

The Methodist News

14 April 2022

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

Yours,
[The Communications team](#)

Happy Easter

'Seeing the stone removed' - John 20:1-18



"As restrictions began to lift for the fifth time it started to feel like it could be coming to an end, coming out of the dark tomb, into a place of resurrection, being able to breathe again, feel the sunshine, freedom, hope."

[Read](#) a powerful blog reflecting on Easter, the Holy Lands, and the situation in Ukraine - written by Angleena Keizer, who works in the Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem.

Good Friday and Easter Sunday Reflections

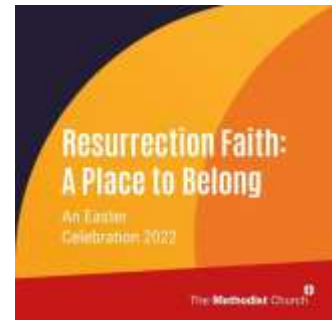
The Revd Sonia Hicks, President of the Methodist Conference, has recorded a prayer for Good Friday and a reflection for Easter Sunday - both are available [here](#).

These come in video and written form, so can be shared across social media and newsletters as needed.

Additionally, you can [catch up](#) on the President and Vice-President's livestream, where Barbara Easton shared a moving reflection on the view from inside the tomb.



Resurrection Faith: A Place to Belong



Still available to download, this prerecorded service includes Easter hymns, readings, prayers and reflections, with contributions from the President and Vice President of the Conference 2021/2022. We discover how Methodist people, filled with God's love, are creating new inclusive places for people to belong.

[Download an mp3 file here](#)

News

The Methodist Church reaffirms its opposition to Conversion Therapy

The Methodist Council has reaffirmed its opposition to Conversion Therapy in any form at its recent Council Meeting. The Revd Michaela Youngson said, "The Methodist Church position is that, regardless of government decisions, it is not permitted for conversion therapy, including trans conversion therapy to take place on Methodist premises, and that no conversion therapy can take place in the name of the Methodist Church." Read the full statement [here](#).

Government plan for asylum seekers

The Presidency of the Methodist Church have released a prayer and statement following the Prime Minister's announcement.

"The Government's plans to offshore asylum seekers in Rwanda gives yet another insight into its hostile, uncompassionate and ineffective response to asylum seekers and refugees."

Read the prayer and full statement [here](#).

From East Anglia to Zimbabwe



A new twinning partnership has been launched between East Anglia District and Harare West District in Zimbabwe. To celebrate this new link, the two Districts came together for a time of worship and praise, with congregations in Norwich and Harare, joined together on Zoom. You can read the full statement, watch the worship service, and find out more about twinning [here](#).

Ukraine

Homes for Ukraine

There is now guidance available on the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes website for those looking to host Ukrainian people in Methodist residential property as part of the Government's 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme.

This page includes many considerations, as well as a helpful checklist of items to work through.

Find out more [here](#).

How you can help: The Ukraine Toolkit

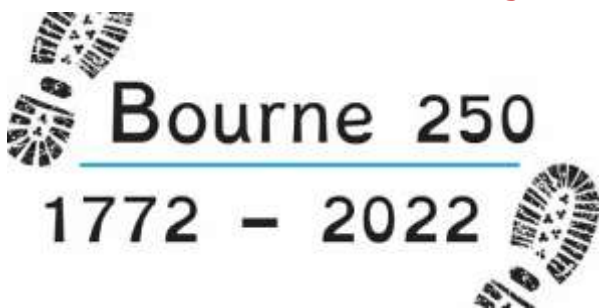
We have a detailed toolkit of practical advice and support for churches who wish to offer the gift of sanctuary to people fleeing the war in Ukraine.

As well as comprehensive guidance on all aspects of helping Ukrainian refugees, the toolkit offers prayers, hymn selections and more.

[Access the Ukraine Toolkit here](#).

Coming Up

Transformed Lives Transforming Lives



We invite you to join us for this year's Methodist Heritage Conference: Transformed Lives Transforming Lives.

This year's Methodist Heritage Conference looks at the history of social justice within Methodism. The Conference is hosted by the Methodist Heritage Committee, in partnership with Englesea Brook, as part of their celebrations for the Hugh Bourne anniversary year.

Find out more and sign up [here](#).

"The Needles of the Friends": The Wesleys and Shorthand



This year's John Wesley Lecture will take place on 24 May ("Wesley Day") and the speaker will be Dr. Tim Underhill on the topic of the Wesleys and Shorthand.

The Lecture can be attended both in person and via Zoom, and a booking link can be found [here](#), as can a poster for the event.

This event is being put on in partnership with Wesley Memorial Church, Oxford, and Lincoln College, University of Oxford (where John Wesley was a Fellow).

Evangelism and Growth

Church at the Margins Training

There are a variety of dates coming up to join Church at the Margins training.

We're looking to provide a space to think about connecting and becoming a community of new Christians amongst, and led by, people experiencing poverty.

You can find all the dates and more information [here](#).

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The extended bank holiday weekend for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee offers us a chance to get involved in community events, to get to know our neighbours and gently share our faith.

We're offering ideas, resources and support for getting out and about!

Visit [this](#) webpage to find out more.



Check it out

Rural Hope - Relationship Building



Sarah Hulme, Rural Mission & Ministry Officer, shares a hopeful story from rural Somerset where a small church is bringing communities together in new and creative ways.

Read the blog post [here](#).

Walking for Diverse Leadership



Daud Irfan, Methodist Youth President 2021/2022, spent a week earlier this year walking from Cardiff to London to raise awareness of the need for diverse leadership in the Methodist Church.

You can read his reflection this journey [here](#).

Roof 'n' Roots



A concert for Ukraine, heavy metal prayers, safer surfing, therapeutic gardening – and how a resident 'rescued' time.

All those stories – and more – feature in the spring edition of Roof 'n' Roots, the newsletter of the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society.

Download your free copy [here](#).

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