

# The Methodist News 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026

---

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.

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



## Sans Gill: Surviving an Artist

---

▲ **Content warning: discussions of abuse.**



What happens when survivors lead the conversation about art, abuse and accountability?

Our new film *Sans Gill: Surviving an Artist* follows the Methodist Survivors' Advisory Group as they work to confront the legacy of the artist Eric Gill and bring his watercolour *Annunciation* back into public view with truth, context and the voices of survivors at the centre.

[Read more and watch the film here](#)

## Middle East Conflict

---



*"In the political and economic upheavals shaking the world, human society has been transformed into a slave market where homelands and nations are sold as spare parts or secondary components, used in the projects of those who see people only as bank numbers or tools for power and influence."*

The Secretary General of the Middle East Council of Churches has shared a message about the situation in the Middle East. Speaking with a perspective from within the region he relates the current conflicts to the commodification of land and people.

[The message is available here](#)

## Artificial Intelligence Air Strikes

---



Among the ongoing horrors of the war across the Middle East – and on top of significant questions around the legality and intent behind it – we're seeing a dangerous step into a new kind of warfare. The Joint Public Issues Team asks: to what extent is human judgement being replaced by artificial intelligence (AI) in decisions that are leading to the deaths of civilians?

[Read more here](#)

## Eco Church Successes

---



*“It is fantastic to see so many Methodist churches registering and receiving awards, and truly inspirational to read the stories of those involved. As we pass this milestone, I hope that it helps more and more Methodist churches see this as something they too can be involved in.”*

Dr Hamish Leese, Director of Environmental Engagement

More than 1,000 Methodist churches are now enrolled in [the Eco Church scheme with A Rocha UK](#) and over 700 of them have received an award, reflecting the Church’s deepening commitment to creation care and its Action for Hope net zero ambitions.

[Read more here](#)

## Refugee Family Reunion Campaign

---



*“Safety is not a luxury but a right. Therefore, it is vital at this time that we call upon the government to reconsider its policy proposals so that we ensure safety is not for the few but for all.”*

Matt Forsyth, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

Families belong together, every family deserves safety and every child deserves healthcare and education. As faith communities, we are calling on the UK Government to protect refugee family reunion,

which is under threat of permanent suspension – the campaign ends this week.

[Find out more and join the campaign](#)

## Listen Again

---

The President of the Conference on BBC Radio Cumbria  
The Revd Richard Andrew talks about signs of hope.

[Listen here \(2:11:53 onwards\)](#)

Dawn Saunders on BBC Radio Jersey  
The Revd Dawn Saunders discusses interfaith relations.

[Listen here \(2:07:00 onwards\)](#)

David Waters on BBC Radio 2 Pause for Thought  
Local preacher David Waters delivers his Pause for Thought: “The strongest motivation to keep going is love”.

[Listen here](#)

## 2026 Annual Global Mission Residential Conference

Mission in South Asia

---

This year’s conference takes place at Cliff College from 29–31 May with the theme:  
**How does the Church engage in mission in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh?**

The keynote speakers will be the Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal and the Revd Dr Raj Patta, along with speakers from the Orissa Christian Theological College of North India. There will be a children’s programme alongside the main sessions and a limited number of bursaries are available.

[Read more and book here](#)



Wholehearted continues in April with guest speaker the Revd Charissa Suli, President of the Uniting Church in Australia. She is the youngest person and the first of Pacifica heritage to hold this esteemed position. She'll speak about her Presidential theme: **Threads of Love: Weaving Christ's Love Across Cultures and Boundaries**  
Wholehearted is a free monthly online gathering of Christians hosted by the Methodist Church and open to all.

[Get free tickets here](#)

## Pruning for Fruitfulness Webinar

---



Join the conversation for rural and/or small churches on 5 May, from 1.30pm to 3.00pm. Hosted by the Dreaming Beyond team.

[See details and get free tickets here](#)

## Are You Looking for an Easter Gift with Meaning?

---



Image © All We Can Look no further than All We Can's Easter Extraordinary Gifts!  
A £15 Extraordinary Gifts Easter Card can help vulnerable families in Uganda start their own businesses rearing and selling chickens which can make an income that will provide for their basic needs.  
You will receive an Easter card to send to your loved one with some information inside telling them about the impact that the Extraordinary Gift can have.

[Browse Extraordinary Gifts 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

---

