

# The Methodist News 21<sup>st</sup> May 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](#)



## Pentecost and Aldersgate



Ahead of this Sunday's Wesley Day, the President and Vice-President have released a video asking "What warms your heart?", remembering the day when John Wesley's heart was "strangely warmed".

[Download the video here](#)

A prayer at Pentecost for Aldersgate Sunday

Holy Spirit come again this Pentecost:

**Out of the depth we call.**

Cut through the noise to still our souls and warm our hearts.

Open our ears to hear and understand.

Give us to unhurried work as those assured by grace.

Holy Spirit come again this Pentecost:

**Out of the depth we call.**

Prevent us from harm, raise our hope, comfort our lament.

Persist in us as conscience, care and love.

As you awoke our brother John, awaken us: from his Aldersgate into our own.

Amen.

## Garden Gold for Ollie

---

Congratulations to Ollie Pike who has won gold at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Ollie is the garden designer who worked on the [Methodist Church garden at the RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park in 2024](#), which also won a gold.

Ollie's award-winning garden at Chelsea is a peaceful courtyard garden celebrating 140 years of the tea company Whittard of Chelsea.

The Revd Alan Bradley, Superintendent Minister at Knutsford who helped coordinate the hosting of the garden at Tatton, commented, "I want to add our delight and congratulations to Ollie. He has such a gift, and it is wonderful that he is being recognised with another RHS gold."

[Read more here](#)

## Science Dome

---



*"We know we are in a climate emergency, but it can feel difficult and overwhelming. I thought it would be good to put on a day across the circuit and community which would be fun and interactive and help us all to learn what we can do to make a difference."*

Last month, Chandlers Ford Methodist Church became a 'Science Dome'. The event was part of the Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Circuit's 'Caring for our Planet' community day, a way to gather with the local community and think about how we care for our world, at the same time as celebrating nature and having fun together.

[Read more](#)

## 'Our Story, Our Song' Art Exhibition

---



*"We have stories expressing the work done in various churches and personal reflections on faith, the nature of church and important personal relationships."*

The Lincolnshire District asked each of their churches to submit artistic reflections inspired by the presidential theme for this year, Our Story, Our Song. The result was almost 40 pieces of artwork including paintings in oil and watercolour, needlework, poetry, woodwork and glass.

[Read more](#)

## The Conference Agenda

---

The Agenda Volume 1 for the Methodist Conference 2026 has been published. The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church and meets annually to discuss matters affecting the life of the Church, the nation and the world.

This year the Methodist Conference will be meeting in Telford 25 June – 1 July.

[Find the agenda here](#)

## Can You Help us Plan Free Websites for Local Churches?

---



We are currently planning to offer all local churches a free basic website, to be hosted on [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk), and linked from the [Church Finder](#) tool.

We want to make sure that these microsites are easy for local churches to maintain, are invitational and have all the information visitors need.

Could you help us in the design of these microsites? We are looking for volunteers to attend online focus groups to be run by our website developers in the next few weeks. If you are interested in attending please fill out the short form below.

[Submit your interest here](#)

## 3Generate Needs You - Sign Up Now!

---



The Delivery Team is the name given to all those who play a part in making 3Generate happen, from volunteers to venue leads to staff across the Connexional Team. There are roles available for everyone, no matter your skills, experience or ability.

[Join the 3Generate Delivery Team here](#)

## Being Present at Events Throughout the Summer

---

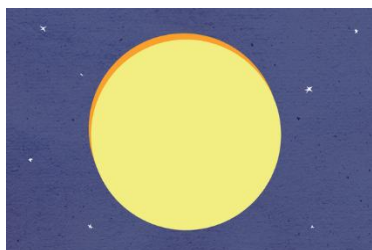


With summer on the horizon, many churches are getting out of their building and into the community by engaging with festivals and events. Resources have been published to help you make the best of your outreach work at events.

[Find the resources here](#)

## Methodist Day of Outreach

---



On the evening of 12 August 2026, the UK will experience a near-total solar eclipse. This extraordinary event provides a unique opportunity to marvel at creation and join in with the work of the Holy Spirit in making God's love known through outreach.

A guide has been produced to help your church make the most of the missional opportunity the eclipse will offer with a Methodist Day of Outreach.

[Find the guide here](#)

## The Beckly Lecture 2026 - Together towards life in a world of division

---

**Monday 29 June from 6.45pm at the Methodist Conference, Telford.**

In a world where political leaders invoke the language of civilisation to justify exclusion, where creation care is dismissed as a cult, and strangers are feared, what does faithful Christian mission look like? And what does it demand of us?

For the Beckly Lecture's 100th anniversary, Roland Fernandes, general secretary for the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, will bring an international perspective to some of the most pressing questions facing the global Church today.

[Read more here](#)

## Have Your Say on Digital in Our Church - And help your church community do the same

---

We're three months into the Digital Transformation Programme, and so far the listening has been mostly with district chairs, superintendents, circuit administrators and other roles. That's been hugely valuable – but there are voices we still haven't heard, and they're exactly the voices that ought to be shaping this work.

We'd like every local church to help us widen the conversation.

We've opened a short survey for anyone – ministers, stewards, regular worshippers, volunteers, family members. Spread the word by using our downloadable notice sheet inserts and screen slides to bring your church community into the conversation.

We will read everything that comes in. At the end of every month we'll publish a short 'Here's what we heard' post on the programme page that names how many responses came in, the themes that emerged and what we've done or forwarded in response.

[Have your say here](#)

## Father's Day with All We Can

---

Are you looking for a Father's Day gift with meaning? Look no further than All We Can's Father's Day Extraordinary Gift.

This £15 Extraordinary Gift Father's Day card has the ability to provide the tools to reintegrate dads into their community and train in a new vocation.

[Read more](#)

## Listen Again

---

Pause for Thought – The Revd Matt Finch

*It's amazing what the novelty of man cycling in a dog collar can do."*

The Revd Matt Finch on this week's theme 'What I've learnt from my community'.

[Listen here](#)

Thought for the Day – The Revd Canon Dr Jennifer Smith

*"In paradise, people were unafraid of each other or the future. They sought out newcomers, working to convince them to remain."*

The Revd Canon Dr Jennifer Smith on Thought for the Day.

[Listen here](#)

## Songs of Praise

---

**Sunday 24 May 2026 1.15pm**

BBC One's *Songs of Praise* celebrates Pentecost Sunday. Aled Jones visits John Wesley's New Room in Bristol to explore the extraordinary story and legacy of John and Charles Wesley.

Just like the disciples of Jesus at the first Pentecost, the Wesley brothers had their own encounters with the Holy Spirit in 1738, which lit a fire inside them to spread the word of God.

[Watch here after broadcast](#)

## 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

---



