

# The Methodist News

18 August 2022

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

Yours,  
[The Communications team](#)

## There is Room Christmas campaign

**There is Room** is the Methodist Church's 2022 Advent and Christmas campaign. It seeks to demonstrate the Methodist Church as an open, welcoming and inclusive place for all.

Through the lens of a Methodist Way of Life, it will offer content relevant for today's world, aiming to encourage and support anyone who wants to find out more about Christian faith and the Methodist Church.

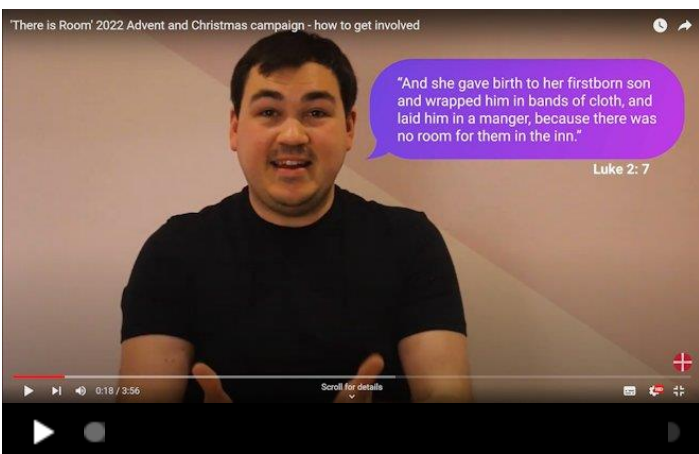
Resources will include:

- Poster and invitation postcards cards to order, or as editable Pdfs to print your own
- A digital download package of materials, visuals, and other assets to help promote your services and events online
- A digital campaign encouraging people to discover more at their local Methodist church
- Stories from across the Methodist Church exploring how people are making room for everyone
- Related worship materials and service resources from Advent and into Epiphany
- 'The Christmas Story' fold-out leaflet to give out at services and events
- A guide on how churches can make room during Christmas, building on our work to be an inclusive Church, open to all



Full details of when resources will be available will be published on 1 September on our [There is Room resources page](#).

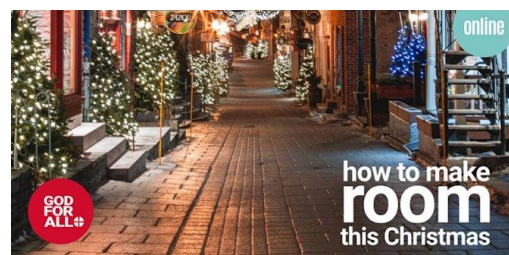
### Video introducing There is Room



We have created a short video explaining how to get involved and stay up to date with plans. It is ideal for playing in church or circuit meetings and at Autumn Synods. Watch the video above.

You can also [download an mp4 file of the video for showing offline](#)

### Connect this Christmas There is Room webinars



**Thursday 22 September 7.30pm**

**Repeated Friday 23 September 10.00am**

Christmas is, hands down, the easiest time of year to invite people to church and to connect people with good news.

The There is Room resource pack will help you plan your Christmas services and community events, and a digital Christmas campaign is designed to help you share good news. There will also be an evangelistic fold-out leaflet which has been written with unaffiliated people in mind. In this webinar, The Methodist Church's Director of Digital Engagement, Ben Holleb, along with Holly Adams and Emma Nash from the Evangelism and Growth Team, will offer lots of ideas for planning a Christmas that is good news to your whole community.

[Book your free place here](#)

# Evangelism and Growth

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## Webinar: Can your church offer a warm space this winter?



Monday 5 September 2022 7-8 pm

In this webinar, you'll find out how your church could create a warm space this winter, and why they're needed now more than ever. The cost of living crisis is plunging more and more people into poverty. With utility bills rising astronomically, some people will have no choice but to be cold this winter.

In this short webinar, you'll find out how your church might go about offering a Warm Space: a place for people to come and get warm, have a free hot drink and maybe eat a hot meal or charge their phone. You'll find out how Warm Spaces has really taken off in Gateshead, and how your church could join in. This webinar is hosted by Eunice and Emma from Evangelism and Growth, Deacon Tracey Hume from the Newcastle Methodist District and Paul Morrison from the Joint Public Issues Team.

[Register free here](#)

## Rural Ministries course



25-27 October 2022, King's Park Conference Centre, Northampton

Hosted by the ecumenical Arthur Rank Centre, this course is open to all, whether involved in lay or ordained rural mission and ministry, but will include a special focus for those in the initial phase of their ministry in rural contexts (for example in roles such as probationers, deacons and presbyters new to rural contexts, lay pastors, etc.).

[Find out details here.](#)

Bursaries are available to help Methodists with the cost; contact [Sarah Hulme, Rural Mission and Ministry Office](#), for further information.

# Stories from Africa

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## Overcoming the hardships of rural ministry

"The Methodist Church is constantly finding ways to provide income-generating ideas that are sustainable and can be of benefit both to the church and the local community. Chicken-rearing projects are a popular means of income-generation in Africa. Chicken is the most popular meat consumed. They are easy and cheap to breed and a 6 week old chick can be sold for US\$1, which in rural Africa is not far off a day's wage for some."

Andrew Ashdown, Partnership Coordinator for Africa, blogs about the Mbembesi Chicken Rearing project. Matabeleland, Zimbabwe. [Read Andrew's blog here](#)



# The Methodist Podcast

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## The impact of the cost-of-living crisis



Supported by the Methodist Church, dozens of faith groups, charities and politicians have joined the former prime minister Gordon Brown in calling on the government to take urgent action to bridge the cost of living gap. In this week's podcast we talk to the author of a report that illustrates the perilous situation for those on low incomes and the Joint Public Issues Team explains what the findings of the report could mean for families and the churches that support them.

[Listen to the podcast here](#)

# Exam results prayer

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## A prayer for those anticipating O-level exam results next week



Lord, we come to you remembering all of those students in this country and around the world who went through examinations this year, and as we are now approaching results day for all of those students, we thank you for all the hard work, effort and dedication that they have put in over the past year; for all of the wonderful new skills that they have learnt.

We praise you for being a God who always looks out for us and wants the best for us, in all situations and circumstances. In this period of waiting for exam results, we pray for comfort and rest for all of those who are looking forward to the coming changes in their lives.

*Daud Irfan, Youth President 2021-22*

# Football news

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## Sunderland Samba cup winners

With the football season kicking off we'd like to celebrate Sunderland Samba FC who have won the National Christian Football Festival Cup 2 years in a row!

Sunderland Samba is a community football club focusing on racial and religious harmony, and works in partnership with the Sunderland Methodist Circuit.

To find out more follow Sunderland Samba on [Facebook](#)

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