

The Methodist News 12th March 2026

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Responses to the Widening Conflict in the Middle East



“As an ethnically diverse fellowship whose members bear the histories, memories and wounds of many nations, we feel the shock waves of this conflict in our bones; its poison curdles our blood.”

As the conflict in the Middle East continues, Methodists around the world have been reflecting on the situation. The Revd Dr Vincent Jambawo from the Belonging Together Ministers' Group wrote this reflection.

[Read the reflection here](#)

“As Christians, we do not recognise any divine licence to kill, destroy, displace or occupy. We proclaim the God-given human dignity and rights of all people, equally and without discrimination. We reject the brutal logic of war and domination. We seek the gift of peace.”

The World Methodist Council joined the Anglican Communion, the Lutheran World Federation and the World Communion of Reformed Churches in releasing an ecumenical statement on the widening conflict.

[Read the statement here](#)

Holy Land Visit by the President Designate



“Palestinians are exhausted and worn down. They have not lost hope but hope hangs by a thread. There is real urgency in the request our Palestinian brothers and sisters in Christ make of us.”

The Revd Mark Slaney, President Designate, visited the Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem and partners in Israel/Palestine from 5 to 17 February. Here is his report on the visit.

[Read the report here](#)

Play and Chat in Middlesborough



“I see God here every week. It’s an absolute joy; caring for mums, babies and children.”

For a decade now, the Play and Chat group at Nunthorpe Methodist Church in Middlesborough has been a place where toddlers explore, parents take time to rest and grandparents can connect.

[Read more here](#)

Mothering Sunday

Prayer for Mothering Sunday

Creator God,

We thank you for your love which shapes us and helps us to grow.

On this Mothering Sunday we give thanks for women who have been examples of self-giving love, who have given time, wisdom and care to the nurture of children, their own or others.

We pray for those who find this a difficult day, who do not have happy memories of their own mothers, those who grieve for their mothers or for their children, and those who long to be mothers but cannot be. We remember mothers in the Bible, giving thanks for the tenacity of Sarah, the generosity of Hannah and the courage of Mary.

May your Spirit continue to shape us, heal us and guide us today.

Amen.

A Reflection

Methodist Women in Britain's (MWiB) co-chair, Olive Ruzvidzo, has written a reflection linked to the reading Matthew 5:14–15, which will be available on the Creative Spirituality page of the MWiB website from Sunday.

[The reflection will be available here](#)

Does Your Church Stream or Record its Worship Services?



Across the Methodist Church, hundreds of churches are streaming worship every week – but most are figuring it out alone. What equipment works? Which platform? What about copyright? Can we legally stream that hymn? What if someone in the congregation doesn't want to be on camera?

We're putting together an Online Worship Toolkit to bring all of this together in one place: practical guidance on copyright, platform comparisons, consent templates, accessibility tips and real examples from churches that are making it work.

If your church streams or records services, please take ten minutes to fill in our survey. Whether you've been doing this for years or you're just getting started, your experience will shape what we produce.

[Submit the survey here](#)

Step by Step: Nurturing Growth

Are you exploring new ways to support children, young people, young adults or families in your church or community? You might run a toddler group or Messy Church and want to grow deeper connections, or be looking to develop new ministry ideas.

Through a five-session programme, we will offer space to learn with and support each other, with opportunities to apply and feed back on what you've learnt.

[Read 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.

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