

# The Methodist Church

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## The Methodist News

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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](#)



## A prayer on the 80th anniversary of VE Day

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Gracious God,

At this time of commemoration, we give thanks for the courage of those who fought for freedom and peace in Europe.

We honour the lives lost, the sacrifices made and the unity that brought an end to tyranny.

May their legacy inspire us to stand for justice, to seek peace with humility and to cherish the freedoms we now enjoy.

Guide us to be peacemakers in our own time, with hearts full of gratitude and hope.

Amen.

**The Revd Michael Parker KHC Chaplain General to His Majesty's Land Forces**

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## The Revd Helen Cameron, President of the Methodist Conference, attends the VE Day celebrations at Westminster Abbey

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*"It is a great privilege to represent the Methodist Church in Westminster Abbey on 8 May at a service to remember the 80th anniversary of VE day in the presence of the Royal family. We give thanks for the service and sacrifice of so many in order that we all might enjoy freedom.*

*Tomorrow, on 9 May, we will remember our Methodist family in the Channel Islands as they mark the 80th anniversary of Liberation Day and the end of German occupation of the Channel Islands. The Vice-President and I have been very moved to listen to first-hand accounts of many who lived through the Occupation and the impact it had on them, during our recent visit to Jersey."*

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## A Methodist airborne padre at the Victory Parade

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*"A celebration of years of costly human endeavours... The day of the Parade, a Saturday, need not be described. It was an occasion for the annals of the Royal Army Chaplains' Department, and it was right that a representation of the airborne chaplains should be included."*

The war ended in 1945, but the London celebrations of victory occurred on 6 June 1946. The Revd Robert Talbot-Watkins' service during WWII was marked by his unwavering commitment to his fellow soldiers and remarkable bravery in the face of danger.

[Read more about the Revd Robert Talbot-Watkins](#)

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## Peace Garden opens at Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum

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*"I was visiting Western Village Primary before Easter 2023. We were talking about the workshops we could do together. I suggested we could partner and build a peace garden at Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum. Mr Cuts, the head teacher, immediately loved the idea."*

A Peace Garden has been officially opened at Englesea Brook, in Cheshire, providing a tranquil space for reflection and contemplation. The garden, which has been two years in the making, represents a collaboration between Englesea Brook, the Fellowship of Reconciliation and nearby Western Village Primary School.

[Read more about the Peace Garden](#)

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## A prayer for a peaceful resolution for the situation between India and Pakistan

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*“Greetings of peace and hope!*

*I write to you during a deeply troubling time as tensions between Pakistan and India have once again escalated into war. It is disheartening to witness the recurrence of conflict between our nations.*

*We pray that God, in His infinite mercy, will open hearts and minds to the path of dialogue, understanding, and mutual respect.*

*I humbly ask you to lift both Pakistan and India in your prayers. We long for an end to violence and the needless loss of life.*

*May God bring healing to our land and grant us the gift of enduring peace.*

*Let us be united in prayer - pleading for a swift ceasefire and a turning away from further aggression.*

*May the peace and love of God reign over our people, our leaders, and our region.*

*May peace prevail. Amen.*

*In the name of the Risen Lord.”*

**Bishop Kaleem John, Deputy Moderator of the Church of Pakistan**

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## A Resting Space in Coventry

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*“All I needed was to rest, away from the crowds and all the loud noises. Somewhere I wouldn’t feel nervous and where security wouldn’t tell me to stand up, where I wouldn’t be obliged to buy a drink or be looked at disapprovingly.”*

Some people avoid their city centres because there is nowhere to escape the busy crowds. Coventry city centre now has a network of Resting Spaces that provide a sanctuary for those who need it, including at the Methodist Central Hall.

[Read more about the Resting Space in Coventry](#)

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## New Christian Communities

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New life is emerging across the Methodist Church in Britain. In unexpected places, new Christian communities are beginning to grow. This is the story of Peckwood Forest Space, an NPNP in an ancient woodland on the edge of Birmingham.



Find out where else new life is springing up

'Begin a NPNP in your circuit' taster sessions

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## The Connexional Team's new sustainably-designed offices

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*"The work underlines the Methodist Church in Britain's commitment to sustainability, and I'm delighted we've been able to do so much to contribute to our net zero commitment."*

After a two year refit and refurbishment, Connexional Team staff are settling into the new sustainably-designed offices on Tavistock Place in Bloomsbury.

Read more about Methodist Church House at 25 Tavistock Place

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## Listen

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### **Thelma Commey on BBC Radio 2's Pause for Thought**

'Life isn't meant to be done alone' was the theme for this week's early Pause for Thought, where Thelma considered the importance of having someone to lean on.

[Listen here](#)

### **The Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal on Trans World Radio UK**

The Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal was a guest on Trans World Radio UK on Saturday 3 May to talk about pilgrimage.

[Listen here](#)

## **Events and resources**

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### **Check out our May net zero tip**

Planting pollinator-friendly flowers is crucial for maintaining healthy ecosystems and supporting biodiversity.

[Read our May eco tip](#)

### **2025 John Wesley Lecture**

The lecture will be given by Dr Mark Kirby (Lincoln College Fellow) on the theme of 'John Wesley and the Architecture of Early Methodism' at Lincoln College in Oxford and online on 22 May.

[Register here](#)

### **Heritage Weekend at Englesea Brook**

The museum will host 'Stepping Out From Mow', a Heritage Weekend in Cheshire, on Saturday 31 May and Sunday 1 June. The event is free.

[Discover more and register here](#)

### **Wesley Day**

Wesley Day is being celebrated at Wesley's Chapel and at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster on Saturday 24 May 2025.

Visit Wesley's Chapel in City Road, London between 11.00am and 3.00pm to explore the Museum of Methodism along with African drumming workshops, prayer, crafts and storytelling with costumed re-enactors. At 3.00pm, the Aldersgate Pilgrimage sets off with prayers and evensong at St Paul's Cathedral. Then, at 7.00pm, there will be hymns at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster with the Revd Dr Martin Wellings.

[Discover more](#)

## Wholehearted

Meet Chine McDonald: writer, broadcaster, author and Director of Theos, the religion and society think tank, bringing a wealth of insight and wisdom sure to ignite our passion for transformation!

On Tuesday, May 13 we're welcoming Chine McDonald as our guest speaker for the next gathering of Wholehearted Monthly, a gathering filled with prayer, laughter, equipping and networking for the sake of transformation in the world God loves.

Come along to connect with diverse leaders and find a platform to share experiences, resources and best practices across the Connexion and beyond.

[Sign up](#)

## Celebrate Action for Children Sunday

Action for Children invites churches to celebrate the difference their amazing partnerships made by holding a special worship service. This year's theme is 'Driven by love, we take action for children'. It's normally on the second Sunday in July, but churches can choose to do it whenever they wish.

[Download the resources](#)

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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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