

The Methodist News 22nd February 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](#)



Israel/Palestine Statement from the President and Vice-President



The President of the Methodist Conference, Revd Gill Newton, and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, Deacon Kerry Scarlett, have released this statement about the situation in Gaza.

[Read the statement here](#)

Gaza appeal

The Methodist Church in Britain has launched an appeal to support the emergency work being carried out in Gaza by the Methodist Liaison Office's partners. The partner's work focuses on helping civilians in Gaza with medical, dental and mental healing issues and offering them financial support.

"The scale of the destruction and tragic loss of life in so short a space of time is incomparable to any other conflict in recent times. We grieve for all lives lost on October 7 and in the subsequent fighting. There is no justification for such widespread killing of tens of thousands of innocent people and we are gravely concerned for the entire population of the Gaza strip."

[Read more about the appeal](#)

Prayer for Ukraine

#WePrayForUkraine



Saturday, 24 February, is the second anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

To mark this, [a prayer has been written by a Ukrainian family](#) who are being hosted by the Black Country Methodist Circuit. Steve Hucklesby, from the Joint Public Issues Team, has published [a blog regarding the ongoing conflict](#). And, since the conflict in

Ukraine began, All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain have supported communities impacted by the conflict through a joint appeal. Read stories from the appeal's humanitarian partners [here](#).

[Find the resources here](#)

LGBT+ History Month More than words



Revd Dr Karl Rutledge is a proud trans man, an activist, a husband, a stepdad and a Methodist minister. In this blog for LGBT+ History Month, Karl considers hate speech and violence against members of the trans community.

“Writing about hate crime is never an easy task, but recent events mean this year it is more difficult than ever, especially as a trans person.”

[Read more here](#)

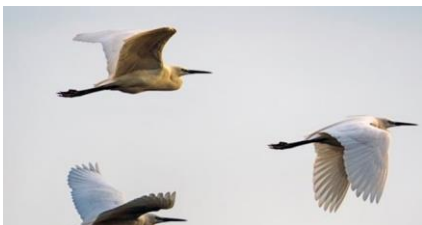
Methodist wins BAFTA



June Givanni, a leader for the Walworth Methodist Church, won the BAFTA for Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema for The June Givanni Pan African Cinema Archive (JGPACA). She was handed the BAFTA at the awards ceremony that took place in London on 18 February.

[Read more about her win](#)

Leadership matters



President of the Methodist Conference, Revd Gill Newton, writes about the importance of leadership within the Church.

“Leadership is a topic or even a word that we have shied away from using in the Church on occasions, as if it was somehow a questionable attribute that we shouldn’t be looking for amongst those called to serve!”

[Read about the importance of leadership here](#)

Let's End Poverty

Sarah Hulme, Methodist Rural Mission & Ministry Officer, visited the launch of the Hidden Hardship exhibition at Coventry Cathedral. The exhibition presents people’s experiences of hardship, their coping strategies and barriers to wellbeing in rural Britain. Sarah writes about the impact of the exhibition and how we should be raising awareness about the hardships to local and national government leaders.

[Discover more about the exhibition](#)

A thriving church for children and young people



Sensing an opportunity to reach out and bring people together, the [South Kent Methodist Circuit](#) has organised activities for children and young people that have been growing in popularity.

“The first time away we had beautiful sunshine, the tide was out so we had a sandcastle competition. But sometimes it rains the whole time, yet everyone still comes because they want to be part of the community. It isn't about going to the beach as much as it is about being together.”

[Read more here](#)

How to break out of the box



To celebrate the launch of the [A Methodist Way of Life \(MWOL\) discipleship toolkit](#), the Evangelism and Growth team is producing a new monthly blog series on leadership and culture change. If you're [mission planning](#), starting [an New Places for New People \(NPNP\)](#), focusing on one of the [commitments of MWOL](#) or [re-orienting your church's focus to discipleship](#) these blogs will provide inspiration, encouragement and guidance.

[Read the blog here](#)

Diverse Language Ministries

We want people to be able to search for our Diverse Language Ministries on the Methodist Church website, using a map in a similar way to how you can currently find local churches. If you know of any Diverse Language Fellowships, groups or congregations in your district or circuit, please ask them to fill out [this form](#).

The form should be emailed back to [Andrea Campanale](#), Mission Projects Officer, in the Connexional Team by April 1.

Methodist Modern Art Collection - Deepening the Mystery



An exhibition of 25 works from the [Methodist Modern Art Collection](#) is to take place at The Focolare Centre for Unity, Welwyn Garden City. The art exhibition on the theme of Lent and Easter, *Deepening the Mystery - 'unexpected treasures of art'* will be running from Saturday 2 March to Sunday 7 April.

“This collection is inspirational, and it is a real privilege to have it here. The pictures offer a modern and multicultural interpretation of some of the most influential bible stories, affording new perspectives and insight.”

[Discover more about the exhibiton](#)

News & events

Church Planting Intensive

The next Church Planting Intensive is happening 15-17 March. It starts with a residential at Cliff College and will be followed by five sessions on Thursday evenings between 7-8.30pm. It is a fully hybrid course designed for those who are actively shaping a new vision, planting New Places for New People or about to launch an existing project.

[Sign up here](#)

Ready for a prayer like no other?

Prayer fuels our faith journey, it's our direct line to God and energises our mission, discipleship and evangelism. This 6 session course, called *Sunshine and Showers*, will be diving into prayer's paradoxes. Embrace the mystery, find peace amid confusion and let your prayer life bloom.

[Book onto the course 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

