



# The Methodist News

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16 March 2023

Hello everyone and welcome back to the Methodist News.

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

Yours,

The Communications team

## Easter is coming...

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Our Easter short film, 'Love, always.', takes a conceptual look at the experience of being in the tomb and how each of us is part of the bigger story of Easter. Look out for it in Holy Week.

## The 2023 Spring Budget

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"There are big changes to benefits underway, some very welcome and some extremely worrying."

Following the Chancellor's Budget Statement on Wednesday 15 March, read our response and thoughts on the announcements that were made [here](#).

## Church of Sanctuary

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Methodist churches in Brighton and Hove have been awarded Church of Sanctuary status. All five Methodist churches from the Brighton & Hove Methodist Circuit received the Church of Sanctuary award: Dorset Gardens; Patcham; Stanford Avenue; Woodingdean, and Hove. They are the first Methodist Churches in Britain to do so.

The City of Sanctuary movement began in 2007, when Sheffield became the UK's first ever City of Sanctuary. Since then, hundreds of local councils, schools, universities, libraries, theatres and more have been awarded with Sanctuary status, pledging to create a culture of solidarity, inclusivity and welcome.

Find out more [here](#).



# Neurodiversity Celebration

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Neurodiversity Celebration Week is right now, and runs 13-18 March



*"So, if you've been following my work till now, you will know I write a lot about experiences of other conditions. But I have never really gone into details about my own life and living with ADHD. This might be a hyperfixation at 11:44pm at night but this is that story."*

To mark Neurodiversity Celebration Week, the Methodist Youth President, James Carver, shares this insightful blog of what it is like to live with ADHD, by allowing his own ADHD to take full reign of his writing.

Read his full blog [here](#), and find out more Neurodiversity Celebration Week [here](#).

## Reflections for Holy Week

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Join the Revd Graham Thompson, President of the Conference, and Anthony Boateng, Vice-President of the Conference, in a short video reflection released each day at 9am, from Palm Sunday (2 April) to Easter Day (9 April).

Each video will be shared from our social media channels. Please follow us using the links below to make sure you don't miss out on these individual reflections from our President and Vice-President:

- [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#) / [YouTube](#) / [LinkedIn](#)

## Sign Up

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### Join a Solidarity Circle

There're only a few days left to sign up to join one of the new Solidarity Circles!

Solidarity circles are a way of the Methodist Church supporting people in different diversities of the Church's life through offering regular on-line opportunities to meet, to support one another, and to raise with relevant Church leaders the concerns that need to be addressed.

The first Solidarity Circles to be established will be:

- Solidarity Circle for Disability
- Solidarity Circle for LGBT+
- Solidarity Circle for Racial Justice
- Solidarity Circle for Women

The deadline to register your interest is **9am on 20 March**. Find out more [here](#).



### Dual Transformation

Dual Transformation is a webinar taking place on **19 April at 7pm**.

Its aim is to inspire and give hope to both those in established churches and in brand new projects by looking at the similarities and differences between those two contexts. Find out more and sign up [here](#).

### Flourish

"Flourish: Rooted in Love" is a major Methodist event being organised by the Yorkshire North and East District - although it's open to all!

It is a celebratory weekend, from **14-16 April**, with speakers, workshops, worship, activities, marketplace, and a children's, youth and family programme. Don't miss out! Find out more [here](#).

## Going Global

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### Encounter Worldwide

Adam Noble is currently serving with the Encounter Worldwide programme in Batumi, Georgia, where he is working with the Russian migrant community who have left Russia because of the situation there. You can read all about his trip [here](#).

## Together - Gathering of the People of God

On 30 September 2023, an ecumenical prayer vigil will take place in Rome in the presence of Pope Francis. Young people aged between 18 and 35 from across Europe are being invited to attend for the weekend.

A small group will be attending from the Methodist Church in Britain. Details of how to apply will be announced shortly. Find out more [here](#).

## Voter ID Changes

The way that we vote in national and local elections is changing. From **4 May 2023**, voters will need to show photo ID at polling stations. JPIT have put together this guidance for to help church and community leaders to be able to share this information within their communities.

Find out more [here](#).

## Action for Children

Action for Children has been commissioned by Norfolk County Council to provide their service for children under the age of five and their families. The five-year contract for this work commenced in 2019 and has been running throughout the restrictions caused by the pandemic and evolving to support the changing needs of those in early years and their carers.

Graham Thompson, President of the Methodist Conference, visited the Action for Children Early Child and Family Service in Norwich to see the amazing work they're doing.

Read about his visit [here](#).



## Pause for Thought



On Monday morning, Trey Hall, Director of Evangelism and Growth, was back on BBC Radio 2 with Zoe Ball.

Listen back to it [here](#) from 48 minutes.