

The Methodist News 26th March 2026

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



Installation of the Archbishop of Canterbury



"A sense of joy, of celebration as the first ever female archbishop is installed here in Canterbury."

The Installation of the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, Dame Sarah Mullally, took place at Canterbury Cathedral on Wednesday 25 March 2026. The service was attended by dignitaries, including the Prince and Princess of Wales and the UK Prime Minister. Also in attendance were the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, along with the Secretary of the Conference.

The President and Vice-President recorded a short video reflection on the day's events.

[Watch the film here](#)

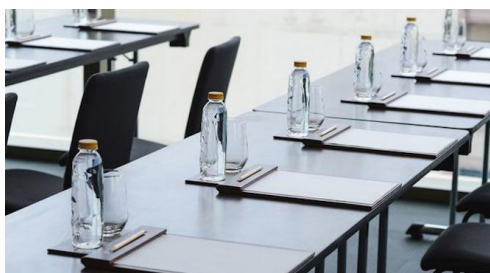
Peter Howdle Obituary



It is with sadness that the death of Professor Peter Howdle, a Past Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, has been announced.

[Read Peter Howdle's obituary](#)

Connexional Council



The Connexional Council met in London from 21–23 March 2026 to discuss key areas of mission and ministry within the Methodist Church. Reports included the proposed Connexional Central Services Budget for 2026/2027, housing, ministerial wellbeing and education governance. There were also updates on the children and youth event 3Generate, reparative justice and the Justice, Dignity and Solidarity strategy.

Discussions took place for future projects including the Methodist Day of Outreach in August 2026 (see below) and the 2032 centenary of Methodist Union, reflecting hope and shared purpose for the Church's ongoing witness and mission.

[Read the report here](#)

Faith Leaders Ask Government to Protect Refugee Family Reunion



"Removing family reunion for refugees risks pushing people into smugglers' hands," say religious leaders.

Amidst major asylum policy overhaul, 720 bishops, rabbis, church ministers and an imam from UK communities have written to the Home Secretary, Shabana Mahmood, to raise concerns for refugee families.

The letter was coordinated by the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) of the Methodist, Baptist and United Reformed Churches. It urges the Home Secretary to reconsider plans to suspend a vital route for partner reunion and for children trying to reunite with parents. This suspension would effectively end family reunion for newly recognised refugees.

[Read more here](#)

Evangelism at Justice Events



"As Christians, our call to seek justice is deeply connected to our broader calling to live righteous lives. Demonstrations and marches can be powerful expressions of this calling and can often powerfully share the story of our faith with those around us."

In the current turbulent times, the Methodist Church has published a new resource to help us reflect on how we can best engage with the issues around us. Events such as [this weekend's Together March](#) are often filled with a sense of unity and shared purpose. Yet these events can also be sites of tension and confrontation. This resource contains practical guidance around how you might engage safely, effectively and inclusively.

[Download the resource here](#)

Walking Humbly



Is your church a place where people facing hunger and hardship can belong fully? Join the launch of Trussell's **Walking Humbly** resources online on 7 May, from 9.00am to 10.30am.

The resources include a booklet for church leaders and a series of Bible Studies to help explore how churches can be communities where all are welcomed and all voices are

heard.

If you are unable to attend the webinar but would like resources, please let us know at churches@trussell.org.uk.

[Sign up for the free webinar here](#)

Eclipse 2026: A Methodist Day of Outreach



On Wednesday 12 August, between 6.00pm and 8.00pm the UK will experience its most total solar eclipse since 1999. During this amazing spectacle, churches across the Connexion are invited to host community viewing events, during which they can meet new people, have a shared experience of awe and wonder, and engage in gentle, authentic faith-sharing. Resources to support churches in planning and hosting viewing events will become available in the coming months.

[Find out more and register your interest here](#)

Listen Again

Pause for Thought on BBC Radio 2

The Revd Jo Cox Darling considers the theme of Spring Cleaning and "The fullness of life here and now" in this week's Pause for Thought.

[Listen 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

