

Withington Methodist News

October 2021



SUNDAY WORSHIP

We are pleased to say we have re-opened our doors for Sunday morning worship. We will be maintaining the same protocols of social distancing and face coverings as when we previously opened.

Please feel free to join us in person or stick with the online evening circuit worship- whatever you feel more comfortable with.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Autumn is my favourite season – I love the chilly mornings, that unique autumnal smell, I enjoy observing the leaves changing from green to shades of orange, red, gold and brown. Most of all however, autumn with its lengthening nights, is a time of reflection.

As Mitchell Burgess wrote:

If winter is slumber and spring is birth, and summer is life, then autumn rounds out to be reflection. It's a time of year when the leaves are down, and the harvest is in and the perennials are gone. Mother Earth just closed up the drapes on another year and it's time to reflect on what's come before.

Autumn is also a time of new beginnings. Traditionally, Michaelmas (29th September) was the time of taking up new tasks. It is for this reason, that the university term begins at this time, and it was customary in the past to renew work and rental contracts at Michaelmas.

This reminds me of a passage from Isaiah: Isaiah 43:18-19 “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

This passage was written during the time when God's people were in Babylonian captivity. During that difficult time, Isaiah, the prophet, reminded them of the many things that God had done for them in the past. God

delivered them from Egypt, rescuing them from their enemies. Their redemption story is the most beautiful and wonderful experience they had with God. It was with a powerful hand that he delivered and fought for them until they inherited the promised land. What is interesting here is that, as beautiful as the story was, Isaiah seems to be discouraging them from being stuck in the past. He wants his people to reflect on the past, but at the same time look forward in faith.

I believe this to be what God is saying to us today. As we are slowly returning to pre-pandemic normalcy, we should look forward in faith, expecting and trusting God to do new things among us. We often hear people referring to the “new normal”. Perhaps this is the way we can perceive the hand of God in guiding us and be part of what God is doing now.

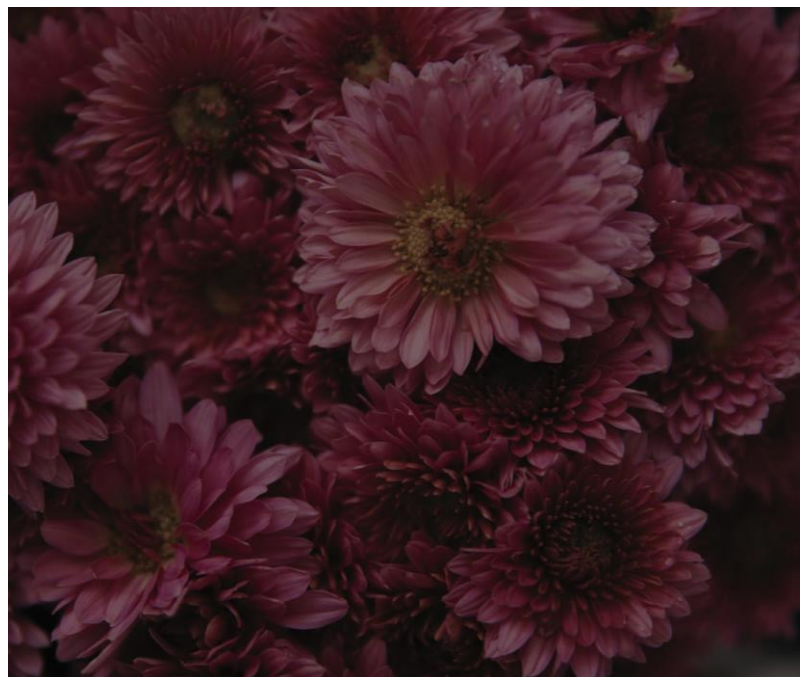
Wishing you a peaceful and sunny October,

Rev. Krystyna

PRAYER LIST

We remember in our prayers:

Kathleen,
Stasi,
Henry,
Zathilda,
Thandi,
Elaine,
Allan and Betty,
Promilla,
the Lowe family,
Georgine,
Krysten



WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday Morning In Person Worship

We are happy to have our doors fully open again at Withington. The booking system is no longer in place, everyone is welcome to come whenever works for them.

The current Covid-19 safety measures in place at WMC are as follows:

We will continue to wear masks during worship and social distancing will be maintained at 1 m+.

We are allowed to sing quietly with our masks on.

Socialising after the service is permitted, but without refreshments.

Communion is celebrated with bread and wine in individual glasses as usual.

Reflections and written worship resources:

If you are not on email and would like to receive a printed copy of our weekly reflections or written worship resources for Sunday,

please contact Krystyna on 0161 612 2668.

Coffee Morning and Bible Study on Zoom:

We have a virtual coffee morning every Monday from 11:00 am and a weekly Bible Study every Wednesday from 2:00 pm

Joining details for both meetings are the same every week:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84141198605>

Meeting ID: 841 4119 8605

Manchester Circuit Sunday Evening Service

A warm welcome as ever to our worship tomorrow evening.

The Zoom platform will be open from 6pm for those who wish to catch up with others from their church, and as usual worship will begin at 6:30.

The joining details follow-

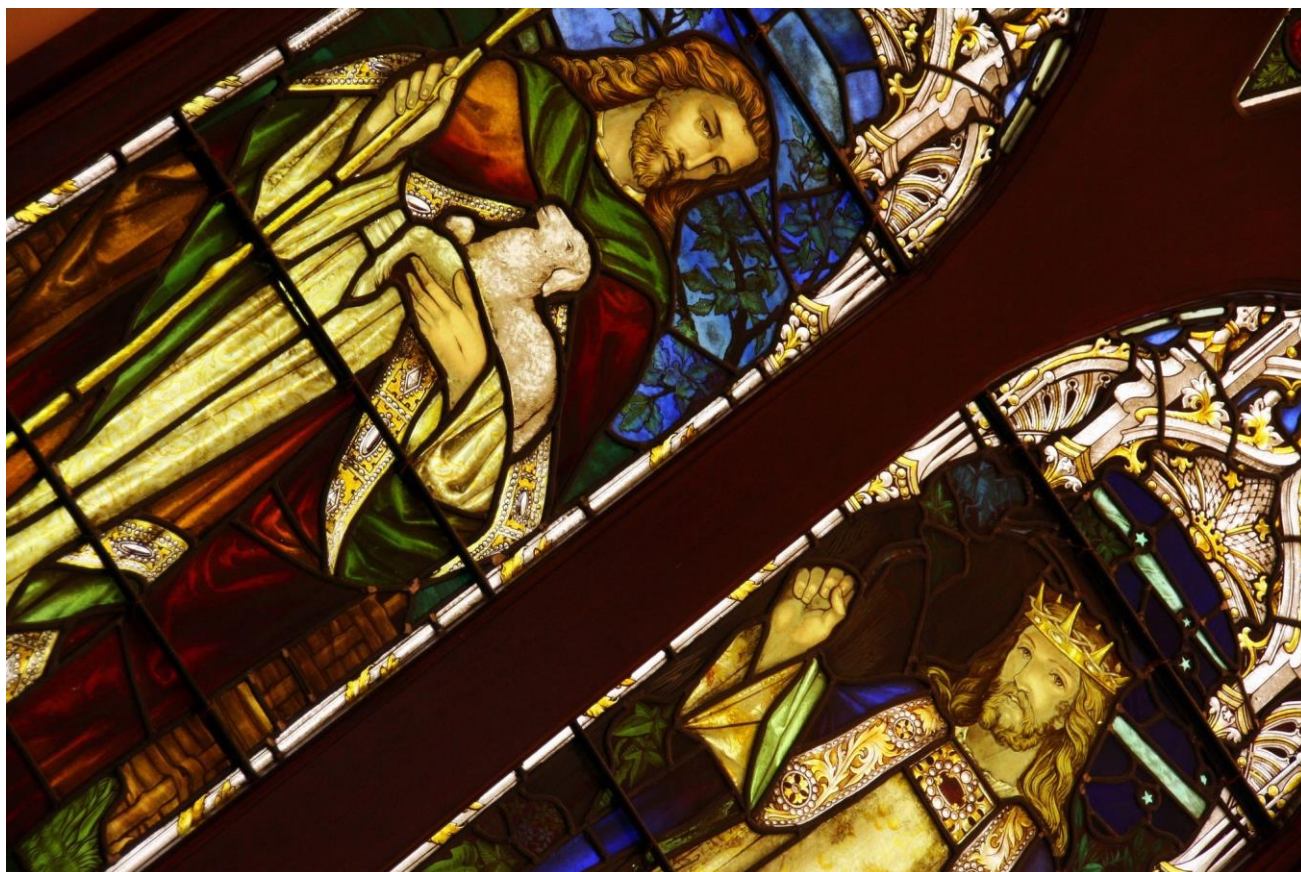
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99984161376?pwd=bVlvMEJTM CtSM2dOc2JxRWcvVVdx dz09>

Meeting ID: 999 8416 1376

Passcode: 1901

One tap mobile +16699006833, 99984161376 #, 1901#



HOMELESSNESS SUNDAY

10th October

On 10th October 2021 we will be taking time to reflect upon homelessness and the issues surrounding homelessness in the UK.

In particular we will focus on how Covid-19 has changed the way that churches and individuals are able to respond to homelessness, and what the church response to homelessness looks like post-pandemic in 2022 and beyond.

Compared to the general public, people sleeping rough...

- are almost 17 times more likely to be a victim of violence
- die 30 years younger on average
- The average life expectancy for men sleeping rough is 47 and 43 for women

When growing up...

- 2/3 of people who sleep rough experienced violence between parents/carers
- Just under 60% had a parent/carer with a drug or alcohol problem
- About half have been sexually and/or physically abused
- 1/3 have been bullied or have been suspended or expelled from school
- 25% have been taken into the care of a council as a child or young person
- A quarter were brought up in a workless household living on welfare benefits
- 15% reported that they often did not have enough to eat each day

Housing Justice is a small, highly influential national charity. Their work makes a huge difference to thousands of people who stay at Night Shelters across the country, or those who are helped in some other way by our Churches, faith and community groups, and their volunteers. You can donate to their cause here - <https://housingjustice.org.uk/donate-now-or-get-involved/donate>

They have produced a report on how churches can respond to homelessness after the pandemic which is well worth a read! You can find this here - <https://housingjustice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Many-Rooms-Responding-To-Homelessness.pdf>

Prayer

We pray today for all women and men, who are homeless this day. For those sleeping under bridges, on park benches, in doorways or bus stations outside high street shops and many other inappropriate places. For those who can only find shelter for the night but must wander in the daytime. For families broken because they could not afford to pay the rent. For those who have no relatives or friends who can take them in. For those who have no place to keep possessions that remind them who they are. For those who are afraid and hopeless. For those who have been let down by our social safety net.

For all these people, we pray that you will provide shelter, security and hope. We pray that those of us with warm houses not be lulled into complacency and forgetfulness.

Jesus, help us to see your face in the eyes of every person experiencing homelessness who we meet. So that we may be empowered through word and deed, and by your grace, to bring justice and peace to those who are homeless. Amen.

NEWS FROM THE CONNEXION

2 SEPTEMBER 2021

The Methodist Church response to the IICSA investigation into Child Protection in Religious Organisations and Settings

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse has today released a report of the investigation into Child Protection in Religious Organisations and Settings.

The Secretary of the Conference, the Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler said: “The Methodist Church welcomes today’s report, we are grateful for the work of the Chair and Panel for their consideration of the issues surrounding safeguarding and the recommendations which we hope will be of benefit to the children and vulnerable people in our churches. While it will take time for us to study today’s report, early indications are that it includes many areas where religious organisations are still failing their members and we are truly sorry for where this happens in our churches.

“The report makes two recommendations; the first on policy, procedures and training and the second around legislation for unregistered institutions providing full-time education. The first recommendation largely reflects our existing policy and procedures and stresses the need for regular updates. We will examine our child protection policy along with the procedures and training as part of our ongoing cycle of learning and review to see what changes might be needed in light of the report. We will await Government advice on the second recommendation.

“We note the report’s mention of a general lack of support for victims of abuse among religious organisations. We will continue to review and improve our support to victims and survivors and we apologise where this has not happened as it should have done.

“We are grateful to the Panel for recognising positive child protection practice in the Church including our safer recruitment and internal auditing processes.

“There can never be any excuse for failings in safeguarding and it is the responsibility of everyone connected with the Methodist Church to uphold the highest standards in order to protect children and vulnerable people.

“We have learnt much of how our response can be improved from our Survivors’ Advisory Group and we are grateful to them for sharing their experiences and working with us to make our systems and support better for all. We welcome the report’s conclusion that child protection work should be ‘victim focussed’ and we will continue to work with and be led by the SAG to achieve this.

“We are grateful to the Chair and Panel for the work they have done in producing this report and to the victims and survivors of abuse for their bravery in taking part in the inquiry.”

For support or advice about safeguarding issues:

safeguarding@methodistchurch.org.uk www.methodist.org.uk/safeguarding

NOTES:

The hearing started in March 2020 and was delayed by the Covid-19 lockdown. The Methodist Church was asked to take part along with other religious organisations with a significant presence in England and Wales including non-conformist Christian denominations, the Jehovah’s Witnesses, Baptists, representatives of Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism and Buddhism. While the Methodist Church was not called to give evidence at the hearing, it provided written submissions.

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) was set up by the Government after concerns that some organisations were failing and continuing to fail to protect children from sexual abuse. After each of the 15 hearings, the Inquiry’s panel which is chaired by Professor Alexis Jay OBE makes recommendations to help better protect children in the future.

03 SEPTEMBER 2021

New Methodist Youth President welcomed

The welcome and induction service for Daud Irfan, the new Methodist Youth President, took place on Sunday 29 August at Cyncoed Methodist Church, Cardiff.

Daud, aged 21, is the first Methodist Youth President of Asian heritage and is keen to see increased diversity in Church leadership. Daud's welcome service featured music and singing in Urdu from the Cardiff and Swansea Urdu/Hindi/Punjabi Fellowship to reflect his own family's heritage.

The Methodist Youth President is a salaried position working full-time for one year to serve the children and young people of the Methodist Church in Britain. The role involves meeting and representing the young Methodist people to ensure that their voices are heard and to help them be involved in every aspect of Church life.

The focus of Daud's year will be God's Church - a home for all.

Daud commented: "The focus of my year will be on God's Church being a home for all. The Church is a place where all are welcome. We are all made in the image of God. No one who comes to the Church should be judged. No one is underappreciated and we are all equal in the body of Christ."

"I am really looking forward to meeting the children and young people from across the country. I want to hear about their backgrounds, their church, what they do and what they would like to do."

The Revd Dr. Stephen Wigley, Chair of the Wales Synod of the Methodist Church who has supported Daud, commented: "I was delighted to be able



to join Daud and his family for the welcome service. I have known Daud for some 15 years since he and his family arrived in Cardiff and his experiences will enable him to serve alongside both young Christians and the wider Church in his year as Youth President.”

Daud’s father, Revd Irfan John, is a Synod Enabler for culturally diverse congregations with the Wales Synod. Revd Irfan commented: “For myself and Daud’s mother, Raheela, it is an honour to see him welcomed into his position as Methodist Youth President. As a minister, I encourage Daud to work faithfully during this year and pray that he will be a blessing for the young people.”

Find out more about Daud [here](#).



Daud (centre) with from left to right, the Revd Conrad Hicks, Barbara Easton, Vice-President, Sonia Hicks, President and the Revd Stephen Wigley.

07 SEPTEMBER 2021

Methodist Church urges HSBC to drop new charges

The Methodist Church in Great Britain has written to HSBC to ask it to reconsider introducing charges which it says will hit smaller churches. Many churches and community groups have been informed by the bank that new charges will be introduced which will mean they have to pay monthly fees and charges on each transaction they make.

In the letter, the Church's Director of Finance and Resources Matt Tattersall says it's astonishing that the bank should do this when it has announced £2bn profits in its UK market in the first six months of this year and continues: "Given that the charity sector has played such a vital role in supporting the country through the pandemic, and Methodist churches have played a key role in their local communities (such as running foodbanks), the timing of your announcement is extremely insensitive. Many of our treasurers will reach the conclusion that HSBC simply no longer wants their custom."

Mr Tattersall said: "These charges will hit smaller charities with a turnover of less than £100,000 a year. In the Methodist Church our churches are largely entirely reliant on volunteers and make an important contribution to communities. Banks need to reflect on the wider social values provided by charities and the inter-connectivity between business, government and the charitable sector which has been so keenly highlighted throughout the pandemic.

"At a conservative estimate, if 2000 of our churches and groups are hit by these new charges HSBC will make £120,000 a year at a time which is a significant drain on already hard-pressed volunteers trying to rebuild following the pandemic."

Mr Tattersall concludes his letter by asking HSBC to reconsider introducing the charges.

16 SEPTEMBER 2021

World Week for Peace in Israel and Palestine

To mark World Week for Peace in Israel and Palestine, Jude Levermore, head of Mission for the Methodist Church speaks to Julie Siddiqi, founder of Together We Thrive, Judy Silkoff, Jewish community professional and co-chair of the Alliance of Jewish Women and Barbara Easton, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference.

You can watch the full conversation here -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PoZld94oC4&t=1s>

A statement from the Methodist Liaison Office Stakeholder group which consists of the World Methodist Council, the United Methodist Church and the Methodist Church in Britain:

As we join an international wave of prayer this week for peace in Palestine/Israel, we stand with the World Council of Churches in asserting that all forms of violence are deplorable and should end. We affirm that religious affiliations should not justify the application of different moral standards for different communities. We insist that international law, as an expression of justice for all peoples, must be respected as a moral norm to be implemented politically and socially. We continue to stand with Palestinian Christians and Palestinian and Israeli human rights groups working to uphold international law. The Methodist Liaison Office is one sign of our ongoing response to the cry of Palestinian Christians for their sisters and brothers in faith around the world to come and see the impact of the occupation.

In this week, we continue to pray that the conflict and division that have crushed so many lives in the region over generations may cease. We pray that the hope we share for renewal and peace be a source of strength for all who work towards reconciliation and for those whose lives are dominated by fear and uncertainty in Israel/Palestine.

20 SEPTEMBER 2021

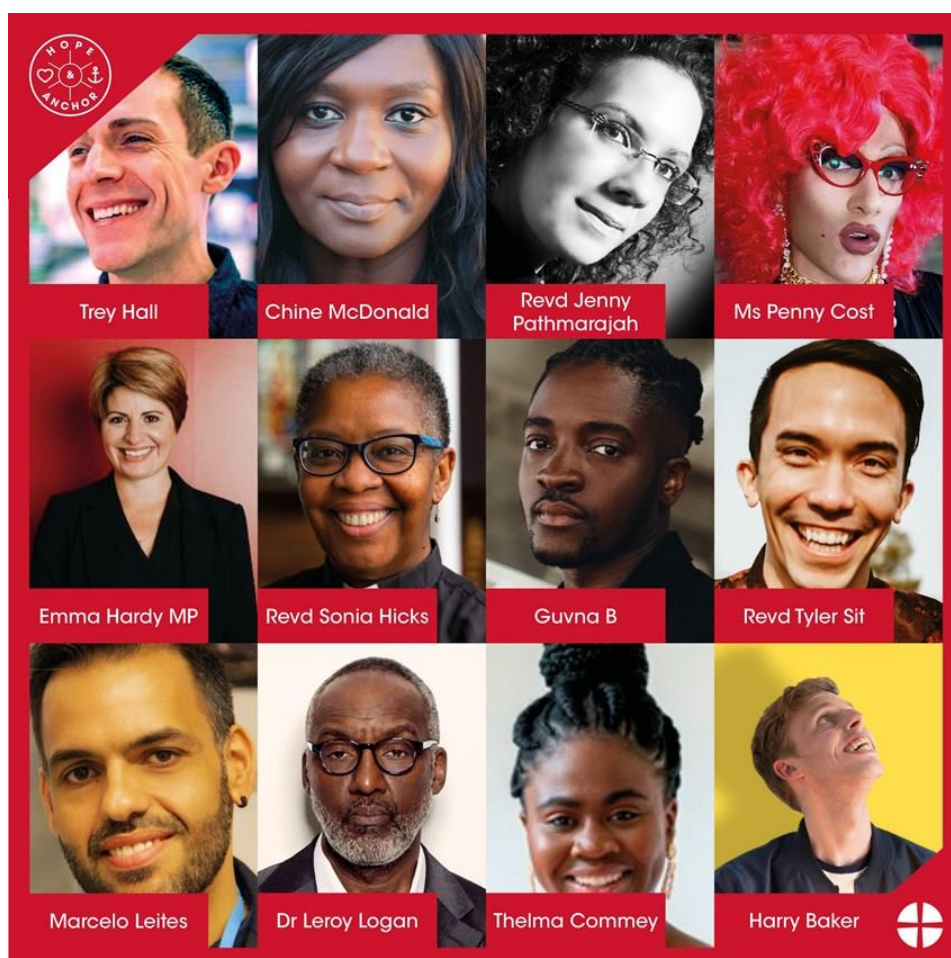
Online chat show takes faith outside the box

Welcoming people of all faiths and none, a weekly online chat show exploring spirituality in an inclusive, fun and non-judgemental way will be launched by the Methodist Church this month.

Hope & Anchor features guests from Britain and across the world who are taking faith outside the box, addressing challenging questions and preconceptions with intelligence and laughter and inviting viewers to explore new spiritual landscapes.

The Revd Trey Hall, Director and Evangelism and Growth for the Methodist Church, said:

“Imagine a table at your local pub where friends and strangers meet up and talk about anything and everything, from the frivolous to the sublime – this is the energy of Hope & Anchor.



“It’s a show for everyone – especially those who don’t consider themselves religious but are spiritually curious and Christians who creatively challenge the status quo and are passionate about change.”

Guests confirmed include:

- Chine McDonald, broadcaster and head of community fundraising & public engagement at Christian Aid,
- Ms Penny Cost, the first drag queen to become a candidate for ordination in the United Methodist Church.
- Emma Hardy, MP for Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle since 2017.
- Guvna B, rapper, author and broadcaster.

Hope and Anchor is co-hosted by Sonia Hicks, President of the Methodist Conference, Thelma Commey, past Methodist Youth President, Jenny Pathmarajah, Methodist presbyter, and Trey Hall, Director of Evangelism and Growth.

Livestreamed on [Facebook](#), the weekly show starts on Tuesday 28 September between 12:45 and 1:15.

Sign up for weekly news about the show [here](#).

Watch our trailer here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1lcdvGWlbl&t=51s>



20 SEPTEMBER 2021

Faith leaders call for climate action ahead of UN climate conference in Glasgow

The Revd Sonia Hicks, President of the Methodist Conference, Barbara Easton, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference and the Revd Mark Slaney, Chair of the Methodist Church, Scotland and Shetland Districts, have signed the following multi-faith declaration ahead of the UN conference on climate change that begins in Glasgow next month:

Glasgow Multi-Faith Declaration for COP26

Our faith communities are united in caring for human life and the natural world. We share a belief in a hopeful future, as well as an obligation to be responsible in caring for our common home, the Earth.

We recognise the opportunities that COP26 brings in addressing the urgent need for action in limiting the effects of climate change and the critical importance of decisions made in this conference to take forward the agreement made in Paris in 2015.

People have exploited the planet, causing climate change. We recognise that the burden of loss and damage falls most heavily on people living in poverty, especially women and children.

We acknowledge the commitments made through the Lambeth Declaration in 2015. Now, because of the gravity of our situation, the impact of climate change around the world, and the inequality of its effects we seek to strengthen those commitments.

We commit to respond to this challenge by:

- Reflecting deeply in prayer, meditation and worship to discern how to care for the earth and each other, and to encourage our respective communities to do the same.
- Making transformational change in our own lives and in the lives of

our communities through individual and collective action.

- Being advocates for justice by calling on governments, businesses and others who exercise power and influence to put into effect the Paris agreement; to make the transition to a just and green economy a priority; and to commit to science-based targets that are aligned with a healthy, resilient, zero-emissions future.

We remind governments of their commitments made in Paris in 2015 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, and of Article 17 of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights to protect the environment, the biosphere and biodiversity. We call upon them to take the urgent action needed to avert the loss, damage, and forced migration threatened by climate change.

We look to governments to work together and with others to create a positive vision for 2050 where addressing climate change is not just an opportunity to stop burning fossil fuels, but also: to achieve cleaner air and water; to reduce food wastage; to ensure a just and equitable sharing of the earth's resources; and to protect the habitats we share with all other life on whose health we also depend.

Across our doctrinal and political differences, we know that we must change our ways to ensure a quality of life which all can share, and we need to provide hope for people of all ages, everywhere, including future generations. To offer hope in the world we need to have confidence that those in power understand the vital role they have to play at the Glasgow COP26.

Our collective energy and prayers will be with those working for a successful outcome.

Signed by:

UK Senior Faith Leaders

Archbishop Angaelos, Archbishop of London, The Coptic Orthodox Church

The Rt Revd John Arnold, Bishop of Salford, and lead Bishop for the Environment, Catholic Church in England and Wales

Imam Qari Muhammad Asim, Chair, Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board

Malcolm M Deboo, President, Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe (Inc)

Revd Clare Downing and Mr Peter Pay, Moderators of General Assembly, United Reformed Church

Rabbi Joseph Dweck, Senior Rabbi, S&P Sephardi Community, UK

Revd. Lynn Green, General Secretary, The Baptist Union of Great Britain
 Rev Sonia Hicks, President of the Methodist Church and Barbara Easton, Vice-President of the Methodist Church
 Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner, Former Senior Rabbi to Reform Judaism
 Rt Rev Andy John, Bishop of Bangor and Senior Bishop in the Church in Wales
 Rabbi David Mason, representing Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis
 Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra (Imam), Christian - Muslim Forum
 Mr. Patrick O'Mara, Secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United Kingdom
 Mrs Trupti Patel, President of the Hindu Forum of Britain
 Juliet Prager, Deputy Recording Clerk, Quakers in Britain
 Imam Sayed Razawi, Chief Imam, Director General of the Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society
 Rabbi Danny Rich, former Senior Rabbi and Chief Executive of Liberal Judaism in the United Kingdom
 The Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala, Head Priest of the London Buddhist Vihara
 Dr Natubhai Shah, Senior leader, Jain Community UK
 The Rt. Hon Lord Indarjit Singh of Wimbledon, Director Network of Sikh Organisations (UK)
 Jasvir Singh OBE, Chair of City Sikhs
 Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia OBE KSG, Chairman, Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha
 Rt Revd Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich and lead Bishop on the Environment, Church of England
 Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, Senior Rabbi of Masorti Judaism UK
 Scottish Religious Leaders & Representatives
 The Rt Hon Lord Jim Wallace of Tankerness, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland
 Elizabeth Allen, Clerk, General Meeting for Scotland, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
 Imam Sohail Ashfaq, Blackhall Mosque
 Lt-Col Carol Bailey, Secretary for Scotland, Salvation Army
 Revd David Coleman, Minister of the United Reformed Church and Chaplain to Eco-Congregation Scotland
 Allan Forsyth and Isadora Quay, on behalf of the Baha'i Community of Scotland
 Rev Bonnie Evans Hills, convener Scottish Episcopal Church Interfaith Relations Committee
 Madhu Jain, Hindu Mandir Scotland
 Revd Dr Martin Johnstone, Glasgow Churches Together COP26 Ambassador
 Ani Lhamo, Kagyu Samye Ling Buddhist Centre
 Bishop Brian McGee, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, President of the Catholic Bishops' Committee for Interreligious dialogue
 Rev Dr David Miller, Moderator, United Free Church of Scotland
 Acharya Ji Mishra, Priest of Hindu Mandir Scotland
 Ravinder Kaur Nijjar, Advisor Sikhs in Scotland
 Imam Hassan Rabbani, Imam of Zia-Ul-Quran Mosque, Chair of Scottish Muslim Forum
 Lama Yeshe Choje Losal Rinpoche, Abbot of Kagyu Samye, Ling Buddhist Centre
 Rabbi David Rose, Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation
 Rabbi Moshe Rubin, Giffnock and Newlands Hebrew Congregation, Senior Rabbi of Scotland
 Shaykh Sohaib Saeed, Al-Furqan Mosque
 The Revd Mark Slaney, Chair Methodist Church Scotland
 Sr. Isabel Smyth, Sisters of Notre Dame & Secretary to the Catholic Bishops' Committee for Inter-religious Dialogue
 Most Rev Mark Strange, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church
 Linsay Taylor, Muslim Council of Scotland and Chair of Interfaith Scotland
 Dr Srihari Vallabhajousula, Honorary Priest, Hindu Temple of Scotland, Rutherglen, Glasgow
 Ameer Versace, Climate Officer, Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society
 Revd Paul Whittle, Moderator of The United Reformed Church National Synod of Scotland
 Rev. George Whyte, Principal Clerk to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

28 SEPTEMBER 2021

Church leaders urge Government to think again on Universal Credit cut

The Revd Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton, the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, have joined over 1100 church leaders in urging the Government to think again about cutting Universal Credit payments by £20 a week from the start of October.

In their letter to the Prime Minister, organised by Church Action on Poverty and Christians Against Poverty, church leaders say:

"If the Government persists with this cut, it would be the single biggest overnight reduction in the basic rate of social security since the welfare state was established in the 1940s. Millions of low income households will be swept further into poverty as a result."

Church at the Margins Officer and Former Vice-President of the Methodist Church, Eunice Attwood, said:

"Cutting £20 a week from families who are just keeping their heads above water cannot be right.

"Every day we see in churches and foodbanks people with huge potential, bursting to contribute who cannot move forward because the struggle simply to make ends meet is all consuming. I urge ministers to come to a church project and see the difference £20 a week makes for some families.

"We believe that everyone should be able to fulfil the potential God has placed within them and that we should do all that is necessary to prevent people being held back by poverty."

Full text of the letter:

Dear Prime Minister, We stand together as church leaders from across the UK to urge you to think again about cutting Universal Credit payments by £20 a week from the start of October.

If the Government persists with this cut, it would be the single biggest overnight reduction in the basic rate of social security since the welfare state was established in the 1940s. Millions of low income households will be swept further

into poverty as a result.

As Christians, we are compelled by the gospel imperative to prioritise the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable.

As church leaders, we must speak up, because of the impact this will have on our poorest neighbours and church members.

We urge the Government to choose to build a just and compassionate social security system that our whole society can have confidence in.

Even before the Covid-19 pandemic, poorer people in communities all over the country were suffering because the lifelines they needed from our social security system and vital neighbourhood services were not strong enough. Analysis by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has shown that the cut will particularly hit the north of England, the West Midlands, Wales and Northern Ireland. Rather than levelling up the UK, this will compound existing inequalities.

The loss of £1,040 a year will be devastating for many families at a time when energy bills and other household costs are increasing. Instead we can make sure our social security system brings stability, and opens up options and opportunities for people whose income is too low or insecure to make ends meet.

The cut has already been opposed by community groups up and down the country, charities, six former Conservative Work and Pensions Secretaries, and many MPs from all parties. This is an opportunity for the Government to send a message that it listens, and recognises the pressure faced by those on the breadline.

Universal Credit has been a vital lifeline throughout the pandemic. For the sake of millions of families, it must be retained at its current level, and we therefore reiterate the calls for the planned £20 a week cut to be withdrawn.



29 SEPTEMBER 2021

Lindley Methodist Church, Huddersfield is the 4,000th EcoChurch

Conservation charity A Rocha UK has announced Lindley Methodist Church in Huddersfield as their 4,000th Eco Church. The Church signed up to Eco Church as part of their commitment to action following their Climate Sunday service on 5th September. This milestone of churches committed to undertaking practical action comes at a critical time for the climate, ahead of the UN COP26 climate negotiations in November.



This very significant milestone of 4000 registered churches, means that 10% of churches across England and Wales are engaged with the awards scheme which helps churches to make the link between environmental issues and the Christian faith, and to respond in practical action.

Lindley's eco journey began in 2007, when a green team was established after a building refurbishment project sparked a call to become more environmentally friendly. Lindley achieved an Eco Congregation award in 2010 and some of the fruit trees planted by the junior church over a decade ago are still bearing fruit today. Lindley share eco-lifestyle tips during school visits and in its weekly church notices, including suggestions on personal consumption and carbon footprint reduction. They have made alterations to the heating and lighting in the church building to improve efficiency and are installing water harvesting systems.

Hilary Wilson, member of Lindley Methodist Church's green team explains why they chose to register with EcoChurch: "We have chosen to join Eco Church because of the worldwide climate situation. Our young people are concerned about the climate crisis, and many of us have grandchildren. We

know now is the time to do our bit.”

The Revd Sue Taylor says green activities have increased over the last year: “Over the pandemic period, Lindley launched an online gardening and wildlife club. Our churchyard provides a green oasis for wildlife and people alike in our urban village. More than ever, the natural world has been a comfort to many and I am pleased that, as a community, we are working together to do what we can to help protect our environment.

"We are proud of our market stall on Saturday mornings focused on recycling and during Lent we explored a series during our services called 'Faith and making Your Lifestyle Count' which challenged the congregation on a number of environmental issues."

Helen Stephens, Church Relations Manager for A Rocha UK, said: “We are thrilled to welcome the 4000th church to the Eco Church community. An important step and very achievable for any church is gaining their first (bronze) Eco Church award which Lindley intends to do by the end of the year. This first milestone greatly encourages a congregation and demonstrates what's possible, inspiring them to take further, deeper action, as well as providing a good basis for making links with the wider community.”

04 OCTOBER 2021

Open letter to Alok Sharma calls for bold action over the climate crisis

Ahead of the UN conference on climate change in Glasgow next month, a youth-led, global Methodist campaign, Climate Justice for All (CJ4A), have released an open letter to COP26 President Alok Sharma calling for bold and ambitious action to avert further damage caused to the environment by climate change. The letter has been released for British Methodists to sign.

Reflecting the work of the CJ4A movement, the letter says:

"Young people have been pioneers in the climate movement, and as a Church we have been led by their prophetic voice as we have responded to the climate crisis. Our young people have continually expressed their fears for the planet,

and have called on those in power to do more to protect their future. We urge you to hold these fears close to your heart as you lead COP26. We ask that you test the impact of the resolutions you make on generations to come. To neglect to do so would be a betrayal of the young people whose voices have been so active in driving the climate movement, and who risk bearing the heaviest consequences of our actions in years to come."

The letter came from consultation sessions that CJ4A held with Methodists in Britain earlier this year. CJ4A wanted to find out what people wanted to say to our leaders at COP and the letter captures the heart and passion of what was shared during these sessions.

Mollie Pugmire, British CJ4A worker, said:

"We wanted to make sure we were properly representing the voices of Methodists in Britain who so boldly shared their anger and frustration at the way in which the climate crisis is handled by our national and global leaders. I was really inspired by the way in which despite all the anger, people had not given up and were prepared to call upon their leaders to do what it takes to achieve climate justice for all."

The letter is open for Methodists to sign until the end of the 24th October. You can read the letter in full and sign it here -

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeU3tv3gOkt7YE3_oHbi6doiigCQ7XO6THAgKFjhHvxTER4nw/viewform



THANK YOU FOR READING!

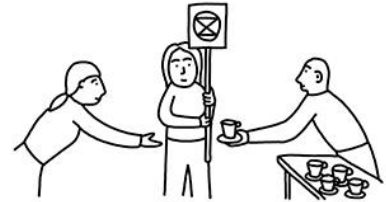
THE CLIMATE PROTESTERS



THEY ARE OCCUPYING
THE LYCH GATE



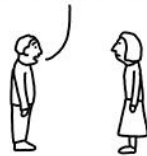
GLUED TO THE SUNDAY
SCHOOL CRAFT TABLE



GETTING RATHER IN THE
WAY AT COFFEE TIME

NOT
EVERYONE
IS
IMPRESSED

THEY DRIVE
SOMEWHERE DIFFERENT
EVERY WEEKEND



↑
FACEBOOK
PHOTO

DISRUPTING THE
PUBLIC WON'T
WIN US OVER

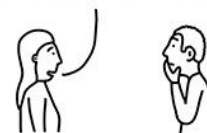


BUT
ACTUALLY...

THE DISRUPTION THAT WILL
BE CAUSED BY THE
CLIMATE CRISIS WILL BE SO
MUCH MORE SIGNIFICANT



WE MAY CRITICISE, BUT
WHAT ARE WE DOING TO
GET THE POINT ACROSS TO
GOVERNMENTS MORE EFFECTIVELY?



The next magazine will be out on the 7th November on the Withington Methodist Church Facebook Group and via email.

If you have anything you would like to contribute to next month's magazine please pass it on to Caroline Fielding - withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com

If you would like to receive an emailed copy of the magazine please email - withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com

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Sunday Services

Morning Worship : 10:45 am taking place in the ground floor hall. Holy Communion once a month.

Regular Activities

Monday Monkeys (Mondays 10-11.30am)

Brownies (Wednesdays from Oct. 6:30-8:00pm)

Men's Club (Fridays 1:00-3:00pm)

