



Report of the Representative Session of the London District Synod held on 9th April 2011

London District Spring Representative was held in the newly decorated Westminster Central Hall, with its new state of the art AV system, newly painted dome and superb work on the organ. The theme of the Synod was '**Renewing the vision and writing new chapters**', this emerged from the work of the District Council following the District Review conducted by independent consultants in June 2010.

Welcomes

Edward Nkwelle, the newly appointed District's Youth Development Officer was formally welcomed at the beginning of Synod. Edward has made available to Synod via circuit baskets a brief outline of the areas of work he will be undertaking for the District. If you would like an electronic copy of this and indeed would like to get in touch with Edward you can e-mail him on Edward@methodistlondon.org.uk.

Synod also welcomed and heard briefly from Thomas and Berenice the two 2010 District Youth Assembly reps. They talked about how much they have enjoyed attending the assembly and how much they learned about the Methodist Church and thanked Synod for giving them the opportunity to go to the assembly.

District Review

A significant part of Synod business was given to the ongoing work of the District Council in addressing the Recommendations coming out of the last year's District Review. Revd Jenny Impey, Revd Cathy Bird and Mr Martin Harker each gave a presentation on the renewed vision, the leadership and the commissions, respectively and Martin also gave a brief update on the progress made in addressing the rest of the recommendations. Synod responded to the presentation of the renewed vision with comments, questions and suggestions and agreed to adopt the vision after adding to the ways of working a specific reference to engaging with the civic and political leadership.

The Synod agreed that there should continue to be 3 Chairs of District, working collaboratively but that each should relate pastorally to a number of circuits within the District in addition to having a defined portfolio of work over the whole District, dividing up the different strands of organisational responsibilities between them. Recognising the reality of how the Chairs exercise their joint leadership of the District, the Synod affirmed that model of collaborative leadership with 3 equal but distinctive District Chairs and agreed that it wished for each of them to act and be known as simply a 'Chair' with none being either a 'co-Chair' or a 'Lead-Chair' and passed a resolution asking the Methodist Conference to agree changes to Standing Orders and the Deed of Union which would make this possible.

Synod noted that from September 2011 there will be 3 Commissions within the District:

- Social Responsibility Commission
- Discipleship and Congregational Development Commission
- Authorised Ministries Commission

Re-invitations of Chairs

An overwhelming favourable vote was passed by Synod on the re-invitation of Chairs, Revd Jenny Impey for a further 5 years and Revd Dr Stuart Jordan for a further 3 years, commencing in September 2012. It was noted that the Rev. Ermal Kirby was not seeking a re-invitation. The Synod appointed a Chairs Nominations

Committee so that the District can work together with the Connexion in the appointment of a 3rd Chair from 1 September 2012 and it is hoped that a name will be brought to the September Synod.

Circuit boundary change

The Synod recommended to the Conference that Norbury Methodist Church moves from the Streatham Circuit to the Croydon Circuit from 1 September 2011.

Marks of Healthy Circuit

Dr Paul Kybird, the District Development Enabler presented a 'discussion starter' paper designed to encourage Circuits to engage in conversation about how they are doing and how they can be better prepared for mission in their local context. The papers set out 7 marks of a healthy circuit – and can be downloaded from [here](#)

Ministry matters

The Synod gave approval to sabbaticals for:

2009-10

- Revd Malcolm White

2010-11

- Revd David Gilman
- Revd Mike Hall

2011-12

- Revd Emma Aikins
- Revd Peter Clark
- Revd Micky Youngson

Deferrals from 2011-12

- Revd Cathy Bird
- Revd Alan Haine

Candidates

13 candidates came before the District Candidates Committee. The committee recommended that the following 8 continue to the Connexional Candidates Committee: Audrey Brown, Jarel Robinson-Brown, Katherine Pickering, Rohan Sahabandu, Melissa Williams, Ros Lund, Tim Nicholls and Vicci Davidson. It was reported that of these 1 had withdrawn prior to the Committee, 5 had been recommended for acceptance by the Committee and 2 offers had been declined. A further report will be made to the Autumn Synod.

Probationers

The Diaconal Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee has recommended that Paul Wayne who is an ordained deacon in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa be Received into Full Connexion this Conference. The Ministerial Synod has recommended that the 6 presbyteral probationers in the District – Rohama Asif, Karen Bell, Jo-Jo Monney, Nicola Morrison, Joseph Ribeiro, and Jason Vineyard continue on probation for a further year.

Presbyters and deacons seeking permission to become supernumeraries

The Ministerial Synod heard and supported requests from 6 presbyters to "sit down" at this Conference: David Ashby, Stanley Barker, John Chambers, Ken Nicholls, Robert Riddell and Alison Tomlin. Deacon Jane Middleton is also seeking the permission of the Conference to become a Supernumerary deacon. They were thanked for their ministry and contribution to the life of the District.

Ministers leaving the District

It was noted that the following ministers would be leaving the District in August: David Ashby, Stanley Barker, Peter Powers, Claudia Lupi, Ken Nicholls, Brian Purchase, Kavula John, Robert Riddell, Andrew Fielding, Susannah Bates, Stephen Mares, Jeanette Richardson, Kevin Taylor. They were thanked for their ministry and contribution to the life of the District.

Olympics

Just before lunch Synod welcomed and heard from Ish Lennox, the Olympics and Paralympics Co-ordinator in the Connexional Team, who informed Synod about the opportunities that the Games will present for our churches. Ish, mentioned three particular areas that the London District has agreed as priorities: 1) Offering home stay for athletes families; 2) Social justice and 3) Prayer. A pack with more information on these and Ish's contact details was made available to Synod via circuit baskets.

Launch of MEDAL 2012

Synod was introduced to a major initiative which seeks to develop lay leadership and discipleship within the London District and which will be launched at a District Service of celebration at Wesley's Chapel at 6.30pm on Sunday 22nd May. Various choirs are lined up, the President and Vice President of Conference will be sharing in the service and we will be looking to celebrate all who offer their gifts within the churches and circuits of the London District. All are welcome –spread the word! Further details and an invitation will be available shortly on the district website under the Spring Synod 2011.

District Report

The Synod received the District Report which outlines the work and activities of a number of bodies within the life of the District. The report can be found [here](#) (warning 4MB) and we hope that you will encourage others to read it and learn what is happening around the District.

Worship

Revd Jen Smith and worship leaders from Enfield led the closing worship of Synod, the focus of which was celebration of the 'Word of God' given to us and the whole world. Prayers were led by Revd Jenny Impey, Scripture was recited by Revd Phil Summers of Applecart and Testimonies were heard from Revd Dr Ebute Obiabo, Revd Geoff Cornell and Revd Hazel You – each of them speaking of the impact of God's word in their lives. The worship culminated in the presentation and dedication of the 'Handwritten Bible' pages being presented by circuits that will be added to those from around the whole Connexion as part of the BibleFresh initiative. Photos will be available shortly on the district website under the Spring Synod 2011.

Please note all the relevant documents mentioned in this report (including this report and other documents) will be made available shortly on the district website on this page

<http://www.methodistlondon.org.uk/synod.htm>