

# The **Methodist** Church

## The **Methodist** News

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](#)



## Castle Cary Scarecrow Festival



If you were walking down the streets of Castle Cary in Somerset and saw John Wesley riding a unicorn, you could be forgiven for thinking you were dreaming. But this vision is real and it is one of more than 120 scarecrows that are on display in the town as part of its first Scarecrow Festival this July.

[Read more about John Wesley on a unicorn!](#)

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## Girls' Brigade chaplaincy

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*"I find it important to be an emotionally available presence for the girls, answering any questions they may have. As someone who represents Jesus in that space, I aim to make their faith feel relevant and approachable."*

Deacon Helen Gardner shares her experience as the Girls' Brigade Chaplain in the Lincolnshire Methodist District.

[Read here](#)

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## Methodists at Silverstone

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Methodists were busy at a very different sort of circuit last weekend when they hosted a wellbeing space trackside at the Silverstone Grand Prix.

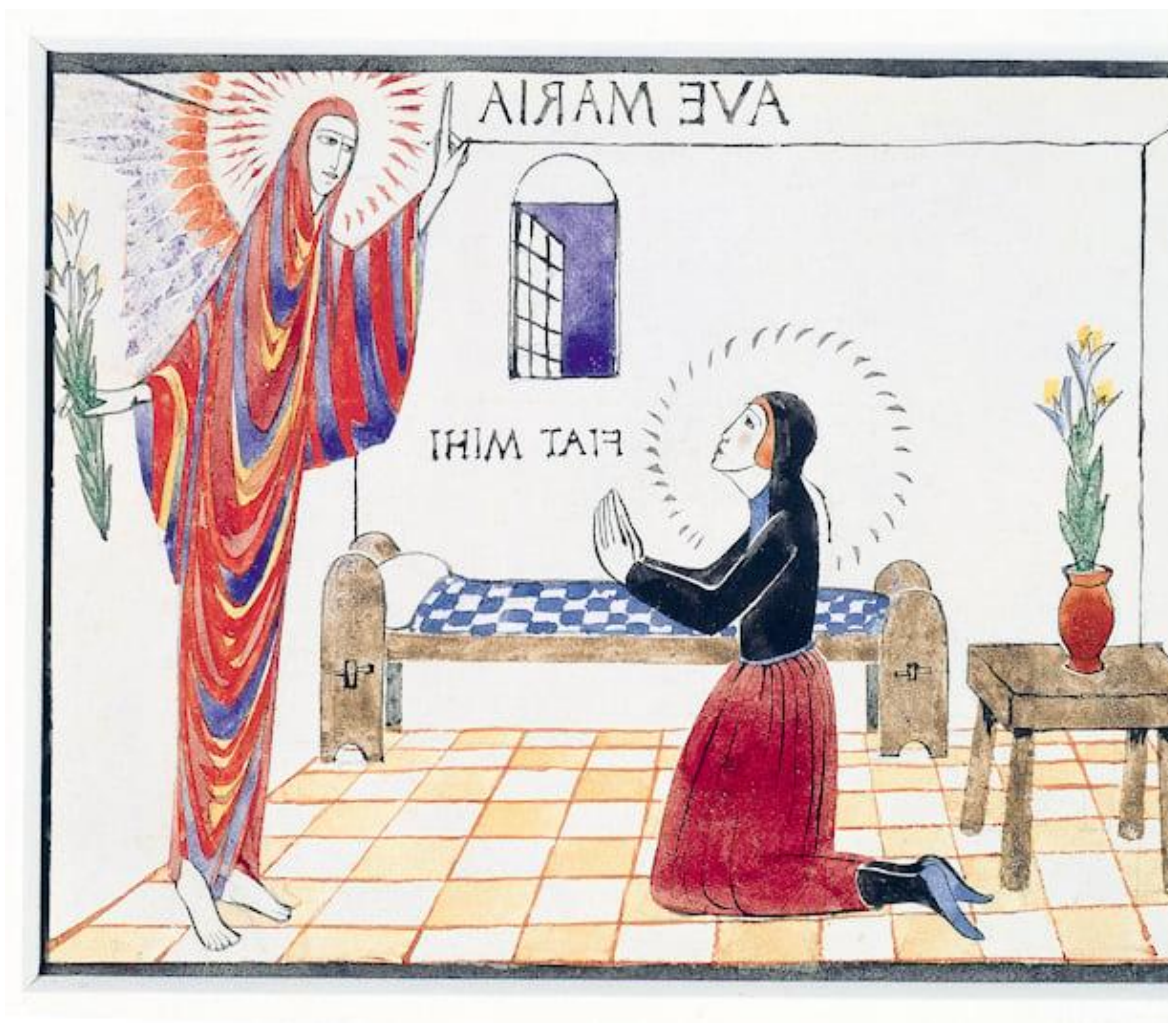
The volunteers, led by the Evangelism and Growth team, held conversations and Silverstone Methodist Chapel opened its doors to visitors with an invitation to refuel. Julie Siddiqi MBE, Founder and Director of Together We Thrive, above right, joined them as they welcomed people of all faiths.

[See posts from the weekend on Facebook here](#)



## Eric Gill's *Annunciation* displayed

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*Annunciation*, c. 1912 by Eric Gill from the Methodist Modern Art Collection © TMCP

Eric Gill's *Annunciation*, part of the Methodist Modern Art Collection, is being displayed as part of the 'It takes a village' exhibition taking place at the Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft.

In a ground-breaking initiative, survivors of abuse advised the Methodist Church on the future of the watercolour, *Annunciation*, that was created by the controversial sculptor, typographer and printmaker, Eric Gill, who sexually abused two of his daughters.

The exhibition is on until 1 February.

[Find out more about the exhibition here](#)

## Churches and mosques together for peace in Togo

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*“My prejudices about Christians have been shattered. Thank you for bringing us together and transforming our relationships with one another,” the senior Imam beamed as he spoke to Christian and Muslim local leaders, women and young people.*

The Revd Andrew Ashdown, Partnership Coordinator for Africa, experiences dialogue and coexistence in areas of conflict in Africa during a visit to Togo.

[Read Andrew's blog here](#)

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## Conversations Against Mundanity

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Watch this animation and learn how discussions can get a little 'more real' using [Conversations Against Mundanity](#), the new game from Methodist Publishing.

A good conversation can unlock parts of us that little else can. There's nothing wrong with chatting about the everyday – it's what fills most of our lives after all – but those don't tend to be the conversations we remember. Instead, we remember when we were honest enough with one another to open up and say something real and true.

This game kickstarts those kinds of conversations.

[\*\*Watch here\*\*](#)

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## Are you using Artificial Intelligence?

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The Methodist Conference has asked for work to be done on Artificial Intelligence to help formulate reflections, guidance and policy for the Methodist Church. As part of this work, the AI Working Group has created a short survey for members and circuits to feed back and share experiences with the group.

What are your thoughts on the theological and pastoral issues AI raises?

Does it support or complicate your ministry practice?

Are there issues around ethics, privacy or data that we need to pay attention to?

Please complete our short survey by Saturday 19 July.

[Complete the survey here](#)

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## Listen here!

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The Revd Inderjit Bhogal considered "Good partners" as part of this week's BBC Radio 2 Pause for Thought theme, 'My Doubles Partner'.

[Listen here](#)

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## News and Events

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### **Do you have a vision for a new Christian community?**

God is calling people from all backgrounds, ages and cultures across the Methodist Church to begin New Places for New People. And the Methodist Church is committed to supporting every pioneer to make their vision a reality.

Join the Methodist Pioneering Pathway to find others exploring the same questions, access resources and training and be matched with a coach. [You can watch other pioneers here](#) and [find out how to join here](#). If you want to know more, we'd love to chat!

[Email for a chat](#)

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## Be a part of the Connexional Team

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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](#)**

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## Find us on social media

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[The Methodist Church](#)

Methodist Church House

25 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SF

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