor - Christmas special to round up the series

This week was the finale of the Hope and Anchor series. We finished with a Christmas special. You can catch up with all the festive fun [here](#).



A Methodist Way of Life intergenerational resources

When we worship across different generations, we grow by learning from people with different experiences to our own. We've created outlines for intergenerational worship to offer creative ways your community can deepen its relationship with God and explore and introduce A Methodist Way of Life, together. Find out more [here](#).

If you are new to A Methodist Way of Life take a look at our animation:



in response to God's love

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

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](#).

If you're looking for inspiration for a new project take a look at the story of how a church has created weekly meal kits for hundreds of local school children to take home and cook with their families.



News

Partnership Co-ordinator: Africa

The Methodist Church in Britain is seeking to recruit a Partnership Co-ordinator for Africa. This role offers the opportunity for the successful applicant to use their skills in the development of the Methodist Church in Britain's relationships with Partners across many different nations and cultures. Read more [here](#).

Dementia Webinar

The Connexional Safeguarding Team hosted a Zoom webinar on the topic of Dementia-Friendly churches on Tuesday 30 November. Areas covered included the theology of personhood and spirituality in dementia, safeguarding vulnerable adults with dementia, tips on making our church buildings more dementia-friendly and advice on understanding 'challenging' behaviours along with positive stories from

Active Faith: Wesleyan Practices That Make a Difference

Wesley House is now taking bookings for the course Active Faith: Wesleyan Practices That Make a Difference with Paul W. Chilcote that takes place in March. The four week course helps participants learn how to resist the dangerous ideologies and toxic forms of faith in our age that sap energy and create barriers between God and people. Further details and registration can be found [here](#). You

Methodist churches who already are leading in this area. Watch [here](#).

can hear Paul discussing aspects of his work in this [Methodist Podcast](#).

Venezuela

Sandra Lopez, Partnership Co-ordinator for Americas/Caribbean, shares how our partner, the Methodist Christian Community in Venezuela, is supporting vulnerable communities. Read [here](#).

Youth President reflection

Daud Irfan, Methodist Youth President, shares this reflection on the year past and the year to come in this blog. Read [here](#).

Advent donations



If you or your church would like to make a donation to any of the connexional funds this advent, you can do so via the Methodist Church website [here](#).

Collection envelopes are also available, Advent Offering [here](#), Connexional Funds [here](#).

The Methodist Prayer Handbook



One of the 'A Methodist Way of Life' commitments is that we will pray daily. [The Methodist Prayer Handbook](#), offers prayers for every day of the year in a 31-day cycle. Use the prayer handbook all year round for your personal devotions, leading prayers at meetings or even for the prayers of intercession during worship. These prayers have been written by the Methodist community and the theme this year is 'A Place for All', which relates to the Presidential theme 'God's Table: An Invitation for all' and the Youth President's theme, 'God's Church, a Home for All'.

Methodist Diary 2022



Are important dates for 2022 already filling up your 2021 diary? Why not use the [Methodist Diary 2022](#), still available in summer yellow and personal organiser inserts.

The beauty of the Methodist Diary is that it includes key dates for the Methodist Church calendar and lectionary. It identifies special Sundays and enables day-to-day forward planning. It is also packed with essential information for your Connexional year.

Features

3Generate 2021 - The After Movie



We experienced so many amazing moments as part of 3Gen this year and we've collected some of them in this brilliant short movie! Why not share with your children and young people or show as part of a church service or meeting? We're giving thanks for all the ways we encountered God during our time together at the NEC in Birmingham. Watch [here](#).

Dreaming of a green Christmas...



Lynne Norman, Children, Youth and Family Development Officer, has the privilege of overseeing the team's work to inspire, equip and encourage children and young people to be Agents of Change in the world.

Read her blog on how we can all enjoy a Green Christmas, [here](#).

Media

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](#).

Pause for Thought



Reverend Dawn Saunders gave Pause for Thought on BBC Radio 2 with the theme, 'High Street Heroes'. Listen [here](#).

Radio 4 Today: MHA



Sam Monaghan, Chief Executive at MHA, Methodist Homes, was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's Today programme on Thursday morning responding to concerns around the impact of the new wave of Covid and restrictions in care homes. Listen [here](#) from 2hrs 35min.

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