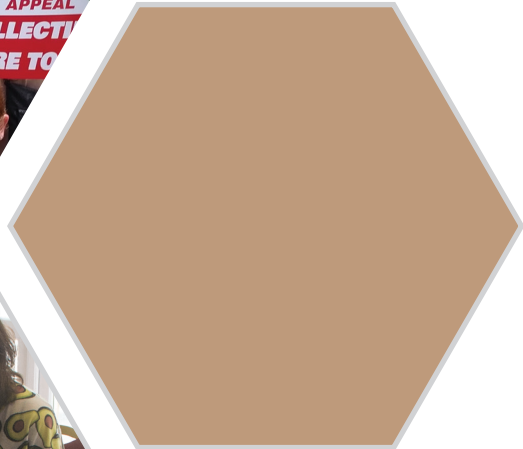


# District Report

2019 – 2020

Connexional Year

LONDON  
DISTRICT  
OF THE  
METHODIST  
CHURCH



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## Introduction

It feels so soon that I have to write another introduction to the District Report. How time flies and how fast-paced our ministry lives have become as we seek to live out '**Our Calling**'. Once again as the London District of the Methodist Church, we have had a fruitful and busy year. The District commissions have continued to fulfil their role of enthusing, encouraging and resourcing committees and circuits to be at the forefront of mission. Circuits have faced up to the challenges of being the ecclesial body, carrying the mission of the church through local congregations, maintaining existing ministry projects and resourcing new circuit missional outreach projects.

As usual, this report fulfils the sharing of various aspects in the life of the District, though not fully exhaustive. We're always mindful of the many volunteers, stewards, lay employees, associate ministers and project managers behind the scenes who are not mentioned. We applaud all those associated with, and serving together in, Methodist congregations within the District. Our thanks and congratulations goes to each one of them for their diligence, commitment and willingness to serve God and His people. Your personal sacrifice and generous gifts in time and resources to further God's work has not gone unnoticed.

As you go through this report, we commend to you the District Theme, '**Woven**' and the various discipleship activities centred around our way of living out the "*Year of Testimony*". Please pay attention to the dates for these events and engagements so that you don't miss out in adding your voice too.

c.f. StF.490:

2. Yours, wholly Yours, we long to be  
our sacrifice receive,  
made, and preserved, and then set free,  
to You ourselves we give.

4. For more we ask; we open then  
our hearts to embrace Your will;  
turn, and revive us, Lord, again,  
with all Your fullness fill.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

We pray that as God seeks to fill us with His goodness, we will be obedient to his will, now and for always and we assure you all of our love and support.

The peace of Christ remain with you always.

***Revd Dr Jongi Zihle, Revd Nigel Cowgill and Revd Michaela Youngson***

*The Chairs of the London District of the Methodist Church*



## District Vision

The London District of the Methodist Church currently comprises some 18,000 members, 211 ministers, 234 churches, 35 Circuits, and their projects together with a number of educational institutions. We are a diverse group of people originating from many different countries and communities who find ourselves worshipping and witnessing together in urban, suburban and more rural areas. We have come together in the belief that we are better together and our intention is to contribute to the well-being of each other, of this global city and the surrounding areas; and of the wider Methodist Church.

As the people, churches and projects of the London District of the Methodist Church, our mission is:

- To share the good news of Jesus Christ throughout Greater London and the surrounding areas, and to improve the well-being of people and their communities

by:

- Engaging pastorally and prophetically with the communities in which our churches are located and with the wider region
- Equipping and developing faithful and fruitful disciples and congregations
- Equipping and developing faithful and fruitful preachers and ordained ministers.

Our ways of working include:

- Engaging in theological reflection and prayerful discernment which will help us to understand our mission more fully
- Building quality relationships across our Circuits, with wider Methodism and with ecumenical, inter faith, and community groups
- Building quality relationships with civic and political authorities in the area covered by the District
- Seeking to communicate effectively and work collaboratively
- Living and working creatively with diversity and difference
- Deploying the resources over which we have stewardship effectively and flexibly
- Developing and sharing best practice

## District Priorities

As adopted by Synod in April 2014.

- To develop lay leadership – in breadth, depth, numbers and confidence
- To ensure that every minister and Local Preacher is engaged in an intentional review and development of their ministry
- To increase participation in social and civic action, by identifying and sharing good practice and promoting networks of practitioners – rooting such engagement in our Methodist identity

These goals by no means exhaust the wider remit of the Commissions and District Officers, or embrace anything like the range of essential activities carried out in the name of the District. They are, however, intended to help focus the major developmental work that is seen to be key to the next phase of the District's life as it seeks to support the ministry and mission of the local churches and Circuits and to engage with the wider context of London as a global city.

## District Theme: Woven



Woven is the London District's Theme for 2019-2021. Woven centers on the power of storytelling to transform and renew us in our life long discipleship as followers of Christ. It is in line with the Presidential theme for 2019/20 "So what's the Story...?" which encourages us to learn from other people's stories and to reflect on our own story.

Sharing of our stories is how we live, laugh, cry and connect authentically with the communities around us and it's how we see depth in our relationships. Through Woven, we will remind ourselves that there is a narrative which God is writing and through His grace we're being woven mercifully into His story.

The vision of Woven is:

- To see increased confidence and ownership of the beautiful weaving of our stories into God's story
- For God's story and our faith journeys to be shared confidently within and beyond, our church walls regularly and more widely

## Achievements

The biennial District Conference, now called the London District Weekend Away, has been scheduled for 10 – 12 July 2020. World class speakers including Professor Anthony Reddie, director of Oxford Centre for Religion and Culture (Oxford University), and Revd Elaine A. Heath, PhD, Co-founder and President for Neighborhood Seminary and former Dean of the Divinity School at Duke University, have been confirmed as keynote speakers. The London District will also be underwriting the majority of the cost of attending, saving attendees at least 60% on the full cost.

Whilst the various activities lined up for Woven do not commence until after this report is published, one of key achievements so far has been building on the success of the previous district theme, *Moving Stories*.

Moving Stories focused on changing the narrative of migration so that it could be viewed and understood as something to be celebrated rather than feared. The project saw over 170 participants from across the District gather at High Leigh Conference Centre for the weekend conference. It has been said that Moving Stories was incredibly timely and appropriate for the London District. Considering the vitriolic narrative surrounding migration, to stand against the tide of much of the media and to choose to celebrate stories of migration rather than perpetuate cycles of misunderstanding, fear and resentment was both bold and prophetic.

A practical recommendation from the evaluation of *Moving Stories* was to involve lay representatives at the planning stage. The London District is pleased to have Evelyn De Graft, Zoe Oppong Anorson and Katherine Oduro as lay members of the planning group. The promotional video for Woven also involved four other lay members from the Croydon Circuit sharing their testimony of how they first met God.



## Ongoing Plans

Other activities and initiatives in the pipeline include:

- 12 part video series profiling faith stories of people in the workplace. The first episode was released on the London District's YouTube channel in January 2020
- Resources for local churches - Advent Course for All Ages and a Bible Study Guide
- Premier Radio Series telling the testimonies of people's encounter of God
- The Story Project Tour – London (Saturday 16th May 2020)
- Pilgrimage to the Holy Land (Tuesday 16th – Tuesday 23rd March 2021)

For more information on Woven, visit [methodistlondon.org.uk/woven](http://methodistlondon.org.uk/woven)

**Fola Oyeleye**

*Project Coordinator*



## District Council

The Council is the London District's policy committee. It seeks to think strategically about the life and mission of the whole District. It co-ordinates the work of the Commissions and is responsible for the continuity of District business between Synods. Its membership comprises representatives of Superintendents, Circuit Stewards and other relevant groups. The seventeen members meet bi-monthly under the leadership of the District Chairs.

### Achievements

In response to the decisions of Conference on the report on marriage and relationships the Council agreed a programme of consultations across the District on the subject and has reviewed the outcomes in preparation for the deliberations at Synod in April.

Council has regularly monitored the finances of the District with the aid of detailed summaries from the Treasurer, George Kulasingham. It has discussed the mechanism for determining Circuit assessments and developed its thinking on the District's budget priorities. Particular attention has been paid to the appropriate disbursement of the funds raised to help the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire.

Council has fulfilled its ongoing role of overseeing the formal consents, authorisations and approvals needed for the District to run smoothly.

### Ongoing Plans

Council also plays an important part in ensuring key appointments in the life of the District are filled and meeting the challenge that vacancies present. Gratitude was expressed to Norma Downer-Powell for her six year service as a representative of the lay leadership in the Northern Circuits of the District and a successor is currently being sought. The vacancy for the secretaryship of Council in September has also been advertised. Careful attention was given to the task of making a recommendation to Synod concerning the re-invitation of one of the District Chairs.

Council is playing a full part in the work of devising and implementing a programme for the new District theme 'Woven' (God's Story and Our Faith Story woven into the fabric of our communities) for connexional years 2019-2021.

**Mr Graham Russell**

*District Council Secretary*

## **Chairs Nomination Committee**

The Chairs Nomination committee was convened in October 2019 and met with Revd Nigel Cowgill to discuss the re-invitation in respect of his current appointment which comes to an end in August 2021.

As a result of these conversations and an extensive consultation within the District and more widely, a recommendation from District Council will be presented to Synod in April 2020.

***Mrs Denise Tomlinson***

*Covenor of the Chairs Nomination Committee*

## Chairs' Responsibilities Sept 2019 – Dec 2019

<b>Revd Nigel Cowgill</b> Discipleship and Congregational Development	35/28	Blackheath & Crystal Palace
	35/42	Bromley
	35/17	Clapham
	35/41	Croydon
	35/30	Lesnes Abbey
	35/06	Lambeth
	35/43	Orpington & Chislehurst
	35/40	Purley
	35/25	Richmond & Hounslow
	35/07	Southwark & Deptford
	35/39	Sutton
	35/03	Westminster
<b>Revd Michaela Youngson</b> Social Responsibility Commission	35/05	Battersea & Wandale Valley
	35/04	Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham
	35/24	Ealing Trinity
	35/13	Harlesden
	35/36	Harrow & Hillingdon
	35/38	Kingston Upon Thames
	35/12	London Mission North West
	35/14	Notting Hill
	35/25	Richmond & Hounslow
	35/37	Teddington
	35/23	Wembley
	35/26	Wimbledon
<b>Revd Dr Jongi Zihle</b> Authorised Ministries Commission	35/31	Barking, Dagenham & Ilford
	35/35	Barnet & Queensbury
	35/01	City Road
	35/34	Enfield
	35/33	Forest
	35/10	Hackney & Stoke Newington
	35/11	Islington & Camden Mission
	35/22	New River
	35/20	Newham
	35/32	Romford
	35/09	Tower Hamlets
	35/02	West London Mission



## Chairs' Responsibilities Jan – Mid April 2020

(During Revd Michaela Youngson's sabbatical)

<b>Revd Nigel Cowgill</b> Discipleship and Congregational Development Social Responsibility Commission	35/28	Blackheath & Crystal Palace
	35/42	Bromley
	35/04	Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham
	35/17	Clapham
	35/41	Croydon
	35/24	Ealing Trinity
	35/36	Harrow & Hillingdon
	35/30	Lesnes Abbey
	35/06	Lambeth
	35/12	London Mission North West
	35/43	Orpington & Chislehurst
	35/40	Purley
	35/07	Southwark & Deptford
	35/39	Sutton
	35/23	Wembley
<b>Revd Dr Jongi Zihle</b> Authorised Ministries Commission	35/03	Westminster
	35/31	Barking, Dagenham & Ilford
	35/35	Barnet and Queensbury
	35/05	Battersea & Wandle Valley
	35/01	City Road
	35/34	Enfield
	35/33	Forest
	35/10	Hackney & Stoke Newington
	35/13	Harlesden
	35/11	Islington & Camden Mission
	35/38	Kingston-upon-Thames
	35/22	New River
	35/20	Newham
	35/14	Notting Hill
	35/25	Richmond & Hounslow
	35/32	Romford
	35/37	Teddington
	35/09	Tower Hamlets
	35/26	Wimbledon
	35/02	West London Mission

## Chairs' Responsibilities Mid April – end of August 2020

(During Revd Nigel Cowgill's sabbatical)

<b>Revd Michaela Youngson</b> Discipleship and Congregational Development Social Responsibility Commission	35/05	Battersea & Wandle Valley
	35/04	Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham
	35/17	Clapham
	35/24	Ealing Trinity
	35/13	Harlesden
	35/36	Harrow & Hillingdon
	35/38	Kingston Upon Thames
	35/06	Lambeth
	35/12	London Mission North West
	35/14	Notting Hill
	35/25	Richmond & Hounslow
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	35/11	Islington & Camden Mission
	35/30	Lesnes Abbey
	35/22	New River
	35/20	Newham
	35/43	Orpington & Chislehurst
	35/40	Purley
	35/32	Romford
	35/09	Tower Hamlets
	35/02	West London Mission

## Human Resources Group

The District HR Group provides advice to the District, circuits and local churches on all lay employment matters. It is an advisory group only and does not negate the wish of churches and circuits to seek employment advice from other HR specialists or employment lawyers.

### Achievements

The District HR Group has continued to provide advice to churches and circuits in the District on various employment issues. Matters had ranged from recruitment and non-complex behaviour/management/relationship issues to complex employee relations and change management issues.

The Chair of the Group also acts as the Secretary/Convenor to the Lay Employment Sub Committee. While churches and circuits have continued to seek advice from the group on recruitment issues, especially with regards to the design and quality checking of role profiles, the group's input to the recruitment and selection process has extended to approval of recruitment documentation pre and post appointment.

The group continues to assist circuits to think through their change management processes where these may affect the employment of lay people. More and more as churches and circuits re-appraise their financial position and their mission, there has been cause to re-assess their lay employment resource for their fit to deliver revised circuit/church mission. The HR Group has supported this thinking and proposed changes with purposeful advice.

Churches and circuits have become more aware of their obligation as employers. As a result the HR Group's advice and support has been sought in a variety of employee relations cases, which continue to increase in both quantity and complexity. The HR group has endeavoured, as best it can, to support and guide churches and circuits to healthy and effective solutions.

### Ongoing Plans

Informed by the employment-related advice the HR Group has had to provide, churches and circuits definitely have learning and development needs in this area. Due to time and resource demands, it is difficult for the HR Group to deliver relevant briefing sessions/workshops. However conversations between the group and the Chairs continue about the best way to equip and support ministers/circuit stewards to engage in a pastoral but risk-free management of lay employees.

The HR group will continue to provide churches and circuits with effective support and advice in all areas of the lay employment journey for which the group's intervention is sought. The Methodist Church website is a rich resource of materials which churches and circuits are encouraged to access and use, especially in the area of recruitment and selection.

For churches and circuits requiring assistance with any employment-related issues, the HR group can be contacted through the Chair – Janet Arthur. Her contact details can be obtained from the District office.

***Janet Arthur***

*Chair, District HR Group*



## Authorised Ministries Commission

The Authorised Ministries Commission (AMC) exists to share the good news of Jesus Christ throughout Greater London and the surrounding areas; and to improve the wellbeing of people and their communities by equipping and developing, faithful and fruitful preachers and ordained ministers.

Our goal is to ensure that every minister and Local Preacher is engaged in the intentional review and development of their ministry, through programmes of Ministerial Development, supervision training and continued Local Preacher development).

The AMC oversees the work done by the various groups that comprise the commission (Ministerial Sabbaticals, Ministerial Development, Local Preacher Training, Probationers oversight, Early Years in Ministry, and the District Ministers Retreat). Over the following pages you will find detailed reports on the work undertaken by these subgroups. Below is a brief summary of this work.

### Achievements

#### A Focus on Wellbeing:

At our March Meeting we invited Revd Paul Wood to lead us in a discussion on Ministerial Wellbeing. It was pointed out to us, that most of the things we do in the life of the church affect the wellbeing of ministers and other people. Wellbeing should, therefore, be something that we consider at all times.

#### Stationing:

The AMC welcome the stationing of 3 new probationers to the District in the next Connexional year. The AMC continues to spend time participating in discussions about stationing needs in the District.

#### Probationers and Early Years:

The Probationers and Early Years Ministers continue to share opportunities to come together for training, discussion and an annual residential. We envisage this process will continue to flourish in the coming years.

#### Ministerial Development (CDiM and MDR):

Funding continues to be available for ministers seeking to attend courses and other events to enable their Continuing Development. In the last Connexional Year, requests have been for a diverse range of things including retreats, day conferences, PHD studies, short courses and much else in between. Guidance and application forms for CDiM can be found on the London District website.

The AMC has applied for a grant from the District Advance Fund (DAF) to support the increased number of grant requests for ministerial further training.

#### Local Preachers and Worship Leaders:

It has been noted that there is a gap between the number of people who wish to ask for a note to preach and the availability of mentors.

I take this opportunity to thank all those involved in these groups for all their hard work during the year.

***Revd Timothy J Bradshaw***

*Chair and Convenor, AMC*

*(with input from Revd Faith Nyota in relation to Continuing Development in Ministry)*

## Candidates Committee

The key role of the Candidates Committee is to meet with candidates for Presbyteral and Diaconal ministry. Using Connexional criteria and processes, the committee seeks to discern God's calling on the candidate's life and whether they can be recommended to enter pre-ordination training.

### Achievements

The Committee welcomed one new member to the Committee and reaffirmed the commitment of those already part of the group and the candidating process.

On 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020, the District Candidates Committee met with four candidates for Presbyteral ministry. Two of these candidates were recommended to go forward to the Connexional committee.

The committee worked with an updated set of forms from the Connexion. The use of these forms meant that the committee's small group conversations with the candidates examined two of the Connexional criteria at a time, as opposed to three in previous years. As a result there were three small groups for each candidate instead of two.

A Candidates and Superintendents Evening was held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and a Candidates Committee Training evening took place on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

### Ongoing plans:

One person has already indicated that they are considering candidating in the next Connexional year (2020/21).

***Revd Eleanor Jackson***

*Candidates Committee Secretary*

## Supervision

Supervision in the Methodist Church is an exploratory and reflective process. Every ordained minister is required to engage in 1:1 meetings with a trained, resources and approved supervisor to reflect on their vocation and practice. This is expected to occur at least 6 times per year, for an hour and a half each time. Others with significant pastoral responsibility are also encouraged to partake in supervision.

### Achievements

By the end of 2020 all presbyters and deacons within the Methodist Church, will be in structured supervision. Conversations will continue between now and 2021 about how to make that practical for those not in circuit appointments and for lay people in relevant roles.

The training of supervisors in the London District is already underway and most superintendents are already undergoing training. A good number are now in supervision with the Chairs as the rollout continues.

We strongly advise all our presbyters and deacons in the District to visit the Methodist website and read further about supervision. Furthermore, we encourage circuits, especially circuit stewards, to pray with us that the rollout will be smooth and to support the ministers as they undertake this vital task/process in their ministerial accountability.

The chairs will be holding a supervision implementation session for all presbyters and deacons. These will be held on the following dates:

- Wednesday 6th May from 10am – 4pm
- Thursday 28th May from 10am – 4pm

Visit the Methodist Church website ([www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)) for more information about supervision training and the pilot project, and for relevant resources.

***The District Chairs***



## Early Years in Ministry & District Probationers Committee

The Early Years in Ministry and District Probationers Committee work closely to provide support to ministers in their first five years of ministry, and those who are still to be received into full Connexion. Both groups seek to provide an environment of support, encouragement, challenge and growth.

### Achievements

It has been a joy to take on our new roles as secretaries to the District Probationers Committee (Andrew Letby) and Early Years in Ministry secretary (Faith Nyota). We thank our predecessors Hazel Forecast and Cameron Kirkword whose diligence over many years has ensured a smooth transition.

This year there are four probationer ministers in the London District, all in their second year, three presbyters and one deacon. The numbers of those in early years who engage with the activities of the group fluctuates but they represent the vibrancy and enthusiasm of those who are now establishing themselves in ministry in various parts of the District.

All have shared in two residential retreats. In September we met at Domus Mariae near Chigwell for 24 hours, exploring the challenges and opportunities for the year ahead. Alongside our District Chairs, sessions were led by the District Safeguarding Officer, Becky Skinner, and the Connexional EDI Officer, Bevan Powell. This opportunity to meet so early in the Connexional year is extremely valuable.

In January we joined probationer and early years ministers from the South East and Channel Islands Districts for a three-day retreat at the Kairos Centre in Roehampton. The retreat was led by Laurence Wareing who is the editor of the 'Singing the Faith Plus' website. His enthusiasm and knowledge of hymnody and liturgy ensured a time of learning, fellowship and singing which was enjoyed and valued by all who attended.

The probationer ministers have worked very hard throughout the year to complete the academic requirements of probation, in particular, their Gospel in Context projects. Group meetings, sometimes in conjunction with the early years group, provide ongoing support. It is stimulating, encouraging and challenging to share together out of the wide variety of contexts in which they exercise their ministry.

### Ongoing plans:

Looking ahead we anticipate receiving new probationers to the London District from September 2020 who, through our joint programme, will be able to draw on the experience of those in early years of ministry.

A big thank you must go to members of the District Probationers Committee who support and encourage the probationer presbyters and deacons, as well as playing a vital role in discerning and enabling their calling.

***Revd Andrew Letby***

*Secretary - District Probationers Committee*

***Revd Faith Nyota***

*Secretary - Early Years in Ministry*

## Local Preachers and Worship Leaders

The role of a District Local Preachers' Secretary involves advocating for local preachers and worship leaders within the district and supporting local preachers' meetings in their role as communities of fellowship and learning.

### Achievements

A key aspect of my role is providing a link between circuit local preachers' and worship leaders' (LPWL) meetings, the District, and the Connexional LPWL Officers. Much of this takes place routinely throughout the year, often by email or phone, and involves general information-sharing and raising or responding to occasional one-off queries. I am also available to visit circuit LPWL meetings if they wish to invite me, as this is a valuable way of finding out about circuits' joys and concerns.

Over the past year I have attended two quarterly LPWL meetings (one of them a joint meeting of four circuits) and I have another two visits arranged in the next few months. I also recently attended a meeting in the Croydon Circuit, with representation from neighbouring circuits, specifically to discuss how best circuits could support their preachers and worship leaders in training who are studying on the *Worship: Leading & Preaching* course. Changes made to the online course material by the Connexion in the summer have generally been well received, but *Worship: Leading & Preaching* still presents a range of challenges to students, tutors, and mentors in many parts of the District.

Another responsibility is to give initial advice on applications for exceptional extensions to a preacher in training's maximum five-year period on trial. Applications are then referred by the Chair of District to the District Council for decision. There were several requests earlier in the year but there has been a lull in more recent months.

Preachers and worship leaders continue to benefit from the programme of continuing development events organised by the District and Region Discipleship & Ministries Learning Network, and I have assisted with the administration for these over the last 6 months.

### Ongoing plans

Over the next 18 months I look forward to:

- Continuing to build relationships with local preachers' and worship leaders' meetings around the District, visiting as many as I reasonably can.
- Continuing to develop the learning and development aspects of the role in liaison with the Discipleship & Ministries Learning Network and the Connexion. I anticipate that this may involve work in connection with *Worship: Leading & Preaching*, as well as involvement with the continuing development programme.



## District Sabbaticals Advisory Group

The District Sabbatical Advisory Group currently consists of a mixture of lay and ordained. The Group meets twice a year and makes recommendations to the Spring and Autumn meetings of Synod via the District Council for approval.

The purpose of the DSAG is to receive, review and, where appropriate, advise on the content of prospectuses submitted by presbyters/deacons who are planning a sabbatical.

A sabbatical is an opportunity for ministers to reflect on their ministry and also to enjoy time away from normal duties and be refreshed spiritually, physically and mentally by their experiences.

It is also an opportunity for circuits to reflect on how they 'deploy' their staff and best use their varied gifts and graces. It is anticipated that the planning for this will often take at least twelve months with preparations at Local, Circuit, District, Connexional and often wider levels.

The number of presbyters and deacons who are entitled to a sabbatical varies each year, but the increased workload for the DSAG was particularly noticeable during the transition period when all ministers were being brought into the seven year cycle.

### Achievements:

- During the year the group said farewell to Rev. Val Reid, Deacon Kina Saunders and Mr Alan Jameson and welcomed Rev. Peter Cornick and Deacon Claire Gill. We wish Val and Kina well in their new appointments and record our appreciation for the wise and thoughtful contributions made by them and by Alan Jameson.
- During the last Connexional year (2018-19) 11 ministers took a sabbatical. In this current year 13 ministers will be taking a sabbatical, with a further 9 deferring / brought forward to 2020-21. In addition, a further 3 ministers are to be deferred to 2021-22.
- A number of ministers taking their sabbaticals in the next Connexional year have already sought advice and are well into the necessary planning.
- An informal sabbatical session, particularly for those looking to plan their first sabbatical, was held on 31st October 2019 at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. There were a total of 18 attendees comprising of sabbaticees, mentors and DSAG members. Two mentors shared their sabbatical experiences. There were questions, answers and discussions. A few questions/clarifications were raised which will be discussed at our next sabbatical meeting. From feedback received, it was immensely beneficial to those planning their first sabbatical.
- Since the last report, the group has succeeded in putting in place four mentors who are willing to offer some relaxed mentoring to new sabbaticees.

### **Ongoing Plans**

As a group we are always looking to develop strategies in order to be as helpful and supportive as possible to those preparing for a sabbatical.

***Mrs Nellie Showers***  
*District Sabbaticals Advisory Group Convenor/Secretary*

## Stationing Report

As we reported last year, it is becoming more challenging when it comes to the stationing of ministers into circuit appointments across the Connexion. At the start of the Stationing Matching process in November 109 Presbyteral appointments were vacant across the Connexion, and less than 89 presbyters were available.

The London District Chairs have managed to fill all the appointments across the District that were sought by circuits. We are delighted that we will welcome 16 Presbyters and 2 Deacons into new appointments. As noted in previous reports, we can no longer take it for granted that when a minister's appointment comes to an end, they will be immediately replaced by another minister. The challenge for circuits is to think about what kind of ministry they need to support their mission - which may be specialist lay ministry, diaconal ministry or Presbyteral ministry. Circuits need to give careful consideration to taking probationer ministers or ministers from other conferences and churches around the world.

The shortage of Presbyteral ministers is going to become more acute over the next few years, as many reach retirement age and few candidate for ministry. Those responsible for stationing in the life of the church are working hard to be as fair as possible in the deployment of ministers to those situations that are most in need. The London District has a far higher percentage of ministers per church and per member than in any other part of the Connexion. We need to take seriously our responsibility to the mission of God across the whole Methodist Church in Britain. How do we make sure that we are not being selfish in our demands or narrow in our thinking about the form of ministry that might enable God's work to flourish in our context?

Training for circuits and ministers who may be involved in stationing for 2021 take place on:

- Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May from 10.00am - 12.30pm
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May from 6.00pm - 8.30pm

Please hold in prayer, the many circuits across our Methodist Connexion which carry vacancies in this coming year; pray for more people to be called into ministry and for all those within the life of our churches to recognise we, lay and ordained, have ministries to fulfil as members of the body of Christ.

***Revd Nigel Cowgill***

*London District Chair*



# A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

## **Ealing Trinity Circuit joins forces with Southall Faiths Forum to stand against racism and intolerance**

On Sunday the 17th March 2019 representatives from the Ealing Trinity Circuit including the Superintendent, Revd. Rachel Bending and Deacon Lemia Nkwelah joined with our sisters and brothers of many faiths, as well as civic and business leaders, to show our support for the members of the Muslim community in Southall, and to mark the horrific events in New Zealand earlier in the week.

This attack on people in their place of worship reminds us of the need to stand together with our neighbours of all faiths and none, to combat racism and intolerance and to celebrate the richness and diversity of our life together.





## Language and Culture Fellowship Groups

As a city, London is culturally diverse and is home to a great many people from a great many places. As a church, our places of worship are a mirror reflection of this diversity. The District is blessed to be home to a number of cultural and language fellowship groups, all of whom play a significant role in the enhancement of our worship, mission and ministry.

At present our language and culture fellowship groups encompasses:

The Nigerian Methodist fellowship group | the Korean and Chinese fellowships | the Filipino fellowship group | the Ghanaian Methodist fellowship group | the Tamil and Urdu/Hindi fellowships | the Zimbabwean Methodist fellowship | and other groups which meet periodically throughout the year.

The District places great emphasis on the notion that all people, regardless of background or preferred tradition of worship, are welcomed, enabled to meet with God and are disciplined to fulfil their life-long service to God and His church. To this end all language and culture fellowship groups are encouraged and resourced to extend God's Kingdom amongst all people.

It is the continued work of the District to both celebrate and live out diversity in all its forms. We pray that the work of our many fellowship groups will continue to grow and develop and bring joy and hopefulness amongst all District members.



Revd Nigel meets the Nigerian Prelate

For specific information on each group, please kindly search their websites online or contact the District Office for the link-person's contacts.

## Safeguarding

The District Safeguarding Group continues to meet regularly to provide support and direction to safeguarding policy and practice across the London District. Its members are called to use their extensive knowledge and experience to advise and guide the

District Safeguarding Officer (DSO) and where appropriate, circuits and individual churches. Our overall aim is to make sure that London District churches are safe spaces for all.



### Achievements

The District has successfully begun the rollout of the Advanced Level Creating Safer Space Safeguarding Training. Between June 2018 and August 2019, the District has run 15 of these courses across various circuits. Feedback from the training has been largely positive with many people recognising the benefits of the training and the necessity of it within the life of the Church.

Between September 2019 and April 2020, the District has facilitated 8 Advance Level Safeguarding training sessions with a further 6 to be completed by the end of the Connexional Year. This equates to around 400 people trained.

This year's District Safeguarding Conference will be focused on Professional Curiosity and Disguised Compliance, and we are fortunate to have secured Marcus Erooga as our keynote speaker. At the time of writing, over 90 people had registered to attend the event and we expect numbers to increase.

Following the Connexion's revision of the Foundation Level Creating Safer Space (CSS) training module, the District has implemented annual Facilitator Training to ensure that amendments to the course are fully communicated to new and existing circuit level safeguarding trainers. This is to be held at least twice per year.

A quarterly newsletter has been implemented by the DSO with a view to sharing updates on safeguarding processes, policy and procedures as well as future plans for training.

The DSO has visited approximately 20 circuits to discuss safeguarding concerns, promote best practice and celebrate good work.

### Ongoing Plans

- A key objective of the last annual report was the launch of an audit programme to be piloted in a number of circuits. We are pleased to report that the pilot for the Safeguarding Audits of churches and circuits is underway. This process will be reviewed and rolled out to all churches from September 2020.
- The London District website will be further developed to include FAQs pages, standardised forms, newsletters and additional information on safeguarding processes and procedures. This will make the

website a useful hub of information, enabling those at a local level to gain greater knowledge and fulfil their roles.

- Training opportunities will be under review as the DSO has identified a gap in training needs; notably around the Advanced Level CSS, specific themes and specialised areas of interest. The District will therefore hold two forums per year in addition to the annual safeguarding conference to address this.
- The District will also look to recruit additional trainers to meet the demand for the Advanced Level CSS requirements. This will then see the roll out of Advanced Level Facilitator Training.
- The District will roll out training for Monitoring and Support Groups when this becomes available from the Connexional Team.

### **Obstacles and issues:**

The DSO recognises the weight safeguarding can place on those at a local level and acknowledges that the role can often feel somewhat isolated. This issue can be addressed through regular circuit level safeguarding meetings. Noted as good practice, these meetings would enable a local level network of support to be established through which key themes can be addressed and knowledge can be shared. By working together, the load is lightened and stronger connections we can lean on are built. Whilst the District will be looking for ways to support and disseminate information, circuits can play their part too.

### **Conclusion and key message:**

Safeguarding has been a developing theme throughout the world for a vast number of years. The requirements placed upon those in a safeguarding role continues to grow and no doubt this will become further evident as we move through the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) investigation. I therefore extend my gratitude to all those who are committed to being a driving force for good safeguarding practice, who are passionate about their roles and continue to embed the good safeguarding culture. Keep up the great work!

***Becky Skinner***

*District Safeguarding Officer*

## Learning Network

The role of the Learning Network (LN) is to equip and resource the Church through a wide range of contextually relevant learning and development opportunities. Priorities for learning and development are established through the regional Learning & Development Forum with the aim to support circuits in being places of lifelong learning and sharing, so as to encourage and inspire Methodist people in all aspects of [Our Calling](#).

### Achievements

For the first six months of this Connexional year David Friswell has been 'standing in' as Learning Network Coordinator whilst Revd Jonathan Mead was on shared paternity leave. Jessica Dalton has joined the team and has taken up responsibility for Candidate support and W:L&P along with other general areas of the team's work.

Although there are many areas of work that could be noted, I hope the following selection gives a flavour of the breadth of work undertaken:

- GLL Programme: A second round of the 12 month programme has been successfully organised and coordinated
- Bible Month: Event organised and hosted in May last year and plans in place for 2020 Bible Month
- Pioneer Hub: Regular meetings held for pioneers for support, growth and development
- Encounter: Programme coordinated and delivered
- CSS Advanced Module: Regular AM training delivered across the District
- W:L&P Portfolios: Regional moderation undertaken
- Training Events: Including work with individual circuits, circuit steward training, Local Arrangement workshops
- Consultation: Involvement in the Cinnamon Network programme
- Candidates: Facilitating the District's Candidate support programme
- Layworker's Group: Providing ongoing support for the group

### Ongoing Plans

As I write it is just two weeks before I hand back the Coordination of the London LN region. With that in mind, it is for others to set out their vision for the coming years. However, there are already plans to:

- Further develop the support for Pioneers in the District,
- Engage more effectively with Tutors and Mentors for Local Preaching, and

- Develop the team's delivery skills especially around areas such as Positive Working Together.

The team will continue to support circuits with their vision and mission plans, and other specific training needs.

## Obstacles and issues:

The Learning Network has experienced the following challenges in relation to the work it sets out to do:

- How do we encourage and support more people to explore pioneering as a viable option?
- What does the District (churches and circuits) need with regards to the training of people for lay leadership roles?

Just as this report was going to print it has been announced that the Revd Jonathan Mead will not be returning to the role of Learning Network Coordinator at the end of February as planned. I would like to thank Jonathan for all his work over the past years and wish him well for all that the future holds.

Recruitment for a new, full-time, Learning Network Coordinator for London will begin with immediate effect.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sharon Nugent and Jessica Dalton for their hard work and all they continue to do for the Learning Network across London District. I would like to also encourage the District to recognise the ministry of pioneers as adding value to the Life of the District.

**David Friswell**

*Regional Coordinator (1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2019 – 29<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020)*

## District Youth Work



The District Youth Work stream aims to provide support, guidance, encouragement, resources, advice and to create training programmes and workshops appropriate to all those involved in Children's and Youth Work. This includes ministers, lay workers, volunteers and individual circuits and churches from across the District.

### Achievements

- The ongoing delivery of the Core Skills training programme in Youth and Children's Work which is designed to equip attendees with a foundational understanding of what is required to work with children and young people. This two day course was updated in September 2019.
- In 2018/19 there were 15 Parallel equipping days delivered across the London District. These deeper level standalone training days, provide bespoke training for youth and children's workers.
- A number of new Parrallel Equipping resources have been created and are being delivered throughout the District. These include:
  - Talking about Relationships and Sex with children and young people: With so many children and young people crying out for the church to talk about relationships and sex, this equipping day will encourage leaders to think about how and why they can do this.
  - Evangelism: Tools to Share – equipping leaders to be able to give children and young people the tools to evangelise to their peers.
  - Tackling Gun and Knife Crime - raising awareness on gun and knife crime, looking at the issue, risk and protective factors, interventions, including how to empower young people to stay safe and make better choices.
  - Core Skills for Family Ministry - Being a parent/carer is said to be one of the hardest jobs an adult will ever do. The reality is that being a parent/carer is a role that requires time, attention and a great deal of learning along the way. This interactive workshop has been crafted to develop the key skills needed for church-based family ministry, incorporating the We Are Family research.
- In addition it is the aim to create workshop material aimed at encouraging churches, ministers and lay workers to Build Sustainable Youth Ministry, and a workshop aimed at supporting churches in how they employ lay workers, incorporating hiring and interview techniques, management structures, expectations and escaping the emotional burn.
- The Lay Workers Support Group continues to support and encourage lay workers employed across the District. Meeting every other month, the group provides a safe space for their voices to be heard, to be prayed for and to gain some personal development.

- In partnership with the Regional Team we ran our annual Connecting Disciples Local event for Lay Workers in December 2019. The focus this year was on Sharing the Good News: Today and Tomorrow. The day also included spiritual reflection which was led by the District Chairs.
- 3Generate 2019: 8 coaches travelled from London to Southport, taking nearly 200 young people and their leaders to 3Generate. The number of young people from London attending the event has been increasing year on year, showing that young people from London want to get their voices heard on issues that are important to them. The young people were also given the opportunity to vote for the next Youth President. I led on the Agents of Change team, facilitating the save our planet soapbox on climate change, a marriage and relationships session, being a game changer in sports and a toolkit for change session. On top of this we helped the young people to create the manifesto wall.
- Work continues on the development of the Youth Board Hubs. The hubs exist within circuits for local young people, increasing the participation of young people in the life of the Methodist Church, seeking their voices on issues affecting them in London, these 'voices' are then fed back to the Youth Board.

## Ongoing Plans

- To write Grove style booklets based on the Parallel Equipping Days, and to produce short educational training videos in youth and children's work, to make the training material accessible to a greater number of people from within London and across the connexion.
- To craft and deliver more Parallel Equipping days to include issues such as tackling gangs, the environment and young people, and video games.
- To coordinate a team of trained youth and children's workers to deliver the Core Skills training and Parallel Equipping Days across the District.
- To raise the profile of youth and children's ministry and its importance to the future of the Methodist Church. This starts with encouraging churches to build sustainable youth and children's ministries that the whole church can get behind, and encourage churches to better support the people on the 'front line'.

**Brian Smith**

*Youth and Children's Coordinator*



## Social Responsibility Commission:

The Social Responsibilities Commission seeks to help the District engage with the political, social and economic issues in London. We do this through discussing reports, meeting with people working in various fields, and making recommendations to the District based on what we have learnt and explored.

### Achievements

This year the SRC has: Supported a memorial to Conference, which was upheld, continuing to demand that appropriate taxation is paid in this country by large corporations.

- Continued to work with TMCP to re-shape the rules around sale and rent of land in order to work with the Community Land Trust to offer truly affordable housing. This is currently being developed in the Wembley circuit, but with other parts of the country looking to see whether this is a route they wish to take.
- Asked DAF to consider creating a top-up fund to support green heating schemes where boiler replacement is necessary and the green option is more expensive than the cheapest one.
- Started the work to become a District of Sanctuary within the understanding of the Cities of Sanctuary movement.
- Participated in inter-faith and ecumenical meetings.

### Ongoing Plans:

- To continue to support the Community Land Trust scheme
- To continue to support Circuits wishing to become Circuits of Sanctuary en route to London becoming a District of Sanctuary by Spring Synod 2021
- To do some initial work around people-trafficking to try to understand what churches can do to help combat this appalling robbery of life in all its fullness.

### Obstacles/Issues/Stories

The main difficulty for us is the high level of need on so many fronts and therefore prioritising the work. The issue of knife crime, homelessness, the use of foodbanks etc. have not gone away; but this year we have focused on other things.

The SRC has previously recommended that churches make a donation to the Calais run. We have been hearing, anecdotally, that although it was a highly successful drive, it resulted in lower donations to some of the missions



that the Methodist Church runs in London. We need to think very carefully about what this means when asking for direct action from the churches.

***Revd Vicci Davidson***

*Former SRC Convenor*

## London HIV Chaplaincy

Our concern is with restoring the health and wellbeing of HIV+ people who have experienced rejection for daring to ask questions and highlight abusive attitudes; and who have been stigmatized for refusing to accept a passive role as victims by faith groups and families. Thus we:

- Provide individual holistic support to HIV+ clients who have had that demeaning experience and help them to restore health, wellbeing and meaning to their lives.
- Enable people living with HIV in London to negotiate the complex contemporary reality of living with the virus, thus enabling them to make decisions that are appropriate and of benefit to themselves.
- Help some clients, through one to one meetings, to begin to regain their sense of self-worth and to re-engage socially with their peers and families.
- Respond to healthcare professionals who see that our clients' experiences can lead them to become indifferent to the life-threatening risks of not adhering to their medication regimes.

## Achievements

Over the past 11 years we have worked with in excess of 3,000 clients of which 45% were women (mostly black); 55% were men (mostly gay/bisexual white); of these 25% were Continental European (mostly gay men); 8% were Islamic/Asian (mostly identifying as bi-sexual men). 30% of clients were 18 to 25, 15% were 25 to 40, 45% were 40 to 65, and 10% were 65+.

This past year we have worked with 365 clients on a one-to-one basis. The Chaplain has encouraged these clients on their spiritual exploration and has helped the clients to face the isolationism and anonymity which they feel has been imposed upon them by society and/or faith communities. Of the 365 clients:

- 35 % are unemployed and/or on benefits: Many are exploited by others, non-compliant with their medication, isolated, and abusing alcohol. The majority of these are in the reading groups described below, as are most of the black women clients.
- 17% are low earners: Most of these struggle both to pay their rent and to have enough money to buy food - especially healthy food and therefore find it necessary to access food banks.
- 45% are on an average wage: These too struggle to make ends meet. Many hide their health status from their GPs, their families and partners, and especially from their places of work.
- 3% are high earners: On the whole many of these are the least pleasant of all our clients and are more likely to abuse recreational drugs. Commonly they hide their HIV status.
- Recently we have reorganised our reading groups so there are now 5 groups:
  - one for those struggling with addiction
  - one for older people

- one for those dealing with depression
- two ordinary reading groups.

The aim of each group is to provide a space where clients can name the un-nameable and be believed. The groups enable clients to have the possibility of re-engaging with life, manage their addiction problems better, and for several clients, the waking of an intellectual hunger to think and know for themselves.

**The Chaplaincy Book, "Who Cares About HIV?"** was published in April 2019 by SPCK. It has a sub-title **"Challenging Attitudes and Pastoral Practices that do more Harm than Good"**. There was a book launch in May 2019 at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, which was attended by more than 80 people. It was chaired by the Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, Bala Gnanapragasam, and Rowan Williams was the main speaker. Unfortunately we have received very little feedback from the book although we know that many copies have been sold.

It feels as if the Church doesn't care, although we know that maybe it does; however our clients, who have been so inappropriately treated by churches, do not know that it cares. We would very much like to receive responses from you so that we can share them with clients.

To quote a sermon by Ian Worsfold at Wesley's Chapel one Wednesday lunchtime: "Where would Jesus go today if he was starting again? To the Vatican and tap the cardinals on the shoulder? To the House of Lords and select from among the Bishops? To the Queen's foundation where our enthusiastic group of trainee presbyters and deacons are? Maybe, but I suspect Jesus might rock up to the tech companies, the supermarkets, the Uber Drivers, or even to our schools. He would choose people who are among the people, who understand, and speak the language of the people to share the light that the first disciples shared."

And maybe the clients of the London HIV Chaplaincy.

Please give us your feedback once you have read the book and ask questions of it.

## Obstacles

- Brexit - Our European clients are still anxious about their status in the UK and a number have left the country feeling unwanted.
- Faith Leaders and congregations who are still stigmatising/abusing people living with HIV and are not prepared to walk the journey with them.

Unfortunately, whilst the rate of increase in diagnosis has been declining there are still people being newly diagnosed each year in the UK with HIV. We the chaplaincy, together with faith communities, can help to even further reduce this by becoming more informed and being open and accepting and willing to walk with HIV+ people.

## Ongoing Plans

The Chaplaincy welcomes the opportunity to facilitate workshops around the subject of HIV in the local situation.

The London HIV Chaplaincy commend the London District, for having the courage, humility and accepting the trust worthiness of the Chaplaincy to fund us as we attempt to put right a violation of trust.

***Phil Schneider***

*Chaplain*

***Steve Penrose***

*Chair of Trustees*

## District Reconciliation Group

Each District in the Methodist Church is required to have a group who are prepared to offer resource and support for the work of reconciliation. The London District Reconciliation Group (DRG) are able to provide independent listeners, or signpost individuals to other support that may be available and more appropriate.

The DRG meet to share in training and to offer oversight to one another in our ongoing work.

### Achievements

We have worked hard this year to offer a clearer description of what we can provide and how we might be of use to Circuits. You can read about how to access the group's support on the District website or in conversation with your Superintendent.

We are constantly involved in conversations across a number of Circuits at any given time.

### Ongoing Plans

We would love to work ourselves out of a job! We plan to recruit more members to the group to help support our work and to continue to engage in our training programme.

Many thanks to all the members of the group for their ongoing commitment and work.

***Revd Dan Haylett***

*Reconciliation Group Convenor*



## District Financial Report on Year 2018-19

A summary of the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2019 are set out on the following pages. They are an abridged version of the full audited accounts. Copies of the full version of the audited accounts will be emailed to all Circuit Treasurers and Superintendents. They will be available at Synod in April, and on the Charity Commission Website by May 2020.

The Full Trustee Report and Accounts have been further aligned this year with the Charity reporting requirements FRS102. This is further explained in the full report and accounts along with the comparative figures of 2017-18 accounts where relevant.

The District General Fund (non-designated) operated with a deficit of £11,472 for the year. The principle reasons for the deficit was increased training costs compared to the previous year.

The District owns two manses and these were revalued in last years' accounts. As there has been little change in value since last year the only impact on the Manse Value Fund is the depreciation of the buildings. A further manse is occupied and maintained by the District but is owned by the London Mission Fund (LMF). LMF has sold a manse and purchased another in the south of the London District.

The Benevolent Fund continues to provide the support needed by ministerial staff in special circumstances. In the year Grants were £5,060. The fund held £13,748 at end of year.

New grants awarded from the District Advance Fund amounted to £583,748, of which £91,000 was paid in the 2018-19 year and £492,748 is transferred to Liabilities for payment in future years. DAF Grants of £1,165,489 are held for expected payments in future years.

The Jean Richardson Endowment Fund exists to assist exchange visits between UK and Overseas youth organizations. The net income was £1,370 excluding revaluation gains of £550. No grants were made.

Trust Fund 20520 - East End Mission - remains under the management of the District Trustees, for the benefit of the Tower Hamlets Circuit, who received grants of £50,027.

Other funds shown relate to District projects funded by the DAF, the Connexion and contributions. They cover Youth Enablement, Training, Chaplaincy, and the District Mission theme of Moving Stories.

At the year end the finances were adequate for the continued progress and development of District activities.

***George Kulasingham***

*District Treasurer*

## Consolidated Financial Activity (Sept 2018 – August 2019)

	2018-19	2017-18
<b>Income</b>		
Assessments from Circuits	1,434,245	1,477,400
deduct: Payment to Methodist Church Fund	<b>1,179,514</b>	<b>-1,222,808</b>
<b>District Assessments</b>	<b>254,731</b>	<b>254,592</b>
Donations	221	11,339
Contributions from Circuit Advance Funds	613,522	627,429
<b>Total from Circuits</b>	<b>686,474</b>	<b>893,360</b>
Contribution from Connexion to cost of Chair	123,734	118,474
Interest on deposits and investment income	71,648	70,188
Other Income (e.g. Rent, Grants, training)	40,230	72,528
grants (incl trfs from DAF & General fund)	160,494	156,028
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,264,580</b>	<b>1,310,578</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Grants and Donations committed in year	759,204	619,316
Salaries and associated costs	339,185	338,882
Property Costs (incl. Ins., C tax, utilities etc.)	47,228	53,160
Office Expenses (Admin., tel. travel etc.)	21,358	25,473
Synods, Commissions, Committees, Conference, etc.	18,614	20,563
Depreciation (now incl. of manse buildings)	22,615	22,931
Training	85,342	83,028
Other Expenditure	40,833	38,127
Audit& Accountancy fees	8,520	8,670
Manse loan interest		0
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>1,342,899</b>	<b>1,210,150</b>
<b>Net income</b>	<b>-78,319</b>	100,428
Gains/(losses) on disposal of Manse		
Gains/(losses) on revaln fixed assets		
Gains/(losses): on investment assets	64,617	<b>-17,020</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>-13,702</b>	76,353
<b>Fund Balances from last year</b>	5,016,626	4,933,218
<b>Total Fund Carried Forward</b>	5,002,924	5,016,626

## Balance Sheet (as at 31 August 2019)

	2018-19		2017-18	
Fixed Assets				
Manse & Property (Depreciating)	1,744,304		1,765,530	
Investments with TMCP	1,703,215		1,638,600	
	3,447,519	3,447,519	1,655,621	3,404,130
Current Assets				
Cash in Bank and in hand	87,548		50,069	
Central Finance Board Deposits	180,333		263,863	
TMCP interest accounts	1,792,572		1,641,674	
Loans from the District	610,000		610,000	
Debtors and Prepayments	12,555		19,558	
	2,683,008	2,683,008	2,585,164	2,585,164
Current Liabilities				
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	48,668		10,774	
Grants payable (within 1 year)	793,885		685,876	
	842,553	842,553	696,650	-69650
Long Term Liabilities				
Grants Payable after 1 year	285,050	285,050	276,018	276,018
Net Assets		5,002,924		5,016,626



## Balance Sheet (as at 31 August 2019, cont.)

Fund Balances and Movements		Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains on revaluation	Disposal of manse	Closing Balance
		£	£	£	£		£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>							
General Fund (excluding manse fund)	U	144,476	380,387	(391,859)			133,004
<b>Designated Funds</b>							
London District Advance Fund (incl. loan to circuit)	D	218,760	627,130	(596,086)			249,804
Manse Value Fund	D	1,762,058		(19,100)			1,742,958
Manse Refurbishment Fund	D	141,662	1,111	(191)			142,582
District Training Personnel & Facilities	D	11,748	8,449	(3,592)			16,605
District Youth Enablement	D	2,844	56,332	(54,375)			4,801
London Crs cont learning	D	(423)					(423)
Growing London Leaders	D	8,974		(2,229)			6,745
District Focus/Moving Stories	D	15,388	75,793	(48,164)			43,017
University Chaplaincy	D		31,500	(26,290)		(1,598)	3,612
Proclaim	D	11,920		(7,489)			4,431
CSS Advanced Level Training	D	3,260	6,000	(7,835)			1,425
Emergency fund	D		18,750	(14,539)			4,211
<b>Total Designated (excluding DAF)</b>		1,967,853	197,935	(193,767)	-	(1,598)	1,970,423
<b>Total Unrestricted and Designated</b>		2,331,089	1,205,452	(1,181,712)	-	(1,598)	2,353,231
<b>Restricted Funds</b>							
London District Pastoral & Benevolent Fund	R	18,808	313	(5,373)	-		13,748
Tower Hamlets - Sale-Land Stepney East End Mss	R	2,506,397	53,839	(53,839)	64,067		2,570,464
Worship & Local Preacher Resources Centre	R	685	-	(542)	-		143
London Regional Network (incl. deferred Income)	R	(2,892)	3,420		-		528
City University Chaplaincy	R	(1,598)			-	1,598	1,598
Grenfell Tower Fund	R	101,155	60	(101,307)	-		(92)
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>		2,622,555	57,632	(161,061)	64,067	1,598	2,584,791
<b>Endowment Fund</b>							
Jean Richardson Bursary	E	62,982	1,496	(126)	550		64,902
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>5,016,626</b>	<b>1,264,580</b>	<b>(1,342,899)</b>	<b>64,617</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,002,924</b>

## General Fund Budget – unrestricted non-designated (September 2020 – August 2021)

	Actual 2018-19 £	Budget 2019-20 £	Draft budget 2020-21 £
<b>Income</b>			
Income from assessments on circuits	1,434,245	1,508,040	1,589,404
<b>Less Assessment to Connexion</b>			
Methodist Church Fund payments	1,179,514	1,235,853	1,296,410
<b>Net Income from circuits</b>	<b>254,731</b>	<b>272,187</b>	<b>292,743</b>
<b>Add Other Income</b>			
CFB interest receivable	1,922	800	1,100
DAF grants paid through district	-8,750	0	
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>-6,828</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>1,100</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>247,903</b>	<b>272,987</b>	<b>293,843</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>General and Governance</b>			
Audit fees	9,390	6,800	9,030
Bank Fees	74	0	80
Consultancy	14,137	14,000	
Ecumenical grants	9,419	12,100	9,000
Hospitality& gifts	1,853	2,500	2,000
Meeting facilities (Non commission)	4,419	4,500	4,500
Miscellaneous	1,236	9,000	345
CCLB License			220
Methodist recorder subscription			235
Minutes of conference & cpd			700
Pastoral & Benevolent Fund payments		1,700	
Travel	1,147	1,000	1,500
<b>Total General and Governance</b>	<b>40,927</b>	<b>51,600</b>	<b>27,610</b>
<b>Chairs Expenses</b>	<b>9,685</b>	<b>9,350</b>	<b>10,850</b>
<b>Commission, synods, methodist conference etc</b>			
Authorised Ministries Commission	4,895	5,400	5,500
Social Responsibility Commission	1,000	1,000	1,000

## General Fund Budget (September 2020 – August 2021) continued

	Actual 2018-19 £	Budget 2019-20 £	Draft budget 2020-21 £
Superintendents' meetings	1,057	1,800	1,800
Methodist Conference	277	1,000	1,000
Synods	3,916	5,200	4,070
<b>Total Commission, synods, methodist conference etc</b>	<b>11,200</b>	<b>14,400</b>	<b>13,370</b>
<b>Finance expenses</b>			
Finance IT & Software	739	0	270
Finance Meeting facilities	262		270
<b>Total Finance expenses</b>	<b>1,001</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>540</b>
<b>Office Expenses</b>			
<b>Total Office Expenses</b>	<b>15,553</b>	<b>14,708</b>	<b>15,848</b>
<b>Property costs</b>			
Manse costs	15,698	21,400	21,570
<b>Office rent costs</b>			
District Training room annual cost	3,577	1,900	3,462
Office rent	24,229	27,600	24,533
<b>Total office rent</b>	<b>27,805</b>	<b>29,500</b>	<b>27,995</b>
<b>Total Property costs</b>	<b>43,503</b>	<b>50,900</b>	<b>49,565</b>
<b>Safeguarding costs</b>	<b>9,521</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>5,125</b>
<b>Salaries &amp; Associated costs</b>	<b>121,031</b>	<b>131,600</b>	<b>168,090</b>
<b>Training costs</b>			
CDIM	5,588	5,300	
Staff training - non project	619	1,000	1,000
Chairs' training			1,000
<b>Total training costs</b>	<b>6,207</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>256,953</b>	<b>283,158</b>	<b>291,843</b>
<b>Net Income / Deficit</b>	<b>-11,472</b>	<b>-10,171</b>	<b>2,135</b>
<b>Less Depreciation</b>	3,515		2,000
<b>Net Cash surplus/deficit</b>	<b>-7,957</b>		4,000
<b>Less Capital Costs</b>			4,000
<b>Cash surplus / -required</b>	<b>-7,957</b>	<b>-10,171</b>	135

## Circuit Assessments 2020-21

No.	Circuit Name	Circuit Assessments 20-21	MCF	District Expenses	Quarterly Payments
		£	81.57% £	18.43% £	£
1	City Road	48,960	39,935	9,025	12,240
2	West London Mission	45,620	37,210	8,410	11,405
3	Westminster	46,200	37,683	8,517	11,550
4	Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham	22,412	18,281	4,131	5,603
5	Battersea and Wandle Valley	59,812	48,786	11,026	14,953
6	Lambeth (Merged NL & B&S)	36,812	30,026	6,786	9,203
7	Southwark & Deptford	105,432	85,996	19,436	26,358
9	Tower Hamlets	18,112	14,773	3,339	4,528
10	Hackney & Stoke Newington	46,312	37,775	8,537	11,578
11	Islington and Camden Mission	17,412	14,202	3,210	4,353
12	London Mission North West	32,740	26,705	6,035	8,185
13	Harlesden	18,912	15,426	3,486	4,728
14	Notting Hill	9,212	7,514	1,698	2,303
17	Clapham	29,412	23,990	5,422	7,353
20	Newham	34,312	27,987	6,325	8,578
22	New River	99,212	80,923	18,289	24,803
23	Wembley	34,520	28,157	6,363	8,630
24	Ealing Trinity	47,580	38,809	8,771	11,895
25	Richmond & Hounslow	33,912	27,661	6,251	8,478
26	Wimbledon	25,212	20,564	4,648	6,303
28	Blackheath & Crystal Palace	47,512	38,754	8,758	11,878
30	Lesnes Abbey	46,212	37,693	8,519	11,553
31	Barking, Dagenham & Ilford	49,592	40,450	9,142	12,398
32	Romford	50,112	40,874	9,238	12,528.00
33	Forest	83,212	67,873	15,339	20,803
34	Enfield	66,412	54,169	12,243	16,603
35	Barnet & Queensbury	47,612	38,835	8,777	11,903
36	Harrow & Hillingdon	91,012	74,235	16,777	22,753
37	Teddington	25,112	20,483	4,629	6,278
38	Kingston upon Thames	36,080	29,429	6,651	9,020
39	Sutton	63,692	51,951	11,741	15,923
40	Purley	25,912	21,135	4,777	6,478
41	Croydon	65,812	53,680	12,132	16,453
42	Bromley	28,612	23,338	5,274	7,153
43	Orpington & Chislehurst	50,400	41,109	9,291	12,600
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,589,404</b>	<b>1,296,410</b>	<b>292,994</b>	<b>397,351</b>

## District Advance Fund

The purpose of the District Advance Fund of the London District is to support missional and outward looking, creative projects amongst our churches and circuits through the distribution of grants. Grants are also awarded to other District committees and groups to further many different projects.

Grants approved by the committee meet the criteria set out in the guidance policy, which can be found on the District website, and may include grants for personnel, training, equipment and property. Funding for the District Advance Fund comes from a levy on circuit model trust funds.

The total of grants awarded 2018 – 2019 was £570,748. The total payments of grants made during 2018 – 2019, including those approved in previous years, was £476,707

These may be summarised as follows:

- Manse purchases - £35,575
- Project payments - £87,500
- Ministry payments - £301,632
- General payments - £52,000

As in previous years, grants were awarded to a diverse and inspiring range of projects. These included:

### **The London HIV / AIDS chaplaincy:**

- To provide pastoral support to people who suffer from HIV/AIDS across a number of educational institutions in London. The project reaches people from a wide variety of ethnic and social backgrounds.

### **The tax justice campaign:**

- In support of a project which works for a fairer and more effective tax system. The campaign works to encourage Governments to reflect on the common good and encourages corporations to pay their fair share of taxation.

### **Refurbishment of Windrush Hall, Harlesden**

- To allow the much needed refurbishment of a property which has provided a vital focal point for the Caribbean community in Harlesden.

### **Roehampton Urban Mission:**

- Supporting a project which brings hope and practical support to a deprived housing estate where resources are limited.

Further details are available on request.

***Revd Richard Grocott***

*District Advance Fund Secretary*

## District Advance Fund Grants Agreed (September 2018 – August 2019)

Month	Grant to	Purpose	DAF £	LMF £	Yrs
Oct 2018	Teddington (37)	Sunbury Methodist Church Microphones		1,000	1
Oct 2018	London District	SRC- Tax Justice	27,000		3
Oct 2018	London District	London HIV/AIDS Chaplaincy book		4,500	1
Oct 2018	City Road (1)	Wesley's Chapel – community worker		2,000	1
Oct 2018	Croydon (41)	Parchmore Rd Methodist church – Community Project/food shop		4,390	1
Oct 2018	Enfield(34)	St John's Neighborhood Centre & Chaplaincy	45,000		3
Jan 2019	Harrow & Hillingdon (36)	Yiewsley Lease	100,000		5
Jan 2019	Ealing Trinity (24)	Southall Interfaith Secondary Schools Educator		30,000	2
Jan 2019	Hackney & Stoke Newington (10)	Dalston Methodist Church refurbishment		16,000	1
Jan 2019	Harrow & Hillingdon (36)	Kenton Methodist Church – Toilets & changing facilities		20,000	1
Jan 2019	Teddington (37)	Hanworth Methodist Church – Part time Centre Manager		45,000	3
Jan 2019	Ealing Trinity (24)	MHA living at home	35,948	21,052	3
May 2019	Richmond & Hounslow (25)	Circuit community Work –Cedars Project	40,800		3
May 2019	Barking, Dagenham & Ilford (31)	Religious Education & Resources project	20,000		2
May 2019	London District	District Focus	96,000		2
May 2019	Richmond & Hounslow (25)	Wandsworth Community Trust	30,000		3
May 2019	Clapham (25)	Refurbishment of Stockwell Methodist Church	26,000		1

May 2019	Harlesden (13)	Windrush Hall	15,000		1
Month	Grant to	Purpose	DAF £	LMF £	Yrs
July 2019	Wimbledon (26)	Ruxley church – Memorial Peace Stone	5,000		1
July 2019	Westminster (3)	100 Dreams	25,000		1
July 2019	London District	London HIV/Aids Chaplaincy	45,000		3
July 2019	Newham (20)	Faith in Schools Work	27,000		3
July 2019	London District	Safeguarding Advance Training	11,000		1
July 2019	London District	Subsidy Coaches to 3 Generate 19	7,000		1
July 2019	Barnet & Queensbury	Improvements to Manor Drive Methodist church	15,000		1
July 2019	Forest circuit (33)	Shern Hall Methodist Church – improvement to heating and asbestos removal	13,000		1
*DAF: District Advance Fund  *LMF: London Mission Fund		TOTAL:	583,748	143,942	
			£727,690		



## Property Advisory Group

Since the last report, the District held a property round table with a selection of officers that have had involvement in major property development schemes within the District, to inform on their experiences of developing and progressing property schemes. Following on from this, recruits to the Property Advisory Group (PAG) were sought and found, to enable a refresh in the provision of support available for Circuits undergoing or considering to undergo large property schemes. The PAG will also be able to represent the District at events put on by the Connexional Property Support Team, who are also working closely with the Property Development Officer in offering support to Circuits.

In October 2019 a well-attended District Property Day was held inviting those who are involved in the development and care of property within each Circuit. The day presented the Evangelism and Growth Strategy by the Director of Evangelism and Growth, and the District Mission Plan as given by the District Chair. Circuits can tie both strategy and mission plan together when considered filling in what was then known by its working title - Property Development Mission Plan - that was being launched by the Connexion and presented by one of their Property Advisors on the day. This plan is now currently known as Church Profile. Each Circuit should be completing this Church Profile with the purpose of having it to hand as a good overview of their property, to assist in the vision for property development to help fulfil the Circuits future mission. A workshop on 'Being Resourceful and Creative' was also presented on the day by the Lead Connexional Treasurer, leaving participants with a good starting point for working on the vision of their property going forward.

## Property Consents Activity

The creation of 81 new property projects over 2019 remains consistent with the average new projects created over the past four years. The percentage of projects created then abandoned over the last year has decreased from 12% to 5.5%, which is a promising result suggesting there are more viable and considered projects being loaded onto the system. The projects listed show a range of types from leasing to refurbishment to large scale development. A continued thorough look at the property we look after and the ways in which they can benefit the community in which they sit will give rise to much of the same and hopefully even more adventurous developments in this year ahead.

## Future Plans

To the benefit of property concerns within the District, the Connexional Property Strategy Team has evolved over the year with a renewed structure and new personnel. With this also came the launch of the Connexional Property Strategy that the District want to help flesh out amongst Circuits by working closely with the Connexional team and help roll-out the property related initiatives such as the Church Profile document mentioned above. The District Property Development Officer would also like to enable more collaborative working across Circuits where best practice can be shared, including

contacts of commendable property contractors. The PAG will be engaged to help navigate and facilitate this.

***Mrs Kathleen Henriques-Brown***

*Property Development Officer*



## #NotWhoTheyAre

### WLM launches first ever advertising campaign

WLM, in conjunction with AMV BBDO, has launched a new campaign to tackle perceptions of homeless people and to bring a human side to the escalating problem of homelessness.

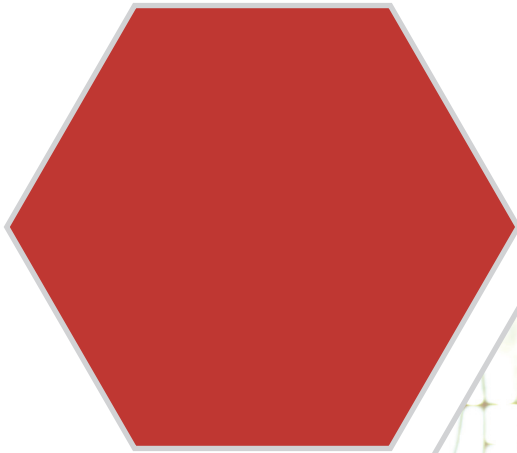
#NotWhoTheyAre offers an opportunity to see past the man/woman on the street and to identify them as not simply homeless, but as people with skills, passions, likes and dislikes, but and ultimately, personalities. It reinforces that although homeless people share a circumstance they are people with different strengths, backgrounds, problems and stories.

The campaign also seeks to encourage us not to simply walk on by but to do something.



In making the problem feel more real, it is WLM's hope that people will consider helping their mission of getting homeless individuals off the street and, more importantly, into permanent accommodation and employment.

***'Because homeless is what they are, not who they are.'***



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