

HOST GUIDANCE



Homegrown

Growing faith at home

A one-day live-streamed conference
Tuesday 8 October 2019
9.30am-2.30pm

A brief guide to hosting the
Homegrown e-conference locally

The **Methodist** Church 



**parenting
for faith**



Homegrown supports churches and families to nurture faith at home, and explores ways for everyone to grow in faith through their daily lives. There are two events taking place on 8 October; you may wish to stream either or both.

- Homegrown e-conference for those working with families, **9.30am-2.30pm**
- Homegrown event for parents and carers, **8pm-9.30pm**.

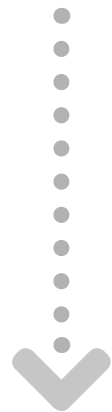
If you are hosting an event bringing together local people to engage with The Methodist Church's Homegrown e-conference on Tuesday 8 October, please read the following guidance. Gathering people within the church community for live-streamed events is one of our goals: we want everyone to feel included and to make it a day of learning and fellowship.



Register your gathering via our webpage **www.methodist.org.uk/homegrown**, and you'll receive an email nearer the time with further details, as well as the direct link to the conference broadcast. Clicking this link will enable you to join the events live on 8 October.

Venue: Your venue can be any public place that is large enough for people to gather, such as your church worship area or church hall. Ensure the venue is appropriate for the size of your gathering, whether you are expecting 5 people or 30. You may find it helpful to set up seating around tables or in small groups so that people can watch the keynote sessions and then transition seamlessly into discussion.

Use clear signage so that attendees know where to go and how to find the emergency exits and toilets. Ensure your venue is suitably equipped for any participants with access needs. Refreshments such as hot and cold drinks might be welcomed. It is up to you as to whether you provide lunch or ask people to bring their own.

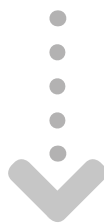


Advertising your event: You may decide to invite just a few people to your gathering or to advertise it more widely. Where you have limited space, consider asking people to book a place or let you know they are coming so you can keep an eye on numbers. If you register your gathering on the Homegrown webpage (see link above), we can advertise it there with an appropriate email address, allowing people to book in with you or ask questions about your event. This will support any local advertising you do.

Session content and reflection times: Prior to the conference, you will be sent a link to our digital conference guide (which you can download and print if you wish). This contains more information about timings for the day, the content of the sessions, questions to guide your learning and reflections, and details of further resources and books. As host, it would be ideal if you could familiarise yourself with this information in advance of the day. Note that the main conference sessions will be signed, making them accessible for those who are hard of hearing. One of the main benefits of watching the conference as a group is that during the reflection times people can discuss their thoughts in small groups. The questions for reflection times can be found in the conference guide.

Technology: In order to stream the conference you will need reliable internet access and space to gather around a screen (for example, your laptop or PC). If wi-fi is an issue, you may find an ethernet cable offers a more stable connection. For bigger groups, using a projector, screen and plug-in speakers or a good sound system may be preferable.

Try to set up everything in advance and have a trial run to check that all the equipment is working. A live test stream will take place at 5-6pm on 7 October, while on 8 October you can tune in from 9am. If you are not confident about using this technology, try to find someone in your local church or area who can offer support.



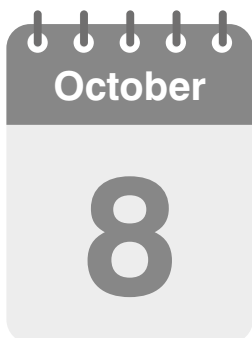
Timings: The conference runs from 9.30am to 2.30pm on Tuesday 8 October. Breaks, including lunch, have been built into the programme. The presenters on the live stream will let you know when it's time for a break, a discussion or lunch.

Tune in from 9am to ensure your equipment is working. From 9.30am we will stream a time of reflection and devotions. There will be an activity for everyone to participate in during the reflection time at the start of the conference. Refer to the conference guide for the few simple resources that you need for this.

Streaming: You can watch the live stream via the Homegrown webpage **www.methodist.org.uk/homegrown** or through the Methodist Church Facebook page. Accessing it via the Homegrown webpage will give you a better viewing experience as you will be able to follow the Twitter feed alongside the video.

On Facebook, to be notified that the video stream has gone live, you will need to follow the Methodist Church's page and turn on 'notifications' in the newsfeed.

Try refreshing the page if you have any streaming issues on the day.



Engaging via social media: As well as watching the conference live, there will be ways to engage with its content on social media, including via Facebook Chat and Twitter.

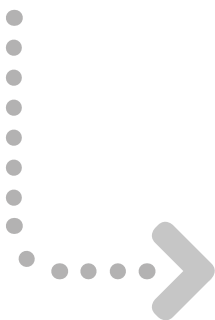
Follow **@childrenyouth** on Twitter to see conference tweets and use the hashtag **#homegrown19** in any tweets you send.



Joining in on social media will help your group feel connected to all those watching across the country, and it's an interesting way to learn other people's thoughts and reactions. Share photos of your gathering, as well as your reflections on the topics discussed and points raised.

Role of host: As well as arranging the venue, offering refreshments and providing a warm welcome, your job as host may be to facilitate the group. This might include introducing the event and providing further instructions if people are unsure what it involves; setting a task or discussion question should the technology temporarily fail; or taking feedback from groups so that opinions can be shared. You may decide to encourage people to keep moving between groups so they get to meet and reflect with different people.

If you are expecting a larger group it might be helpful to have someone in the role of Chaplain so there is someone for people to talk to should the conference content raise issues they would like to explore.



After the event: We'd love to hear your reflections on being a host for this e-conference. Please share your highlights from the day and let us know how we could improve the experience. We'll be sending out an evaluation form or you can email us at **childrenandyouth@methodistchurch.org.uk**.