

Withington Methodist News

July 2022



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sundays at 10.45am

3rd July: Local Arrangement, led by Rev. Peter Went

10th July: Abi Parr

17th July: Rev. Krystyna Kwarciak

24th July: Nick Palfreyman, All Age Worship

31st July: Rev. Krystyna Kwarciak, Holy Communion

'The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.'

Selah.

Ps 46, 11

DEAR FRIENDS,

Do you know this word? Selah. You can find it in the psalms and books of prophets. Scholars aren't sure of its exact meaning or how to translate it. So, it's often omitted from the passages we read. And when it is included it's not translated. It's just 'Selah'. Most scholars, however, agree that it was an instruction to the musicians and singers of the psalms. They think it was an instruction to slow down, pause, pay attention, reflect, stop and listen, allow silence. The word 'Selah' creates a space and an opening. And I think all that applies to our lives as well.

Summer holidays are a time of year when most of us can finally slow down to be more present to life, pay more attention to each other and what really matters, and pause to remember the beauty of creation. I hope and pray that this summer will be for all of you a time of relaxation and refreshment, filled with blessings and God's grace.

In the psalms the word 'Selah' is not an interruption, but a connection

between what went before and what is coming next. It hardly seems possible that 5 years ago I arrived in south Manchester and yet here I am all packed up and ready to move again. It has been a privilege to share in the events of your lives over the past several years. I give thanks for everything that has been and hope that this summer God will create a space and opening for the new chapter in your lives and mine.

I don't like goodbyes so I will finish this last minister's letter with my favourite blessing, the so-called Priestly Blessing from the book of Numbers:

'May the Lord bless you and keep you all;

May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.'

Selah.

Wishing you all the very best for the future,

Rev. Krystyna

PRAYER LIST

We remember in our prayers:

Hanna,
Roger and family,
Donna and Kevin,
Muriel,
Thandiwe,
Sarah,
John,
Marguerite,
Ora and Stasi,
Henry



WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday Morning In Person Worship

Our Sunday Morning services are held at 10:45 in the downstairs hall. Please enter the church via the back car park entrance. We often have refreshments after the service and if you would like to help facilitate this, please let us know.

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.

Chat and Bible Study on Zoom:

We have a weekly virtual half hour catch up followed by a half hour Bible Study every Wednesday from 2:00 pm. All are welcome to join the chat, bible study or both!

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-

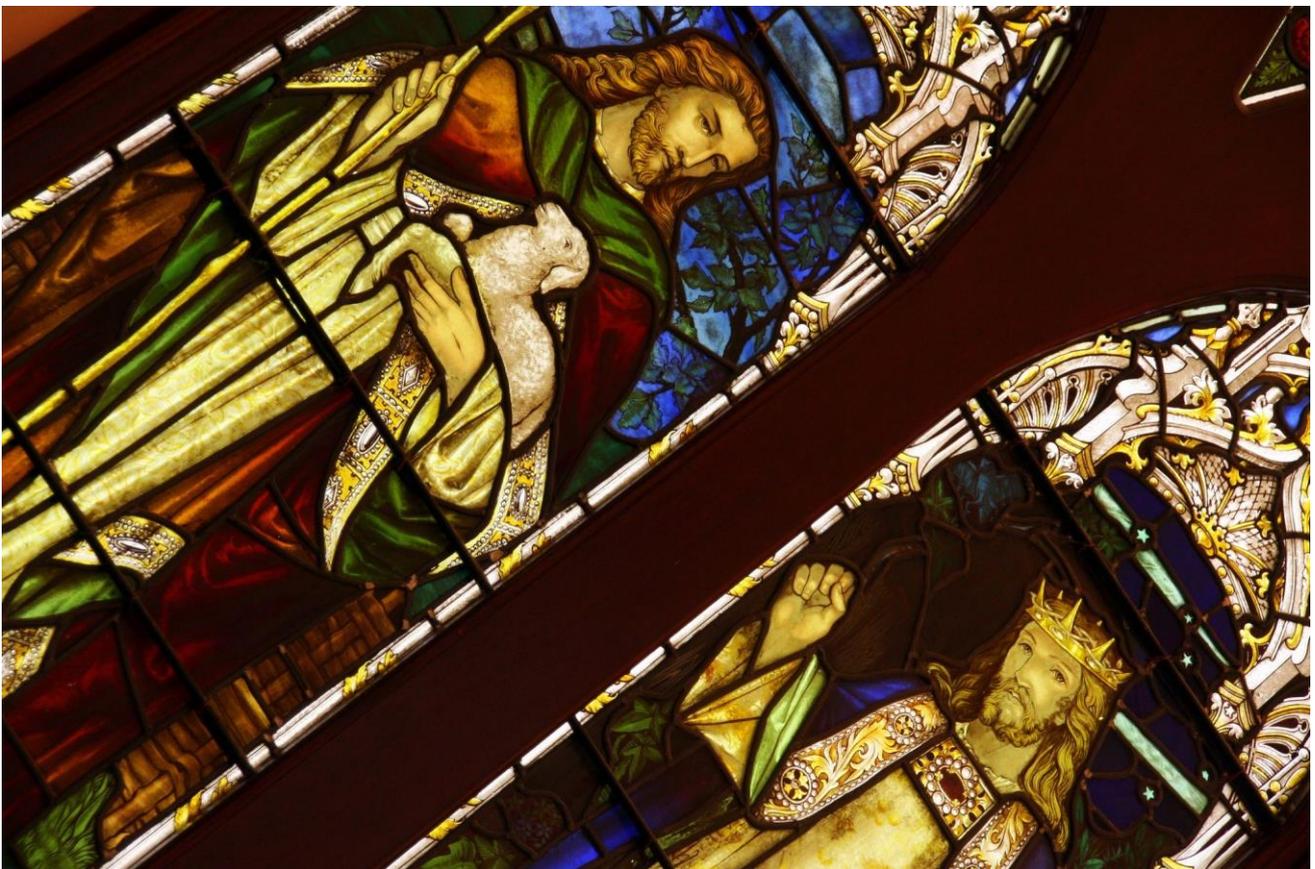
Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 922 0459 9032

Passcode: 1901

One tap mobile + 12532158782, 92204599032 #, 1901#



ATTENDING 3GENERATE 2022

Calling all Junior Methodists!

3Generate, the children's and youth assembly of the Methodist Church, aims to create an inclusive and diverse space for the prophetic voice of children and young people to emerge and be heard. It enables them to speak courageously and listen to God and each other. Through the 3Generate process, children and young people are equipped to become participants in advocacy, change and growth and have an impact in their local Methodist communities. 3Generate calls the Church to listen to, and be in relationship and dialogue with and amongst, children and young people, so that change can happen together as a community.

3Generate 2022 will be held at The NEC in Birmingham from Friday 30 September to Saturday 2 October. Our hope is that 3Generate will offer a wonderful opportunity to encounter God, gather together and be reminded of their vital place within the wider Methodist Church.



Event times:

Friday 30 September: 7pm-11pm

Saturday 1 October: 9am-11pm

Sunday 2 October: 9am-12noon

4-7s Area: Saturday 1 October ONLY 10am-4pm

3Generate 2022 tickets will be on sale from 1 April to 31 July. Groups can register and book tickets during this period but payment isn't required until the first week of September 2022. This arrangement worked extremely well for groups in 2021 so we are pleased to be offering the same in 2022. We want to encourage everyone to start having conversations and making plans as soon as possible.

There will be a number of ways young people can participate as follows:

- Attending the event on a residential basis with a weekend ticket (£120 pp), staying in accommodation villages with others in their group, for the weekend (tents will be provided and erected before arrival).
- Participating in person with a Saturday ticket (£60) just for the day on 1 October, no overnight accommodation
- Join the 4-7's event on Saturday 1 October (a 4-7s First Child (£40) allows entry to the 4-7s area on Saturday and includes up to two significant adults, for any further children in the same family, please select the 4-7s Additional Child ticket (£30)).

Meals will be provided for all participants, regardless of ticket types, when they are on-site during the event.

Those aged 18 to 23 are encouraged this year to consider attending 3Generate as part of the young adult volunteer programme (find out more here). If you would like to attend as an 18 - 23 participant, without volunteering, please email 3Generate@methodistchurch.org.uk

NEWS FROM THE CONNEXION

08 JUNE 2022

Giving thanks for the life of the Revd Elizabeth Clark

We are very sad to announce the unexpected death of the Reverend Elizabeth Clark, Methodist presbyter and National Rural Officer for both the United Reformed Church and the Methodist Church, 2014-2021.

The Revd Trey Hall, Director of Evangelism and Growth for the Methodist Church, said:

"Elizabeth was a wonderful colleague, a passionate advocate for rural contexts and people, and just an altogether warm and generous human being.



"We will remember her open-hearted faith, her deep kindness and pastoral heart, her unswerving commitment to justice, and her love of baking – especially her delicious Bara Brith."

During her time as National Rural Officer Elizabeth worked closely with ecumenical colleagues at the Arthur Rank Centre, a charity equipping rural Christians, churches and communities for mission and ministry. Prior to this role, Elizabeth served as a minister in Yorkshire: in the Ripon Circuit from 1999-2006, the Thirsk and Northallerton Circuit (2006-2011), the Sherburne Circuit (2011-2014), and also as a Rural Officer in the (then) York and Hull District.

Since her retirement in the summer of 2021, Elizabeth was a much-loved and respected supernumerary in the Airedale Circuit.

Before offering for presbyteral ministry, Elizabeth trained and served as a nurse.

The Revd Dr Richard Teal, President of the Methodist Conference in 2020-2021, said:

"I knew Elizabeth Clark throughout her ministry. I had the privilege to preach at her Ordinand's Testimony service. Elizabeth came from the city into rural Methodism and was captivated by it, became an advocate for it and indeed

never left it.

“Throughout her ministry she countered the myths about the countryside revealed in the paintings of Constable and Reynolds and by poets such as Tennyson: a beautiful landscape with unchanging villages and hamlets and a few farmers. A place where nothing much happens and communities are close-knit and united. This rural idyll has never existed and it certainly doesn't today. Elizabeth immersed herself in the reality of rural life and acknowledged the challenges particularly of isolation and poverty. This invaluable insight and her deep understanding of the rural scene is more fully expressed in the rural workbook, 'A Discipling Presence', which she instigated and a number of us were privileged to form a team with Elizabeth to compile.

“Her role as the Rural Officer for both the Methodist and URC Churches gave her a strong rural voice into the two denominations, but her influence was even wider. When I was President of the Conference and used the rural church and community as a major theme, Elizabeth alongside her colleagues at the Arthur Rank Centre, played a very supportive role for me for which I am extremely thankful.

“Elizabeth's sudden passing away is a huge shock and the Church has lost a very valued supporter of the countryside and many other people have lost a very dear friend and supportive colleague.”

Sarah Hulme, Rural Mission and Ministries Officer for the Methodist Church, said: "I truly appreciated Elizabeth's wisdom and pastoral care as she generously mentored me into a new role, passing on her passion for all things rural."

The Revd Clare Stainsby, Superintendent Minister in the Airedale Methodist Circuit, said:

“Elizabeth was a long time personal friend and colleague, working together in North Yorkshire Coast Circuit, and renewing both our friendship and collegueship in Airedale. In these recent months Elizabeth had been a tremendous support to me in ministry. She also had some wonderful missional plans which she was working on with my full encouragement. Her loss to her church and circuit will be enormous. Her loss to her family is immeasurable. But God will carry us all through this shocking time in a peace beyond understanding.”

We hold in our prayers Elizabeth's husband, daughter, sons, friends, and all who love her and mourn her death. We join them in giving thanks to God for

Elizabeth's life and ministry. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

17 JUNE 2022

Army Chaplaincy leaders welcomed

A service of celebration and commitment was held at St Michael's Garrison Church, Tidworth on Sunday 12 June to welcome Revd Michael D Parker as the new Chaplain General and Revd David Barrett as the Deputy Chaplain General to Her Majesty's Land Forces.

This means that for the first time, Methodist ministers now occupy the two most senior chaplaincy positions in the British Army.

The service was presided over by the Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Methodist Conference, with the Revd Dr Andrew Wood, Head of Ministries, preaching. Music before the service was provided by the Waterloo Band 7 RIFLES, with the Fijian Methodist Fellowship Choir singing during the service.

Revd Mike Parker was born in Cornwall and initially trained as an electrical engineer for the Ministry of Defence. He read Theology at the University of Birmingham and trained for Methodist ministry at Queen's College (now The Queen's Foundation). He worked in the Colchester Methodist Circuit for four years and was commissioned into the Royal Army Chaplains' Department in 2000. Operational service has taken him to Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Revd David Barrett was originally from Blackpool and trained to be a Methodist minister in Bristol before being ordained in 1992. Following church appointments in Kent, he joined the Royal Army Chaplains' Department in 1999 and served as a regimental chaplain in both the United Kingdom and Germany, before becoming a Senior Chaplain in 2010. More recently, David was Assistant Chaplain General to the 1st (United Kingdom) Division in York. During his time in the Army he has deployed on operations to the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Chaplain General, Revd Mike Parker, commented, "I am delighted to have been welcomed to my new position and there was a real sense of celebration and blessing at the service.

“As chaplains, we have time for people and to care for them. That's what we do in a non-judgmental way. We celebrate with them. We listen to them when they're having problems. We are there for them in all of the challenges that they might face, whether on operations, serving at home or during times of separation from their families.”

Deputy Chaplain General, Revd David Barrett, commented, “It is an honour to be the Deputy Chaplain General. My role will be to support our chaplains in the work that they're doing in frontline ministry.

“It's been a great journey. I was a Methodist circuit minister working in Kent when I felt a call to come into the Army and I've had a succession of fantastic postings along the way, eventually arriving in Army Headquarters.”

The Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Methodist Conference, commented, “I was delighted to preside over this service of celebration and commitment, particularly on this occasion, when both the new Chaplain General and the Deputy Chaplain General are Methodists being welcomed to their positions.

“There is a strong link between military chaplaincy and Methodism. As a denomination, we are privileged to have a presence in the armed forces and indeed in other parts of the nation's life as chaplains.”

20 JUNE 2022

Congratulations to Ben and Jason!

One of the first-ever same-sex marriages within a Methodist Church took place at Fulwood Methodist Church, Preston on Friday 17th June.

The Methodist Church is the largest denomination in the UK to conduct same-sex marriages following a decision taken by the Methodist Conference last year, this vote allowed ministers and churches to undertake same-sex marriages if they wish.

Ben, 30, is an accountant and Jason, 29, is training for ministry within the Methodist Church. The pair, who grew up in Preston, currently live in Birmingham where Jason is completing his training at The Queen's Foundation.

Jason and Ben McMahon-Riley, previously Jason McMahon and Ben Riley, were married in a service led by three ministers who have been significant in their lives locally - Revd Andrew Webb is performing the marriage, Revd Barbara Pettitt is presiding at Holy Communion, and the minister at Fulwood Methodist Church, Revd Jane Wild, is welcoming, blessing and signing the registers.



Jason commented, “This day has meant so much to me. After such a long journey alongside the Methodist Church, this means everything. To be able to marry Ben, the love of my life, in front of those who matter the most to me, in church, has been amazing.

“I really believe that this day means the start of something new for my relationship with the whole Church - being recognised and affirmed in my wholeness. This day has been the best of my life, and I can't wait to share the rest of it with Ben as my husband!”

Ben said, “This is a day that I have been waiting so long for, to be able to celebrate my love for Jason and the relationship we share in such a public manner and to be able to show to the wider world the importance of that love being recognised. Most of all, I can now call Jason my husband and all that it means to me.”

Revd Paul Davis, chair of the Lancashire Methodist District, commented, “I am delighted that Jason and Ben were finally able to celebrate their wedding together. It has been a long journey for the Methodist Church and for Ben and

Jason who have waited for this day. My prayers and wishes are with them for their life together.”

The minister at Fulwood Methodist Church, the Revd Jane Wild, commented, “We are delighted to be part of this celebration of Jason and Ben’s love for each other and that it is a first for our church.”

Ben proposed to Jason in Lytham St Annes in September 2019 but the couple decided to wait for the Methodist Church vote on same-sex marriage so they could get married in a Methodist Church, having been lifelong Christians and members of the Church for many years.

Jason explained that their marriage had been a long journey for them both. “During all the discussions and consultations, we have had the stigma of being a committed same-sex couple who lived together. There have been occasions on this journey that have been upsetting and painful; but there have also been times of genuine love, compassion and grace. To keep sharing the love that we have for each other. The love that God has given us to share.

“We have waited over a decade to be able to marry in a Methodist Church. Many years ago, we took the decision to wait for the outcome of the discussions that were taking place in the Church. It was because we longed so deeply to be married in the Methodist Church that we took the painful decision to wait.

“COVID-19 added another year to the process but last June, when we watched the final vote take place on live stream, we couldn’t hold back our emotions. For me, it was like a great release of all the tension, fear, hurt and discrimination I had felt and experienced.”

21 JUNE 2022

The 2022 Methodist Conference

The Methodist Conference returns for the first wholly in-person event since 2019. This year it takes place in Telford between June 24th and 30th.

The Representative Session will open on Saturday with the induction of the President, the Revd Graham Thompson and the Vice President, Anthony Boateng who will serve in these roles for the next year.

During the Sunday morning service 22 ordinands will be received into Full Connexion, with their ordinations taking place across four locations in the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District in the afternoon.

Topics that will be discussed this year include Oversight and Trusteeship, an update on the Justice, Dignity and Solidarity strategy and exploring a Theology of Online life. Action for Hope, the plan to implement an aspirational target to become a net zero Church by 2030, will be shared with the Conference and will outline eight aims to focus on in the coming years. Conference representatives will also hear a presentation by the newly-installed Chaplain-General and Deputy Chaplain-General of the British Army who are both Methodist ministers.

A service of repentance and commitment is to be shared during worship on the Wednesday. It has been developed in response to last year's Conference adopting the Justice, Dignity and Solidarity strategy and a Notice of Motion which offered an unreserved apology to those who have suffered abuse and victimisation. The apology is not offered to any single group or characteristic, but is recognition that the Church has caused harm to many groups and people. It will be offered to Methodist districts and circuits to be used at Synods during the latter part of 2022.

Representatives will also be able to take part in a wide range of fringe events. The Beckly Lecture 'Britain Global Power or Good Neighbour' will be delivered by the Rt Hon Lord Paul Boateng. The Conference will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Methodist Insurance.

25 JUNE 2022

President and Vice-President elected and inducted for 2022/2023

The Revd Canon Graham Thompson has been elected and inducted as President of the Methodist Conference. The induction took place on Saturday 25 June at the Telford International Centre, during the Methodist Conference which is taking place in person this year following two years where it has met online or in hybrid form.

Graham Thompson has been a Methodist minister for over 35 years, beginning

his ordained ministry in Bristol. He has been Chair of the East Anglia District and most recently of the Plymouth and Exeter District. Connexional responsibilities during his ministry have included as a Trustee of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust, a member of the Stationing Committee and meetings of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.

A promoter of ecumenism, Graham Thompson is an Ecumenical Canon of Exeter Cathedral and has been Chair of Churches Together in Devon. While Chair of the East Anglia District, Mr Thompson was Ecumenical Canon of Norwich Cathedral.

In his Conference address Mr Thompson reflected on his theme for the year, calling on all Methodists to love our neighbours. He said:

“And who is my neighbour? We know that Jesus told a story about a good Samaritan in response to this question. In 2022...we should reference the person without a home, the person who has been on an NHS waiting list for too long, the person seeking a new life as they flee from warfare, violence or economic uncertainty. Our neighbours are those who are struggling with long Covid or who remain fearful of Coronavirus. Those whose island nations are threatened by the effects of climate change on sea temperatures and rising waters. Those who do not have enough to eat because we eat too much and participate in an economy that sells food to the highest bidder.

“It is people such as these who are our neighbours because it is our lifestyles and the choices we make that have an effect on those who are as loved by God as we are. For we are all equal under God - if only we were in reality.”

The Vice-president, Anthony Boateng, was also elected and inducted today. Anthony Boateng is a Local Preacher in the Westminster Circuit, with a passion for social action, politics, church unity, spiritual revival and creative ways of worship. He is the Convenor of the London District Social Responsibility Commission and has been a member of the Conference since 2014. Anthony was as recently as last year a member of the Church Action for Tax Justice Management Committee and Methodist Central Hall Westminster Leadership Team. In his day job, Anthony works for a government Work and Health programme which seeks to help central London residents who are unemployed, as well as people with health conditions, into sustainable work.

In his address to the Conference entitled ‘Revival: The Methodist Dream’, Mr Boateng called for a revival and wrote an imaginary letter to that section of

the great cloud of witnesses who are our spiritual forebears in the Lord: “Dear Forebears, I am deeply grieved to report our decline. I confess, at times, we have been guilty of squandering our inheritance. I am sorry. Susanna, we desire a return to the intimate devotion to the Lord which you knew in your Epworth home. John and Charles, we need an abundance effusion of the Holy Spirit just as you received in your own day. Hugh and William, we long to see again a move of the Holy Spirit as you saw on Mow Cop. We need all the inspiration you can offer to slow the curve of decline.” “Now is the time to strive to rekindle and revive the Wesleyan fire in our everyday lives.”

“Friends, through unity, guided by the Holy Spirit, let us embrace those who feel marginalized and voiceless within our church, challenge the status quo, and act as an agent of change. Let us remind ourselves of the benchmark Christ has set for all society, because God is Lord of every society and nation. This means no one is inferior and there should be equality in opportunity and treatment for all.”

Mr Boateng said there are signs of renewal in the Church, recalling a recent visit to the inauguration of the first Ghanaian Methodist Church in the UK, commenting “I will do everything in my power to encourage initiatives such as this across the whole church and I urge you all to do the same.”

The role of President of the Methodist Conference is reserved for presbyters and that of Vice-President for lay people or deacons. During his lifetime John Wesley chaired the Methodist Conference but after his death the Conference determined to elect a President annually.

29 JUNE 2022

New President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference elected for 2023/24

The Methodist Conference has elected the Revd Gill Newton to serve as President and Deacon Kerry Scarlett to serve as Vice-President, starting their year of office when the Representative Session of the Methodist Conference opens in Birmingham in June 2023.

The Revd Gill Newton is a life-long Methodist, raised in Cornwall, with experience of circuit ministry and has served as the Sheffield District Chair

since 2014.

Following the announcement of the election results, the Revd Gill Newton said: “I am both humbled and honoured to have been entrusted with this role by the members of the Methodist Conference. With God’s help and together with the Vice President Designate, Deacon Kerry Scarlett, I look forward to the opportunities we will have to encourage, inspire and challenge the Methodist people during our year of office.”



Gill Newton chairs the Ministries Committee overseeing the development of the church’s ministry in many varied contexts. She also serves on the Strategy and Resources Committee and on the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes Board and has previously chaired the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee and served as Chair of the Chairs.

Deacon Kerry Scarlett, from the Birmingham District, has a passion for justice and seeks to enable and amplify the voices of others. Kerry founded ADAVU, an anti-trafficking charity and participated in regional network and anti-trafficking campaigns.

Speaking following the election, Kerry Scarlett said: “It is an honour and a privilege to have been elected Vice-President Designate. I am very much looking forward to working with Gill Newton, and am very grateful for the opportunity to serve the Methodist Church in this way.”



Kerry has served the church in a number of ways including theological education, the Learning Network, a variety of committees including the Candidates Committee and has contributed to and facilitated complex reviews.

The role of President of the Methodist Conference is reserved for presbyters and that of Vice-President for lay people or deacons.

29 JUNE 2022

Methodist Conference votes to simplify process for those considering ministry

The Methodist Conference has voted in favour of a new plan to make the process for those seeking leadership and ordained ministry more accessible.

The new 10-month Connexional Exploration programme will be open for registration in May 2023 and will open to anyone who is baptised and has been in active membership of the Methodist Church for at least one year.

There will be 3 stages to the process in order to enable people to explore vocation and church leadership in the widest possible sense. Phase 1 will enable the participant to Explore – asking which of a number of paths God might be calling them to follow. They will do this alongside an accompanist who will be there for support throughout the process. Accompanists will be recruited from a wide range of experienced people and will be there to advise, support, guide and reflect.

For those who then feel called to test a call to ordained ministry, Phase 2 Discover will include a period of reflection at a retreat; finally in Phase 3, the candidate will submit a portfolio and attend a selection conference.

The new system will work to make the candidating process culturally sensitive and affirming, ensuring fairness to all candidates. The system will have built into it sensitivity and awareness in relation to issues of race, gender, disability and sexuality, as well as learning styles and medical issues.

The new system is designed to ensure careful and sensitive decision-making. There will be more time with each candidate at the selection conference which will allow for deeper engagement with a person's journey and heritage enabling better discernment.

The Ministerial Co-ordinator for Oversight of Ordained Ministries, the Revd Dr Claire Potter says: "The Methodist Conference has taken a significant step in adopting this new process by which people will discern God's vocation. It allows each individual to navigate that journey with an accompanist and means the focus and feel of the process will be on hearing God's call and responding to it, rather than regarding candidating as a series of boxes to be ticked or

barriers to overcome. We anticipate that this will enable many more people and a wider diversity of people to respond to God's call into a wide range of ministries, some of which will be ordained."

The system for candidates to explore their sense of call to ordained ministry in the Methodist Church and for the church to test that call has been in place since Union in 1932.

Currently, to candidate for presbyteral ministry a person must be baptised, a member in good standing for three years and a local preacher. To candidate for diaconal ministry a person must be baptised, a member in good standing for three years and a Worship Leader. Evidence suggests that changing these conditions may enable more to explore their sense of call to ordained ministry.

29 JUNE 2022

Act of Repentance at Methodist Conference

On Wednesday 29th June, an Act of Repentance was held at this year's Methodist Conference, currently taking place in Telford.

The service was a response to last year's adoption of the Justice, Dignity and Solidarity strategy by the Conference and a Notice of Motion which offered 'an unreserved apology' to those current and former Church members, ministers and others who have suffered abuse and victimisation at the hand of the Church.

The Act of Repentance took place during the morning service of Holy Communion at the Conference. The liturgy will be offered to Methodist districts and circuits for use at their Synods during the latter part of 2022.

At the end of the service the congregation were asked to stand and share in a communal act of commitment to "do better", reflecting on Micah, 6.8 -

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly with your God.

**We commit ourselves by your grace
and in the power of your Holy Spirit
to act justly
to love mercy
and to walk humbly with you.**

The Revd Michaela Youngson, Assistant Secretary of the Methodist Conference, commented; “At the Conference of 2021 we committed ourselves to celebrate God who made each person in God’s own image; to being disciples of Jesus who treat each person with dignity and to rejoice in the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to all people.

“We know that as a Church and as individual disciples of Jesus, we have failed to love as we should love and that people have been hurt by our actions and inactions. The Act of Repentance is a public acknowledgment of these failings and asks God to help us to become the loving, inclusive Church that we aspire to be.”

Bevan Powell, Equalities and Diversity Adviser for the Church, commented, “This Act of Repentance is led by our theology, we are not responding to any legal or political pressure. The Church is on a journey and now the strategy has reached the implementation stage, this service, with its Act of Commitment, is a foundation to help us consolidate and build upon the issues to be addressed.”

“This is about our fullness in Christ as human beings, made in the image of God and recognition that we have caused harm in the past with our prejudices, whatever they may be, and that we are committed, under God, to do better.”

The President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Graham Thompson, commented; “This was a seminal moment during this year's Conference, as we strive further with the good work we’ve already undertaken to be an inclusive Church.”

Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, Anthony Boateng, said; “We recognise our past failings and the hurt we have caused and trust that the words and actions, during and after the Conference, will begin to make up for some of the injustices that our Church has inflicted on God's people.”

The service will be made available on the Methodist Church website later this year.

29 JUNE 2022

The Methodist Children and Youth Assembly 2021, Conference Report

The Methodist Youth President, Daud Irfan, has presented his report to the Methodist Conference sharing an enthusiastic response for the return of the Methodist Children and Youth Assembly, 3Generate, and a successful first year at its new venue, the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. Following Covid, significant work was undertaken to build confidence in attendance, with 750 young people participating, supported by 250 leaders.

Three halls within the NEC Birmingham were dedicated to 3Generate. Venues inside included an arts centre, chapel, a health and wellbeing centre, theatre and town hall for conversations and debate. A rolling, inclusive programme of activities took place throughout the weekend. Tents were provided inside one of the halls for those who stayed overnight. For the first time, a new one-day programme was run for 4 to 7 year olds who attended with parents or guardians.

The theme for 3Generate 2021 was “In Tune”; focusing on how children and young people can connect with God and look and listen to God’s voice in their lives. This was the first year that covenants featured at 3Generate, with children and young people taking accountability to build their personal relationship with God. Covenants made at 3Generate included; ‘I promise to treat others the way I want to be treated’, ‘to speak out about the injustice I see’ and to ‘continue to serve God all my life’. Churches, circuits, and districts are encouraged to engage with children and young people to support them in living out their covenants.

Feedback from leaders revealed the joy at the return of 3Generate after two years’ hiatus with delight at “being able to join together in one place after such a difficult period.”

Presenting the report to the Methodist Conference Youth President, Daud Irfan, commented; “3Generate is an amazing experience for all those who attend. The wide range of participants and volunteers involved celebrated the intergenerational life of the church, creating an engaging event for young people from all diversities of life.

“Leading 3Generate 2021 as Methodist Youth President was a huge honour”, Daud continued. “I can proudly say that it was a special and cherished time that I will always remember. I have heard praise and received brilliant feedback in relation to how 3Generate plays a huge part in listening to the voices of children and young people by enabling their voices to be heard throughout the wider Methodist Church in an intergenerational context.”

Daud’s speech also highlighted his work as Methodist Youth President. “I have been able to follow up on our covenants through district visits, whether it be online or in person. And I have represented the Church in various events and meetings with government bodies and our ecumenical partners both here and overseas.

After his speech Daud said, “I want to take this opportunity to thank my minister, Revd Alexis Mahoney, superintendent, Revd Cathy Gale, Revd Irfan Martin John, my father and chair Revd Dr. Stephen Wigley, for their support, not just during this past year but their continuous love and kindness towards me and my family which has enabled me to thrive in this position.”

3Generate 2022 will be held at The NEC in Birmingham from Friday 30 September to Saturday 2 October. Tickets are on sale until the 31 July.



CHURCH NEWS

A date for your diary!

July 31st will be the final service to be taken by our minister Rev. Krystyna Kwarciak before she moves on to pastures new. Krystyna has been with us for five years, having joined us from her church ministry in Central Europe. We hope that as many of you who are able will join us at the service to thank her for all the work she has done here at Withington in providing the church with a fresh vision for the challenges that lie ahead and to wish her well as she prepares to take up her new post.

Brass Band

Over the weekend of 17-19 June our church hosted a gathering of almost 20 youngsters and their instruments - members of the National Methodist Youth Brass Band. They had been invited to an anniversary celebration of 150 years of Methodist Insurance which took place in Methodist Central Hall on the Friday evening, so wanted to use the opportunity to stay in Manchester to have a weekend of playing together and performing in a concert for us.

And what a weekend it was! Sleeping bags (and de luxe inflatable mattresses) in the Activity room, upstairs hall and quiet room, instrument cases and music stands strewn around, those youngsters who did not venture into Manchester on their free Saturday afternoon busy with homework or University assignments at tables in the hall, and SO much food prepared by our church members and others in Droylsden and Whalley Range churches and consumed in vast quantities by the musicians. (2 breakfasts, 2 suppers, 2 lunches and a tea plus interval refreshments during the concert).

The Saturday evening concert was performed in front of a full audience and enthusiastically received. . Each item was introduced by a different band member and the repertoire was very mixed, ranging from some traditional hymn settings to music from Musicals.

One member of the band first visited our church aged about 3...Hope Wild!

It was only when I asked her name that I understood why Jane had texted me asking for tickets to the concert, and it was lovely to see them and Verity again.

Despite some building hiccups on the Sunday morning which meant our worship time was organisationally rather challenging, Krystyna and the band chaplain led us in lovely service in the upstairs hall which included Holy Communion and contributions of music and testimonies from band members.

A collection was taken at the end for donations to the work of Head Forward, who rent rooms at the back of our building. We are hoping to offer them £150 and are very grateful for the generous offerings.

The weekend could not have been the success it was without the tremendous hard work of a small team of helpers - cookis, bakers, furniture movers, door stewards and, not least, washer uppers.... Should we re-energise for another event (we've done 2 in June!) we could always welcome extra help.



Join the Book Club this Month

The Book Club is meeting on Thursday 14th July, 7.30pm, to discuss "The English Patient" by Michael Ondaatje. All are welcome!

CAN YOU HELP OUR COMMUNITY?

Withington and Fallowfield Food Bank

Over the past 4 years I have been volunteering with the Withington and Fallowfield foodbank. At a recent morning service led by Krystyna, following her theme of stewardship, a discussion took place amongst the congregation as to how we could help those in need. It was decided that each week I would suggest a single item of food which I knew the venue for my foodbank (St Cuthbert's Church) was short of and members would bring an offering the following week. We have collected soup, tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned vegetables and tinned tomatoes over this period and everyone present has been incredibly generous. There has been a surge of demand in our business recently and all 4 distribution centres have diminishing stocks.

If anyone who is not able to get to morning wordship but would like to contribute to the foodbank, please get in touch with me and I can arrange a collection. I can let anyone know the items that we stock - we use a menu supplied by the Trussell Trust.



Many Thanks,

Heather

Tools with a Mission

Thanks to the generosity of donors throughout the circuit we have a a very pleasing amount of items for this charity which we have been supporting since Lent. We will be contacting the van drivers to arrange a collection date from our store at WMC but as it could take a while for them to plan their pick up route we are very happy to continue to receive more if anyone is having a summer clearout - just let me know and I can discuss a suitable collection/delivery time.

Builders'/Carpenters'/ Electricians'/ Motor mechanics'/ Plumbers' tools e.g. spades, shovels hammers, tape measures, hacksaws, braces, clamps, stanley knives, saws, screwdrivers, Allen keys, drills, spanners, toolboxes, wrenches.

Power tools e.g. sander, planer, jigsaw, lathe

Haberdashery/Sewing/Knitting e.g. sewing and knitting machines of all kinds, wool, needles, patterns, cottons, zips, tapes, buttons, large material pieces

Working IT equipment e.g. computers, laptops (at least Windows 7), tablets

Bibles in modern English

Equipment can be refurbished but not mended if broken

Thank you again for all your kind donations

Heather (07773 015 882)

TWAM

Tools with a Mission

NEWS FROM WITHINGTON METHODIST AGM

The Annual Church Meeting (or AGM) was held after the morning service on Sunday 26th June. There were only 11 people present.

John Shuttleworth presented a written report on behalf of the Church Stewards. Jenny Went spoke for the Pastoral Committee. Edited versions of these two reports are also included in this magazine.

Papa Andoh-Kweku and Don Taylor reported on the state of our finances. The good news is that we received almost £10,000 more in income in 2020/21 than we spent. We expect soon to receive more than £25,000 after settlement of the right to light issue. But we still owe £55,000 to the Manchester Circuit in the 'assessments' that pay for our ministers and other shared costs.

The Church Stewards and members of the Pastoral Committee were re-appointed for the coming year. Representatives of the congregation were elected to Church Council and various office-holders were appointed. Thanks were expressed to Don Taylor as he steps down as Church Council Secretary and to Nick Palfreyman for agreeing to take on this role with support from other leaders.



Report from the Church Stewards

John Shuttleworth submitted a written report on behalf of the Church Stewards, as follows: We have a team of four "full-time" stewards, with occasional help from one further member of the congregation. Of our "full-time" stewards, one is our regular piano player at Morning Worship. We were very sorry to lose Kathleen McMorran earlier in the year. Kathleen had been a much-valued and much-loved member of the stewards' team and we will miss not only her contribution to the team but her unfailing good cheer. We have managed to hold services every Sunday morning in the

flexible Area 3 at the rear of the building which provides a friendly and intimate atmosphere for worship and obviates the need for door stewards, though there are, as ever, those who find it difficult to arrive for the start of worship. The number of regular attendees at present (c. 20 – 25) precludes a return to the upstairs worship area as yet. There is a “core” of faithful congregants and we have been pleased to welcome a number of new worshippers to our morning services from time to time. There have been Local Arrangement services each quarter which the stewards have to organise and we are very grateful to Rev. Peter Went for leading the majority of these. We have also held the full quota of “special” services celebrating important events in the Christian year, including Carol and Christmas, Easter and Harvest services. The re-introduction of the serving of refreshments after worship has been welcomed and a well-appreciated team of volunteers has enabled this to continue without interruption.

Report from the Pastoral Committee

Jenny Went reported orally on behalf of the Pastoral Committee, as follows: The pastoral Care Group met on Tuesday 21st June via Zoom, so those who gathered were at least able to see each other’s faces! We were reminded that the current membership list is divided into groups for the distribution of Membership Tickets, not for class meeting groups. Whilst our current weekly attendance is around 20/25 we were pleased to note that recently there have been many new people joining us for worship on Sunday mornings. These people are so welcome, we trust that they feel comfortable with us and will stay in our fellowship. Currently there are 51 actual members, 10 children and young people, 23+ friends and adherents and 3 supernumerary ministers all connected to us. Sadly, we no longer have Junior Church provision. This would need at least two adults to be out with the youngsters each week. We are delighted that there have been young people with us on many occasions recently. The meeting noted that even though ‘all age worship’ is planned, that didn’t appear to impact on the number of young people present for worship.

THANK YOU FOR READING!

VIRTUAL REALITY



PASSING THE
COLLECTION PLATE



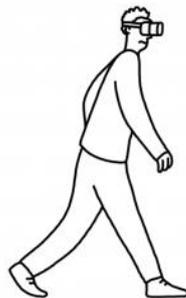
ARRANGING THE FLOWERS



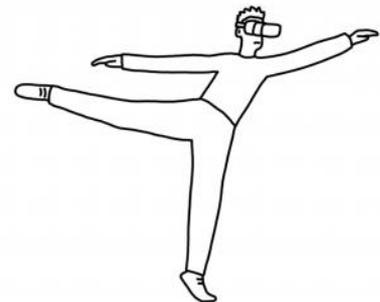
SHARING THE PEACE



PREACHING A SERMON



ARRIVING A BIT LATE



PERFORMING A
LITURGICAL DANCE

CartoonChurch.com

The next magazine will be out on the 31st July 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

If you would like to receive an emailed copy of the magazine please email - 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)

