



# The Methodist News

---

**2 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

## News

---

### The Revd Sally Azur



Our Mission Partner in the Holy Land, Angleena Keizer, was present to witness the ordination of the first Palestinian female Christian Pastor in the Holy Land - the Revd Sally Azur.

You can read about the ordination service and the significance of Sally's appointment [here](#).

### The Holy Land



The Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem have released a statement on the increasing cycle of violence in the Holy Land.

You can read it [here](#).

### Challenge and Opportunity



In this response to the 2021 census, Emma Nash, Mission and Community Engagement Officer, looks at what it means for churches to want more members - and what it might take to make them welcome.

Read the whole piece [here](#).

## Racial Justice Sunday

---

Gracious and loving God,

We gather together today to mark this Racial Justice Sunday.

We recall the tragedy of a young life cut short – with the tragic murder of Stephen Lawrence.

Even 30 years on, we lament the sin of racism, so prevalent in our society and in our world.

We bring to mind the senseless killing of George Floyd

And we feel the need for change.



RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 2023  
STEPHEN LAWRENCE



Lord, in Your mercy,  
Hear our prayers for an end to racism.

Lord, in Your grace,  
Open our hearts and provoke us to respond with action.

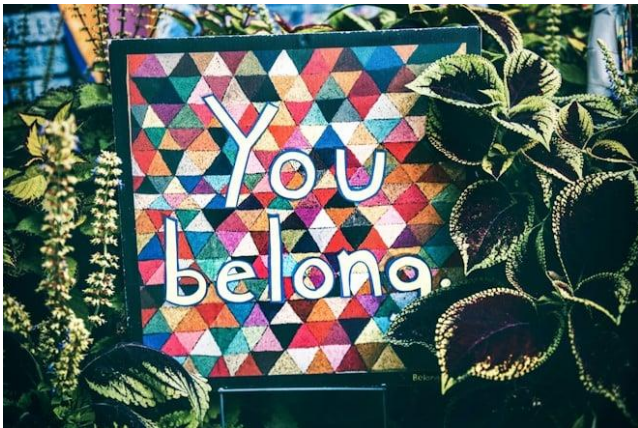
Lord in Your righteous anger,  
Empower Your prophets to speak truth to power.

Lord, in Your love,  
Bind us together in solidarity, with a shared vision  
to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly towards an end to racism  
and into Your Kingdom of love made real here on earth.  
Amen

This prayer, along with other useful resources, can be found on the CTBI [website](#).

## LGBT+ History Month

### A prayer at the beginning of LGBT+ History Month



Very dear God,  
Thank you for your rainbow creation of diversity which you called good.  
In this LGBT+ History Month, thank you for brave souls who've helped us all expand our understandings of sexuality and gender. Help us to continue to be willing to listen to one another's experience, to be open to examining our assumptions, just as Jesus got people to do over and over again, following in ways of justice, kindness, and openness, holding ourselves and one another in your love.  
Amen.

## Getting Started Online

### 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**.

You can head to our [website](#) now to find out more about the course and it's 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.



## Lent Reflections

---

### Resources from Methodist Women in Britain

Looking for some Lent reflections?

Methodist Women in Britain have produced seven reflections for the seven weeks of Lent.

You can use these Lent reflections as they lead towards the Easter Offering 2023 service and its resources.

Find the Lent reflections at [the MWIB website](#).

Find the Easter Offering 2023 resources [here](#).



## MMAC in Bristol

---

A number of the works of art from the Methodist Modern Art Collection will be available for viewing in Bristol from February to April. You can find all the details below.

### Death to Life

Death to Life is a reflective exhibition which brings together works by four twentieth century artists showcasing depictions of the Crucifixion.

This Spring exhibition aims to evoke a sense of discovery through meaning, expression and symbolism.

**18th February - 8th April 2023**

**John Wesley's New Room**

Further information can be found [here](#).

## Articles of Faith

Entitled 'Articles of Faith – Where our paths meet', the exhibition will explore themes that resonate with all faiths and none. Thirty paintings from the Methodist Modern Art Collection will be exhibited along with artefacts from various faith traditions. The exhibition includes works by Graham Sutherland, Elisabeth Frink, Ceri Richards, Maggi Hambling and many other renowned artists.

**20th February to 8th April 2023**

**Victoria Methodist Bristol**

Further information can be found [here](#).

# Coming Up

---

## Cliff Festival 2023

Cliff Festival 2023 runs from **26-29 May** at Cliff College in Derbyshire.

Join us along with our Festival partners, All We Can, The Archer Project and the Methodist Church, for worship, Bible teaching, seminars, games and activities for people of all ages.

Be reenergised and resourced for mission, and inspired by the stunning surrounds of the Peak District.

Find out more and book to come [here](#).

# Eden Restored

## Christians Against Poverty

As the rising cost of living sweeps across the UK, God is calling the church to prayer and action.

Join a powerful movement as the church comes together to pray, to lament, and to intercede to our mighty God.

Find out more about how you can get involved [here](#).



## MHA Sunday

MHA Sunday is a chance to come together and celebrate Methodist Homes (MHA).

It offers a time of reflection where we can pray for those in later life and those who support them as we raise awareness of the charity and everything it does.

If you'd like to hold your own MHA Sunday, find out more [here](#).



---

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