

The Methodist News 23rd May 2024

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](#)



General Election 2024



Methodist leaders issue election call to love, pray and vote

The President of the Methodist Conference, Revd Gill Newton, and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, Deacon Kerry Scarlett, have released a statement to encourage you to love, pray and vote for this year's general election.

"Our hope is that this will be an election campaign where people will be able to discuss and disagree with kindness, where truth will be upheld, and where the needs of people who are vulnerable will be honoured."

[Read the full statement here](#)

A prayer on the announcement of a General Election

Loving God,

Now that an election has been called, hear my prayers for our country and the campaign ahead.

I pray for those who are standing for election, for their safety, and for their willingness to listen and to speak.

I pray for truthfulness and kindness to prevail as the issues are debated.

I pray that each of us will be inspired to use our voice and our vote for your goodness and glory.

Inspire me, God, to Love, to Pray and to Vote.

Amen.

Resources for engaging with the General Election

A range of resources are available from the Joint Public Issues Team to help you engage with the election. These include:

- How your church can champion for voter registration
- A guide to holding a hustings or election meeting
- A briefing on key election issues including poverty, refugees, and climate change, with questions to ask candidates
- Preaching and praying around the election

Over the oncoming weeks, JPIT will be sharing action you can take to raise poverty up the agenda during the election with the [Let's End Poverty](#) campaign.

Finally, don't forget to [register to vote](#).

[Find the resources here](#)

Aldersgate Sunday



For Aldersgate Sunday, or Wesley Day, we are asking ‘how will God cause your heart to skip a beat?’

Watch our new video, which premieres May 24 at 7.00am, and be encouraged by John Wesley’s Aldersgate experience and pray that God will meet you.

[Watch the video here](#)

Equipping for Equality



Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Learning & Development Officer, Stuart Watkin, reflects on the importance of Justice, Dignity and Solidarity, previewing the upcoming [‘Equipping for Equality’](#), development day.

“Should we fail to embrace this pilgrimage, or abandon it because it is too demanding or too difficult, we will have turned our backs on the gospel.”

[Read his reflection here](#)

Celebrating Wesley at Mount Zion Chapel



John Wesley is said to have covered 250,000 miles to undertake his preaching. One of the places he preached was Mount Zion Chapel, located near Halifax, where they recently celebrated the 250th anniversary of John Wesley’s first visit.

[Read more here](#)

Walworth Clubland: Social justice in youth work

Coming back from World War I, Revd Butterworth wanted to make a difference to society. He came up with Clubland, a youth club that operated from 1922 to 1976 in Walworth, London, bringing learning opportunities to young people in this deprived area.

[Discover more here](#)

First Eco Fair



The rural church of Whalley, in the [Lancashire Methodist District](#), organised its first Eco Spring Fair earlier this month. The church hall was filled with stalls from Fairtrade, pre-loved baby clothes and even to eco snake food.

Lindsay, one of the organisers of the fair, says “The pre-loved baby clothes are often needed by young families and we have handpicked craft vendors with sustainable practices.”

[Find out more here](#)

Call for stories

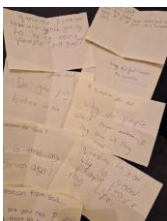
The 50th anniversary of the first ordinations of women as presbyters in the Methodist Church in Britain will be marked on 2 July 2024. To celebrate this milestone, we would like to hear your stories to share on our website. If you'd be interested in contributing, please email mediaoffice@methodistchurch.org.uk and we'll get back in touch with the details of what we're looking for.

Pride 2024

Many churches organise their Pride celebrations in June or join with events in their area to show their support for the LGBT+ community.

We would love to be able to share these celebrations with the rest of the Methodist Church. If you would like to share, you can use the hashtag #MethodistsAtPride. Ensure all those in the images are happy to be included as, by using the hashtag, you consent to us re-sharing the photo.

How 3Generate can give ideas to mix up activities



Inspired by their attendance at 3Generate, the children and youth assembly, a youth group at a church in the [Isle of Man District](#) that began with three young people now has up to fifteen attending.

Kitty, aged 17, says “Youth events such as 3Generate are great because it's important to be surrounded by other young Christians and to help each other. I walk alongside the younger ones and help them grow. It's good for our faith because we know that there's a space here every second Friday when we can spend time together and grow.”

[Read more here](#)

News and events

Taking Action for Hope

The Methodist Church are working towards a net-zero carbon emissions by 2030, and the Church is inviting children and young people to learn more about the Methodist Church's ambitious plans. Sessions for 8-11 year olds will run from 22 June or 5.00pm-6.00pm on 25 June; sessions for 11-17 years old will run from 11.30am-12.30pm on 22 June or 6.30pm-7.30pm on 25 June.

[Register here](#)

Growing the relationship between uniform groups

If you have uniformed youth groups meeting at your church, such as Boys' or Girls' Brigade, the Children, Youth and Families team will be hosting an online ideas exchange to explore how churches can support them. Partnered with the Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade, as part of Flourish Uniform Group, the event takes place on Monday 10 June 7pm-8.30pm, with a short online prayer meeting on Monday 8 July from 7.30pm-8.30pm.

[Sign up here](#)

Bible Month Resources

Bible Month is our annual call to feast on a particular book of the Bible. This year it is Genesis. You can find a whole range of resources and supporting videos to help you and your church community engage with Genesis.

[Find the resources here](#)

Hidden Hardship Devotional Study Guide

The UK is one of the most unequal societies in the world and there is hidden hardship amongst the affluence in every community across the country, both urban and rural. Hardship is not simply a problem of 'elsewhere'. The guide includes 10 themed days with responses to current hardship and challenges for how we can work for a better future.

[Find the study guide 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

