

The Methodist News 11th January 2024

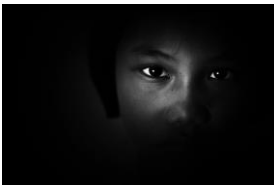
[Details on how to contact the Media team can be found on our website.](#)

Make sure you're following us on social media to stay up to date with everything going on across the Methodist Church. Remember to share and tag us in your posts so that we can see the amazing things going on in your local area too.

[Find out more about the Communications team](#)



Human Trafficking Day



Today is Human Trafficking Day. Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, Deacon Kerry Scarlett, has written this blog as a reminder of the ongoing fight against this violation of human rights affecting millions worldwide. She details how we can seek justice and transformation in response to this complex and ever-changing crime.

[Read more here](#)

Unbounded Love, Lent Gospel Readings



A range of resources that connect the Gospel readings from the Sunday lectionary throughout Lent to weekly themes, each one a line taken from Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.

This famous hymn by Charles Wesley talks about Jesus as 'unbounded love' – a kind of love that cannot be contained, that works in our lives and in our world to free us and heal us. Unbounded Love is the theme of the Lent campaign of the Methodist Church in 2024, holding together our commitments to be a justice-seeking Church and a people who experience and proclaim the good news of God's uncontainable love.

There is also a [light-touch guidance for Sunday services or small groups on our website](#). This has been produced as webpage content accessibility purposes and a PDF will be made available to download shortly.

[Find out more](#)

Armed Forces Local Preacher Scheme



The first member of the armed forces having participated in the new Armed Forces Local Preacher Scheme has been admitted to the office of Local Preacher in the Methodist Church. He was admitted, alongside Sally Crafer, at a service that took place at Castle Methodist Church, Colchester.

[Read more here](#)

Gangs take over Methodist Churches in Haiti



With the recent gang crisis in Haiti, Mission Coordinator for the Methodist Haiti District, David Draeger, offers us this update on the situation and its impact on daily life there.

[Read the update here](#)

Metal Methodism as a Methodist Way of Life



Music and song are part of the Methodist tradition and, thanks to Revd James Morley, it is the case for Methodists who enjoy metal music.

"You can like the music you want, dress how you want and you are still absolutely, awesomely, wonderfully made by God."

[Read more here](#)

Methodists and Anglicans in North Yorkshire



Revd Melanie Burnside is the new Interim Priest in Charge for Joint Anglican-Methodist churches in the Helmsley area.

"It's not my job to merge the distinct church congregations, but to encourage them all to be engaged with the community in the world."

[Find out about her new role here](#)

A visit to Nigeria



Revd Andrew Ashdown, Partnership Coordinator for Africa, made a recent visit to Nigeria where he attended the 60th anniversary of the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) meeting in Abuja. He also visited our partner, the Zongkwa Theological College in Kaduna State and the Theological College of Northern Nigeria, Jos.

[Discover more about his visit here](#)

Newsletter from Uganda

Mission Partners Daniel and Grace Pratt Morris-Chapman write about training for local preachers and the challenges of working with various local languages.

[Read the newsletter here](#)

Exploring Digital lunchtime learning



Tuesday 20 February 12noon – 1pm

Join us over lunch as we enter into the world of online church and online community. What can we learn about being an inclusive church from these experiences? Can we create authentic relationships online?

Sharing their thoughts, insights and experiences are:

- Laura Neale, founder of YouBelong an online community catering for those who are chronically ill and disabled.
- Tori Allen, Digital and Communications Officer for the Manchester and Stockport District, founder of Your Space the district NPNP project. Your Space is a safe space to explore life and faith and is passionate about well-being and reducing isolation.

Bring along your lunch and join us at 12noon for an hour of insight and conversation.

[Book your place here](#)

Vote for our Christmas film!



Our Christmas film *Out of the Ordinary* has been entered into the Smiley Charity Film Awards and we need your help to see it reach the finals. If you enjoyed our film then please vote and share the link with your friends and family.

Voting closes this Friday (12 January).

[Vote here!](#)

News & events

Local Preachers retreat

Bob Bartindale, Connexional Officer for Worship and Local Preachers, will be leading a retreat from the 19 to 21 April. This retreat will be a chance to think, reflect and discover a new insight to inspire our faith and our calling.

[Sign up to the retreat here](#)

Reflect on the journey webinar

Join a webinar to explore the twelve practices of a Methodist Way of Life. Taking place on Tuesday, 9 January at 10.00am and again at 7.00pm, it is created to explore and reflect on a MWoL.

[Join the webinar here](#)

Becoming a Church at the Margins

This single, 90-minute, session is for anyone who is leading a small group using the new Beginning a Church at the Margins resource. It will be a chance to introduce the course and think about how you can share the materials in context.

There are several dates to choose from but if you would like to arrange an alternative time to run a session then you can email [Eunice Attwood](mailto:Eunice.Attwood@methodist.org.uk), Church at the Margins Officer.

[Find out more here](#)

Be a part of The Connexional Team

If you're interested in being a part of the Connexional Team or interested in volunteering with the Methodist Church, then take a look to see what roles are available. Please make sure to share if you know of anyone who may be interested.

[Take a look at our job and volunteering opportunities](#)

Find us on social media

