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PRESS RELEASE

Joy Becomes the Healing: Hundreds Gather at Westminster for the 2026 Healing Conference

LONDON — Some 300 people gathered at Methodist Central Hall Westminster for the 2026 Healing Conference, held under the theme *"Abundant Life — A Healing Journey,"* with reports of physical and emotional healing emerging in the days since.

The conference drew attendees from across the country — from Yorkshire and Kent to every corner of London — undeterred by two large protest rallies taking place nearby the same day. Among them were people attending for the first time alongside others who return year after year.

The day was anchored by keynote speaker Dr Ben Pugh, Senior Lecturer in Theology at Cliff College, the lay training center of the Methodist Church in Britain, where his specialism is systematic theology. Worship was led by Elaine Simpson, a founding member of The Kingdom Choir, the gospel group that came to international attention after performing at the 2018 royal wedding. Members of the Methodist Central Hall Westminster staff team and Jonathan Clark of Premier Lifeline also took part.

Dr Pugh's teaching focused on what it means, practically and personally, to live "in Christ" — drawing on his own experience and on the writings of theologians across the centuries. Delivered with humility and a notable lightness of touch, his central encouragement to the room was disarmingly simple: in the hardest moments, "leap into the arms of Christ."

Many responded to an invitation to prayer ministry and anointing. In the days since, organisers say accounts of healing have continued to come in, including relief from chronic knee pain and persistent sinus problems, and a number of attendees reporting a lifting of long-carried emotional burdens.

The human texture of the day was perhaps best captured by one attendee, who summed up the experience in their own words:

"I came in discouraged, disappointed and weary. I'm going home refreshed, with new hope — a new person indeed."

Feedback gathered on the day returned the same handful of words repeatedly: inspirational, transformational, empowering, unique.

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