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# The Methodist Church Southampton District

Registered Charity no 1134386

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## AUTUMN 2019

### Death Café Training – 28<sup>th</sup> September

Death Cafe Training morning at Swanmore Methodist Church, Chapel Road, Swanmore, SO32 2QB on 28<sup>th</sup> September from 9.45am to 1pm with ample parking on site.

The idea of a death café is to enable people to be comfortable with talking about death as a part of life. It's to look at our attitudes to death, the sadness and the humour that goes with it, the important parts like funerals and readings and songs to be played that can sometimes be left too late.

The morning starts with coffee before going into a short social history of death. This is a fascinating look at how attitudes have changed as lifespans have got longer and some of the odd customs that have collected around death and funerals.

This will be followed by Death Café and Cake. An introduction to Grave Talk cards and how to use them to facilitate conversation about death and help people to talk openly about how death has affected them and how they choose to deal with it. The aim is to help people to develop a healthy and open approach to talking about death before it happens.

We will finish the morning with a group discussion looking at how the church can help people to deal with death in a manner that makes it easier for them and all those around them.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/413651629255305/>

or contact Pete Bangs for further info: [petebangs@live.com](mailto:petebangs@live.com)

### Circuit Stewards' Conference – 12<sup>th</sup> October

Please join us for the Circuit Stewards Conference 2019, in the Southampton District of the Methodist Church.

The overarching aims of the conference are to support and sustain circuit stewards in their role of service to the church and people of the circuit, and in their practical and spiritual responsibilities.

The conference is planned via consultation with circuit stewards from around the region, and is organised by the Southern and Islands Regional Learning Network Team in partnership with the Methodist Church Southampton District.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/circuit-stewards-day-conference-2019-tickets-57696445622?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

## Rural Ministries – 12<sup>th</sup> October

**Re:Generate: Rural Ministries Day Conference, Brecon Baptist Church, Kilmington, nr Axminster, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

Perhaps now more than ever before, our country needs the church at its best and for it to serve its community as best it can. We need our churches to be in touch with their communities, working within them and think missionally in all that they do.

Rural Ministries does not believe that God has finished with His church in the countryside; indeed we see many encouraging signs of growth. If you are a church leader or a member of the congregation with a heart for mission and think that your church has great potential to impact your rural community, then you need to attend our Regional Conference 'Re:Generate', in Kilmington on the 12<sup>th</sup> October.

Tickets £20. Full details and tickets at: [www.ruralministries.org.uk](http://www.ruralministries.org.uk)

## Digging Deeper – 31<sup>st</sup> October

On October 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 we will be digging deeper into the subject of **Mental Health** with the help of

The Revd Vanessa Lawrence, Mental Health Chaplain  
at The Friends Quaker Meeting House, 16, Colebrook Street, Winchester SO23 9LH  
Our day begins at 10am and ends at 4pm. Lunch will be provided. There is parking close by. Please sign up using the Eventbrite link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/digging-deeper-tickets-64356739741?aff=eac2>

Or for more info please contact Kathy:  
[oloughlink@methodistchurch.org](mailto:oloughlink@methodistchurch.org)

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of the material for the forthcoming Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Don't stop reading! This year it's very important to plan ahead. Please don't wait until after Christmas to start thinking about this.

The service is well suited to involve schools/children, both during the service itself and beforehand, in the production of a boat for the place of worship. Page 12 of the attached booklet gives you several ideas and also makes suggestions about how to use lighting to great effect. To take the best advantage of this mission and evangelisation opportunity, please do start now to contact your local schools or drama group and ask them to help you make the service as vibrant as possible.

I also commend the daily reflections to your attention. We are aware that many people focus on the service, but the material for each day is superb and very powerful, not to be ignored.

The attached leaflet, together with a wealth of support material is available at **[www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer)**.

Let's make the Week of Prayer 2020 a superb service and a moment of outreach and evangelisation, especially to parents and to their children.

### **Website and social media**

We are always looking for Good News stories to share and encourage others – please do send any news/photos/event information to:

[chairspa@sdmc.org.uk](mailto:chairspa@sdmc.org.uk)