

The Methodist News

1 December 2022

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

Yours,
[The Communications team](#)

Advent and Christmas



Church resources

Remember that you can [download all our resources for services and events from our main resources page on our website](#). The theme for the Second Sunday of Advent is 'There is room for difference'.

The content for each of the services, running from Advent until Epiphany include:

- Main themes
- Bible verses
- Nativity character reflections
- Song and hymn suggestions
- Downloadable video story
- Hands-on activities
- Prayer ideas
- Questions for discussion
- Ways people can respond

Don't forget that there are resources for schools and chaplains which use the same service themes, an Advent Candle liturgy, a guide on how to make room in your church this Christmas and many other things to help encourage people into Church over this season.

There is Room short film

Our There is Room short film launched on Saturday 19 November across social media. The film is available to [download from our website](#) to use in services.

It is aimed at those who might be on the edge of considering engaging with faith or belief and asking them to consider their own story alongside those shown in the short film.

If you are sharing online via social media or embedding on your website please use [the version on the Methodist Church YouTube Channel](#).





Help spread the Good News

We really want to hear and share all that you are up to over this season, so please share your services with images and video using #ThereIsRoom and tagging us on social media.

We'll amplify your content using our channels and encourage others to do the same as well!

Let's make this Christmas a celebration of what it means to be a Christian and remind people of the Good News that is open to them throughout the year.

Presidential Message



Graham Thompson and Anthony Boateng, President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference, have recorded a Christmas message which will be available to view and download for use in your Church **next week**.

Graham and Anthony talk on their favourite Bible passages and how they encourage us to make room this Christmas.

Radio Manchester



The Revd Ian Rutherford

Ian was on BBC Radio Manchester this week with Asma Younus, talking about the #ThereIsRoom Christmas Campaign! You can listen [here](#), starting at 2:48:20.

The 2021 Census

Response to the census

"While figures from the Office for National Statistics show fewer people in England and Wales describing themselves as Christian, this may not indicate a decline in those seeking answers to questions around faith and spirituality."

In light of the revelation that only 46.2% of England and Wales now consider themselves Christian, Graham Thompson and Trey Hall have put together some thoughts.

You can read their responses [here](#).

There is room for all people in God's story

"What an opportunity, at the start of Advent, to connect with the good news ourselves and to offer that good news to our friends and neighbours."

[Read](#) a hopeful take on the census information, including inspiring stories and several practical steps you can take to feel better equipped in the coming season.

Journey Towards Peace

Anthony Boateng

"Peace is the essence of religion and disarmament is at the heart of peace."

In this powerful blog, Anthony Boateng, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, urges faith leaders and others to push for peace. Read the whole reflection [here](#).



Hope and Anchor



Authenticity, keeping promises, and looking fabulous!

This week's episode is out, and Trey is around the Hope and Anchor table with climate activist – 'Less Waste Laura' Young, chaplain at the Sondheim Theatre - Joe Moore, and Youth Engagement & Community Empowerment at Intermission Youth Theatre – Nana Antwi-Nyanin.

They are chatting about staying authentic, keeping our promises, and looking fabulous at the same time.

Listen [here](#), or wherever you get your podcasts.

Opportunities

Wells in the Wilderness

From the **17th -19th March 2023**, come along to Clitheroe for a Local Preachers' retreat.

Led by Barbara Easton, Ex-President of the Methodist Conference, the retreat will be in silence from Friday night to Sunday lunch time and will follow the familiar format of short inputs of approximately 20 minutes, each followed by ample time for private reflection, in the peaceful stillness of the presence of God. For more information and to book your place, click [here](#).

Methodist Liaison Office Co-ordinator

Are you an ordained Methodist Minister who is passionate about peace and justice and experienced in working with conflict?

The Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem has a vacancy for a Coordinator. Based in Jerusalem with accommodation provided in the West Bank, this role will engage in deep listening and chaplaincy to those living and working in the region.

The closing date is the 18 Jan 2023, and you can find all the details [here](#).

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