



The Methodist News

9 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

Earthquake Response

A Prayer from Graham Thompson, President of the Methodist Conference

God of time and space, we cry to you for your children - our neighbours - in southern Turkey and northern Syria, following the earthquake that has devastated hundreds of lives. Only they and you know what it is like to experience such trauma in the middle of the night.

We give thanks for the aid that is already being given and for the promises of help that have been made by many nations.

Comfort, we pray,

those who are trapped in collapsed buildings;
those who have lost loved ones;
those who wait for news and
those digging through rubble to save others.

Grant the gift of hope so that those caught between life and death know that you are with them and that others are ready to support them as they seek a future that overshadows the experiences of today.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, who endured so much for love of them.

Amen.

How you can help:

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.

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.

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.



It is still as important as ever for those who can to come forward and offer their help. If you have the means to do so, please consider hosting a refugee through the Methodist Church.

You can offer hospitality to those in need, alongside Methodists across the connexion, by sponsoring Ukrainians through the [Methodist at Homes](#) scheme.

A prayer for the anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine has been written by the Revd Graham Thompson, President of the Methodist Conference. This is a free resource, available to download and use in your church.

You can watch and download it [here](#), or click on the image below.



LGBT+ History Month

Young, Trans, Non-Binary, and Methodist

"One of the main events that links my queerness to my faith, and to the Methodist Church, was my baptism."

Discussions around trans and non-binary people can seem to be everywhere at the moment. However, many of the conversations can feel unhelpful to those who are trans or non-binary themselves, often excluding trans voices or focusing on gender in relation to others, rather than welcoming them as the people they are called to be.

The Non-Binary Flag



[Here](#), as part of LGBT+ History Month, young trans and non-binary people talk for themselves about their experiences.

The Transgender Flag



"Queer Christians exist, God loves us just the same as everyone else."

Lent Reflections

Resources from Methodist Women in Britain

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](#).



Dates for the Diary

Racial Justice Sunday

Sunday 12 February is the day we set aside to remember the racist killing of Black teenager, Stephen Lawrence, in Eltham, southeast London.

This year is the 30th anniversary of his death.

Useful resources can be found on the CTBI [website](#).



RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 2023
STEPHEN LAWRENCE

Methodists at Pride

We want to be known as a Church that proclaims the saving Good News of God for all and a Church for all.

On **15 February** we're running a session for Methodists who are planning/considering being a presence at Pride events this year.

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



Gifts and Graces

Could you be an accompanist?

Do you have the gifts and graces to listen to and walk alongside someone considering a call to ordained ministry?

Would you be willing to offer some time to help someone else?

We are looking to recruit volunteer accompanists to do just that.

More details of how to apply and the training offered are available [here](#).

Blogs

New Possibilities

"A recent visit to Ledbury in the Herefordshire (South & East) Circuit offered the opportunity to see the Methodist Church in their new premises - a shop front in the town!"

[Read](#) all about Graham Thompson's visit to a church's new premises, and what an opportunity it could be for other churches to do the same.



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](#).

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 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** 

Opportunities

Faith and Order

Are you a member of the Methodist Church seeking to use your theological skills, expertise and gifts in a new way? Faith and Order are looking for new voices to join the Faith and Order Committee. You can find out more [here](#).

Human Rights Monitor

Known as Ecumenical Accompaniers, EAPPI (Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel) are looking for volunteers to spend 3 months in Palestine and Israel monitoring human rights violations and standing in solidarity with Palestinian and Israeli peace activists. They are currently recruiting EAs to serve in 2024. Find all the information [here](#).

Senior Media Officer

We are looking for an experienced Senior Media Officer to join our busy Communications Team! We need someone who is motivated and creative, able to spot a story and then tell it in a compelling and interesting way to show the amazing things that go on around the Methodist Church. If that sounds like you, click [here](#) for more details!

Queen's Bursary Fund

The Queen's Foundation is looking to offer bursaries to UK residents hoping to enrol on one of their courses. You can find out more about your eligibility and how to apply [here](#).

Open University Research

Two academics at The Open University are conducting a survey designed to include people who solemnise marriages, conduct religious-only weddings or lead wedding-style ceremonies. They hope their findings will influence official communications in any future emergencies. If you are a minister who would like to complete the survey, please email Stephanie.Pywell@open.ac.uk

Email: mediaoffice@methodistchurch.org.uk