

the well



Spring 2019



New! Watch and learn with The Well

The Methodist Children, Youth and Family Team is pleased to announce the launch of [The Well Learning Hub](#). This YouTube channel contains videos on topics of use to children's, youth and family workers.

Current videos cover a range of interesting topics, including spirituality in gaming, intergenerational worship and



LEARNING HUB

digital wellbeing. Videos vary in length, including some short enough to watch in a coffee break! Or you may want to watch with a

team, in order to reflect and discuss together. Several of the videos have accompanying resource sheets to download.

The Well Learning Hub will be updated regularly with new videos so that you can develop further learning and skills to support your work. If there are particular topics you'd like covered then do let us know at childrenandyouth@methodistchurch.org.uk

Exploring the role of sport in faith and ministry



A youth sports gathering in Sunderland, from 3-11 August, will give 24 young people from across the UK and Europe the opportunity to develop sports-coaching, faith-sharing and youth-work skills.

In this partnership between Methodist Children, Youth and Family, Sunderland Samba FC and the European Methodist Youth and Children's Council, participants will lead activities during the Sunderland Samba Festival of Football and run community sports sessions with asylum seekers and refugees. This is a great way to explore sport and faith in both theory and practice.

If you are 16 to 25 years old and would like more information

and/or an application form, please email John Boyd (boydj@methodistchurch.org.uk).

Inside

NEWS	pp. 1-5
FEATURES	pp. 6, 11-12
RESOURCES	p. 7
REVIEWS	pp. 8-10
DIARY DATES	pp. 13-14



Youth President calls us to be



By Jasmine Yeboah, Methodist Youth President 2018/2019

Everyone wants to be a superstar. Everyone wants to be known for something. Social media is buzzing with overnight Instagram and Facebook superstars who have millions of followers. Some say, “If you go viral you’ve made it; the world knows your name and you’re on the highway to success.” However, I’ve one question: What do you want to be known for?

Throughout history, the people that we *truly* remember are the ones who’ve made a positive impact on the world because they stood up for what they believed in, regardless of the consequences. Now *that* is something to remember! The

courageous things that people do are what inspires us and makes them our role models.

My theme this year is #Courageous. Why? Because I believe that if we are truly going to be God’s agents of change we need to be courageous. We read Bible stories about David and Goliath and we are inspired. We read history books about civil rights activists, such as Rosa Parks, and we think, *I could never make the same impact as they have*. Why not? Because of fear. Fear of failure, fear of not being enough, fear of not having enough. Fear will always stop us from being all God has called us to be. But if you fail, so what? You will not be

the first person in the world to fail, will you? True failure is giving up. If you refuse to give up and are determined and consistent, you will not only be acting courageously, but also you will not fail.

I have come to realise that the power to be courageous begins on your knees as you pray for God to give you strength. You might be thinking, *Jasmine, you do not know me - I am just an ordinary person, who would ever listen to me?* But if you take a stand, you will find others may get up and stand up with you. I will not lie to you, to be courageous people have to step outside their comfort zone: whether that’s to overcome a childhood fear or even, faced with a terminal illness, to summon the will to take another breath. Being courageous may mean different things to

news...



different people but, regardless of the situation, be courageous for Christ and change the world.

You are not powerless and, despite what you might think, it's never too late to become a world changer. Throughout this year, I'm encouraging everyone to be courageous for Christ; to let their light shine.

Each month I will be encouraging people to take a different focus on the #Courageous theme. We

have already had Courageous Giving (December); Courageous Start (January); Courageous Truth (February) and we are now in the middle of March - the month celebrating Courageous Women. These are the themes for the months to come:

- April - Courageous Love
- May - Courageous Prayer
- June - Courageous Men
- July - Courageous Leaders
- August - Courageous Evangelism

Please follow me on social media to keep up-to-date with the #Courageous themes. If you have any courageous stories, do share them with me:

Twitter: [@YouthPresident](#).

Facebook: [YouthPresident](#)

Instagram: [@presidentmethodistyouth](#)



What happened at 3Generate 2018?

Last November, 1,200 young Methodists, along with youth leaders and volunteers, gathered for the weekend in Southport for 3Generate, the annual Methodist Children and Youth Assembly.

Penny Fuller, Children, Youth and Family Coordinator, with responsibility for 3Generate, explained, “The event is really important to the life of the Church, bringing together young people of all ages from across the country. The weekend enables them to live out their calling as Methodists, to respond to the Gospel of God’s love in Christ and then to live that calling out in the world. When they gather together they know they are not alone, but part of a Church that believes in transformation.”

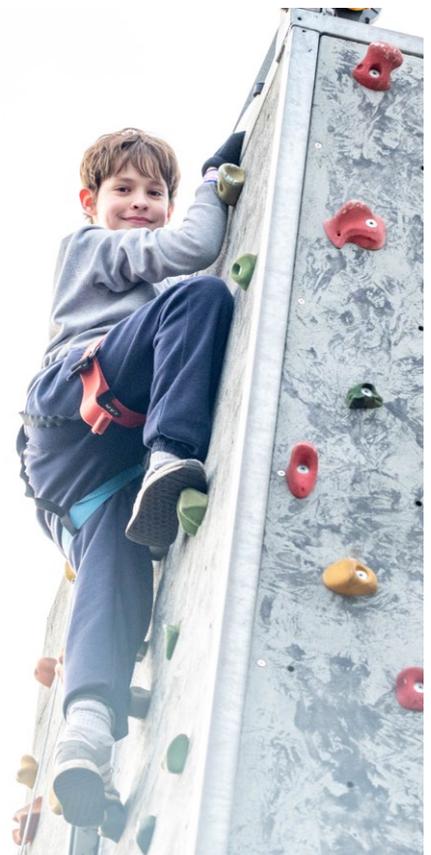
Every year, children, young people and their leaders can choose from a mix of creative, sporting, reflective, musical and cerebral activities at a variety of venues. The programme is intentionally challenging, and this is an opportunity for participants and the wider church to encounter children and young people as prophets, meeting the Saviour who loves them, calls them by name, offers them relationship and asks for a response.



In 2018, Cliff College ran a venue called The Den, with multiple activities interspersed with times of Bible study and liturgy.

Youth President, Jasmine Yeboah, who was elected at 3Generate 2017, launched her #Courageous theme (see pages 2 and 3), encouraging young people to be agents for social change. Speakers in the Agents of Change venue included the Revd Dan Woodhouse, who was arrested after breaking into a BAE Systems base in Warton to disarm warplanes set to fly to Saudi Arabia.

At another venue, a group of young people from the Methodist Church of Mexico gave talks on how their Church is engaging with drug



news...



traffickers and prisoners to tackle the problem of gang violence.

An exhibition made up of letters from the 1000 Letters campaign invited young people to respond to the themes from other people's faith journeys.

There was worship in a variety of styles, from contemplative to urban praise and Gospel, as well as sessions of Godly play, drumming and storytelling.

Trey Hall, Director of Evangelism and Growth for the Methodist Church in Britain, attending his first ever 3Generate, said, "This was truly one of the most exciting, integrated, inspiring, deep-diving gatherings of Methodists I've been to, led by and centred on the full inclusion and participation of



young people. I challenge every circuit to bring young people and every District Chair to attend and serve in 2019. You won't regret it."

The manifesto and report produced at 3Generate will shape the

Church's direction. We encourage you and your local church to take a look at [the manifesto](#) and to explore how you might engage with and respond to it at a local level. There's a growing bank of resources online to help you do just that.

Elections were held for the next Youth President, with two candidates taking part. They were asked questions by young voters during hustings and produced promotional videos and displays as part of their election campaigns. Thelma Commey from the Northampton District was elected to serve as Youth President for 2019/2020.



Click [here](#) to find out more about the 2019 event.

feature...



A reflection on the ‘snowflake generation’

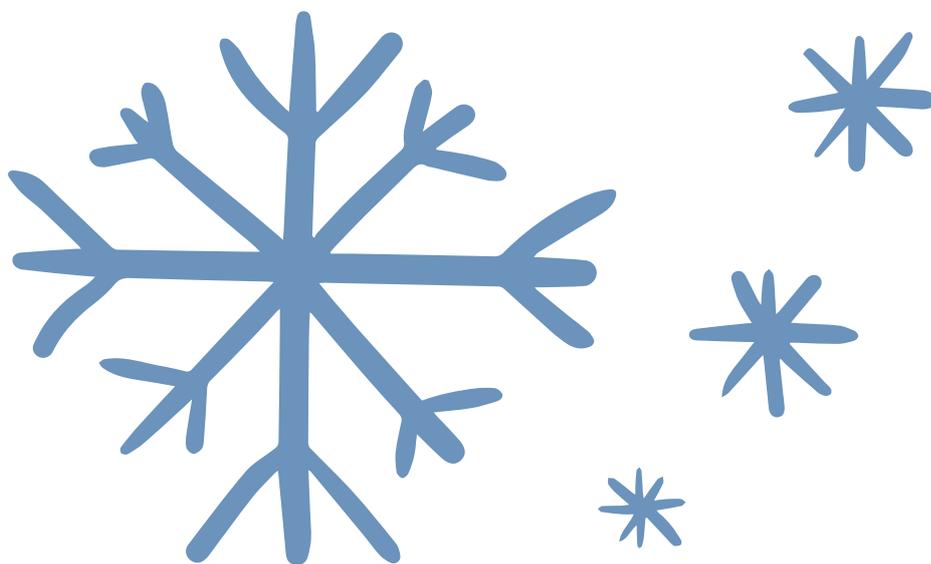
With thanks to Jude Levermore, Methodist Director of Discipleship and Evangelism, for this article.

My two youngest children fall into what is described as the ‘snowflake generation’, meaning “young adults, viewed as being less resilient and more prone to taking offence than previous generations”.

I think there’s a slightly wider connotation too, implying that these young people (teens through to early adulthood) are not only easily offended, but seem to think it’s ok to melt down in a panic when they are offended. The feeling from older generations is that they will boycott, join a march or give up on participating in life all together if things don’t go the way they think they should. They just melt under pressure, they have no backbone.

Well forgive me, but I was in Windsor this winter, when half a centimetre of snow brought the whole place to a standstill!

We fail to take the Bible seriously if we dismiss the ‘snowflakes’ among us. Take a look at just one



verse, 1 Corinthians 12:22: “On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable.” Indispensable, not just helpful. Our young adults are indispensable to us as a Church. If you doubt that, then take a look at [the latest 3Generate manifesto](#) or speak to our #Courageous Youth President (read her article on pages 2 and 3 of this magazine).

We have prophets among us, some of whom might be snowflakes, but each of them is beautiful, and wonderfully prophetic, and when they join together as agents

for change they are a force to be reckoned with, transforming their communities for the better.

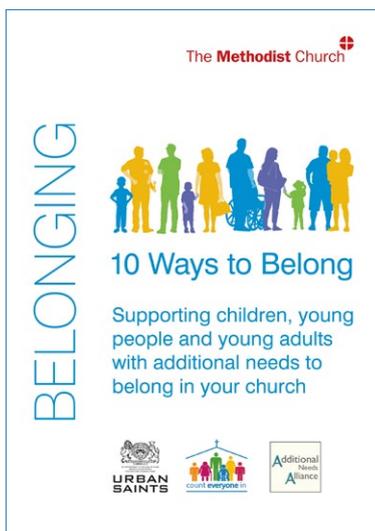
I’m with Martyn Joseph in his song *Here Come the Young*:

Here come the young
With open minds and hearts
Inclusive from the start
Here come the young
Here come the young
They might just save the day
Best get out the way
Here come the young

resources...



10 Ways to Belong



This new resource follows on from our Belonging conference, which was live-streamed in September 2018. Its roots are in 3Generate, inspired by conversations with children and young people about what would help them to belong better in church, and in subsequent work that considered questions around welcome, participation and inclusion at church. [You can download the resource for free.](#)

Help for Easter

Visit the [Methodist Children, Youth and Family Pinterest page](#) and [The Well Creative Children's Ministry Blog](#) for ideas. You can also download the [Experience Easter resource](#).

From ROOTS

ROOTS has some great resources to offer in its sample materials, including a resource that uses seven striking paintings to tell the story of The Passion of Christ, from artist Nebiyu Assefa. Also on offer are all-age daily acts of worship.

Easter Alive

Scripture Union has produced this resource pack to help you explore the real meaning of Easter with the children and young people in your community. [Download it now.](#)

EXPERIENCE EASTER



It's just the toddler group

The Church of England has published a report that explores mission and offers some recent research findings. You can order a hard copy, or [download the report now.](#)



reviews...



iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy — and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood — and What That Means for the Rest of Us

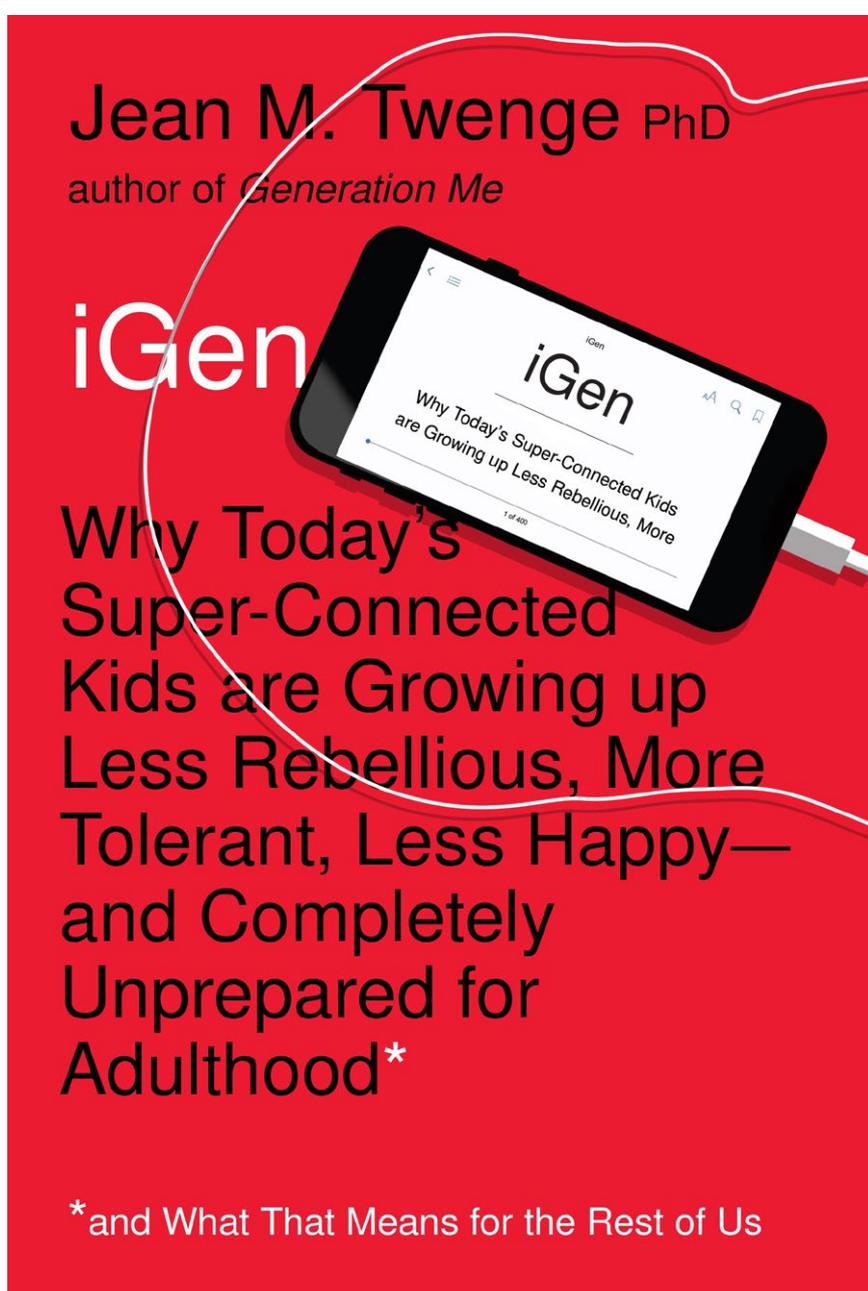
by Jean M. Twenge

(published by Atria Books)

**Reviewed by Jude Levermore,
Methodist Director of Discipleship
and Evangelism**

This time last year, Gary Williams (Methodist Learning Network Coordinator for Scotland & Shetland) lent me this book - with its extremely long title - by social psychologist and psychology professor at San Diego State University, Jean M Twenge. Her research hit the mainstream with the 2006 book *Generation Me*, which to my mind gave social-scientific support to millennial-bashing. I wasn't that impressed. In 2010, she followed up with the co-authored *The Narcissism Epidemic*, which I confess I haven't read.

Now, millennials are passé. Twenge has coined the label iGen for young people born in the mid-1990s to the mid-2000s, who are vastly different from their millennial predecessors and from any generation before. Most significantly, iGen is the first generation to spend their entire adolescence in the smartphone era. With social media, video games and texting replacing other activities, iGens



reviews...



spend less time with their friends in person – perhaps, she says, this is why they are experiencing unprecedented levels of anxiety, depression and loneliness in tandem with a sharp decline in happiness and life satisfaction.

In the book, she maps figures for a wide range of indicators against the timeframes of smart phone use. Her conclusion is that the kids are not all right. Smartphones, she says, are “the worm at the core of the apple” of iGen unhappiness.

Let’s take this example, when she asks, “What do you do with your phone while you sleep? Why?”:

“Their answers were a profile in obsession. Nearly all slept with their phones, putting them under their pillows, on the mattress, or at the very least within arm’s reach of the bed. They checked social media websites and watched videos right before they went to bed, and reached for their phones again as soon as they woke up in the morning (they had to – all of them used it as their alarm) . . . They talked about their phones the way an addict would talk about crack.”

I found that the book, though long, is written in a straightforward, conversational style, and the statistical data is presented in easy-to-follow graphs that clearly

show changes over time. These are good for making comparisons but, for me, the format got a bit boring. The parts of the book I enjoyed most were the direct quotes from her informants; she seems to have elicited honest and often haunting responses.

It’s worth wading through the data to find some interesting trends. Compared to previous generations, iGens engage significantly less in binge-drinking, sexual activity and fighting. But their good behaviour is not rooted in Christian conviction or even moral commitment. It’s rooted in risk-aversion. Safety is of utmost concern to iGens. Of all her facts this was the one that troubled me most. Maybe it’s why our Youth President’s call to be #Courageous (pages 2 and 3 of this magazine) is so prophetic for us as a Church.

As I mentioned, it’s a big book, but I found it fascinating and I would recommend it to everyone. If you don’t have much time to read, you can listen to the [podcast: *Recession, Smartphones, Diversity – What Defines Generation Z, Or The iGeneration?*](#) It’s very American in context but nevertheless much of it rings true and has huge implications for our Church as we work intergenerationally.

reviews...

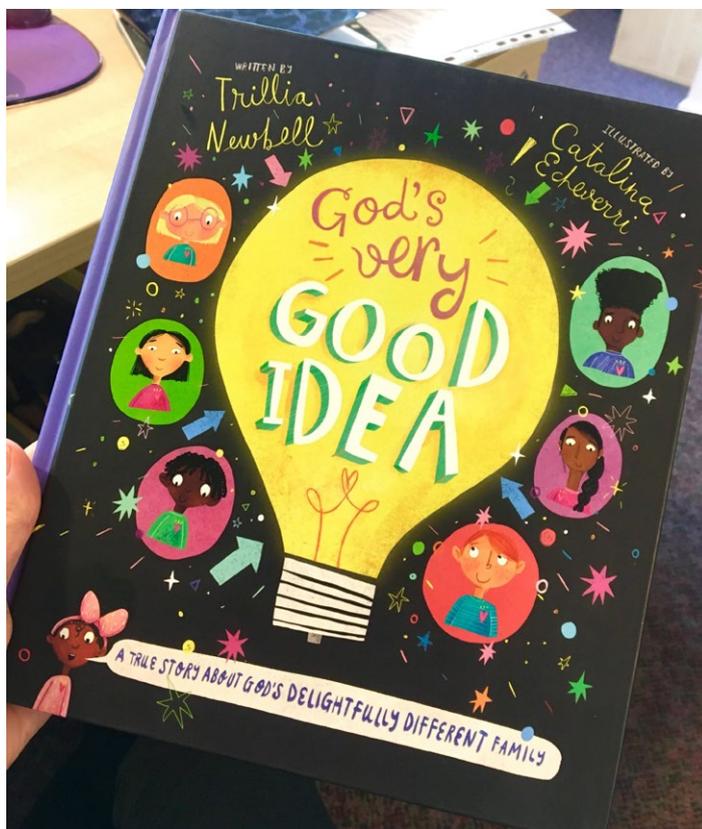
God's Very Good Idea

by Trillia Newbell (published by The Good Book Company)

Reviewed by Gail Adcock, Family Ministry Development Officer
for the Methodist Church

Living in the digital age has brought us new awareness of the sheer diversity of humankind! Trillia Newbell's book for children opens by saying "In the beginning - in fact, before the beginning - God had... a very good idea" and goes on to retell the gospel story of how God created us to be the same yet different: equal, with dignity, value and beauty!

Newbell describes the genius of God's creation, but also reminds us how far people have wandered from God's purposes and that this has harmed our relationships with God and each other. She captures perfectly the sense of wonder around God's intention and how we will find our place again: "God MADE it. People



RUINED it. He RESCUED it. He will FINISH it." What a simple and fantastic summary!

The book makes a point of highlighting the variety of people

God created - how we look, the languages we speak and the things we like to do. At a time when our differences threaten to divide us, this story is a wonderful reminder of what we have in common - and of how God's intention has always been to draw us to him. A hugely important message for the times we live in.

It comes with beautiful illustrations by Catalina Echeverri and is perfect to read aloud at home at bedtime, in children's groups, or as part of intergenerational worship.

Both children and adults will enjoy being reminded of God's big story and our part in it. The book should lead to a host of great conversations exploring our unity and identity in Christ. It comes highly recommended!

If you have recently come across a resource, book or piece of training and would like to submit a review of it to *The Well Magazine*, please contact Lynne (normanl@methodistchurch.org.uk).

feature...



Raising Faith event tour 2019

Did you know that just 50% of children growing up in Christian homes will keep their faith as adults?

As Christian parents, we'd like our children to develop a faith in God - and while they're young we are the biggest influence on their lives. However, a child attending a church group one hour a week would need to attend for 421 years to equal the time they spend with their parent or carer up to the age of 10! So where do we start? With so many demands on our time, energy and attention, keeping God at the centre of our everyday life isn't always easy.

At Care for the Family's Raising Faith event, you'll be encouraged to see how *you* can help your child to grow spiritually - without adding more to your to-do list! Katharine Hill and Andy Frost are both popular speakers and authors, with children of their own. During the evening they'll share what they've learnt through real-life examples... what they've got right *and* what they've got wrong.

Care for the Family believe that you don't need to be an expert to build your children's faith. At the event, you'll discover that by weaving faith into the fabric of everyday life, we can give our children natural

opportunities to see and respond to God's love. Every family is different and every child will connect with God in different ways. It's all about discovering what will work for your situation.

Whether you're a parent, grandparent or simply love to support parents, you'll come away with plenty of practical ideas. Come and explore how you can help children find a genuine faith of their own.

[Find an event near you](#) and book your tickets. Alternatively, give Care for the Family a ring on 029 2081 0800.



feature...



The gift of community

With thanks to Karen Turner, Methodist Chaplain at the University of Bath, for this article.

I've been thinking a lot about individual difference and how we find our way as families and communities.

For the last two years, I've been involved in setting up an intentional Christian community for university students in Bath. The first cohort is now four months into this adventure - praying together daily, sharing a meal together once a week, serving in the community and joining with an 'extended' non-student community once a month. Being in community requires real organisation and effort.

A question that I was asked several times was, 'And who will *lead* the community?' At times that made me wonder how the group would stay on track and whether I needed to appoint someone. But the experience so far suggests that might have inhibited the emergence of gifts in the community.

In my early 20s, when I was part of an intentional community myself, someone said to me, "I wonder if you might have the gift



of community?" If there is such a thing, it seems to me that it might be primarily about attentiveness. How is the Spirit moving among us? What gifts, words or dreams are emerging in our midst that we must not ignore?

Enabling the gift of community is a belief that God's Spirit is at work in all of us.

God is at work in this student community. As I meet up with them, one by one, I hear amazing stories of grace. One of them serves the others by doing more

than their fair share of the washing up; another has offered wisdom in enabling people to get along; several are excellent cooks and there are those who lighten the mood, who ask good questions, who are faithful friends or pray with others when times are hard. The Spirit moves among them all, offering the individual gifts that are needed, including the gift of community.

For more information about chaplaincy, please visit the [Methodist Chaplaincies web pages](#).



dates for your diary...

Visit the learning pages of the Methodist website for more news of events taking place in the Methodist Church through the [Learning Network](#).

MARCH

‘Marooned on Love Island: the emerging sexual ethics of young people’

25 March, St Mellitus College, London

This lecture and associated conversation will consider the emerging and changing landscape of young people’s understanding of sex and relationships; what they do, what they believe and how we, as a Church, can respond.

There’ll be a wine reception and small exhibition alongside this lecture.

Register at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-youthscape-st-mellitus-college-lecture-tickets-52478733304

APRIL

CODEC Research Centre for Digital Theology: Missio Dei in a digital age

23-24 April, St John’s College, Durham

Digital technology is not only influencing

the methods by which missions today are carried out but also creating shifts in culture that demand fresh reflection on missiology. Go to www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/missio-dei-in-a-digital-age-tickets-52001651339 for tickets.

MAY

Ordination – Exploration Day

4 May, Methodist Church House, London

For those who think that God is calling them to become an ordained minister in the Methodist Church. Register at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ordination-exploration-day-may-2019-tickets-53061676904

Childhood Spirituality conference

11 May, Sheffield

Hosted by Godly Play, the day will feature a lecture from Professor Elizabeth Wood, followed by conversations and workshops in the afternoon. Find out more at www.godlyplay.uk

dates for your diary...



JUNE

Conference of the European University Chaplains

3-7 June, Neuendettelsau, Nürnberg and Eichstätt, Germany

Chaplains in Higher Education are encouraged to attend the 2019 CEUC conference in Germany. The extensive programme includes excursions to explore the complex history of Nürnberg, and the speakers include Jürgen Moltmann and Heike Walz. Visit www.augustana.de/ceuc2019/ceuc2019-start.html

CODEC Research Centre for Digital Theology: Exploring digital culture and its impact on the Christian Church

10-14 June, St John's College, Durham

Great teaching from thought leaders in their fields, passionate about

communication within digital culture. Practical workshops, discussion space, times of reflection interspersed with lectures and talks from international speakers. Go to www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/medialit19-tickets-52659545117 for tickets.

AUGUST

The Youth Sports Gathering

3-11 August, Sunderland

Providing 16- to 25-year-olds from the UK and Europe with the opportunity to develop sports coaching, faith sharing and youth-work skills. For more information, see the article on page 1 of this magazine or email boydj@methodistchurch.org.uk

Contact us

We always love to hear from you!

Our website: www.childrenandyouth.org.uk

Our email: childrenandyouth@methodistchurch.org.uk

Our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pages/Methodist-Children-Youth/126895266084

Twitter: [@childrenyouth](https://twitter.com/childrenyouth)

If this email has been forwarded to you and you haven't yet registered with *The Well*, please visit www.childrenandyouth.org.uk/worker