

From: Rosie Winn <info@methodist-news.org.uk>
Sent: 25 January 2018 12:07
To: nydcpaperclip@gmail.com
Subject: Faith in Politics: podcast launched

The Methodist Church

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News release



25 January

Faith in Politics: new monthly podcast launched



Faith in Politics, an exciting new podcast series that features guests discussing topics from current affairs that link in with faith, has been launched by the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT).

JPIT is a joint venture of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and the Church of Scotland. The team works on issues of justice and inequality by influencing those in power and energising local congregations.



The podcast was created by Helen Byrne and Rachel Allison who are working for the church as Parliamentary interns.

Each monthly episode will be presented by Helen and Rachel - both avid podcast listeners - and will feature lively discussions from the world of politics from a faith viewpoint, interviews and a 'musing slot', inspired by *Thought for the Day*.

Topics such as poverty, inequality, peace-making and the environment plan to be covered.

Those taking part are people who are living out a faith of some kind in public and political life. Some of the guests who will feature include the Co-Leader of the Green Party, Jonathan Bartley, Labour politicians, the Rt Hon Stephen Timms and Alan Milburn, and the Conservative politician and member of the House of Lords Baroness Sayeeda Warsi.

Each 30-minute podcast will be released on the last Thursday of every month and can be downloaded from <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/podcast>. You can also subscribe to it from Google Play for Android devices and iTunes or Podcast for Apple devices.

Faith in Politics is aimed at JPIT's existing supporters and activists but will also appeal to a younger audience thanks to increased engagement with current affairs and politics, and the accessibility of social media and podcasts.

Helen Bryne explains: "*Christians have a civic duty to engage with the world around them, because our Lord is a God of justice and whether we like it or not, faith in its many manifestations shape our political landscape.*"

Notes:

Image: JPIT's Helen Bryne with Co-Leader of the Green Party, Jonathan Bartley

About the Methodist Church

The [Methodist Church](#) is one of the largest Christian churches serving Great Britain, with around 200,000 members and regular contact with nearly 500,000 people. It has 4,650 churches in Great Britain, and also maintains links with other Methodist churches with a worldwide total membership of over 80 million. Its activities, both alone and with ecumenical and secular partners, are based on four aims known as Our Calling:

- To increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love
- To help people to grow and learn as Christians through mutual support and care
- To be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice
- To make more followers of Jesus Christ.

Registered charity no. 1132208.

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