



Thank you all for your contributions which are helping to 'shape' the new London District. A special thanks to many who are helping with the arrangements for the launch! Thanks to all the circuits for your contributions which include; entries for the song competition, stories, publicity, distributing tickets, volunteering for the mass choir the list is endless! *Thank you!*

While many preparations for the District are well under way, this is but the beginning! From September we'll continue to write the next chapter together.

Meanwhile we invite you to pray for the ministry and mission of the new London District which will comprise 45 Circuits; some 260 churches and 22, 000 members – especially for all the preparations involved in the launch day and for those newly appointed to district offices.

Prayer

God of new beginnings,
we thank you for the dreams and visions
which have led to the creation of our new District;
we thank you for the great diversity of people
and the rich variety of gifts
with which you have blessed us:

As we seek to be good news
In our local communities and this global City;
May the grace of your Son inspire us;
the wisdom of your Spirit teach us;
and the strength of your presence sustain us,
We ask this for your glory's sake. Amen.

*London District Resource Centre, 1 Central Buildings,
Westminster, London, SW1H 9NH*

Telephone: 020 7654 3850

Emails: Chairs: chairs@methodistlondon.org.uk

District Administrator, Nwabisa Ewing: admin@methodistlondon.org.uk

*Welcome!
Chairs' Letter*

London is different! Everyone who lives or works in London recognises that. Now the Methodist Church in London is seeking to respond more creatively to the challenges and opportunities that arise in this unique city.

For the past five years, different groups have been working steadily to prepare for a new Methodist District in London, and on 2nd September 2006, the new District will be inaugurated.

The Methodist Church in London is like a wonderful woven tapestry, with colours and pictures, light and shade, energy and stillness brought together in a stunning display to which every member contributes: your gifts and experience are valued. We hope that you will feel that this is truly *your* District and that you will be able to see that the work and worship that you are involved in locally is part of a much bigger picture.

We are at the beginning of a new era for Methodism in London. At the inauguration of the new District, we will hear some of the stories that are part of our Methodist history and heritage, but more importantly, we are to invite one another to commit ourselves to continuing ministry and mission as we write the next chapter of our story.

We are looking forward with real expectancy and hope to the life of the new District. We long to see throughout the District, the releasing and sharing of the gifts and treasures that God has entrusted to *'every member'* for the enrichment of the whole Body of Christ.

Welcome to the London Methodist District!

Jordan
Ermal Kirby Jenny Impey Stuart

The Launch
Saturday 2nd September 2006 - Methodist Central Hall Westminster

We intend to launch the new district in style and hope that as many of you as possible will join with us for all or part of the day. The venue can only hold around 2,000 people and so we are planning 3 different events, together with a resource exhibition (including stalls with free information, books, crafts etc for sale) throughout the day. Please note that you will need a ticket if you are planning to come to the service or celebration.

The Synod 10.30am – 12.30pm

Intro to the work of the District Commissions; Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr Joel Edwards (General Director of the Evangelical Alliance); Appointments and other Synod Business. *Any member of the district who wishes to share in this event is welcome to come along and sit in the balcony.*

A Service of welcome to the Chairs and inauguration of the District 2.30pm.

Service conducted by the President, Vice-President and Secretary of the Conference with members of the District Council; Preacher, the Rev. Ermal Kirby; Massed district choir - Musical director, Paul Leddington Wright (Songs of Praise). The stories which have been gathered from around the circuits will be bound together as we begin a new chapter. *Contact your circuit steward to find out who is allocating tickets in your circuit.*

A Celebration of the District. 7pm

Hosted by Diane Louise Jordan and featuring Jazz Group, “*Still Time*”; also, the Ghanaian Fellowship Choir, a Korean Dance group, a youth Gospel choir; winning entry in the song competition will be performed for the first time. In between we’ll hear stories of what is happening around the District and there will be a chance for the audience to exercise its voice as well! *Entrance by free ticket, available from the District Administrator (send a stamped addressed envelope see back of newsletter for contact details)*

Refreshments can be purchased during the day from various points around the hall and the cafeteria will be open from 10am to 4pm. For those staying for the whole day, or wanting to make a special event of the afternoon or evening, there will be a two course meal and drink available in the restaurant at a cost of £12.75 per head.

This, however, will need to be booked by Friday 24th August with the District Administrator (all cheques should be made payable to London Methodist District).

News Update on District Plans

Convenors of Commissions

Most of the work of the District will be coordinated through the following 5 commissions:

1. **Civic Engagement:** Convenors – Jennifer Potter & Hannah Reed -
Members including: Council rep. Gerry Davis - Link Chair. Ermal Kirby
2. **Congregational Development:** Convenors – Sylvester Deigh
& Claire Taylor – Members including: Council rep. Henry Yentumi–
Link Chair. Jenny Impey
3. **Nurture & Discipleship:** Convenors – Mark Wakelin & Judith May-Parker –
Members including: Council rep. Janet Butler - Link Chair. Jenny Impey
4. **Social Care:** Convenors – Sheryl Anderson & Paul Regan -
Members including: Council rep. Ernell Watson – Link Chair. Stuart Jordan
5. **Vocational Development:** Convenors – Angela Shier-Jones & Calvin Samuel -
Members including: Council rep. Emma Aikins – Link Chair. Ermal Kirby

District Officers who are members of the Council

Chairs	Ermal Kirby, Jenny Impey & Stuart Jordan
Synod Sec	Bala Gnanapragasam
Treasurer	Michael Allan
Training & Development Officer	Paul Kybird
District Council Sec	Kathleen Wood

Other District Council members

Emma Aikins , Caroline Aro, Janet Butler, Geoff Cornell, Gerry Davis, Valentin Dedji , Rachel Deigh, Stella Holland, Yvonne Neblett, Billy Pang Ernell Watson, Michael Williams, Henry Yentumi

Other District Officers

Ministerial Synod Russell Bates
District Property Sec David Holland

Various other appointments will be confirmed at the first Synod