



Handbook

The Conference 2021



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Secretary's Welcome

It is my privilege to offer you a very warm welcome to the 2021 Methodist Conference. I hope that in whatever capacity you are attending the

Conference you will enjoy being with us as you find opportunities to share in worship, fellowship and discussion with members from around the Connexion.

As always, I want to acknowledge the great debt of thanks that we owe to those individuals and committees who work tirelessly throughout the year to make possible our meeting together, and especially to the Conference Arrangements Team volunteers. This year has been more difficult than many and arrangements have had to be made at the last minute, so we are especially grateful to those who have given of their time and energy in such uncertain and changing circumstances.

There will be much that we miss this year. There will be few visitors to the Conference and no fringe meetings or exhibition. As we gather for the 2021 Conference, therefore, we are perhaps even more conscious of the awesome responsibility that is ours - to meet in God's name, to confer about the work of God in this part of God's world, to hold before God the needs of this Connexion, to seek God's will, and then to decide on important matters. We do all this as people called to love and praise God and therefore we will spend much of our time in worship. Whether this is your first Conference or you count yourself 'an old hand', I hope and pray that you will be enriched by the experience of being here and leave here glad that you were able to serve the Church in this way.

The Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler
Secretary of the Conference

Prayers for the Conference

Loving Lord, we know that every place and time is yours and you have promised that you will be with us to the very end of the age.

As we gather for our conference, in a variety of ways this year, help us to recognise your presence, whether we are on our own and making use of technology or gathered with others.

We come with our dreams and visions. Help us to recognise that it is your vision that we need to seek and that our calling is to fulfil your mission wherever you have placed us.

As we look to the future, Lord take us from where we are to where you want us to be as a church and as individuals.

May your Holy Spirit guide us in all our conferring and may we be willing to be changed. In Jesus name.

Amen.

Revd Richard Hall

God of all,

As we come together, we acknowledge your calling to be good stewards on Earth. Remind us to be good stewards of creation, of resources, of wealth, of people, and of your Church on Earth. Help us focus our energy on building your kingdom where the weak are made strong, the rich made poor and the outcast made friend. Remind us that you are God of all and for all.

In our working and in our rest, we ask your Spirit to be. In our questions and in our answers, we ask your wisdom to be. In our voting and our debating, we ask your grace to be. In our actions, thoughts and responses, we ask your love to be. In our challenges and in our weariness, we ask your strength to be.

Amen.

Phoebe Parkin,
Methodist Youth President 2020/2021

The Methodist Church

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was that we remember
the poor -
the very thing
I was eager to do.'*

Paul, Gal. 2.10



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- Visit our website: www.fundforhumanneed.org.uk

To you, O God of all creation be praise and glory!

For you have brought everything into existence. We thank you, loving God for the way you embrace and nurture every life.

You have called us to know you, to love one another, not only love those who love us, but even love our enemies as you have loved us. You have called us to live and act justly. Help us to recognise the rights of the poor and the oppressed, the excluded and the marginalised, and to know the kingdom of God is inclusive. May your Church be found serving among those who lack resources, standing firm for justice, love, and peace in the world.

Give your Church the spirit of wisdom and guidance that we may discern the times in which we live, that we may be inspired, encouraged to serve and worship you in new ways, and in new places.

Let God's people live, not in fear, but in love, justice, and peace.

Amen.

Deacon Angela Shereni

met

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**MET Daily Prayer for Conference on Zoom -
methodistevangelicals.org.uk/conference-prayer**

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Conference Information

Keeping in Touch

You can keep up to date with the Conference at **www.methodist.org.uk/conference**, follow **@MethodistGB** on Twitter for official news and join in the conversation using the hashtag **#MethodistConf** on social media.

Watch worship and debates live at **www.methodist.org.uk/conferencelive**

Find the Methodist Church on Facebook, **@MethodistGB** on Twitter, on YouTube and Instagram.

Messages

During the Conference, messages for members may be emailed to **conference@methodistchurch.org.uk**

New to the Conference – for everyone

If this will be your first time at the Conference, or if you've been before but would like a refresher, you can download the booklet *What is the Methodist Conference?* from our website, **www.methodist.org.uk/conference**. You'll find it under Conference 2021 in the Coming to the Conference section.

We will also be running a New to Conference session, new representatives will receive an invitation nearer to the Conference.

Conference resources

A password-protected suite of pages where Conference representatives can

view or collect information and forms that they need to do their work effectively. Representatives will be sent log-in details shortly before the Conference.

You can find these pages at **www.methodist.org.uk/conference-resources**

Conference letters

Any member of the Conference requesting that a letter be sent on behalf of the Conference may do so by completing a Letter Request Form which you can download from the Conference Resources page at **www.methodist.org.uk/conference-resources**. Completed forms should be returned to the Conference Letter Writer at **conferenceletterwriter@methodistchurch.org.uk**

In addition to those letters that are sent to those who have served in ordained ministry for 70 or more years, and those celebrating the 25th, 50th or 60th anniversaries of their ordination, the Conference will write, for a specific reason, to those who have a direct link with the Conference, or represent the World Church, or have an ecumenical relationship with the Methodist Church, or have a claim to achievements that are outstanding in the life of the Church or on its behalf.

Venue

National Conference Centre, Birmingham, Coventry Rd, Bickenhill, Hampton in Arden, Solihull B92 0EJ.

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Getting to the NCC

The National Conference Centre is centrally situated at J6 on the M42 with excellent transport links to Birmingham International Airport and train station which is just a 5 minute drive away.

By Rail

The closest train station is Birmingham International which is just a 5 minute taxi drive. During the Conference, we will provide shuttle buses for representatives to travel to and from the venue.

By Car

Situated on J6 of the M42, follow signs to The National Motorcycle Museum from all approach roads. Postcode B92 0EJ

The venue has free parking spaces on site, including charge points for electric cars and disabled parking.

By Air

Nearest airport is the Birmingham International Airport, which is a 5 minutes taxi drive.

Meals

The Conference provides some meals for representatives. When a meal is not provided, you will be able to reclaim the cost of your meal.

Breakfast is served at your accommodation.

Lunch is provided at the Conference venue every day. No meals are provided in the evening.

Expenses

You may claim up to £8.00 per day for

lunch and a maximum of £22.50 per day for your evening meal. The Conference cannot reimburse the cost of alcohol taken with meals.

The travel allowance to the Conference is either the reimbursement of rail, airline or coach tickets, or 45p per mile by car. If you are bringing other Conference representatives you may claim an additional 5p per mile for each passenger.

For those attending online, we recognise that you may incur expenses, such as increased data or phone costs. Reasonable expenses related to facilitating your participation in the virtual Conference will be reimbursed.

How to claim expenses

All expense claims must be submitted by Friday 23 July. District representatives should submit their claims via their District Treasurer; all other representatives should submit their claims to the Conference Office using the claim form that will be circulated before the Conference.

Chaplaincy

We are fortunate to have a chaplaincy team available during this Conference, messages for them can be left at the Help Desk. For those joining online the chaplains will be available by telephone during the following hours:

Thursday 24 June	14.00 – 19.00
Friday 25 June	09.00 – 19.00
Saturday 26 June	12.00 – 19.00
Sunday 27 June	12.00 – 17.00
Monday 28 June	09.00 – 19.00

Tuesday 29 June	09.00 – 19.00
Wednesday 30 June	09.00 – 19.00
Thursday 1 July	09.00 – 19.00

You can reach the chaplains on the following numbers:

Revd Carrie Seaton: 07715 282113
Revd David Alderman: 07803 346105

Early morning communion and prayer room

At 08.30 on Monday 28 June, Tuesday 29 June and Thursday 1 July there will be a short service of Holy Communion in the Prayer Room which is in the Waterloo Room. Unless in use for a Conference

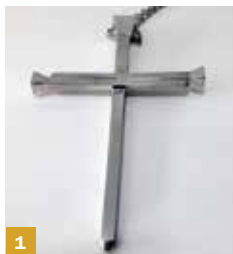
workshop or other internal meeting, the Waterloo Room is available for private prayer throughout the day.

Connexional Team stand

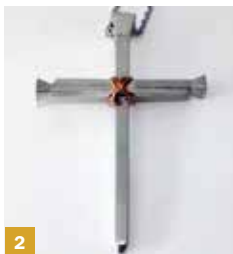
Every year at the Methodist Conference the Connexional Team stand is on hand to support the Church to fulfil its calling and this year is no different – except that the stand in 2021 is online.

The stand displays resources that are available to the Connexion relating to the business of the Conference. New material will be added daily during the Conference. You can find the online stand at **www.methodist.org.uk/CT-stand**.

Conference Memorabilia



1



2



3

The full range of Conference gifts and souvenirs can be seen at www.methodist.org.uk/memorabilia

While coronavirus restrictions continue and Methodist Church House remains closed, we are only available to fulfil orders for jewellery and the Shropshire or Arden pottery range, all of which can be shipped direct from the manufacturer. The website will be updated when normal service is restored.

How to order your Conference memorabilia

If you would like to order any of the items featured, or reserve something that you've seen on the website, please contact the Memorabilia Co-ordinator, Barry Speddings: Tel: **01373 466998**
Email: barryspeddings@blueyonder.co.uk

1. Cross of Nails – pewter pendants

Specially commissioned for the Methodist Conference and made by St Justin Ltd of Cornwall, this beautifully designed pewter cross of nails reflects both the pain of the Cross and the restoring power of the Resurrection. For many years the Cross of Nails has been seen as an international emblem of peace and reconciliation

amongst nations and the peoples of those nations. Exclusive to the Conference, this Methodist Cross of Peace echoes those hopes. Shown here is the 4-inch size with a 26-inch chain. It is also available in smaller sizes and all are gift boxed.

PRICES	4-inch	2-inch	1.5-inch
	£19.50	£15.00	£12.50

2. Cross of Nails – pewter and copper pendants

Also specially commissioned for and exclusive to the Methodist Conference, and made by St Justin Ltd of Cornwall, this beautifully designed pewter Cross of Nails is enhanced with copper wire detail. Shown here is the 4-inch size with a 26-inch chain. It is also available in smaller sizes.

PRICES	4-inch	2-inch	1.5-inch
	£29.50	£19.50	£15.00

3. Methodist Orb jewellery

Specially commissioned for and exclusive to the Conference, these Methodist Orb and Cross design pendants are available in pewter, bronze and silver. The Orb and Cross design is granted to the Methodist Church



by the College of Arms. The cross in its radiance symbolises the glory of God while the orb symbolises the world in which we live, and the red symbolises the possibility of human salvation for all through the power of the Holy Spirit. The white is for the risen Saviour at Eastertide. Each is beautifully packed in its own gift box, carries a lifetime quality guarantee and is made in Cornwall for us by St Justin Ltd.

PRICES	Pewter	Bronze	Silver
	£12.50	£19.50	£29.50

4. The Shropshire Chalice Set

This specially commissioned communion set was exclusively created for those ministers due to be ordained at last year's Methodist Conference in Telford, close to the famous Ironbridge Gorge in the English county of Shropshire. The glaze colouring of the set is strongly influenced by the iron pigments found in the soil of the area whilst its design detail reflects the area's description as "The Birthplace of the Industrial Revolution". Each set is hand-thrown and specially glazed for us making each set unique and different. The two-piece set is available to pre-order now. Also available in a rich green "Arden Forest" colouring

PRICES	Standard set	Personal set
	£49.50	£39.50

5. Shropshire Baptism Set

Growing in popularity as a Conference gift the Baptism set has now become a regular item in the range. As with the chalice set its colouring and design reflects the nature of the local area. Each set is hand-thrown and glazed with each set being unique. The two-piece set is available to pre-order now. Also available in a rich green "Arden Forest" colouring.

PRICE	£49.50
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6. Methodist Orb Design Cuff Links

Specially commissioned for The Methodist Conference and manufactured for us by St Justin Ltd in Cornwall these cuff links are different from those shown on the memorabilia web pages. Like the Methodist orb pendants the red enamel orb design is encased in a pewter framework and is guaranteed for life. Each set is beautifully gift boxed and available now.

PRICE	£19.50
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Virtual Conference Bookshop

The Conference Bookshop will be operating as always during the 2021 Methodist Conference and you will still be able to browse stock and place your order online at **www.crfi.co.uk**.

As well as a great selection of Christian books and Bibles, the Virtual Bookshop also has music, cards and gifts. You can also phone the team on **01782 212146**.

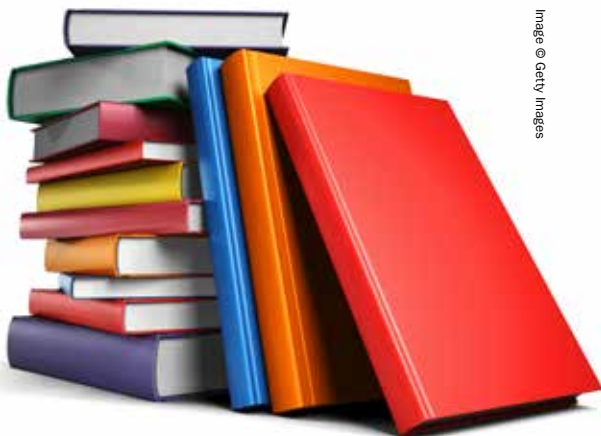


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Exhibition

The Methodist Conference Exhibition offers a unique opportunity to connect with representatives and visitors to the Conference. Due to the Covid-19 situation, we are unable to host a live exhibition this year; instead, here are the organisations you would have been able to meet in Birmingham. You can find the same list, with a short description of each exhibitor and a link to their website, in the Exhibition section of the Conference website.


Action for Children	www.actionforchildren.org.uk
Cliff College	www.cliffcollege.ac.uk
Dignity and Worth	www.dignityandworth.org.uk
Fund for Human Need	www.fundforhumanneed.org.uk
Karibuni Children	www.karibuni.org.uk
Methodist Evangelicals Together	www.methodistevangelicals.org.uk
Methodist Homes MHA	www.mha.org.uk
Methodist Ministers' Housing Society	www.mmhs.org.uk
Methodist Peace Fellowship	www.mpf.org.uk and www.for.org.uk
Methodist Schools	www.methodistschools.org.uk
Methodist Women in Britain	www.mwib.org.uk
SAT-7	www.sat7uk.org
World Day of Prayer	www.wwdp.org.uk

Conference fringe events

Fringe events are a welcome enhancement of the Conference, offering representatives and members of the public opportunities to share information and ideas, explore topics of special interest and celebrate together. They are not a part of the formal proceedings of the Conference but are hosted by a variety of organisations within and outside the Methodist Church.

Some of the fringe events that were scheduled to be held during the Conference will be going ahead online instead. Please check the fringe event pages of the Conference website for further details.

www.methodist.org.uk/fringe-events/



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