



The Methodist News

16 February 2023

Hello everyone and welcome back to the Methodist News.

Details of on-call media support can be found [here](#).

Yours,

The Communications team

Ukraine Anniversary

24 February marks a full year since the invasion of Ukraine. This tragic and ongoing conflict continues to be in our prayers as we reflect on the last year and look ahead to the future.

Yulia Starodubets is a Methodist who left the capital Kyiv early in the war for the safety of west Ukraine.

Her story, along with several others, form a blog on our website that gives some insight into how some of those affected by the war are coping 12 months on.

You can read it [here](#).



If you'd like to mark the anniversary in your church, we have resources available on our website [here](#) that can be used for services or small groups. Additionally, [Singing the Faith+](#) has a number of useful recommendations for churches wishing to engage with this difficult topic.

LGBT+ History Month

"Others who hold a traditional view have remained with us, and we continue to move forward together with our contradictory convictions."

The Revd Mark Hammond describes himself as "just a learner; a middle-aged straight man trying his best to learn how to become a better ally to the LGBT+ community." In this heartfelt blog for LGBT+ History Month, he talks openly and honestly about his journey of faith regarding same-sex marriage – a journey from discomfort to celebration.

Read it [here](#).



The Justice System

Is the system fit for purpose?

"As a relatively young Black man I know what it feels like to be targeted. I know how hurtful it can feel. It can be damaging. It can plant a seed of distrust."

In this blog reflecting on his visit to Durham Prison, Anthony Boateng examines questions of justice, faith, and mental health, and where the Church can and should be helping.

Read the whole article [here](#).

Prison Chaplaincy and ex-offenders ministry

What does 'good news' look like to people within our prison system?

What is God's invitation to us as individuals and churches?

Come and join this conversation on 11 April to listen, learn and share with others.

Find out more and register to attend [here](#).



Together With Refugees

A call for an end to hostilities against migrants

Political leaders must "take a clear stand" and condemn violence against asylum seekers, charities have said.

An open letter, coordinated by coalition campaign Together With Refugees, warned disorder seen in Merseyside last Friday could be repeated across the UK.

The Revd Graham Thompson, President of the Methodist Conference, is one of over 100 signatories calling on the government to change the language they use when speaking about asylum seekers and look to fix the problems within the system itself.

"We urge politicians to stop using rhetoric that fuels such hatred, condemn this violence and start doing the real work"

Read the report from the BBC [here](#).

New Digital Training

Digital training for those who want the confidence to embrace the online world.

Getting Started Online is a new course from the Methodist Church exploring our place in the digital world. It's made up of 24 short videos and it will be launched on **Monday 20 February** on our training platform, [MCBX](#).

You can head to our [website](#) now to find out more about the course and its content, and sign up for one of the facilitated sessions that will be running over February and March. The dates are:

Monday 20 Feb - Monday 20 March, 9.30am - 11am for 5 weeks

Wednesday 22 Feb - Wednesday 22 March, 7pm - 8.30pm for 5 weeks

Saturday 11 March, 10.00am - 3.30pm

Additionally, you can join our Facebook Group, [Getting Started Online](#), which is designed for those of you who want to learn more and deepen your skills. It's a safe place for conversation and questions, especially if the digital world is not your natural home and you're not sure how or where to start!

We are excited about the opportunity that the online world provides for us as a Church seeking to grow and reach out to all people. The digital world is a mission field like any other and we are looking forward to discovering more about it with you over these sessions.

Finally, check out the trailer below to get an idea of what's to come.

Getting Started Online

A brand new resource from The **Methodist Church** 

Bank Holiday Hope

With Easter and spring bank holidays coming up, have you had chance to think about how your church might have fun alongside your community and sensitively share your faith?

We'll be sharing some really practical ideas for spreading bank holiday hope at a short livestream on **23 February**.

Find out more and register [here](#).

Around the World

Earthquake Response

As the aftermath of the terrible earthquake in Turkey continues to unfold, relief organisations still need as much help as they can get.

You can donate to [All We Can](#) who are supporting partners who are already working in Syria to help the most vulnerable.

The DEC (of which Christian Aid is one of 15 partners) has [launched an appeal](#) to fund work in Turkey and Syria.



Namibia



Judy Rogers is currently on the Encounter Worldwide volunteer programme and serving with the Methodist Church in Namibia.

You can find out what she is up to during her three months based in Reheboth by checking in with her fantastic blog [here](#).

The Wesley

"Our Methodist visions and values are the cornerstones of The Wesley hotels. We follow our moral and ethical convictions by doing the right thing even if no one is watching."

The Wesley, Euston has been recognised in a national newspaper for its outstanding location and environment credentials. And in the same week as the article, a sister hotel, The Wesley Camden Town, was opened by the President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference.

You can find out more [here](#).

