

# The Methodist News 7<sup>th</sup> December

---

[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](#)



## Carols and Christmas Spirit at the Black Country Museum

---



In the heart of the Black Country Living Museum, you can find Providence Methodist Chapel. This Christmas, the chapel will be running its annual carol service for the visitors who come to the museum. The service is led by Peter Clarke, a retired minister who volunteers to preach at the chapel.

"Peter's carol services are a highlight for many visitors to the village, giving them a sense of how the chapel was a part of the local community. It's a fantastic experience that brings the village to life."

[Read more here](#)

## Christmas with the Methodist Mobile Outreach

---



"It's about creating welcoming communities in isolated places. We wanted to be able to park up, on say a village green and offer a pop-up coffee morning. Coming back regularly helps to create community."

The Methodist Mobile Outreach (MeMO) was created by Andy Skitt from the [Shropshire & Marches Methodist Circuit](#) to bring the church to rural parts of the circuit.

[Find out more here](#)

## Second Advent candle unlit

---



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

"This is what Christmas looks like in Bethlehem," [watch this video](#) on how a Bethlehem church has cancelled Christmas celebration and set up a powerful manger scene with baby Jesus among rubble.

[Discover more here](#)

## Listen here

---



The President of the Methodist Conference, Revd Gill Newton, talks to [Kat Cowan](#) on [BBC Radio York](#) about how churches are being invited to consider not lighting the second candle for Advent as a reminder as to what is happening in the Holy Land. From 1hr 16mins.



Jude Levermore, Head of Mission, talks to [Katie Tyler](#) for [BBC Radio Berkshire](#) about why churches are being invited to not light the second candle for Advent. From 2hr 26mins.

## Out of the Ordinary

---



How can God's extraordinary love transform our lives this Christmas? It is not too late to sign up for the daily email reflections that explore our theme *Out of the Ordinary*. Sign up to receive these and discover a rhythm of reflection during Advent this December.

In case you missed it, you can [listen to the whole song](#) from the Out of the Ordinary Christmas film sung by the hugely talented Izzy Wellings.

[Sign up here](#)

## Have a listen

---



Ben Lawrence, who wrote and helped produce our Christmas single *Be Born*, talks to [Mel Osborne](#) from [BBC Radio Cornwall](#) about the process of creating it and finding the right singer to bring the song to life. From 1hr 21mins.

## Youth President visits Argentina

---



Each year, the Methodist Youth President undertakes an overseas visit in partnership with the Global Relationships team. In the autumn of 2023, Tom Hart travelled to Argentina. Tom shares the highlights of his visit.

[Discover more about Tom's trip here](#)

## Bea Hulme elected as Youth President for 2024/2025

---



Bea Hulme, aged 21, has been announced as Youth President for 2024/2025 following elections earlier this year. Bea attends [Penrith Methodist Church](#) in Cumbria.

“At first, I was really surprised that I was voted in and was convinced I’d get another call in an hour saying it was a mistake but I’m really excited to be taking on the role.”

[Read more here](#)

## Human Rights Day

---

Sunday, 10 December is Human Rights Day which, this year, celebrates the 75th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights that was adopted by the UN General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948. Steve Hucklesby from JPIT explores the influence of Christian faith on the Declaration in this blog.

[Find out more here](#)

## The Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls

---



As part of 16 days of activism to eliminate violence against women and girls, the Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, Deacon Kerry Scarlett, shares why this work is so important and why everyone has a role to play. This post includes mentions of gender-based violence.

[Discover more here](#)

## Exploring Digital Lunchtime Learning

---



On Tuesday 20 February 2024, 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? Join Laura Neale, founder of *YouBelong* an online community catering for those who are chronically ill and disabled and Tori Allen, Digital and Communications Officer for the Manchester and Stockport District.

Bring your lunch and join us at 12noon for an hour of insight and conversation and an opportunity to learn new skills, ask questions in a safe space, and leave with a digital toolkit of resources and ideas for mission and ministry.

[Book your place here](#)

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

---



“This great course has really inspired me to look at my preaching and leading worship in a different way.”

This short 3-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. **New dates now for**

### March and April 2024

Week 1: What's digital got to do with me? (why should LPs 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 in social media.

[Register and book your place here](#)

## News & Events

---



### Wholehearted conference

This conference, which is happening on 12 January to 14 January at Yarnfield Park Training and Conference Centre, aims to help us have some time away from local context and to seek God, engage in strategic planning and workshopping creative ideas in different areas of mission. Individuals and teams are welcome to attend.

Food and accommodation is all included in your ticket and both residential and day tickets are available for Saturday 13 January. If you have any further questions, you can contact the [Evangelism and Growth Team](#).

[Book your tickets 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

---

