

The Methodist News 22nd October 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](#)



President and Vice-President Visit Aberfan



The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference paid an emotional visit to the village of Aberfan as part of commemorations of the 60th anniversary of the horrific disaster that killed 116 children and 28 adults.

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

Tent of Nations – Community Existence under Threat



The Methodist Church has expressed its grave concern at an Israeli Military Committee's decision to impose conditions on the Tent of Nations, in Palestine, which threaten the community's existence.

The Tent of Nations is a farm six miles south-west of Bethlehem and a Christian educational and ecological centre that promotes peace in the region.

[Read more here](#)

Panama Earthquake



Concerns remain in Panama as aftershocks continue following a powerful earthquake. The strongest impact was in the Azuero Peninsula, but it was felt throughout the country.

The Connexional Bishop of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, Bishop Juan Simpson, urges people to "Keep the nation in your prayers."

[Read more here](#)

Jackdaw Gas Field



Plans by the Government to proceed with a major new project to extract gas from the North Sea have been criticised by the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT). The Government says emissions from the extraction and subsequent burning of gas from the Jackdaw gas field will be within the UK's climate target.

However, JPIT argues that "the impacts of this new extraction will be felt around the world" given that burning fossil fuels is a major cause of rising global temperatures.

[Read more here](#)

Love Rural Conference



"Energy, enthusiasm and hope" summed up the mood at the Love Rural Conference this week. Methodists from eight rural districts attended the ecumenical event, bringing with them positive stories despite a challenging year for many rural communities.

The Methodist Rural Mission & Ministry Officer, Sarah Hulme, shares her blog.

[Read Sarah's blog here](#)

Back Behind the Keys



An 88-year-old former organist at a Methodist church has got behind the keys for the first time in six years – thanks to the generosity of care home staff.

[Read more here](#)

PeerTalk – Mental Health Support Charity



Methodist minister the Revd Stephen Normanton, founder of PeerTalk, is celebrating the tenth anniversary of the charity, as well as the many trained volunteers who make it happen.

PeerTalk

Since PeerTalk's founding, thousands of meetings have been held across 18 different locations in the UK. The vision is to establish a nationally recognised, trusted brand of community-based support for people living with mental health issues. The Revd Stephen shares his blog:

[Read Stephen's blog here](#)

Bible Sunday



This weekend we celebrate Bible Sunday; it's an opportunity not only to pay attention to God in the Scripture and in the world but also to give thanks for the stories, poems, songs and prayers that have shaped the lives of generations of Christians.

Andy Fishburne, Discipleship and Faith Formation Officer, shares his blog:

[Read Andy's blog here](#)

October Meeting of the Connexional Council

The Connexional Council of the Methodist Church met in London on 12 October and discussed items such as workload and the missional use of property.

[Read the report here](#)

Volunteers for Housing Memorial Group Listening Exercise

Volunteers are needed to hold listening exercises in circuits and districts to identify barriers to church land and buildings being used for affordable housing. The Housing Memorial Group is also gathering views on the potential impact of church-enabled housing on the ability of the Methodist Church to be a justice-seeking Church.

Contact: housing@methodistchurch.org.uk

[Find more information here](#)

Worried about your own church, circuit or district website?

You may have seen in the news this week that a security issue affected many of the world's websites after flaws were found in PHP, software used to run a large share of the internet.

If you look after your own church, circuit, or district website, please contact your provider or website manager directly, as they are the only people who can confirm whether this affects your site and what, if anything, needs to be done.

This is a sensible precaution, not a sign that anything has gone wrong with your site.

Listen Again

Remembering Aberfan

Retired Methodist minister, the Revd Irving Penberthy, speaks on BBC Radio Wales, remembering the Aberfan disaster in October 1966.

Warning: This interview features a powerful account of the Aberfan disaster that involved the death of many children and the ministry that took place in its immediate aftermath.

[Listen here](#)

Thought for the Day

The Revd Canon Dr Jennifer Smith reflects on the “storm of sorrow” that surrounded the Welsh mining village of Aberfan 60 years ago, a tragedy that “did not have to happen” and says everyone has a responsibility to live their lives with conscience and compassion.

[Listen here](#)

My Journey of Faith

The Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, Caroline Stead, speaks to BBC Radio Leeds's Kat Cowan about her early years as a Methodist and the growth of her faith.

[Listen here](#)

Pause for Thought – the Revd Matt Finch

“Together they changed the world.”

The Revd Matt Finch reflects on the theme ‘Stronger Together’ and realises that, when we work together, we can be part of something much bigger than ourselves.

[Listen here](#)

Pause for Thought – the Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal

"Talk with others."

The Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal reflects on the theme 'Stronger Together' and shares his experience that there is always "healing and strength in community".

[Listen here](#)

Pause for Thought – the Revd Dr Jo Cox Darling

"Be a good friend."

The Revd Dr Jo Cox-Darling contemplates the theme 'Stronger Together' and realises that in the everyday ups and downs of life we need each other.

[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

