

# The Methodist News 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023

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[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.

**The Methodist Church Communications team**

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



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*Out of the Ordinary* Christmas film is out!

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The *Out of the Ordinary* Christmas film was released last week and is available to view across our social media platforms and [on our website](#). This year's film focuses on a mother-to-be struggling with the cost of living crisis who stumbles upon a glowing manger in a Methodist Church. Watch the film and share it on social media, as we seek to connect with people who are open to a message of faith during Advent and Christmas.

[Find out more about the campaign here](#)

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*Call for second Advent candle to remain unlit this year*

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To remember all of those who have died in the Israel/Palestine conflict, Methodist churches are being called upon to leave their second Advent candle unlit this year.

The Revd David Hardman, Methodist Liaison Officer, Jerusalem and currently fulfilling his role from the UK, explained, "Our Christian colleagues in Bethlehem tell us that this Advent and Christmas the lights that normally adorn the birth place of Jesus will remain unlit in memory of those who have been killed in the current conflict."

[Read more here](#)

## Methodists for World Mission Israel/Palestine webinar

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John Howard, Angleena Kaizer and David Hardman, who have all served at the Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem, will speak about the situation in Israel/Palestine in a webinar with Methodists for World Mission on Sunday 10 December at 7.00pm – 8.30pm.

To register please complete the online form and you will be sent a link for the webinar in advance.

[Register here](#)

## Vigil against hate

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Together for Humanity, a coalition of charities, community organisations and faith groups, are hosting a vigil in central London on Sunday 3 December at 3pm on Richmond Terrace (opposite Downing Street) to give a voice to the majority of the public who stand against hate including antisemitic and anti-Muslim hatred.

[Learn more here](#)

## Our Christmas carol is coming out

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The carol from our Christmas film *Out of the Ordinary* is to be released tomorrow, Friday morning. *Be Born* is a rearrangement of 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' and is sung by the talented Izzy Wellings, a young Methodist from Cornwall. You will be able to listen to and download it from all available music platforms, as well as watch a lyric video on YouTube.

The carol was chosen before the current conflict in the Middle East, its words carrying additional meaning this Christmas and inviting thought provoking reflection on the situation. You can find resources and statements from the Methodist Church on [the Israel/Palestine conflict on our website](#).

[Find the Out of the Ordinary resources here](#)

## COP28 climate change summit JPIT

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The COP28 UN summit on climate change begins in Dubai today, Thursday. The Joint Public Issues Team are following events with updates, prayers and a podcast.

Read the [blog from JPIT's Annie Sharples](#) about why the commitments from the UK need to be stronger and the need for decisions made at COP28 to reflect the alarming state the climate is currently in.

[Find the JPIT summit resources here](#)

## Why chaplains are one of our 'Hidden Treasures'

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The Methodist Church organised a special event earlier in November that included the President of the Methodist Conference, Revd Gill Newton, and Vice-President, Deacon Kerry Scarlett, to celebrate the incredible work done by chaplains and to share their experiences. "It was a joy to be invited to share in this celebration of chaplaincy. Chaplains themselves are treasures to those who are seeking someone or something to bring them comfort or encouragement, friendship or kindness, in what might be some of the darkest and most painful moments of their lives."

[Discover more about their work here](#)

## Honouring John Wesley in Grantham

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A blue plaque in honour of John Wesley has been unveiled in Grantham, Lincolnshire. The plaque marks the occasions when John Wesley visited the White Lion in the town, now known as Lindpet House, in 1747 and his return to Grantham in 1781 to preach.

[Read more about the plaque unveiling here](#)

## Same-sex marriage on the Isle of Man

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The trustees of Trinity Methodist Church and Promenade Methodist Church in Douglas, in the [Isle of Man Methodist District](#), voted overwhelmingly in favour of registering their churches for same-sex marriages. They are the first churches on the island to do so. Pam Gold, EDI Officer for the district says, "Many LGBT people don't go to church as they do not feel welcomed.

We wanted to change that, to make ourselves visible and let them know we would love them to be part of our community."

[Find out more here](#)

## Have a listen!

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Continuing the excitement of the launch of our Christmas film *Out of the Ordinary*, Ben Hollebon, Director of Digital Engagement with the Connexional Team, talks to [Premier Radio](#) about the concept behind the film and what else you can expect from our campaign.

[Listen here](#)



Revd Graham Carter, who was the first presenter of Daybreak on BBC Merseyside back in 1987, talks to Paul Beesley to mark the programmes final edition, discussing how he became involved with the show and what it was like in the early days.

[Listen here](#)

## Are you a digital Local Preacher or Worship Leader?

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“This great course has really inspired me to look at my preaching and leading worship in a different way.”  
This short three-week course is an introduction to how Local Preachers and Worship Leaders can develop their digital skills and become more confident about their role in a digital world. Our highly successful course is back for 2024 bookings with more dates added soon!

A series of 3 sessions running on consecutive weeks starting **Tuesday 16 January 2024 at 2pm.**

Week 1: What's digital got to do with me? (Why should Local Preachers bother with the digital world at all?)

Week 2: Going digital in worship (including videos in PPT, recorded music etc)

Week 3: Developing online prayer and worship online and on social media.

[Register and book your place here](#)

## News & Events

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[Sign up to the course here](#)

### Go further and faster with a coach

Mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> century UK context is tough and complex work. Coaching equips pioneers and missional leaders, both lay and ordained, for this by helping them achieve new insights. It is a future-focussed process that is about helping someone think so they can go further and faster. Apply to receive a year's coaching funded by The Methodist Church or email [coaching@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:coaching@methodistchurch.org.uk).

[Apply here](#)

## Be a part of The Connexional Team

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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

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