

12/06/2025

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The Methodist News

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



A prayer following the plane crash in India

The President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Helen Cameron, shares this prayer following today's air crash in India.

Holy God,
God of compassion and care, we pray for all the victims of the Air India crash.
We pray for first responders in India, and for the communities in India affected by the crash.
We pray for all families affected by the crash, and for all those waiting anxiously for news.
When we weep, may we remember that you weep with us, and that every person is your beloved child.

Amen.

Challenging hostility with hospitality: Refugee Week and Sanctuary Sunday



What does it mean to be part of a welcoming community? This Refugee Week, 16-22 June, every Methodist church is invited to show a new short film on Sanctuary Sunday, 22 June, during worship.

In the film, Christians from Britain, and people who have sought asylum, reflect on experiences of receiving and offering welcome. They tell their stories of pain, courage, action, transformation and friendship, and encourage everyone to take a first step of connection. Their stories are a reminder that hospitality is a clear challenge to hostility.

You can download the film together with a prayer written by an Iranian asylum seeker using the link below. There are also suggested hymns on the [Methodist Resource Hub](#).

[Find the resources here](#)

The Methodist Conference 2025



The Methodist Conference will take place from 26 June to 2 July at the Telford International Centre.

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.

You can find the full agenda, along with details of the live stream, tickets and ordinations below.

[Find out about the Conference here](#)

President visits Gibraltar



"It has been a very great joy to visit Gibraltar, to meet people and celebrate its diversity, and to be present as new members of the Methodist Church in Gibraltar were confirmed and received into membership."

The Revd Canon Helen Cameron, the President of the Methodist Conference, enjoyed a fruitful four days in Gibraltar between 30 May and 2 June 2025.

[Read more about the visit here](#)

Supporting people living with learning disabilities



The community room at Windlehurst Methodist Church, part of the United Stockport Circuit, is filled with smiles and laughter each week when around a dozen people living with learning disabilities come together, thanks to the on going work of a church member.

[Read about the club here](#)

Making the North Wales Pilgrim's Way accessible for families



"We certainly had to learn the 'Art of Pilgrimage', the process of journeying with young families, and the key being of course preparation. But along the pilgrimage, we have found a supportive community again. Someone to cheer us on, someone to share with, someone to listen to our problems."

Marie Lumb, mother of seven and lay worker for the Cheshire South Methodist Circuit, shares her work of supporting families and how it led her to organise pilgrimages, especially for young families.

[Read more here](#)

Reflections on a visit to the Methodist Church in Ghana



"As we met Ghanaian Methodists and learnt more of the story, we were repeatedly hearing that this is how the British Connexion was viewed – not as the planter of a Church but as co-workers."

The Revd Jonathan Hustler, the Secretary of the Methodist Conference, shares his personal reflections on a recent Encounter visit to Ghana.

[Read more here](#)

Rebuilding lives in Ukraine

"I got to visit two shelters that are run by the Church, and I was able to speak with some of the people living there. Stories of babies born at the shelter who have never been held in the arms of their father; mothers who have buried their husbands and sons, women who have suffered unmentionable abuse and terror."

The Revd Dr Barry Sloan, Partnership Coordinator for Europe in the Global Relationships team, reflects on his recent visit to our Partner Church in Ukraine and the support being given to people whose lives have been destroyed by the war.

[Read Barry's blog here](#)

70km in three days for global charity appeal

The Revd John Purdy took part in a 70km challenge as part of this year's [Christian Aid Week 2025](#). John, a Minister in the Sunderland Circuit, completed the challenge over three Mondays in May, starting from the Tyne Bridge in Newcastle and travelling, via Wearmouth Bridge, to the Tees Transporter Bridge.

[Read about the challenge here](#)

Father's Day Songs of Praise



Songs of Praise joins the Union Church in Margate (Methodist/United Reformed) to celebrate Father's Day on BBC One, this Sunday at 12.10pm.

A Margate poet speaks about the joyful arrival of his son who was baptised last month, and a couple who adopted three children thirty years ago share how the youngsters led them to faith.

[Watch after the broadcast here](#)

For Goodness Sake!



‘For Goodness Sake!’ is being organised by the Joint Public Issues Team on behalf of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church, and in association with the Church of Scotland and Iona Community. It is a gathering of people who long for justice.

We will meet in Derby, at the Reach Conference Centre, on 8 November. Please save the date and sign up to the JPIT Newsletter to be among the first to find out how to register! Justice seeker or just plain tired? There is a space for you.

[Read more about the JPIT Conference here](#)

News in brief

The National Churches Survey

The National Churches Survey is organised by the National Churches Trust and brings together churches, chapels, meeting houses and cathedrals from every Christian denomination in the UK. The evidence submitted will help identify the common issues that are faced by churches to help policymakers and funders target their support, so that churches thrive for generations to come.

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

The Central Finance Board website has a new look

The Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church is pleased to announce that its refreshed website is now live. The site now features a more contemporary design and simpler navigation, making it easier for you to find the information you need quickly and with minimal effort.

[Visit the website here](#)

BBC Radio 2 Pause for Thought

Trey Hall joined Scott Mills for Pause for Thought on Monday to consider being "part of the same radiance."

[Listen here](#)

Jo Cox Darling considered "Daddy Cool" for her Pause for Thought on the theme of 'My Father Figure'.

[Listen here](#)

Events

Church at the Margins

We need new Christian communities amongst and led by people experiencing poverty. Spaces where everyone's gifts, including those of people experiencing poverty, are recognised and valued. [Here are some examples](#) of people connecting with people experiencing poverty.

Join our Beginning a Church at the Margins 60-minute conversation to learn more.

[Join here](#)

Coastal Churches

Join us online on 7 July at 1.00pm for a heartening lunchtime event as we explore the power of partnership – a celebration of how collaboration between churches and communities is creating spaces of transformation and hope.

Through five real-life stories from across the Castle Eden Circuit and the Dorset South & West Circuit, we'll hear how local partnerships are bringing renewed life and purpose to church buildings and the people they serve.

[Book 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](#)

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