

The Methodist News

19 January 2023

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

Warm Spaces



Methodist churches have responded to the cost-of-living crisis by opening their doors to ensure that communities are not left out in the cold. Epsom Methodist Church have been opening their building to the community each Wednesday throughout the winter, providing warmth, food and spaces for families to meet.

More than 450 Methodist churches have now registered on the Warm Welcome website as being willing to offer somewhere for people to find heat, comfort and companionship. This makes the Methodists second only to the Church of England in uptake of the scheme. You can find out more [here](#).

Additionally, if your church is running a warm space, we'd love to hear from you! Email us at: mediaoffice@methodistchurch.org.uk

News

The Revd Sonia Hicks



MWiB in Colombia



Leon Murray



We are delighted to share that the Revd Sonia Hicks, past President of the Methodist Conference, is to be awarded an honorary doctorate from Oxford Brookes University. This is in recognition of her achievements in the Methodist Church, particularly around the development of the Church's EDI strategy for racial equality and its acceptance of same sex marriage. Find out more [here](#).

"Buenos dias from Colombia! I am here in the town of Sincelejo in the north west of the country, accompanying Ruth Parrot on her Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) presidential overseas visit." Sandra Lopez recently went on a visit to Colombia with Ruth Parrot, and wrote about their experience of the country and the role the Church plays in helping migrants. Read the whole story [here](#).

Leon Murray, former Vice-President of the Methodist Conference passed away on Saturday 14 January 2023. Please keep his family in your prayers. *May he rest in peace, and rise in glory. Come, let us join our friends above That have obtained the prize, And on the eagle wings of love To joys celestial rise: Let all the saints terrestrial sing With those to glory gone; For all the servants of our King, In earth and heaven, are one.* Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Christian Unity



Resources

Yesterday marked the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year, the theme is: Be-Longing: Praying for Unity amidst Injustice. You can find resources and more information on the [CTBI website](#).



Stephen Wigley

Last Sunday, in the run-up to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the Revd Dr Stephen Wigley, Chair of Wales Synod Cymru of the Methodist Church, spoke live on BBC Radio 4 to explore the practical outworking of shared traditions and treasures across Christian communities. You can listen [here](#).

Coming Up

LGBTQ+ Webinar

On **Tuesday 24 January** come along to the latest webinar from the Safeguarding team. We'll be exploring how we in the Methodist Church can lovingly and respectfully welcome people who identify as LGBTQ+ into our church communities. Sign up [here](#).

Inspire and Equip

Come and join us on the **25th January** to be inspired and equipped to pray Thy Kingdom Come together in 2023. Run by the Revd Canon Jean Kerr and Doral Hayes, this will be an hour of practical prayer ideas and resources as well as considering how you can engage your local churches as ecumenical partners in prayer. Find out more [here](#).

Racial Justice Sunday

22 April 2023 marks the 30th anniversary of the racist killing of Black teenager, Stephen Lawrence, in Eltham, southeast London. Racial Justice Sunday is one of the many legacies of Stephen Lawrence's life. As such, in marking RJS, churches are remembering a young man who in life aspired to be an architect, but whose legacy has seen him become an architect for justice, equality, dignity and unity. Find resources and more information [here](#).

Pause for Thought

Jo Cox-Darling

Last week the Revd Jo Cox-Darling appeared on BBC Radio 2's Pause for Thought! Listen back [here](#). You can hear her on BBC Radio 2 tomorrow morning.



Email: mediaoffice@methodistchurch.org.uk