Tendring Methodist Circuit Newsletter

September 2026



Cake as mission!
Come and see us at Great Holland. Great Holland meet with their community over cake and a cuppa.



Meeting the community as mission! Brightlingsea United Church went to a boot sale to meet their community. They also raised some funds for their church,



Prayer Bears as Mission!
Talk to Anne Scott at Manningtree about Annies Bears.



Music as mission!
Emmanuel Church Walton have a Ukulele Orchestra and some play on a Sunday.
It's a great community project and they have their first proper gig in September.

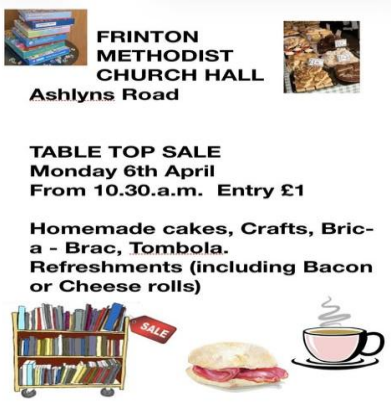
Eco-church Mission!

Based on Ezekiel's vision in chapter 47, there is material available that can be adapted or used as it is. Visit SeasonOfCreation.org to access all resources.

Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

Supporting local business and the community as mission!
Frinton Methodist topping up their funds whilst meeting their neighbours.



A Methodist Way of Life





Prayer as mission!
Jaywick Methodist church has regular prayer for healing and well.... Everything.
Folks from the community are welcomed and prayed for.



Flowers as mission!
Great Bentley holds an annual flower festival. They meet with their community and hold events. It helps raise money and their profile in the community.

Methodist Women in Britain Swanwick Conference

Where Power meets Purpose- small acts that change the world

The annual Conference took place at the Swanwick Conference Centre in April and around 200 women came together for a weekend of fellowship, worship and fun. The keynote speaker was Carolyn Godfrey who had been vice president of Methodist Conference 2024-2025

It was a busy and uplifting experience and a chance to meet up with friends old and new. For the energetic there was a disco or circle dancing;

There were amazing workshops to choose from with guest speakers. I went to one on the challenges facing Christians in Palestine which was excellent. There was a bookshop and stalls from groups such as All We Can and Action for Children. A range of fairtrade goods were available, and Christian authors were there to raise awareness of their latest books. We came together for Devotions, Bible study and a closing communion. There was no shortage of things to do, and the lovely grounds offer space for quiet and reflection if needed.

MWiB is part of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women so there were also useful updates on what was happening in Europe and across the world.

If you are a woman and a member of the Methodist Church, you are automatically a member of MWiB and have access to all that the organisation offers. There is no membership fee.

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If you have never been before, a bursary is available towards the cost of the weekend. People can also attend on zoom. Please email Maggie on maggie1woods@googlemail.com if you would like to know more

"Annies Prayer Bears"

I do a lot of knitting - knitting is a rhythmic activity, which I find ideal for interweaving with prayer.
Knitting can be calming - a time to reflect and as situations or people come to mind to pray for them.
While knitting certain words can be repeated as a "prayer chant"

A few years ago, I started knitting teddy bears as "prayer bears", my initial choice of colours being orange and grey. I made a little leaflet which included Bible verses to explain the prayers that had been offered for the recipient (who wasn't known at the time of knitting.)
More recently I have knitted bears for a named person, offering prayers for their specific situations and using various colours, depending on the individual. The bears have a little pocket where I tuck in a written blessing: - "*The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace*"
(Numbers 6:24 – 26)



Essentially the prayer bears are made to be given away to people who might need comfort and are offered to those going through difficult times.

They have been appreciated by the many people they have been given to.

If you want to know more about the bears or see them "in person" come along to our monthly coffee morning at Manningtree Methodist Church where I have a Prayer Stall which includes the prayer bears and opportunities to write prayers or pick up a resource for prayer.



Because of building work our September and October coffee mornings are cancelled so our next date is 28th November
(from 10am to noon)
If you want to know more or for me to bring the stall to your event do contact me via the Circuit Office

Anne Scott

Great Holland



We have had a very busy summer at Gt Holland.

Our weekly Thursday coffee mornings continue to be busy, with an average of 25 people attending. (how about putting - an average of 25 men and women attending?)

The Tea, coffee, cake and chat gatherings (board games are available e.g. scrabble, Rumikub if anyone would like to play them) 2-4 pm on the first Saturday of each month remain popular with 40 plus people enjoying the afternoon.

On 21st May we held a music night. The Laxton Groovers entertained about 50 people with 60's music.

On the 16th of June, 50 of us enjoyed a "sing it" afternoon.

On the 1st of July, 54 of us enjoyed St Phil's concert. Children from the school sang their hearts out to entertain everyone. They were wonderful.

Our popular afternoon tea, cake and chat sessions are continuing to be held on the first Saturday each month, 2-4pm.

Donations are gratefully received to help fund our church repairs. Work has already started as can be seen from the scaffolding on the roof of the church.

People are also welcome at other events also e.g. Thursday morning coffee mornings, or our Sunday services at 11am.



On the evening of 24th July, we managed to accommodate 74 people for a fun quiz. It was quite a squeeze!!

We had a Local Arrangement service on 2nd August. It was lovely to see 50 people in church for a Friends n Family service. People attended following personal invitations which was great. Has this mission worked?
Well yes, it has! Our Church Sunday attendance has gone up since holding these events, with people we have met during these events now attending on Sunday mornings.

CIRCUIT AWAYDAY FOR GROWTH PLANNING at Plume Avenue 18/7/26

Two members from each of the churches in the Circuit were invited to attend a Circuit Awayday, along with the Circuit Leadership Team and Revd Luke, Revd Steve and Deacon Angela, to discuss the mission of the churches and the Circuit. In the event there were 21 people, at least one church not represented and some people wearing two hats.
It was held at Plume Avenue Church in Colchester, a neutral venue, and facilitated by Angela Turner, the BEH District Discipleship Enabler.

As Circuit resources the churches, in Tendring this is primarily through the preaching plan.

The Circuit's and the churches' mission plans will inform the profile for Revd Steve's replacement.

One of the aides was 'A Methodist Way of Life' which is displayed as train lines, the stations on the line being: pray, worship, notice, care, learn, open, share, live, tell, challenge, flourish, serve. Together leading to Spiritual, Missional and Numerical growth.

What we need to do is to: Listen; Dream; Choose; Act Review start again
This should be: Listen (2 months); Dream (3 weeks); Choose (3 weeks); Act. We had but a few hours that day.

Listen to: God, groups, people, other churches, other faiths, those with no affiliations.
Sunday services don't bring growth. Historically growth has come from house groups; class meetings; small groups.

A very powerful exercise was to close our eyes and imagine Jesus coming to our church. What would He see? What would He think? Where would he go? Who would he talk to?

People fed back from their imaginings (most not shared so you can do the exercise yourself).

He would notice who's not there (do we?). What are the lost opportunities?

Most day's he wouldn't get into the church!
It was interesting that we needed to imagine what Jesus was seeing before we could see it.

We then moved to a hexagon exercise: first a central hexagon NOW surrounded by 6 others. For each we had to think of something that described our church now.
Then we did it again with the central hexagon WORST, then BEST. We then had to list the steps to get us from NOW to BEST. From that list we were challenged to pick perhaps 2 and put them in action.

They need to be addressed at each Stewards' / Elders' meeting and review progress in a year, hoping to add another from the list.
I found it a very worthwhile, enlightening and challenging day.

By Kate Collins

THE SEASON OF CREATION - WHAT IS IT?



The Season of Creation is a time for Christians to rejoice and focus on the well-being of all creatures and all life on Earth. It runs each year from 1st September (the World Day of Prayer) to 4th October (the day we thank God for St Francis of Assisi).

During this season we are encouraged to join with all Christians to celebrate and worship God as Creator and think how better to care for God's planet.

Recent heat, drought and fires in the Uk and around the world, make this years' theme of 'Living Water' particularly urgent. Based on Ezekiel's vision in chapter 47, there is material available that can be adapted or used as it is. Visit SeasonOfCreation.org to access all resources.

Please pray for all life on Earth. Remember that without water there is no life, and with polluted water comes illness and premature death.

Rev Dr Marion Cole, Circuit Eco Champion

Tea Dance

On a warm July Sunday afternoon, the YMCA car park was filling up with cars as people made their way into the YMCA hall for an afternoon of dance music and fun, raising some funds for Brightlingsea United Church maintenance, getting to know each other and to build friendly relationships within the wider community.



The YMCA hall is spacious and welcoming, its internal dimensions forming a cross acknowledging its original purpose as a new build Chapel in Victorian times.

We were welcomed at the door and taken to our allocated tables. As the hall filled up with people who were happily greeting friends and family and looking forward to the entertainment a tangible warmth and bonhomie pervaded through the building.

The kitchen was a hub of activity and before long, out came the volunteers with trays laden with sandwiches and other goodies and teapots. A teatime banquet brought to our tables. We were joined at table by Bobby's wife Joan who entered into the spirit of the afternoon. Good fun!



our

Our entertainer, Bobby Francis was already playing well-known dance tunes on his electric piano:
"I am the music man" "Pack up your troubles" Y.M.C.A". plus hand signals! plus "Always be the best of friends" as an example with many more. A very talented chap.



Our church Minister, Revd. Luke Smith, walked the hall and met and chatted with everyone. A people person, Revd. Luke is a relaxed and naturally social minister. Luke thoroughly enjoyed meeting everyone.

We were also happy to have an unexpected visit from two of Brightlingsea's Community Policemen. They sat round different tables getting to know those there, answered questions, joined in the fun and enjoyed a "high tea". Such a good way to get to know us and vice versa. A raffle wound up the celebrations.

Our thanks to church members, particularly Joyce (who thought this event up), Jayne, Tony, Tracey, and Jill and her friend Irene for all their hard work in the background with the setting up and the kitchen duties.

Thank you, Luke for supporting this event despite your busy life as our Circuit Superintendent and minister of four churches throughout Tendring. Very appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who attended enabling us all to spend such a happy time together. Brightlingsea at its best!

BUC/BB

Emmanuel Ukulele Group

Following an exciting first term's work together, learning chords and enjoying playing songs such as 'Hound Dog', 'Stand by Me' and '500 Miles', the Emmanuel Ukulele Group celebrated with an end-of-term party on 23rd July. To a lively and appreciative audience, the 25 players strummed out a variety of our songs, and two members of the group even performed solos. Most have never played a musical instrument before, so can be justifiably proud of their progress. We have even had some ukulele playing in Sunday services.

The group has come on in leaps and bounds since the first session on 16th April. There will be a summer break, and then a restart in September, just in time for the Walton Arts Festival. We are so grateful to Emmanuel for the venue and delighted that quite a few of the group usually stay on for lunch in the Warm Hub afterwards.



Great Bentley Flower festival

The first weekend in July is usually the Flower Festival at Great Bentley and so it was this year.

Much thought was given to the theme ‘The Wonders of Water’ in creating the arrangements.

Many are provided by local groups, but many by Jackie Kilby and all looked amazing.

The Rainbow unit visit our church on the Friday evening in order to make their display. It was interesting to see how much consideration was given to the placement of each flower.

Visitors came and went, often having some refreshment, either tea and cake or a ploughman’s lunch.

Janet Taylor had fairly traided goods for sale along with home made jams and marmalade.

The weekend ended with a superb concert given by the Boxted Silver Band.

It was a great weekend as people enjoyed each other’s company surrounded by the beauty of God’s creation.















Great Bentley Flower Festival 2026 The Wonder of Water



Identify the "The Wonder of Water" illustrated by the flower display
Write the entry number in the space at the right Numbered 1 to 26

Display created by	"The Wonder of Water"	Number
Church	Great Barrier Reef	13
Church	Yellow Submarine	18
Church	Wind in the Willows	12
Parents & Toddlers	Wide, wide as the ocean	8
Church	Watership Down	23
Church	Victoria Falls	16
Gardeners Club	There's a hole on my Bucket	20
Rainbows	The water cycle	19
Bentley in Bloom	Running water	22
The Station Group	Rainbows	25
The Ladies Club	Power & life	17
Church	Pirates of the Caribbean	15
Church	Parting of the Red Sea	3
Church	Oases	4
Robert	Mystery & Utility	11
Parish Magazine	Moses in a Basket	9
Utility Engineers	Life of Pi	24
The Adventurers	Let there be an expanse between the waters	21
Church	Jonah and the Whale	10
Church	Jack and Jill	6
Church	Inhabitants of the deep	2
Bellringers	Ice & Snow	26
Church	Finding Nemo	7
Church	Bridge over troubled waters	14
Church	3 men in a boat	5
Church	20,0000 leagues under the sea	1

Conference Business Digest: A report for local churches about the business of the 2026 Methodist Conference

Please share this with the office holders and members of your Church and Circuit. This can be read online and downloaded from methodist.org.uk/conference

The 2026 Methodist Conference, held at Telford International Centre:
Presbyteral Session 25–26 June; Representative Session 27 June – 1 July.

Induction of the President and Vice-President for 2026/2027

On Saturday 27 June, the Revd Mark Slaney was elected and inducted as President of the Conference, and Caroline Stead as Vice-President. Their addresses were on the theme of 'Sorrow and Joy' and are available to read here: methodist.org.uk/about/structure-andgovernance/the-methodist-conference/ conference-2026/presidency/

Reception into Full Connexion and Ordination Services

During the Sunday worship, 13 presbyters and two deacons were received into Full Connexion with the Conference, along with three presbyters by transfer, and one presbyter by reinstatement.

Having been received into Full Connexion on Sunday morning, those presbyters and deacons not already ordained travelled to churches around the region with their families and friends for the ordination services.

Connexional Council

The Council presented reports from the Ministries, Mission, and Resourcing Committees, along with other matters of report or for decision.

The Council also brought an update on the Economic Justice Working Group, which was established in 2024 to develop a process by which ministry and mission can be funded where the need is greatest, to practise the connexional principle and to tackle inequality and poverty.

This interim report set out the process by which the group will prepare its report for the 2027 Conference.

The Council brought a report on the Missional Use of Property, emphasising the need for clarity about the relationship between a Local Church as an entity, its trusteeship and any building/s associated with it. The Conference directed the Faith and Order Committee, in consultation with others as appropriate, to develop and articulate a clear and theologically informed understanding of the Local Church and report to the Conference in 2027. The Law and Policy Committee was directed to produce detailed proposals for how models of trusteeship might work in practice.

The Council reported on the work undertaken by the Ministries Committee concerning ministerial flourishing. Significant work has been done to ensure a thorough understanding of the needs and the systemic and complex issues which cause concern. Pilot schemes are being established in three Districts, and connexional resources are being developed. An interim report will be brought to the Ministries Committee in October 2026.

The Council brought its reflections on the strategic direction of the Church, flowing from the strategies already adopted by the Conference. The Council has identified two key strategic objectives for the wider Church as key to fulfilling Our Calling: to increase the number of accountable disciples, by making members, and to enrich the fidelity of those disciples to God through excellence in worship. The Council has also identified the following specific change areas that it believes are necessary to achieve those objectives: governance structures, support of those in ministry, and the opportunities of a digital age. The Conference affirmed these two strategic objectives and three change areas and directed the Secretary to oversee a process which will

Update on the Justice, Dignity and Solidarity (JDS) Strategy

The Conference received an update on the implementation of the JDS Strategy, since it was adopted in 2021. Key developments include new oversight bodies, practical resources, dedicated inclusion roles, Equality Impact Assessments, and efforts to diversify leadership. Training has been expanded through the Learning Network,

alongside initiatives such as Solidarity Circles, inclusive worship pilots and the Discrimination and Abuse Response Service. While significant progress has been made, implementation remains uneven across districts, and the report stresses that full transformation requires JDS to shape every aspect of Church life. The Conference affirmed the observance of a JDS Sunday on a locally chosen date across the Connexion.

Review of the Conference

The Law and Policy Committee brought a report setting out its concerns about the length of the Conference. The Conference agreed to bring forward the next review of the Conference and to widen its scope to include matters of length and structure as well as the number of members of the Conference. The Conference approved terms of reference for a task group to undertake the review, directing that it reports to the Conference of 2027 with recommendations.

3Generate and the Voices of Children and Young People

3Generate 2025 was the largest yet, with over 1,700 young attendees. Young people expressed to the Conference how much they value worship, community and faith development, but shared their concerns that church practices do not fully meet their needs, desiring more accessible and age-appropriate worship, greater involvement in leading services and clearer teaching of the Bible. The Conference encouraged circuits and districts to enable those involved in ministry with children and young people to support them in biblical exploration and explore more frequent opportunities for local gatherings.

Assisted Dying

The Conference considered a report on assisted dying, which had been requested by last year's Conference following the long-standing public debate of this issue, and the legislative developments in the various jurisdictions covered by the Methodist Church in Britain. The Conference referred the report back for further work, requesting that a broader range of people with lived experience be included in the work, and that a new report be brought to the 2028 Conference. The Conference agreed to remove the status of Conference Statement from its previous statement which dated from 1974. It agreed to maintain its historic position of opposition to assisted dying, noting that this does not place any restriction on resolutions that may be brought to the Conference as part of future work.

Budget

The Conference adopted the connexional central services budget for 2026/2027 and noted that some progress has been made to reflect concerns of economic justice through changes to the Assessment formula. Despite some progress in addressing the deficit over the last year, decisive action will be required to reduce the deficit between now and 2029. This will include a review of every area of the budget, including the costs of the Conference.

Triennial Membership Returns the Conference received the membership returns, alongside data that had been collected on attendance at worship and other forms of engagement within the life of the Church. The total membership figure (adjusted for missing data) stands at 129,697 with total attendance (including online) at 99,813. The figures were received in the context of the Church's strategy for evangelism and growth and the signs of numerical growth in some places, alongside the ongoing work towards a programme for digital transformation.

Action for Hope

The Conference received an update on the aspiration to become net zero. The Conference noted that progress has been made across the Connexion, but parts of the Church have struggled to develop a robust strategy to meet the target. With regret, the Conference agreed to the refocusing of the work to an ongoing carbon reduction plan, with the removal of the 2030 target date.

Online celebrations of Holy Communion the Conference, following a period of discernment since 2021, provisionally decided that online celebrations of Holy Communion should be generally permitted in the Methodist Church; the views of the Synods will be sought, and a final decision will be made by the 2027 Conference. In the meantime, the period of discernment has been extended for a further year.

Revision of Authorised Liturgies The Conference adopted principles for liturgical style and language to guide the work in the revision of its authorised liturgies. These principles emphasise the need for language that seeks to be inclusive and expansive, recognises a variety of traditions, and uses different registers where appropriate. The new collection will be called *Praying the Faith: Authorised Liturgies for Methodist Worship.* All Methodist preachers and leaders of worship are encouraged to study the report and to reflect on the language they use in worship.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

In response to a memorial brought to the Conference in 2024, a report was received considering the implications of AI and its practical and theological impact across the Methodist Church. Recommendations adopted by the Conference include working towards issuing appropriate guidance that would be available across the Connexion and directing the Ministries Committee to consider how material on theological, ethical and practical implications of AI can be included within training for ordained and lay ministries.

Kairos II

Father Fadi Diab, Rector of the Anglican Parish in Ramallah in the West Bank, presented the Kairos II document, A Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide, calling for greater costly solidarity with the Palestinian people. The Conference asked for a study resource to be produced for churches. It also asked the President to write to the UK Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, and the governing bodies of other jurisdictions in which the Methodist Church in Great Britain has a presence, urging them to uphold international law and to take the actions outlined in the Time to Act campaign.

Reparative Justice

The Conference considered the issues raised by the work undertaken to uncover and understand the extent to which Methodist churches might have benefited directly or indirectly from the traffic in enslaved African people. The Conference heard that the research exposes both the silence and the complicity of Methodism's early leaders and of the Methodist Church during its first century. A statement, apology and initial actions will be brought before the Conference for approval in 2027, recognising that these will be informed by ongoing work with Global Partners and will not preclude additional statements, apologies and actions alongside Global Partners as further work unfolds.

Safeguarding Committee

The report of the Safeguarding Committee was presented to the Conference by the Chair, Judith Davey-Cole, and Vivien Almond, a representative from the Methodist Survivors' Advisory Group. The Conference agreed to a possible change in how often refresher sessions of advanced safeguarding training are required, from every four years to three.

Ecumenical

The Conference adopted a formal response to the eleventh report of the Joint International Commission for Dialogue between the World Methodist Council and the Roman Catholic Church. The Conference commended the report – *God in Christ Reconciling: On the Way to Full Communion in Faith, Sacraments, and Mission* – to the Methodist people for study and discussion.

A report from the Life in Covenant Group reviewed the progress and future direction of the shared work of the Methodist Church and the Church of England to advance the commitments of the Anglican-Methodist Covenant (2003). Work is now underway towards drafting a formal declaration of communion, liturgies for an inaugural joint service, an ordination rite for a President-bishop, and guidelines for ministers serving across traditions. Subject to the agreement of the Church of England's General Synod, it is envisaged that this work will be achieved within the next five years.

The Conference recommended renewal of the Life in Covenant Group for a further five years and directed the Faith and Order Committee to work in collaboration with the Faith and Order Commission of the Church of England to bring full implementation proposals by 2031.

The Conference received a report from the Methodist-United Reformed Church Liaison Group, welcomed the proposed consultative meeting between District Chairs and Synod Moderators, and directed that a report come to the 2027 Conference concerning the vision and shape of future possible collaboration.

Report of the Chairs' and Warden's Meeting

The District Chairs and Warden of the Diaconal Order asked the Conference to make an urgent response to hate crime, harassment, discrimination and malicious conduct directed towards ministers. The Conference directed the Council to establish instances, drawing on relevant expertise as a process to provide coordinated support in such necessary.

training of local preachers and worship leaders, delivery of offline and online training, governance for circuits

Memorials

Memorials are requests from Circuit Meetings and District Synods to the Conference. The Conference replied to 16 memorials on topics including the training of local preachers and worship leaders, delivery of offline and online training, governance for circuits and churches, Standing Order 943, supernumeraries chairing Circuit Meetings, Church Treasurer membership of Circuit Meetings, denomination of sanctuary, Israel-Palestine and Kairos II, the JTC group (as it relates to the Central Finance Board), menopause policy and guidance, maternity policy.

The **Methodist** Church

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Future dates of the Conference

The Methodist Conference will meet in Telford from 24–30 June 2027.

President and Vice-President designated for 2027/2028

The Conference designated the Revd Dr Jennifer Smith to be President and Daniel Keen to be Vice-president of the Conference 2027/2028.

Appointments

The Conference made a number of appointments and reappointments, including: • the Revd Romeo Pedro as Chair for the
Yorkshire North and East District from
1 September 2026;

- Deacon Claire Gill as Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order from 1 September 2026;
- the Revd Dr Janet Corlett as Chair of the Isle of Man District for a further period of three years from 1 September 2027;
- the Revd Faith Nyota as Chair for the London District for a further period of five years from 1 September 2027.

TABLE TOP SALE

FRINTON METHODIST CHURCH

SAT. 5th SEPT.

10.30am-1pm

BOOK A TABLE FOR £10

(you keep the money from sales)

Contact 07946891166 to book a table

CAKES BACON ROLLS

STALLS TOMBOLA

Refreshments

Entry £1

'MEET UP AND MOVE'

with Miranda

A free, fun gentle exercise group for all ages and abilities to improve general mobility and wellbeing. Exercises can be undertaken seated or standing. No special clothing or footwear required, just dress to feel comfortable. No need to book.

Thursdays 2.00 – 3.00pm on:

August 27th

September 3rd and 17th

October 1st and 22nd

EMMANUEL CHURCH
NEW PIER STREET
WALTON ON THE NAZE
CO14 8EB

Warm Welcome Spaces

Warm Welcome Spaces

Warm Hub

At Frinton Methodist Church, Ashlyns Road

Free tea, coffee and soup

11.30 – 1.30





First Wednesday each month.

A warm welcome awaits

Jaywick Methodist Church

COFFEE MORNING

31st August

2026

10.00 till 12.30

The Methodist Way of Life

This is the Methodist Way of Life map.

Christianity isn't just what we do on Sunday. Want to know more?

Waiting on the platform thinking about getting on the 'train'?

Head to the Methodist website.

https://www.methodist.org.uk/faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/

