



6 April 2011

Dear colleagues

**London District Service of Celebration
and
Launch of the London District MEDAL 2012 initiative
(Methodists Energising Disciples as Leaders)**

**With the President and Vice President of the Conference
6.30pm 22nd May 2011 at Wesley's Chapel**

I would like to invite you and members of your congregation to this year's District Service at 6.30pm on Aldersgate Sunday, 22nd May 2011. The District Service has often been the occasion where the Ordinands have given testimony to their call. However this year there are no Ordinands and so we are using the opportunity of the visit of the President and Vice President of the Conference to recognise and celebrate the saints of God, those faithful members of our congregations who exercise discipleship, leadership and voluntary lay ministry in their many and varied ways week in and week out in our churches and circuits.

I know that although the service was advertised in the District Directory a number of churches and circuits have arranged their own services on this evening or are participating in ecumenical services. **We are not looking for you to cancel those but would encourage you to think of 2 or 3 people from each of your churches to whom you might give a personal invitation to come along so that their service to the church can be recognised and honoured as part of that service.** You may think of long serving members who are always noticed and celebrated, or faithful members whose service is never noticed or maybe someone who has just started to offer their gifts in the life of the church and you want to encourage. Hopefully among those you think of will be people who can get back to their local church and share news of the service and the District initiative that will be launched at the service. Please don't forget the current and potential leaders from the younger generations!

We are hoping that Wesley's Chapel will be full. The Ghanaian, Chinese and Korean Fellowship choirs have confirmed their participation as has the Wandle Valley Circuit and Shern Hall Methodist Church Youth Steel Band. Applecourt will be performing and the President and Vice-President of

the Methodist Conference will be sharing in this service. There will be music from 6pm and we will ensure that the service finishes before 8pm.

The service will be the official launch of “MEDAL 2012” (Methodists Energising Disciples as Leaders) which is a programme designed to inspire new leaders and support local churches and circuits in discovering and developing new leadership, which many circuits are saying they need.

Leadership provided by lay people is an integral part of the life and service of the church and has been a part of the Methodist story from the very beginning. The Connexion is emphasising discipleship and reminding us of our roots as a disciple-making movement. Within the District through this new initiative we want to work with you to develop foundations for future leadership and to enable gifts and resources to be discovered and used. We want to help you discover, equip, energise and resource disciples as leaders, having listened to the difficulties that circuits are describing about finding people to respond to the call to leadership.

Please publicise the service in your churches, encourage others to come along and if possible come and be part of this celebration yourself. In addition I would invite you to pray for the Service and the developing plans for the programme.

We'll talk more about the programme at the service and circulate further information immediately following that event. In the meantime if you have any questions or want to offer any reflections about the development of lay leadership within the churches and circuits of the District or the obstacles to it, please don't hesitate to email us on MEDAL2012@methodistlondon.org.uk after 9th April. It won't be possible to respond personally to comments about the development of leadership but they will all be shared with the task group as we develop the programme and we'll seek to respond to any questions following the Synod.

All good wishes.

Yours sincerely

Jenny Impey
Chair London District Methodist Church