

The Methodist News

3 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



As the Methodist Church celebrates LGBT+ History Month 2022 we share [Pam Gold's coming out story](#) of being evangelical and gay and [a prayer from Karl Rutledge](#), a trans man and a Methodist Presbyter in the London District.

An Easter Celebration 2022

This year's Easter Celebration on a CD is available to [pre-order from Methodist Publishing](#). This year's theme is Resurrection Faith: A Place to Belong. We discover how Methodist churches are creating new places for people to belong and we share Easter hymns, readings and reflections from the President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference.

Community for Spiritual Formation

Through a programme of teaching, silence, worship and reflection based on a Benedictine monastic pattern, the Community for Spiritual Formation creates transformative space for people to be in communion with God, self, others, and creation for the sake of the world.

Visio Divina: Embracing the new normal through contemplative [smartphone] photography; an online retreat day with Steve Radley on Saturday 5 March 2022

Divine Intimacy: Ordinary Holiness; a five day residential Community at St. John's College in Durham with Gemma Simmonds and Andrew Walker from Sunday 10 to Friday 15 July.

Details can be found [here](#).

Myanmar



"Peace is desperately far away for the people of Myanmar." To mark the first anniversary of Myanmar's military coup, you can read [this blog](#) from JPIT for an update on the situation and a call to prayer.

Children, Youth and Families Survey

What do the children, youth and family team really need to hear? By taking part and completing this survey, you'll be telling us what we really need to know about supporting you in your work and ministry into the future.

Complete the survey [here](#).

Invitation to School Chaplaincy

[Methodist Schools](#) are running an 'Invitation to School Chaplaincy' event for anyone who is on the threshold of schools work – maybe you have just started in a school, or you've been stationed to a circuit with a school... or maybe it's just an area that interests you? Maybe you've been doing it for a while but would like to refresh your thinking – you are welcome too! We'll have people sharing ideas for good practice and others sharing understanding of the value and opportunities of the role. This session will be in the context of Methodist Schools but applicable across the sector.

We'll be running it online on the afternoon of Thursday 3 March if you'd like to join us, please email the schools office, oolayinka@methodistschools.org.uk.

Evangelism and Growth

Party Planning for Mission: Webinar 15 Feb, 7:30pm



Community parties are a great way to reach out to our communities in mission. So, grab a bowl of trifle and put on your party hats, and come and join the webinar as we explore the practicalities of planning a community event that is rooted in prayer and that brings together the whole neighbourhood to celebrate together. Whether your church is in a rural or urban context, a one-off event can be a wonderful way to build relationships and reach new people. But what do we need to consider when we're planning? How can we make sure we're being inclusive? And how might we incorporate prayer?

Hosted by the Learning Network and the Evangelism and Growth team, this webinar seeks to prepare us for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and Thy Kingdom Come 2022 when many neighbourhoods will run street parties or community events to celebrate – but the learnings will be transferable to other mission events too. On Tuesday 15 Feb we'll bring the party poppers and bunting, you bring your enthusiasm for mission in your local community! Register [here](#).

Evangelism in an Interfaith Context: Webinar 10 March 2022, 7pm

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? How easy are interfaith relationships, and how might we articulate a theology of evangelism in an interfaith setting? 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 theological reflection, a chance to discuss, and some practical guidance. Register [here](#).

Bible Month

Bible Month celebrates scripture by inviting the whole Methodist Connexion to feast on one particular book of the Bible together. In 2022, we're going to feast upon the Book of Isaiah. Through a menu of carefully curated resources, training and learning opportunities, churches and circuits are encouraged to taste and see the goodness of an individual text; enjoying some of its unique flavours, considering its origins, appreciating its place alongside the rest of scripture, and savouring the unique contribution it might make to our faithful living and learning today.

Typically, churches engage with Bible Month during June and many of the resources and training opportunities are timed accordingly. It is possible, however, for churches to choose a different month in the year in which to engage with the materials if that works better.

Read more [here](#).

Media

The Methodist Podcast LGBT+ History Month



"Levelling up" JPIT



February is LGBT+ history month and we celebrate by taking a look at the background to last year's historic vote permitting same sex marriage within the Methodist Church.

We talk to Revd Ken Howcroft who chaired the group behind the God in Love Unites Us report considered by the Conference and we chat with a couple whose lives have been changed by the vote and who plan to marry this summer. Listen [here](#).

Paul Morrison, poverty and inequality advisor at the Joint Public Issue Team, tells UCB radio that there is a huge divide between rich and poor in the UK – but it's not just geographical.

Watch [here](#).

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