

# The Methodist News

17 February 2022

Hello everyone and welcome to the Methodist News. Details of on-call media support can be found [here](#).

Yours,  
[The Communications team](#)

## News

### LGBT+ History Month



Jacob is a worship leader in training and a trans man.

In [this video](#) he offers advice on being trans in the Methodist Church and on how to have conversations regarding trans issues.

### A prayer for Ukraine



"Author of all peace who through your son reconciled us to yourself, we pray for peace in our world at a time of heightened tensions."

As the situation in the Ukraine continues, Steve Hucklesby from JPIT offers [this prayer](#).

### Striving for Justice



Would you like to be part of the Methodist journey towards a more inclusive and just Church and society? Join us on 26th March for stories, conversations and more and be empowered to challenge racism and champion racial justice. Learn more [here](#).

### Safeguarding Webinar

The Methodist Survivors' Advisory Group and the Safeguarding Team at the Methodist Church will be holding the second of two webinars - *The Church's Response to Survivors: From Stumbling Block to Stepping Stone* on Wednesday February 23.

During the 90-minute session we will hear about the theology of safeguarding and how erroneous interpretations of scripture have been used to justify suffering or to force survivors to forgive.

[Register in advance for this webinar here](#).

### Fairtrade Fortnight Feb 21 to March 6 2022

On the 21 February 2022 at 7:30 pm you can start Fairtrade Fortnight hearing how farmers and producers are responding to the challenges of climate change and other issues.

Wes Talks explore life and faith and are organised by John Wesley's New Room in partnership with the Methodist Church's Learning Network South West. Tickets to this online Zoom webinar cost £5. Details [here](#).

### Global Mission Fellow at the Surf Project

Ben Rose is from Birmingham and is currently serving as a Global Mission Fellow at the Surf Project, Portrush, Northern Ireland. He met online with Andy Dye from the Global Relationships team and had a chat. Find out more [here](#).

### Susanna Wesley tree sculpture

The first public sculpture of Susanna Wesley, the Mother of Methodism, has now been completed by tree sculptor Simon O'Rourke at East Finchley Methodist Church. Watch [here](#)

### Walking with Micah

What does a just world look like? What should the Methodist Church's priorities be in speaking and acting for justice? The Walking with Micah project has launched local Justice Conversations to run between February and June 2022 to hear what matters in Methodist communities. You can discover more about Walking With Micah [here](#).

# Evangelism and Growth

## Bible Month



Bible Month is an annual campaign celebrating scripture by inviting the whole Methodist Connexion to feast on one particular book of the Bible together. In 2022 we will be exploring the book of Isaiah. There are a range of events to help you prepare (and don't forget to order your [Isaiah reading guide](#)).

9 March - Small group leadership

19 March - Local preachers and worship leaders

23 March - Reading the Bible with young people Visit [the Bible Month page](#) to find out more, [book your place](#) at preparation events on Eventbrite, and check out the Engage and Explore events in June below.

## New Prayer Gathering



This is a simple call to prayer. The Bible tells us to cast our cares on God, because God cares for us (1 Peter 5:7). If we're a Church that cares about the issues children and young people face, values their full participation, and is committed to the diverse perspectives that younger generations bring, then - as the whole church - we need to pray! Prayer sessions are open to anyone, whether you consider yourself a young person or not - whether you're somebody in ministry directly with children and young people or not. Each session will be led by Richard Oppong-Boateng, Young Evangelism Officer, and will focus on a different theme. It will include a short introduction, scripture, prayer pointers, and open prayer.

You only need to [register once](#), and you can use the same Zoom link to access all the gatherings, you can attend as many or as few as you like.

22 February - Youth Violence

1 March - Children, Young People and Mental Health

8 March - Children, Young People and the Church

## Evangelism in an Interfaith Context



Jesus tells us to 'go out and make disciples', but what kind of evangelism, if any, is appropriate in an inter-faith context? Is our ultimate aim to convert our siblings of other faiths to Christianity, or can we be confident Christian witnesses while learning from and celebrating the differences in one another's religions?

We'll tackle these questions and more in this webinar co-hosted by St Philip's Centre in Leicester and the Evangelism and Growth team of the Methodist Church. There will be an interfaith panel, a keynote theological address, a chance to discuss, and some practical guidance. Register [here](#).

## Reimagining discipleship



Are you interested in exploring how to bring intentional discipleship growth into your community? Would you value space and time for reflection and conversations with others asking the same questions you are? Join us to explore how we can re-imagine what it means to be a disciple and re-engineer our churches to encourage a culture of discipleship that welcomes new people and deepens the faiths of those who've been journeying with Jesus for a long time. We will delve into the idea of 'discipleship pathways' and consider how A Methodist Way of Life might inspire our communities to a new way of being disciples together.

The 22 March event is intended for anyone who might be involved in church leadership and encouraging discipleship - church and circuit stewards, presbyters, superintendents, youth workers, and more. Register [here](#).

Not sure 2.5hrs is long enough for such a big topic? Prefer to meet in person? Join the waiting list for [our day retreat at Cliff College](#), or keep an eye out for a London date to be announced soon.

### Rural and Rooted



How might being church without a building look in your local community? Come and join a conversation on zoom hosted by: Dave Friswell LN, Yas Finch District Missioner, with Andy Fishburne and Sarah Hulme from the Evangelism and Growth team.

All welcome from across the Connexion, but this is aimed at people looking to pioneer/ reimagine small rooted church in their rural communities.

29th March at 7pm via zoom.

Register [here](#).

## Media

### The Methodist Podcast Walking With Micah



In this week's Methodist Podcast we explore Walking With Micah, the Methodist Church's new initiative to explore Justice. We hear about justice conversations, how justice works locally and consider the theology of justice.

Listen [here](#).

### Pause for Thought



The Revd Trey Hall considers the theme of 'Valentine's Day' on Pause for Thought on BBC Radio 2. Listen [here](#).

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Email: [mediaoffice@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:mediaoffice@methodistchurch.org.uk)