



in this issue:

- Methodist Conference
- Conference Highlights
- Conference Business Digest
- Circuit Assembly
- Site Festival 2021
- Faith founded by Doubt
- Divesting from Fossil Fuels
- Methodist Modern Art
- Reaction to Afghanistan
- Cotswold Canaries
- Vacancies
- Book Sale
- Walking with Micah
- Safeguarding training
- Safeguarding Sunday
- Joyce Morse
- Cryptic Quiz
- Preaching availability
- Dates for your Diary

Following prayerful consideration, the Methodist Conference has recently voted to confirm provisional resolutions on the principles or qualities of good relating, understanding of cohabitation and same sex marriages conducted on Methodist premises or by Methodist office-holders.

A report on marriage and relationships, '*God in Love Unites Us*', was received by the Conference in 2019 and the Circuits and District Synods were asked to consider some provisional resolutions and report back to this year's Conference. The Conference received a report on the results of the local conferring which showed that 29 out of the 30 Synods confirmed support for the provisional resolutions.

The Revd Sonia Hicks, President of the Conference, prayed ahead of the main debate asking that the Conference's "words may be imbued with your grace, with tenderness from on high."

A range of views were expressed on the resolutions, in particular on cohabitation and same sex marriages. The Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, spoke to the Conference acknowledging the "depth of feeling, pain and anxiety that there is" with a commitment to work across the Connexion with District Chairs to heal divisions.

Speakers called for unity going ahead irrespective of the decision. Other speakers spoke of the acceptance of diversity that younger Church members have for each other with younger speakers relating their own lived experience as Christians from the LGBTQI+ community. Another representative asked that the Church does not ostracise those who oppose the introduction of same-sex marriages in the Church, saying the great majority of these people are trying to be faithful to Scripture as they see it.

No minister will be required to conduct marriages against their conscience and individual Church Councils will need to vote later this year on whether to apply to be registered as buildings for the conduct of same sex marriages. Before this can happen there are some legal processes to be completed at national level.

The Methodist Church included other denominations and Methodist Churches across the world in the process of listening and consultation, with written submissions from ecumenical partners to the '*God In Love Unites Us*' report and workshops with global Methodist partners.

Following the vote on the provisional resolutions the Revd Sonia Hicks said: "The debate today and our wider conversation has been conducted with grace and mutual respect. As we move forward together after this historic day for our Church, we must remember to continue to hold each other in prayer, and to support each other respecting our differences."

Revd John Hellyer



Conference Highlights

A short film covering some of the highlights of the Methodist Conference that took place earlier this year has been made available. [Watch here.](#)

Conference Business Digest

A report for local churches about the business of the 2021 Methodist Conference can be found as an attachment to this edition of the newsletter

The next Circuit Assembly will be held on Sunday 5 September

During this meeting we will be taking necessary legal decisions and discussing our staffing policy and plan.

If you are a member of the Circuit Assembly, you are actively encouraged to attend this so that we have as many people as possible taking part in the discussions.

Can't make it? Please send you apologies to the Circuit Office.



ART EXHIBITION

Charley Harvey, Tony Morris and Karen Burridge will be among other artists exhibiting some of their work in the Stanton Room at Stroud St Alban's Church as part of the SITE Festival Open Studios.

Their exhibition and dozens of others will be open on Saturday 18, Sunday 19, Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 September, 11am - 6pm each day.

FAITH FOUNDED BY DOUBT

Towards the end of 2019, Barry Jackson, (husband of local preacher Jenny Jackson), published a book entitled *Faith Founded on Doubt*. Barry had successfully negotiated deals to supply his book through local Christian Bookshops but these were all put on hold due to Covid restrictions.

Barry is delighted to announce that his book is now available through the Good News Centre in Newent. The book is also available through Amazon but Barry would prefer that the G.N.C. gets the business!

DIVESTING FROM FOSSIL FUELS

The Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church has now divested from all fossil fuels. To read more, please see: [The Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church divests from all oil and gas stocks - CFB \(cfbmethodistchurch.org.uk\)](http://cfbmethodistchurch.org.uk)

If you are inspired by this, you can check to see whether your personal investments profit from the fossil fuel industry. The Campaign on Climate Change provide a range of resources including draft letters to send to your bank encouraging them to divest: [Switch from fossil fuels! Divest your bank and energy supplier | Campaign against Climate Change \(campaigncc.org\)](http://campaigncc.org)

METHODIST MODERN ART COLLECTION RELAUNCH



Selected works from the collection will go on show in churches across Coventry as part of the city's celebration as designated UK City of Culture.

[Read more](#)



Reactions to events in Afghanistan

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have offered a statement regarding the crisis in Afghanistan. You can [read it here](#).

Quedgeley Methodist Church

Present

THE COTSWOLD CANARIES
singing

Songs from the Musicals

Friday 12th November 2021

7.30 p.m

Tickets £5

Complimentary Tea / Coffee / Cake

Served during Interval



Tickets available from

qmcchurchbookings@gmail.com

or 07709955717

***In aid of
Church Funds***

***Doors Open
7.00 p.m***

Job Vacancy

Café Catering Manager (Maternity cover)

Established in 2018 with a Christian ethos at its heart, Just as You are Tea Cottage is ideally located on the Severn Way for local residents and visitors who come to Severn Beach to walk, cycle and enjoy views of the Severn Estuary and the Prince of Wales Bridge. The team has successfully established the Tea Cottage as a place where all ages can experience genuine hospitality and enjoy a range of refreshments, home-made products and light lunches. We consistently receive positive reviews on our Facebook page and TripAdvisor and benefit from a significant number of regular and returning customers. The Tea Cottage was awarded a 5 star hygiene rating in 2021.

We're currently recruiting for a Café Catering Manager (Maternity Cover) who shares our vision for the Tea Cottage to manage the Tea Cottage and team.

This position is a full time one year fixed term contract (maternity cover). Start date and salary to be confirmed with successful applicant, no later than 1st October 2021. The working pattern is Tuesdays to Saturdays.

To enquire about this position please email Miriam Street including a copy of your CV, references and a short personal statement to justasyouareteacottage@outlook.com

Job Vacancy

Café Assistant

Just as You are Tea Cottage is a place where all ages can experience genuine hospitality and enjoy a range of refreshments, home-made products and light lunches.

We're currently recruiting for a Café Assistant at who shares our vision for the Tea Cottage and to work within the Tea Cottage and team.

This is a part time position Tuesday to Saturday (hours can vary between 20 and 30 hours a week as a guide depending on business requirements). Start date and hourly salary to be confirmed with successful applicant, no later than 1st October 2021.

To enquire about this position please email Miriam Street including a copy of your CV, references and a short personal statement to justasyouareteacottage@outlook.com

Job Vacancy

Senior Sessional Youth Worker/Leader in Charge



Are you ready to be part of a vibrant and dynamic faith-based charity working with young people?

If the answer to this question is **yes**, then **you** could be who we are looking for!

Krunch South West is a Thornbury based charity providing positive after school activities, mentoring and youth clubs for young people in the town and surrounding area.

We are currently looking for a dynamic, creative and enthusiastic senior youth worker to join our team to develop and run our popular after school/evening youth clubs, based in the centre of Thornbury. We need someone with a non-judgmental approach towards supporting young people but who is also fun and outgoing! You should be able to demonstrate experience of working with young people aged 10 years upwards, including those who may display challenging behaviour, and be familiar with the matters facing young people from a range of backgrounds. You will have some leadership experience, relish working as part of a team, and be willing to work within a Christian ethos.

Level 3 Youth Work Qualification or equivalent experience preferred. This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Hours of work: 8-10 hours per week

(Fixed for 12 months but could develop into permanent position.)

Hourly rate of pay: £10.16 (depending on qualifications/experience.)

Deadline for applications: 20th September 2021

To request an application form and job description, or for more information, please contact Penny Baker on 07735 405175 or email liz@krunch.org.uk

For general information on Krunch, please visit our website: www.krunch.org.uk.



QUEDGELEY METHODIST CHURCH

Invite you to a
used book sale
on

Saturday 11 September

10.30 am — 2.30 pm

In the church hall,
Bristol Road, Quedgeley.

*Come, browse and buy books
while enjoying a cup of tea or
coffee and a biscuit.*

Books from 25p
or 5 for £1

Rachel Lampard, former leader of the Joint Public Issues Team, writes about the new Methodist project, *Walking with Micah*

It's hard to avoid the call to justice in the bible. I wonder what springs to mind for you? Perhaps it is the call of the prophets or the laws to protect widows, orphans and strangers. Or perhaps it's the way in which Jesus deliberately overturned the world's expectations, drawing the poorest and most marginalised into the centre. Or perhaps you are inspired by the vision of God's Kingdom.

I, along with many others, have always been stirred by the words of the prophet Micah. When asked how God wanted his people to worship, to respond to God's love, Micah replies:

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly with your God.

Acting justly (as God does) and loving mercy (or loving in the way that God loves) are at the heart of becoming more like God. And we learn this by walking humbly alongside God.

For Christians, therefore, acting in ways that increase justice, promote fairness and right relationship, and tackle injustice is part of our discipleship. Indeed in *the Methodist Way of Life* we are asked to reflect regularly on how we have "challenged injustice".

As Methodists we find this response to God's love through acting justly present in our tradition. John Wesley, one of Methodism's founders, was a vocal opponent of the slave trade and excoriated those who condemned the poor for being lazy without knowing or understanding them. The Tolpuddle Martyrs – many of whom were Methodist lay preachers - were early activists in the trade union movement. A disproportionate number of Methodists have served in Parliament. Sybil Phoenix OBE is one of many community activists and anti-racists. The work of All We Can, Action for Children and MHA speak powerfully of the commitment of Methodists to see justice for all people in God's world.

What does "challenging injustice" look like in your own life? Methodists are involved in responding to needs in our communities or the world, through running debt advice centres, giving to foodbanks, raising money for charities, writing to political prisoners. Sometimes we use our consumer power, through buying Fairtrade bananas or avoiding excess plastic wrapping. And through our protesting, writing letters to MPs or community organising we try to change problems at their source.

But as humans we find that "justice" isn't a simple concept. Some things we can agree on – poverty isn't good, people shouldn't face discrimination because of their ethnicity, climate change is happening. The challenges often come when we get into more detail, or try to decide how to respond. Then there are some issues where there is little agreement at all. There are Christians in all the major political parties, for example, all trying to "do justice". We have different lenses, priorities, experiences and understandings of what justice means and looks like.

So if we truly believe that we are called to "act justly" and to be a justice-seeking Church, then how can we recover our passion for justice amidst all the pressures we face, find ways of speaking and acting together, and make justice real in our communities?

The Methodist Church has set up – **Walking with Micah: Methodist Principles for Social Justice** – to explore what it means to be a justice-seeking church. Over the next two years I will be working to help the Methodist Church to focus on our principles and priorities for justice, and through that increase our practical ability to seek God's justice, as a Church and in our own Christian lives.

During this time I hope we can have a big conversation about justice, as we listen and learn from each other, from those experiencing injustice, and from others. What have we seen and learned about the need for justice today and during the pandemic? And what do we know from our history? How can we recover that passion for justice, and what practical tools do we need as individual and as a Church to live as a justice-seeking people of God?

To find out more about the project as it develops, watch the Methodist Justice Lecture by former Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, which launched the project, and sign up for updates about getting involved, visit <https://www.methodist.org.uk/walking-with-micah/>

Online Safeguarding Training Courses - 2021-2022

This on-line Safeguarding training programme for 2021/22 is organised by the South-West Region Learning Network of the Methodist Church. In our Circuit it is estimated there are 150 volunteers who need to attend a safeguarding course, and this will increase by the end of 2022 Connexional Year. If this is you, and you are confident with computers and can use zoom facilities, please register for a training course as soon as possible.

Creating Safer Space



**Safeguarding children, young people
and vulnerable adults**

ONLINE: Advanced Module – Creating Safer Space

Register by 2 February 2022. Gathered Session 2 March 2022 at 7pm

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-version-advanced-module-safeguarding-training-registration-159105702439

ONLINE: Foundation Module – Creating Safer Space

16 September 2021 at 7pm www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/methodist-foundation-module-safeguarding-creating-space-registration-159103369461

16 November 2021 9:30am www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/methodist-foundation-module-safeguarding-creating-space-registration-159103666349

8 February 2022 7pm www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/copy-of-methodist-foundation-module-safeguarding-creating-space-registration-159103780691

12 May 2022 9:30am www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/methodist-foundation-module-safeguarding-creating-space-registration-159103937159

For all enquiries, please contact Bridget Down, Learning Network downb@methodistchurch.org.uk

Safeguarding Sunday - 10 October 2021

Many churches across the country will be turning a spotlight on safeguarding on this Sunday. Protecting vulnerable people is at the heart of the Christian message. Safeguarding Sunday is all about creating an opportunity for churches to show their communities that they take this responsibility seriously.

What's more, it is your chance, as a church, to use your Sunday service to explore together what safe places look like, and to thank all those working behind the scenes to make our churches safer for all.

The website <https://thirtyoneeight.org/news-and-events/safeguarding-sunday/> has everything you need to help plan and run your event. May I encourage your church to participate.

Peter Gardner - Circuit Safeguarding Officer

Joyce Morse

With a sadden heart we have to report the death of Joyce Morse, the last organist at May Hill, on Saturday 25 July. Joyce was 103 years old and continued to play the organ at the church until it closed 2 years ago.

Cryptic Quiz

Rachel Emmerson has another cryptic quiz available, this time on shops and retailers. The cost of the quiz is £2 with all funds donated to Mission Aviation Fellowship. Email Rachel at emmerson1492@hotmail.co.uk if you would like a copy.

Preaching Availability - Winter Quarter 2021/2022

Preaching availability for the Winter Quarter (December 2021, January & February 2022) is requested. The deadline for completion is Friday 1 October. Please indicate your availability or unavailability in Chrestos, by emailing office@glosccircuit.co.uk, or by calling 01452 415769

If you are able to listen to another preacher, please indicate this on your return

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

Sunday 5 September	3pm	Circuit Assembly
Tuesday 7 September	9.30am	Manse Group
Wednesday 8 September	7.30pm	Finance Support Group
Saturday 11 September	9.30am	Representative Synod
Tuesday 14 September	9.30am	Property Group
Wednesday 15 September	7.30pm	Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting
Wednesday 13 October	TBA	Social & Climate Justice Group
Tuesday 19 October	TBA	Circuit Mission Group
Tuesday 16 November	9.30am	Circuit Executive
Tuesday 30 November	7.30pm	Finance Support Group
Monday 6 December	7.30pm	Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting - North
Tuesday 7 December	7.30pm	Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting - South
Wednesday 8 December	7.30pm	Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting - West
Thursday 9 December	7.30pm	Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting - Central
2022		
Wednesday 12 January	TBA	Social & Climate Justice Group
Thursday 13 January	7.30pm	Finance Support Group
Thursday 3 February	9.30am	Manse Group
Tuesday 8 February	TBA	Circuit Mission Group
Tuesday 8 February	9.30am	Property Group
Thursday 17 February	7.30pm	Circuit Treasurers Meeting
Wednesday 2 March	7.30pm	Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting
Thursday 3 March	9.30am	Circuit Executive
Sunday 22 March	3pm	Circuit Assembly
Monday 4 April	9.30am	Property Group
Thursday 7 April	TBA	Social & Climate Justice Group
Thursday 28 April	9.30am	Circuit Executive
Sunday 22 May	3pm	Circuit Assembly
Monday 6 June	7.30pm	Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting - Central
Tuesday 7 June	7.30pm	Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting - North
Wednesday 8 June	7.30pm	Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting - South
Thursday 9 June	7.30pm	Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting - West
Wednesday 6 July	TBA	Social & Climate Justice Group

Something to include in the newsletter? We'd love to hear from you!
Send to office@glosccircuit.co.uk

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