

The (first) Scottish Methodist Gathering



Friday 9th September—
Sunday 11th September
Perth 2022

WELCOME TO THE GATHERING!

Methodists have always valued opportunities to gather together as opportunities for grace and growth in God and godliness. Jesus says, 'Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.' (Matthew 18v.20) We might imagine that the more of us that gather in the name of Jesus, the more Christ is present! So, welcome to **The Gathering**, whether you're here for a part or all of the weekend programme, may you know the grace and glory of God's presence before scattering back across Scotland.

Mark Slaney—Chair of Scotland District of the Methodist Church

Taking part at the weekend:

John Bell. John is a Scottish hymn-writer and Church of Scotland minister. He is a member of the Iona Community, a broadcaster and former student activist. He will be engaging with the Methodist themes of :

'God's bias for diversity' Finding unanimity is a desire which arises when we have to deal with contentious issues. But is it God's intention regarding all things? There is an argument that the Bible, as regards unanimity, doesn't give us a leg to stand on.

'Thinking outside the Box'. At a time when many churches are caught up in rationalizing resources, which normally means doing more with less, there may be a case for alternative thinking . It might even be a divine imperative.

'Singing with the World Church' Methodism, being a global phenomenon, has the great ability to express that in sharing words and music for other cultures, which might also introduce us to a bigger God.

Roger Walton. Roger is a retired ordained presbyter in the British Methodist Church. Amongst various appointments, Roger has been Connexional Secretary for Adult Learning, Director of the Wesley Study Centre, Durham, Chair of the Yorkshire West District and the President of the British Methodist Conference. His research interests are in Christian education and a variety of topics concerning Discipleship and he has published several books on these subjects.

Roger will be leading sessions on **The rhythm of the church — Gathering and Scattering** with interactive sessions on the parables and exploring the ideas in Mark's gospel. He will also be leading a workshop on **The rhythm of spiritual life** based on a **Methodist Way of Life**.

Fischy Music. Fischy Music is a Scottish charity founded in 1998 by Stephen Fischbacher to create songs to nurture positive mental health in children by helping them express and manage a range of emotions. They also write songs which help the whole church to worship together no matter their age or ability. They will be leading a session of Fischy Fun on Sunday morning and participating in the Sunday worship.

Around the Gathering:

Mission Marketplace: Come and chat to All We Can, MHA and the Learning and Development Network. Also browse a range of resources including Methodist Women in Scotland, JPIT, the Fund for Human Need and a Methodist Way of Life (see more information about some of these on p6)

Devotional Room: When not being used for workshops, the devotional room will be available for prayers, either prompted by the prayer stations or led by individuals. For information see the programme.

Pilgrimage: The Gathering is taking place in the middle of an historic City. Pilgrimage is an ancient spiritual practice in which we discover more of the God of journey. There is an opportunity to explore it as part of either a guided or self-led pilgrimage, taking between 60 and 90 minutes. The route is not strenuous. Booklets for the self-guided pilgrimage are available at the Help Desk and should be returned there after use.

Gathering unpacked: For those not involved at Synod, head to Perth Methodist Church and engage in games, quizzes and challenges with input from All We Can and the Learning and Development Network.

Forest Church: Forest Church is an opportunity to participate in nature, led by Rev. Beth McDowell. It will include time to eat, prayers, meditation and reflection together and some gentle interaction with the space around. If you would like to be part of this, please gather with your lunch in the Riverside Park* as soon after 1pm as you can. It will finish in good time for you to engage with the afternoon programme. [*From the Salutation Hotel, turn Right along South Street, this leads directly into Queen's Bridge to cross the Tay. Go to the end of the bridge and turn right where you will see an archway into Rodney Gardens. Go under the arch and look for Beth and a Forest Church sign. Maps will be available at the Help Desk.]

NB Forest Church will go ahead whatever the weather, so do come prepared if you are keen to participate; you may also like to bring something to sit on.

Key to venues	
Salutation Hotel – Ball Room	
Salutation Hotel – Devotional Room	
Perth Methodist Church	
Outside	
Friday 9th September	
From 6pm	Registration
7:00pm – 8:30pm	Ceilidh
7:00pm– 8:30pm	Prayer Stations
8:45pm – 9:45pm	Gathering
10:00pm – 10:30pm	Taizé prayers
Saturday 10th September	
9:00am – 9:30am	Celtic prayer and worship
9:00am—10:30am	Be a pilgrim
9:30am – 10:30am	Roger Walton: The rhythm of the church: gathering and dispersing
10:30am – 11:00am	COFFEE
11:00am – 1:00pm	Synod
11:00am – 12:30pm	Roger Walton: The rhythm of spiritual life
11:00am – 1:00pm	Gathering Unpacked
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Forest Church (including time to eat your lunch)
1:00pm – 2:30pm	Space for meeting and eating
1:00pm—2:30pm	Browse the market place, meet, eat and chat
2:00pm – 3:30pm	Be a pilgrim
2:30pm – 3:30pm	John Bell: God's bias for diversity
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Methodist stories
3:30pm – 4:00pm	TEA
4:00pm – 5:00pm	John Bell: Thinking outside the box
4:00pm – 5:00pm	Roger Walton: The rhythm of spiritual life
4:00pm – 5:00pm	Creative Space
Evening meal	Check the small bar for fringe meetings
5:00—7:00pm	Space for meeting
7:00pm – 8:30pm	John Bell: Sing with the World Church
8:45pm – 9:45pm	The Blethering – chat show
10:00pm – 10:30pm	Evening Prayer from the Iona Community

Sunday 11th September	
8:30am – 9:00am	Morning prayer
9:00am – 10:30am	Fischy fun with Fischy Music
9:00am – 10:30am	Roger Walton: The rhythm of mission: gathering to scatter
9:30am – 10:30am	Croissants and newspapers
9:30am -10:30am	Uncomfortable conversations with Dave Saunders
10:30am – 11:00am	COFFEE
11:00am – noon (ish)	Gathering to scatter— Holy Communion service

The Gathering is an event for all the family and all ages are welcome.

We hope everyone will be able to participate in sessions that are relevant to them. There is no separate provision for children but many of the sessions are deliberately intergenerational and families can join them together. Under 18s remain the responsibility of their parents/carers at all times. There is a space set aside for children and young people which they can access with a responsible adult. No other adults should enter this room unless authorised.

Throughout the weekend:

- Mission market place in the Salutation ballroom
- Devotional room including prayer stations
- Youth room for Gathering and chilling—no unaccompanied adults!

Perth Methodist Church will be open

- Saturday 10am - 7pm & Sunday 8:30am - 10:30am
- Tea/coffee/soft drinks will be available during these times.

Perth Methodist Church has an excellent collection of second hand books for sale which you are welcome to browse and purchase. Some devotional and theological books given by Judy Jarvis and David Colinson will also be available without charge. For anyone remaining in Perth until Sunday evening, the congregation warmly invite us to their evening worship at 6pm (Compline).

If you do not wish to be recorded over the weekend or included in the live service on Sunday please tell the help desk.

Help desk phone number 07942 381281

Methodist Stories: Explore Methodism in Scotland through three Godly play stories—not just for the young.

Creative space: Looking at the theme of Gathering to scatter in a variety of creative ways.

The Blethering: Hear from a variety of people around the District, their experiences and the work that they do, interspersed with live jazz-style hymns from our own musicians!

Croissants and newspapers: For those who wish to engage with the issues raised in the newspapers in the context of faith. Accompanied by coffee and croissants.

Uncomfortable conversations: Dave Saunders hosts a conversation on a current subject which can be uncomfortable to us. Come to join in or just to listen. Coffee and croissants may also be available.

Refreshments

There will be tea/coffee provided free of charge at the Salutation ball-room at 10:30am and 3:30pm on Saturday and 10:30am on Sunday. Donation baskets will be available throughout the weekend if you would like to contribute towards costs.

Refreshments can be bought from the Salutation bar at other times.

No food is being provided as part of the Gathering.

Mission Marketplace

- **All We Can** is the official international development charity of the Methodist Church, committed to working in partnership with local communities to enable them to fulfil their potential. Pop by their stall to meet Tim and Cameron and get your church involved today.
- **MHA** was founded by the Methodist Church in 1943. As the largest charity care provider for older people in the UK, we offer some of the highest quality care, accommodation and support services throughout Britain. Our mission is to inspire the best care and well-being at every stage of later life.
- **JPIT** is the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church working together for peace and justice.
- **The Fund for Human need** is a small Methodist-affiliated charity established to relieve poverty and hunger. Relief payments (once only, up to a maximum of £120) are made, irrespective of faith, ethnic origin or social group to individuals in the UK.

Let it be a sharing

When the people of God break bread and drink wine,
Let it be a sharing in the body of Christ.
In the gathering and scattering time after time,
Let it be a sharing in the body of Christ.

When people try to break you by apportioning blame,
Let it be a sharing in the body of Christ.
When circumstances tempt you into doing the same,
Let it be a sharing in the body of Christ.

If people insult you when you forgive others' wrongs,
Let it be a sharing in the body of Christ.
When they persecute the peacemakers for being too strong,
Let it be a sharing in the body of Christ.

As grain once scattered on the hillside
Was in the broken bread made one,
So from all lands your church be gathered
Into your Kingdom by your Son.

When the people of God break bread and drink wine....

When you're acting as a go-between, you're misunderstood,
Let it be a sharing in the body of Christ.
When you're trying hard to live by love, (but) it seems to do no good,
Let it be a sharing in the body of Christ.

When you're suffering, you don't know why when others seem ok,
Let it be a sharing in the body of Christ.
Or when everything fits into place in unexpected ways,
Let it be a sharing in the body of Christ.

As grain once scattered on the hillside

When the people of God break bread and drink wine,
Let it be a sharing in the body of Christ.
In the gathering and scattering time after time,
Let it be a sharing in the body of Christ.
Let it be a sharing in the body of Christ.

Keith Pearce

Salutation Hotel

In the early 1600's the Salutation Hotel was a private house, owned by the Murray family, (Also known as Lord Scone and Viscount Stormont). From 1699, when we know the building served as a coaching inn until 1745, the history of the Salutation is vague. It has been thought that it may have been managed by the Franciscan Order, otherwise known as the Greyfriars, It is least likely that it was within their grounds. The Salutation formerly known as Salutation Inn has become the oldest established hotel in Scotland as well as one of Perth's unofficial landmarks. Postcode PH2 8PH

Perth Methodist Church

There has been a Methodist 'society' in the Royal Burgh of Perth since at least the early 1760s. When John Wesley made his first visit to Perth in 1768, the society was already in being. He came back to the city a further five times. Indeed his continuing commitment to Perth was recognised by the City fathers in 1772 when they presented him with the 'Freedom of the City'.

It became a very strong lay led society with deep roots within the wider Perth community. The current Church, in a modest Gothic style was opened in 1880. Over the years it has been extended and developed in many ways, but would doubtless still be recognised by the courageous people whose faith and vision brought it into being. This building however is no more than the home for a continuing and lively Methodist society. The Methodist people in Perth are proud of their past, but live in the present age, looking in faith to the future.

A major refurbishment of the premises was completed in 2017 and the congregation is enthusiastic about its continuing work and witness in the city centre. Postcode PH2 8JN

The Church is open on during the day on Saturday and early Sunday morning (see programme for details), with an opportunity to browse books and have a coffee. At 6pm on Sunday 11th, at the end of the weekend, the Church is offering a short devotional service of Compline to everyone.

