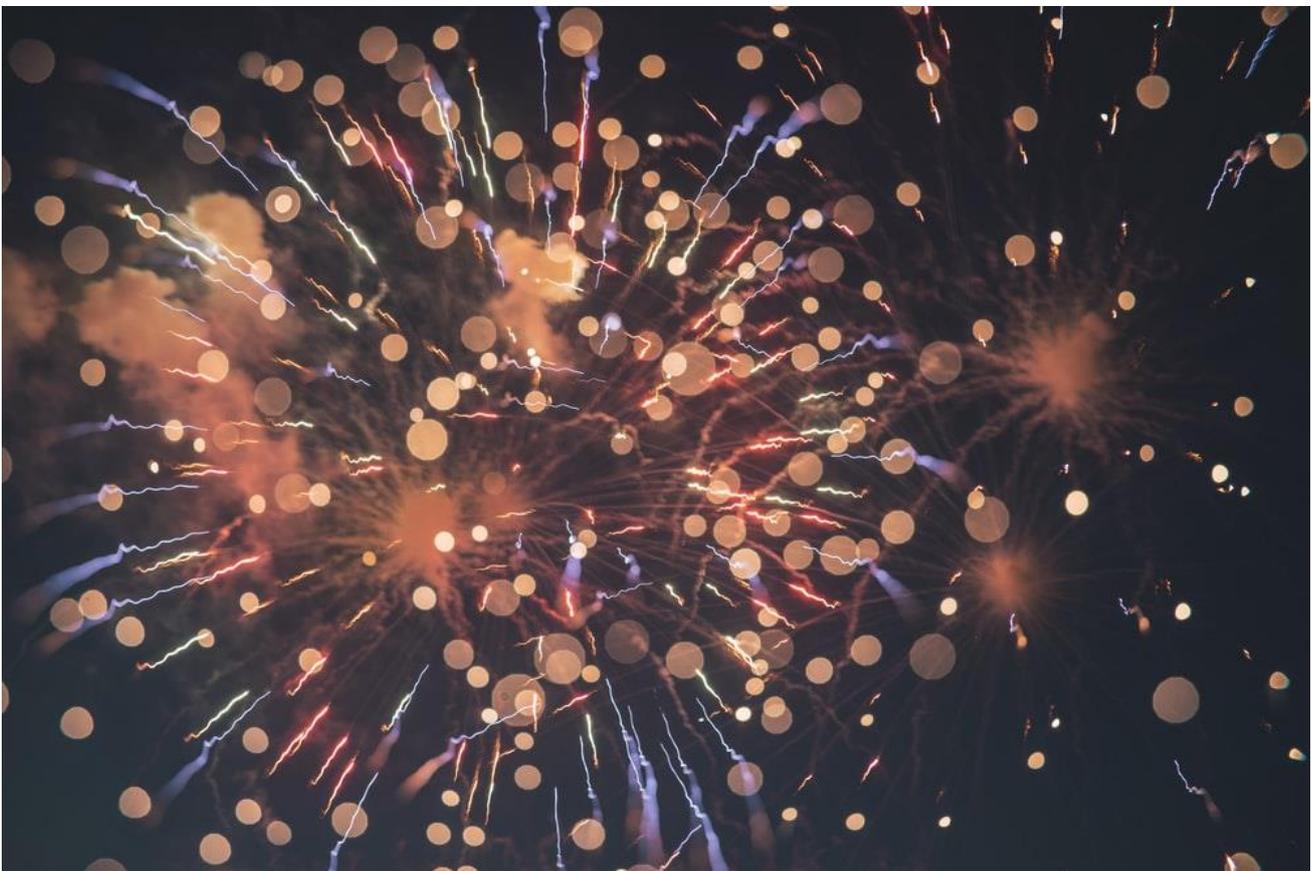


# Withington Methodist News

November 2021



# SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sundays at 10.45am

7th : Rev. Krystyna Kwarciak

14th : Rev. Mandy Boon (Remembrance Sunday)

21st : Elizabeth Adu

28th : Rev. Peter Went (toy service and first in Advent)

## DEAR FRIENDS,

Some of you may remember seeing Mostar on television, under siege in 1992 and 1993 during the civil war which ended with the break-up of Yugoslavia. The beautiful, ancient town was divided into three parts, with gunfire being exchanged between neighbours. Most famously, an ancient bridge was destroyed by a lengthy bombardment, eventually collapsing hundreds of feet into the gorge below. The Old Town of Mostar, which centred in the bridge, was a pile of ruins. Some of the destruction wasn't militarily important – it has been described instead as “killing memory”, in which evidence of a shared cultural heritage and peaceful co-existence were deliberately destroyed.

Nearly 20 years later it is all restored – and more than restored. Visiting Mostar is like visiting a lovely, medieval town – except that there are some ruined shells of buildings outside the centre, reminders of the conflict. But in the Old Town, it is almost as if it had never been. The memories are hidden away, easy to ignore by the tourists flooding through the streets. Everyone who lives there knows what happened, but it feels as if it is all a bit too painful to remember. Instead, there is the marvellous restoration, making it look as if the destruction had never been, and the focus on the good living to be made from tourism.

The civil war tried to destroy the memory of peace, and the restoration tried to wipe out the memory of war. This story is a reminder how important it is to remember – to remember the good as well as the bad, the violence of war as well as the gift of peace. If we try to live without memories

we are no longer sure who we are or what our identity is..

November is a time for remembering. As every year, we will honour the memory of those who fought in wars, the civilian casualties and countless people whose lives were devastated by injury or bereavement. We will also remember those who have died during the Covid-19 pandemic, and pray for their families, friends and neighbours. But November is also a time for giving thanks, a time when we can work on developing a 'gratitude attitude'. As Christians we are all called to testify to God's grace which shines brightest in the broken, painful places of our lives, and to His love which, we believe, always has the final word. This November we are invited to place all our memories, the good as well as the bad, in God's hands, to remember, pray, mourn and give thanks.

Wishing you every blessing,

Rev. Krystyna

## PRAYER LIST

We remember in our prayers:

Kathleen,  
Stasi,  
Henry,  
Zathilda,  
Thandi,  
Elaine,  
Allan and Betty,  
Promilla,  
the Lowe family,  
Georgine,  
Krysten



# WORSHIP WITH US

## Sunday Morning In Person Worship

We are happy to have our doors fully open again at Withington. The booking system is no longer in place, everyone is welcome to come whenever works for them.

The current Covid-19 safety measures in place at WMC are as follows:

We will continue to wear masks during worship and social distancing will be maintained at 1 m+.

We are allowed to sing quietly with our masks on.

Socialising after the service is permitted, but without refreshments.

Communion is celebrated with bread and wine in individual glasses as usual.

## Reflections and written worship resources:

If you are not on email and would like to receive a printed copy of our weekly reflections or written worship resources for Sunday,

please contact Krystyna on 0161 612 2668.

## Coffee Morning and Bible Study on Zoom:

We have a virtual coffee morning every Monday from 11:00 am and a weekly Bible Study every Wednesday from 2:00 pm

Joining details for both meetings are the same every week:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84141198605>

Meeting ID: 841 4119 8605

# Manchester Circuit Sunday Evening Service

A warm welcome as ever to our worship tomorrow evening.

The Zoom platform will be open from 6pm for those who wish to catch up with others from their church, and as usual worship will begin at 6:30.

The joining details follow-

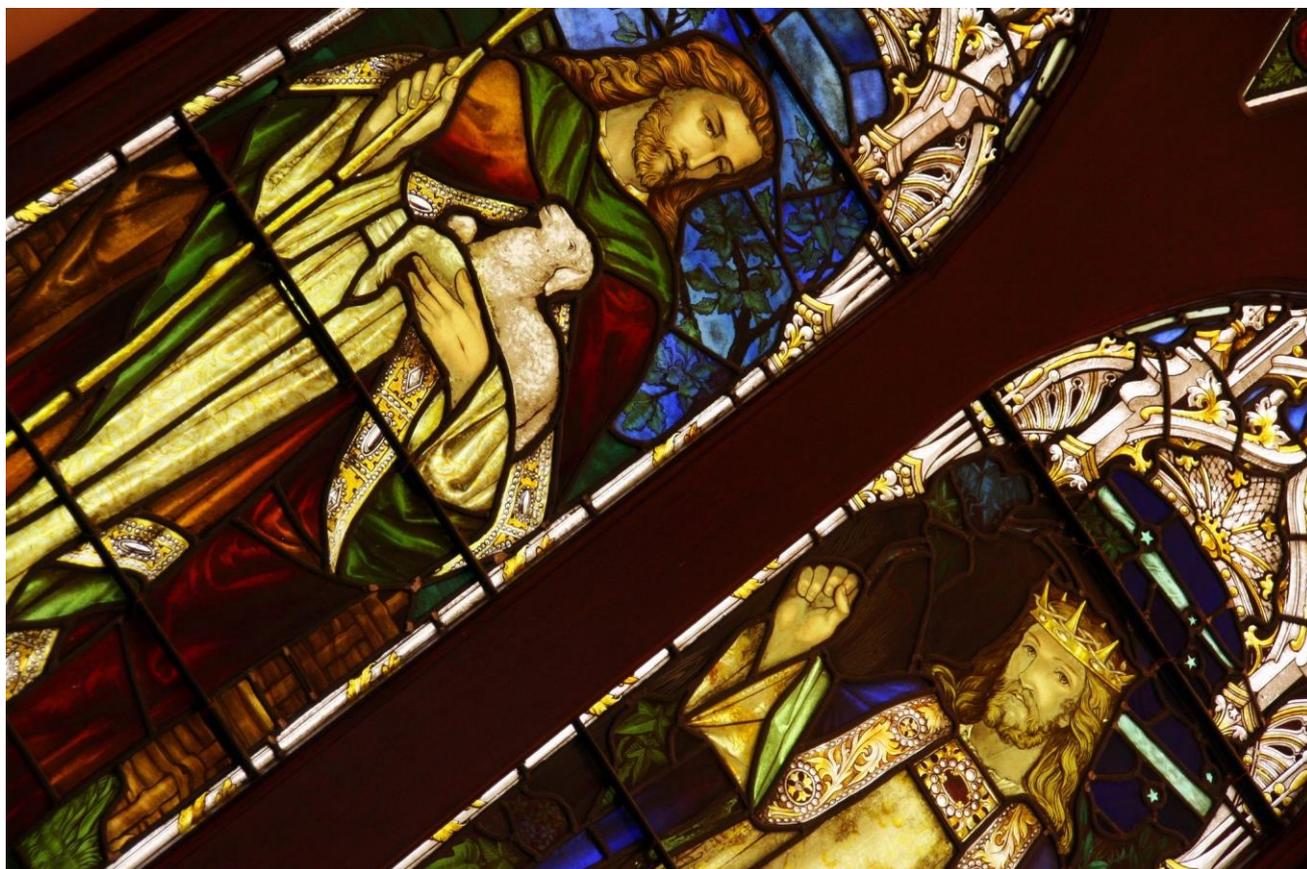
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92204599032?pwd=Tzg0SU9xcVZEZFNQK0FnYnNKWjlUQT09>

Meeting ID: 922 0459 9032

Passcode: 1901

One tap mobile + 12532158782, 92204599032 #, 1901#



# A PRAYER FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

14<sup>th</sup> November

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give us peace:

For the service men and women who have died in the violence of war,  
each one remembered by and known to God;  
May God give peace

For those who love them in death as in life,  
offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss;  
May God give peace

For all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return;  
May God give peace

For civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror,  
calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity;  
May God give peace

For peace-makers and peace-keepers,  
who seek to keep this world secure and free;  
May God give peace

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political, military and religious;  
asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace.  
May God give peace



O God of truth and justice,  
we hold before you those whose memory we cherish,  
and those whose names we will never know.

Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world,  
and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm.

As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future;  
for you are the source of life and hope,  
now and for ever.

Amen.

## WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE SUNDAY

21<sup>st</sup> November

One in three women worldwide experience physical or sexual violence mostly by an intimate partner. Violence against women and girls is a human rights violation.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, emerging data and reports from those on the front lines, have shown that all types of violence against women and girls, particularly domestic violence, has intensified. In addition, in some countries, resources and efforts have been diverted from violence against women response to immediate COVID-19 relief.

On the Sunday before Advent we are reminded of the nature of the one who is to come. We call him 'king' but his kingdom is very different from what people expect. The Gospel passage (John 18: 33-37) reminds us that God's kingdom is not one of power through violence (the model of kingship in Jesus' time); rather, God's kingdom is one where truth, life, and right relationships are valued.

## ***A prayer of commitment-***

*We believe that abusive behaviour is wrong.*

*that women and men should live in safety,*

*that no-one should harm another person;*

*that women and men should know the constancy of love,*

*that no-one should blow hot and cold in relationships*

*that women and men should feel secure, content,*

*that no-one should have violence used against them;*

*that women and men should feel free to speak out,*

*that no-one should constrain or deny the truth;*

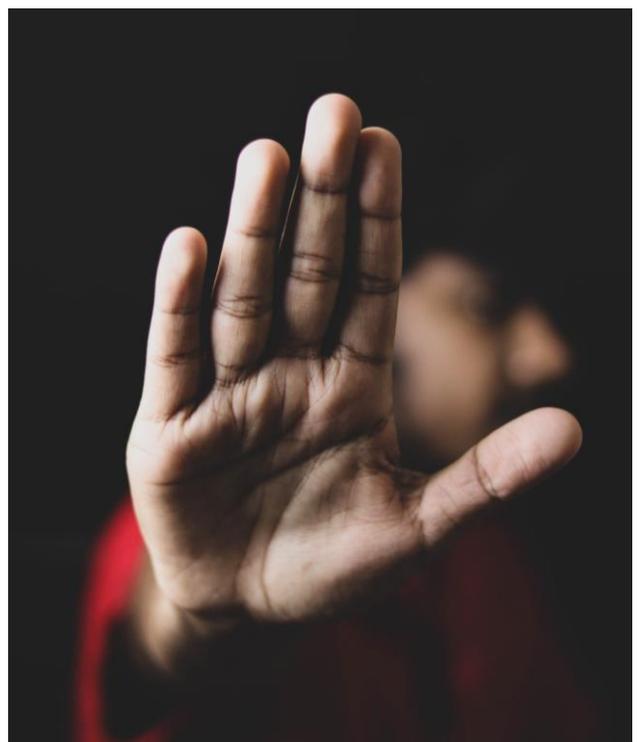
*that women and men should grow towards wholeness,*

*that no-one should restrict another one's growth;*

*We believe that a change of behaviour is right,*

*In the name of Christ,*

*Amen.*



# NEWS FROM THE CONNEXION

## 5 OCTOBER 2021

### Prayer vigil on the impact of the government's Nationality and Borders Bill

Church leaders gathered alongside asylum seekers and refugees in Manchester on Sunday 3rd October, to hold a prayer vigil as the Conservative Party Conference opened in Manchester Central.

The prayer vigil focussed on the impact of the government's Nationality and Borders Bill. The bill proposes to reform the UK's asylum system, in particular to differentiate between the way asylum seekers are treated depending on how they arrive in the UK. Churches have commented that proposals in the bill 'lack humanity and respect for human dignity'.

The President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton, opened the vigil with prayers and led periods of silent reflection. They focussed on their theme for their presidential year, 'God's table for all'.

A moving story of a person with lived experience of the asylum was shared at the Vigil. Under the proposed legislation, many refugees who have made their home in the UK would not be eligible for full refugee status.

The vigil invited participants to join in a time of collective lament, focussing on the pain and hardship caused by hostility in the UK's asylum system towards people seeking sanctuary. It then turned to action, inviting participants and passers-by to write to their MP, to call for changes to the Nationality and Borders Bill.

Coordinating the vigil, the Revd Ian Rutherford, the City Centre Minister at Methodist Central Hall, Manchester, said:

"Here in Manchester, many of our church communities know the invaluable contribution to our society asylum seekers and refugees make. But the government's proposals will make life much harder for people seeking sanctuary in the UK. Their proposals would create a two-tier system for asylum seekers and refugees, and don't show any regard for the wellbeing of

people who have already gone through traumatic circumstances to reach safety. Our faith calls us here today to say that we think everyone should be treated with dignity and respect, and that these proposals jeopardise this important principle. We're proud to stand with the partners of the Together With Refugees campaign to call for urgent change to the Nationality and Borders Bill."

The Revd Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton led prayers centred on the presidential theme 'God's table for all'. They said:

"Welcoming refugees should be part of who we are in the UK. As people of faith, we believe that God welcomes everyone, regardless of where they come from, or the opportunities they have had. It is devastating that these proposals go against the belief in the preciousness of each human life. We often forget that Jesus began his life as a refugee, forced to flee oppression and tyranny. We must acknowledge that people seeking asylum are people first – people who are children of God, made in God's image. We need a fundamental rethink of the government's proposals, in order to put in place a more effective, fair and humane approach to the UK's asylum process."

Many of the churches and groups represented at the vigil are campaigning on the Nationality and Borders Bill. The Methodist Church is part of the coalition group Together With Refugees, formed of over 200 organisations calling for 'a kinder, fairer and more effective approach to supporting refugees in the UK'. The group are calling for amendments to the bill to reject the 'two-tier' system of asylum seekers and refugees the bill creates.



# 11 OCTOBER 2021

## Exhibition at Wesley's Chapel - Leadership on a Journey

Inspirational stories of Methodists from across the globe at the heart of a new exhibition at Wesley's Chapel in London

An exhibition that celebrates the rich diversity of heritage and experience in the Methodist Church opens on Tuesday 19th October at the Museum of Methodism at Wesley's Chapel in London. Coinciding with Black History Month and with the aim to inspire young people, Leadership on a Journey, explores the stories of Methodists from Black British, Asian and the global diaspora in Britain, each nominated for their outstanding leadership.

At the heart of the exhibition is an oral history project with interviews having taken place during the last few months in Wesley's Chapel and across Britain, in churches, chapels, living rooms and kitchens. Current leaders in the Methodist Church such as the President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Sonia Hicks, and Youth President, Daud Irfan's testimonies will be featured. Long serving circuit stewards and activists, Norman Mullings and Bala Gnanapragasam's experiences of this country are shared alongside the views of academics, Dr Margaret Byron and Professor Anthony Reddie, who have helped to shape some of the historical and theological elements of this exhibition.

The Revd Sonia Hicks, President of the Methodist Conference, said:

“The annual Black History Month event highlights the need to tell the inspirational stories of the Black diaspora. This exhibition reminds the Methodist Church of the inspirational stories we have among us. It is a great privilege to share my own story for the project and I am truly honoured to be amongst so many people for whom I have the greatest respect.”

The exhibition's curator, Deanna Lyncook said:

“The migration stories, experiences and selfless work of people such as the Revd Inderjit Bhogal have thrown into relief the clear necessity for an exhibition such as this.

“The words of each nominee are featured within the historical context of migration in Britain. Beginning with the Windrush Generation and their descendants and ending with more recent migrations from a variety of regions in Africa, the exhibition tracks the movements of those from across the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and the Pacific Islands. The show celebrates their achievement and the rich and diverse history of the Methodist Church in Britain.”

The Superintendent of Wesley’s Chapel, the Revd Canon Jennifer Smith, said:

“We hope this exhibition will reclaim the deep history of global Methodist leadership and further a debate on the very nature of leadership itself. Oral histories will be supplemented by artefacts from the museum including from Antigua, China, the Gold Coast (Ghana) and many from Britain – including John Wesley’s own shoes and belongings, alongside the boots Inderjit Bhogal wore to walk from Sheffield to London during his Presidential year.”

The exhibition launches on Tuesday 19th October 2021, running Tuesday-Saturday 11:00-15:00 until January 29th, entry is free.

## 15 OCTOBER 2021

### A Statement and Prayer regarding the death of Sir David Amess MP

A statement and prayer from the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton following the death of Sir David Amess MP today:

“Sir David Amess MP was a faithful and dedicated public servant for many years. He was well known to the Methodist family locally and widely respected. We offer our deep condolences to his family, colleagues, friends and constituents. This senseless act of violence is appalling, and we extend our prayers to all who have been affected by it.”

Gracious God

We are thankful for all those who give their lives to public service; we are deeply saddened when it comes at such cost. Be with all who loved the late David Amess MP and especially with his family at this awful time.

Lord, we pray for all those affected by this violent act. May your comforting love and healing grace be with them all.

In Christ's name we pray.

Amen

## 18 OCTOBER 2021

### Banner drop for COP26 in London, Manchester and Glasgow

Methodist churches in London, Manchester and Glasgow unfurled banners this weekend as part of global action from faith communities calling for climate justice and care for the vulnerable ahead of COP26, the UN Conference on climate change in Glasgow next month.

Members of the congregation and church leaders from Methodist Central Hall, Westminster gathered to reflect on COP26. Visitors to London will also see the church's call to pray for COP26 on the outside of the building, which was the venue for the inaugural meeting of the United Nations Assembly in 1946. Find out more about this interesting link between the church and the UN [here](#).

The Revd Tony Miles, Superintendent Minister said, "We wanted to make a public declaration to assure people we are praying for COP26 and to inspire others to do same. We are urging the world leaders gathering in Glasgow next month to 'make COP count' and, as a Church and Conference Centre, we are endeavouring to make a difference locally too."

Eliana Achila a 13 year old member of Methodist Central Hall Westminster said, "Climate change is real and it is the poorest and most vulnerable on our planet that bear the greatest cost." Watch other young people share their hopes for COP26 [here](#).

The Methodist hub for COP26 in Glasgow will be Woodlands Methodist Church which also unveiled a banner this weekend on behalf of all Methodists in Scotland.



Methodist Central Hall, Manchester also unveiled a banner on Sunday. The Revd Ian Rutherford said, "We were proud to unfurl our banner at Methodist Central Hall, Manchester along with many other faith buildings across the UK as part of the #FaithfortheClimate initiative on Green Faith Day.

"Our banner design brings the bold message that we wanted to convey to Greater Manchester and to world leaders gathering for COP26 that we must all work together, like bees in a hive, to care for our common home and that we need to make COP 26 count."

# 28 OCTOBER 2021

## The Methodist Council: 21st and 22nd of October

The Methodist Council met on the 21st and 22nd of October at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick. The Council meeting opened with a report from the Strategy and Resources Committee, a report from the Connexional Team and update on work from the Conference.

Ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference, Cop 26, Joe Lambert the Scotland District representative gave an update on events centred at Woodlands Methodist Church in Glasgow during the talks. The church will host a hub which will be open from 0830 – 2000 every day. Art exhibitions and concerts have been organised. Timetable: [www.scotlandmethodistscop26.org](http://www.scotlandmethodistscop26.org)

### **District Reviews**

The Council received a report on the conversation at the Connexional Leadership Forum on the District Reviews and approved the terms of reference for the Task Group which will look at regional and district Planning. The Group will report to the Council in April 2022 and to the 2022 Conference.

### **Looking to the Future and Ways of Working**

The Council broke into groups to consider a number of questions about the future including its own ways of working, the funding of ministerial appointments, the impact of its and the Conference's decisions on employees, those in circuit ministry, districts and others, and how we express our Methodist identity in collaboration with others who bear the name Methodist.

After feedback from the groups the following day, the Council agreed that only one of its meetings in a Connexional year shall be in person and agreed that for the Connexional year 2021/22 the Council meets in person for

October and online in January and April. It is suggested that in future years it is the April meeting which is held in person since this is the longer meeting.

The group work highlighted the importance of hearing from the Methodist Charities in a way which highlights how their work helps the Church to fulfil Our Calling (and how they are responding to that). A resolution radically to rethink the relationship between money and stationing was carried, establishing a Task Group to rethink the funding of circuit ministry in further detail.

## **The Methodist Conference**

The Assistant Secretary of the Conference, Revd Michaela Youngson presented a paper to the Council about the work of a Task Group to review the size of the Conference. The Terms of Reference for the Group will include ways of working including conferring and representation: what is an appropriate size of Conference, what is the appropriate balance of ex-officio members and others to District representatives, and what weight should be given to the advantages of a smaller Conference?

## **Chair of the Methodist Council**

This is the final year of Mrs E Jill Baker's tenure as Chair of the Methodist Council. The Council approved the process of choosing the next Chair of the Council, directing that a nomination panel be established with the responsibility of bringing a nomination of the next Chair of the Council to the Council in April 2022.

## **Pensions**

The Director of Finance and Resources, Matt Tattersall presented a paper on the Pension Schemes to the Council. He started by explaining the statutory requirement to agree the valuation with the Methodist Ministers' Pension Schemes (MMPS) and the Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church (PASLEMC) which needs to be done by

November 30th 2021.

The Council approved the parameters for concluding the pension valuation discussion with the pension scheme trustees and a number of enabling measures.

## **Safeguarding**

An update on the Safeguarding Policy was presented by the Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler who gave a short update to the Council on the IICSA report which included reference to the Methodist Church and he acknowledged that in the past there had been “egregious failings by the Methodist Church.” He told the Council that many of the things asked for in IICSA’s report are already up and running in the Methodist Church. He stressed the need for constant vigilance saying “we are only as strong as our weakest point.”

Dr Hustler gave more details about the updated Safeguarding Policy which included the importance of training for those involved with people who are on a safeguarding contract and a simplification of the Safer Recruitment policy. Dr Hustler told representatives that a considerable amount of work has been done over the past year on the anti-bullying policy and the Council approved its addition to the Policy; he stressed that we are in the midst of a culture change, saying “It’s not just about eradicating bad behaviour; it’s about cultivating excellent behaviour.” The Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee, the Revd Dr Nicola Price-Tebbutt presented a report on resources for the Theology of Safeguarding which were also supported by the Council.

## **Leasing property at undervalue**

The Council heard from the Conference Officer for Constitutional and Legal Practice, Joanne Anderton, and adopted a resolution to allow property to be leased to Afghan refugees at less than the market value, a practice already in place for Syrian refugees.

## **Action for Hope – a path to net zero**

The Head of Mission, Ms Jude Levermore presented the Action for Hope paper which responds to the Conference's aspirational target of net zero emissions by 2030. She began by talking about how, as Methodists, we should live sustainably and lightly. Quoting from 'Hope in God's Future' Ms Levermore said 'Hope is thus a reason for bold action in the world in accordance with God's will for creation, not an excuse for inaction'.

Recognising that there is much to do, the paper proposes we start by looking at 3 themes: Faith - consistent use of assets which will contribute towards MCB's aim of net-zero carbon emissions by 2030; Wisdom – with worship, discipleship and theological reflection at the heart of a Methodist response to the climate crisis and Lifestyles – dovetailing with work on discipleship and A Methodist Way of Life. The Council agreed to the direction of travel for this work.

The Council meets next on the 26th and 27th of January 2022.



# CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

## Toy Service

This year our toy service will be on Sunday 28th November, and your donations will be given to the Whalley Range Toy Library.

In the area where Whalley Range Methodist Church sits, child poverty runs high, with around 2,500 children living in destitution across Moss Side. This means that toys become a luxury, and children can't access opportunities for imaginative play and learning. The Toy Library is a great way of advertising the church's presence and sharing the love of God as members of Whalley Range Methodist challenge poverty among families and children in their area.

Toys do not have to be brand new, but in good condition. The library would particularly welcome toys and games for the 5 to 8 year age group.

Thank you in anticipation for your kind donations.

## In Memory of Rosa

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of a much-loved WMC member, Rosa Taylor. Rosa passed away peacefully in hospital in Devon on 13th October. Thank you for joining the online service of thanksgiving for Rosa's life livestreamed from Dawlish Methodist Church. Your attendance was very much appreciated.

## Harvest Festival

We would like to thank everyone who donated to the Withington and Fallowfield Food Bank at our Harvest Festival on 23rd October, Revd. Peter Went for leading the service and Jenny Went for her lovely floral decorations.

## Church Away Day; Looking to the Future

On Saturday 30th October members of the Church Council and congregation met at the Chapel in the Fields (some from home on Zoom!), to start conversations on where we as Withington Methodist Church would like to see ourselves in the future.

The day was led by Abi Parr from TCC (Transforming Churches and Communities), who guided us through some workshops and activities to help us think about where we are now, where we would like to be, and how we can get there.

Firstly we looked at the Withington community and its current needs. Then we considered our Church, what we do already, what we do well, and our place in the community. We considered what resources we have, in terms of building, finance, people, and gifts and talents.

After lunch we started talking about what we would like to do in the ways of mission, service and outreach to our Church family and wider community, thinking about what we would need and what possible partnerships we could form to help us achieve this.

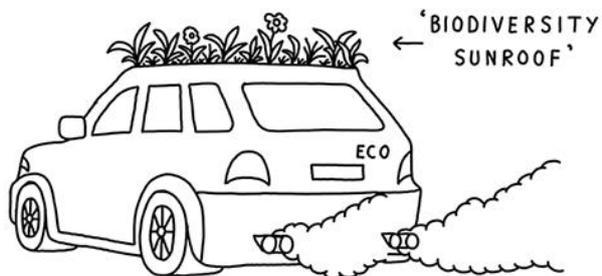
Armed with all our thoughts, ideas and information, Abi will produce an "Options Appraisal" document, evaluating all the possible options for the Church going forward. This will give us a framework for further discussion and consultation.

It was agreed that the day was a very productive exercise, thought provoking and positive; a great start on our path to build a meaningful future for Withington Methodist Church.

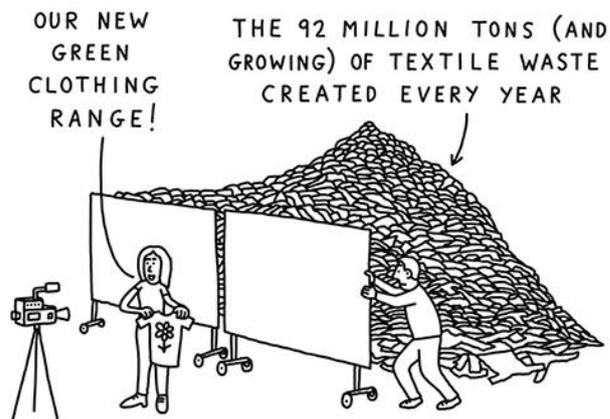
Watch this space!

# THANK YOU FOR READING!

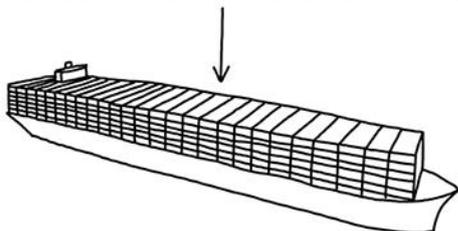
## GREENWASHING



GREENWASHING: ATTEMPTS TO MAKE PRODUCTS AND POLICIES LOOK MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY THAN THEY ARE



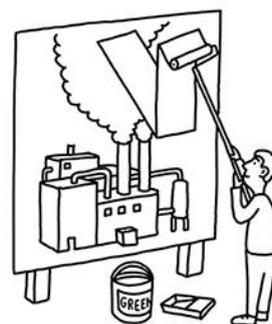
GOODS MANUFACTURED ABROAD, NOT INCLUDED IN U.K. CLIMATE STATISTICS, MAKING IT SOUND LIKE WE'RE DOING A LOT BETTER THAN IS ACTUALLY THE CASE



WE'RE REPLACING GAS BOILERS WITH LOW-CARBON HEAT PUMPS\*



\* IN 0.3% OF HOMES



MORE GREENWASHING COMING SOON...

**The next magazine will be out on the 5<sup>th</sup> December on the Withington Methodist Church Facebook Group and via email.**

If you have anything you would like to contribute to next month's magazine please pass it on to Caroline Fielding - [withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com](mailto:withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com)

**If you would like to receive an emailed copy of the magazine please email - [withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com](mailto:withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com)**

# Withington Methodist Church

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Minister: Rev Krystyna Kwarciak

## Sunday Services

Morning Worship : 10:45 am taking place in the ground floor hall. Holy Communion once a month.

## Regular Activities

Monday Monkeys (Mondays 10:00 - 11:30am)

Kundalini Yoga (7:00 - 8:30pm)

Brownies (Wednesdays from Oct. 6:45 - 8:15pm)

Snooker Group (Fridays 1:00 - 3:00pm)

