

**LONDON
DISTRICT OF THE
METHODIST
CHURCH**

ANNUAL REPORT
2021 - 2022

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When things are difficult and change comes unexpectedly, it is often said that the “tough get going”! For us as Christians, after experiencing unprecedented levels of lockdowns, self-isolating restrictions etc, we respond faithfully and say “therefore by the grace of God, I go on”. We carry on in faith not because we can but truthfully depending on Christ who gives us life in defeating death and rising on resurrection Sunday. We are grateful for your faithfulness as a district. Many of you have kept the identity and presence of the Methodist Church alive and visibly present where you are in spite of our changed ways of relating through this pandemic. The cost of living crisis with so many things becoming more expensive and unattainable for those with little or no income, has put a squeeze on families that has widened the gap between those who have, and poor people across society. Our Calling as a church expressed particularly in the ‘God for All’ strategy adds weight to our endeavours to be a people engaged in acts of justice that seek to give access to all and make everyone feel included and acknowledged whatever their diverse contexts and situations.

Within our District we are blessed to have a number of churches and projects, administered by a consistent band of faithful people who are dedicated to the work of offering those in need practical support and guidance. Our humble thanks go to them all for the work that they do; be they ministers, lay people and ecumenical partners in congregations that work together, bringing ideas and empathetic pastoral care for those who need us most.

There is no denying that oftentimes the level of need seems overwhelming and the burden quite heavy to bear but as a people of faith in the God who provides, we pursue with vigour the desire to do all we can, when we can, and however we can.

Our District Project ‘Woven’, is in many ways symbolic of the times we find ourselves in – the difficulties of life have touched us all and we are all together woven into a tapestry of faith, service and care that is greater than ourselves, greater than singular communities and yet one in which we are all counted of value, significance and matter greatly to God.

We pray that this report, in some measure, will be a source of hope to provide you with the knowledge of the foundational work being done within the District and we sincerely give thanks and acknowledge all those who, both past and present, have played a pivotal role in it.

Every blessing

Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle and Revd Nigel Cowgill
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, 34 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 wellbeing of each other, of this global city and its 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 wellbeing of people and their communities.’

We aim to do this 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 fully understand our mission
- Building quality relationships across our Circuits, with wider Methodism and with ecumenical, interfaith 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 212

- 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 are by no means exhaustive or embrace the range of activities carried out in the name of the District. Their purpose is to help focus the major developmental work that is key to the next phase of the District's life as it seeks to support the ministry and mission of local churches, circuits and engage with London as a global city.



God's Story. Your Story. Every Story.

District Theme 2019-2022

Woven centres on the power of storytelling to transform and renew us in our lifelong discipleship as followers of Christ. Sharing 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.

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

Fola Oyeleye left the District in July 2021, and Joanna Kelly began as the new Project Coordinator in October 2021.

During autumn she met with the District Team members and other stakeholders to enable her to pick up the wonderful work done by Fola and the Woven Planning Team after a most challenging year.

Achievements:

The following collaborations and achievements took place:

Woven Advent Study Booklet:

Following the success of 2020's Advent study resource, this was republished for 2021 for churches and circuit groups in the London District and UK Connexion. We had a good take up, with an additional +1000 copies ordered.

‘Leadership on a Journey’ exhibition and catalogue collaboration with Wesley’s Chapel:

Following the launch of the exhibition in November 2021, we are focussing on weaving stories highlighted in the exhibition with the themes and aims of Woven. As this journey evolves, further information will be shared on the Woven pages of the District website and in the Weekly Update newsletter.

Plans:

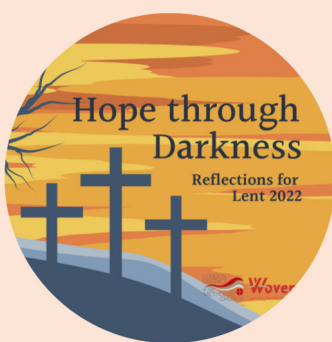
We have entered 2022 with exciting hopes and plans for how the Woven Project can bring us together to share stories of faith in our church communities, and with friends, colleagues and strangers. The past two years have been like no other and now it is time to focus on reconnection and restoration after a period of ‘collective trauma’ and struggle.

We are doing this through the following initiatives and plans in 2022:



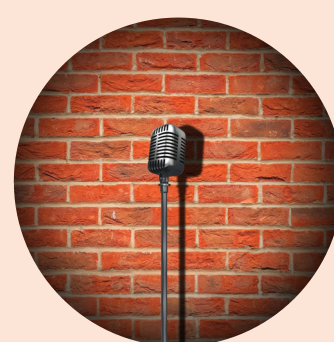
Woven Lent study booklet March/April:

We have reproduced last year’s well received study for circuit and church groups, generously contributed again by Revd Michaela Youngson.



Woven Lent Resource DVD March/April:

A series of conversations with 6 church members across the London District sharing their stories of life through the pandemic, highlighting that we continue to be woven together in both the hope and the darkness of this time. The stories shared have been recorded on DVD and distributed across Circuits as an aid to our reflections during Lent. The individual interviews will be shared on the District website, with audio recordings potentially used on Premier Radio.



‘Tell It Live’ music and spoken word event in June 2022:

Musicians and spoken word artists will inspire us with performances focussing on telling stories of faith. Further information of this event to follow in the Weekly Update.



District Away Weekend at High Leigh Conference Centre July 2022:

The theme for the 2022 away weekend will be 'Prophetic living' and 'Peace making'. An exciting line up of speakers, worship, workshops and other activities are being organised by the Woven planning group. Further details will soon be released on the website and in the weekly newsletter.



'Woven in Imagination' course September/October 2022:

A new 10 session course on Ignatian spirituality with training for group facilitators. Inherent in the course is the potential for groups to form a community 'rule of life'. The Gospel invites us to enter into God's story through our imaginations and live out our own story in Christ.



'Woven as One' interfaith event November/December 2022:

As part of Interfaith Week we have an Interfaith event planned for November, inviting representatives from other faith communities to come together to focus on solutions for injustice and inequality within our society and the world.

Issues:

The Woven Project and theme were launched in 2019 before the worldwide pandemic. As we emerge from two years of 'collective trauma' it is important to reflect upon whether people need and want the same things from the project as they did at its inception.

The Woven theme is pertinent to the times we find ourselves in and providing opportunities for reconnection and the sharing of our stories that are woven together in Christ, through the resources, activities and opportunities listed above, can form an important part of our restoration and renewal.

Other plans are in the pipeline for this year and going into 2023. Please keep an eye on the newsletter and website for forthcoming events and plans and visit the [Woven](#) page for current initiatives and resources.

Joanna Kelly

Project Coordinator

DISTRICT COUNCIL



District Council

The Council is the London District's Policy committee which seeks to think strategically about the life and mission of the whole District. It coordinates 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 fifteen members meet bi-monthly under the leadership of the District Chairs.

Achievements

In March, in response to Connexional Guidelines, the District embarked on a detailed review of its life, ministry and mission within the communities that we serve. The Review Group, which includes Synod approved volunteers with specific gifts and skills, meets regularly and consultations have begun. This is a wide-ranging process which will consider, in the light of our life together, leadership, resources and the skills, gifts and talents of mission and ministry, as well as the three key directions for the Church, namely the Methodist Way of Life, Justice, Dignity and Solidarity, and God for All.

The Council considered the arrangements for interim leadership following the departure of Revd Michaela Youngson and the Autumn Synod agreed resolutions appointing Revd Rosamund Hollingsworth and Revd Faith Nyota to be appointed to serve as Deputy District Chairs, each for an initial period of two years with immediate effect.

The Covid Support Grants by the District to Circuits and Churches continued to assist them in meeting their expenses in relation to matters such as sanitisation and facilitation of online services which were outside DAF grants.

As ever, there have been personnel changes on the Council. We have welcomed Anthony Boateng and James Pickin as new Council members and expressed our gratitude to Revd Dr Paul Hill and Revd Jonathan Mead who have stepped down.

The Council has continued to fulfil its remit of overseeing the formal consents, authorisations and approvals required for the on-going work of the District.

Plans

The Review will continue, with the intention of presenting the Report to the 2023 Spring Synod.

The Council has given careful attention to the task of making a recommendation to the Spring Synod regarding the re-invitation of one of the District Chairs and the appointment of a new Synod Secretary, following the decision of Mrs Denise Tomlinson to step down. She has served the District as Synod Secretary for four years with commitment and grace and we are grateful to her.

Planning will take place to evaluate the Woven Project which was extended until August 2022 and to research new project themes.

Hilary Porter
District Council Secretary

Chairs Nomination Committee

The Chairs Nomination Committee was convened via Zoom in October 2021 and met with Revd Jongikaya Zihle to discuss the re-invitation in respect of his current appointment as District Chair which comes to an end in August 2023.

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 2022.

Denise Tomlinson
Convenor of the Chairs Nomination Committee

Chairs' Responsibilities from Sept 2022

Revd Nigel Cowgill Discipleship and Congregational Development Social Responsibility Commission	
35/31	Barking, Dagenham & Ilford
35/05	Battersea & Wandale Valley
35/28	Blackheath & Crystal Palace
35/42	Bromley
35/04	Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham
35/41	Croydon
35/24	Ealing Trinity
35/38	Kingston Upon Thames
35/06	Lambeth
35/30	Lesnes Abbey
38/43	Orpington & Chislehurst
38/40	Purley
35/25	Richmond & Hounslow
35/07	Southwark & Deptford
35/39	Sutton
35/37	Teddington
35/03	Westminster
35/26	Wimbledon

Revd Dr Jongi Zihle Authorised Ministries Commission	
35/35	Barnet & Queensbury
35/01	City Road
35/34	Enfield
35/33	Forest
35/10	Hackney & Stoke Newington
35/13	Harlesden
35/36	Harrow & Hillingdon
35/11	Islington & Camden Mission
35/12	London Mission North West
35/22	New River
35/20	Newham
35/14	Notting Hill
35/32	Romford
35/09	Tower Hamlets
35/23	Wembley
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 wishes 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 have ranged from recruitment and non-complex behaviour/management/relationship issues to complex employee relations and change management issues.

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

Post-lockdown and the lifting of restrictions, churches are beginning to recruit into vacancies that were put on hold because of financial constraints and a need to review their circuit/church mission. To manage and mitigate risks, churches have also been considering different options for employing people including self-employment. Many churches have also begun to look at the terms and conditions of their lay employees, including an appropriate salary structure and structured sickness absence payment. The HR Group has supported many of the proposed changes with purposeful advice and continues to assist churches and circuits to think through their change management processes where these may affect the employment of lay people.

Churches and circuits have become more aware of their obligation as employers and the HR Group's advice and support has been sought in a variety of employee relations cases which continues to increase

in both quantity and complexity. For many churches/circuits there is deep intent and necessary rigour to ensure that processes are followed that are not just legal and satisfactory to the needs of the church/circuit but are also sensitive to the lay employees involved. The HR group has endeavoured, as best it can, to support and guide churches and circuits to healthy and effective solutions.

Plans:

It is clear that churches and circuits have learning and development needs in the area of lay employment. Due to time and resource demands, it is difficult for the HR group to deliver relevant briefing sessions/workshops. However conversations continue with the Chairs about the best way to equip and support ministers/circuit stewards to engage in a pastoral, but risk-free management of lay employees. The Learning Network has also run training sessions for those responsible for managing lay employees.

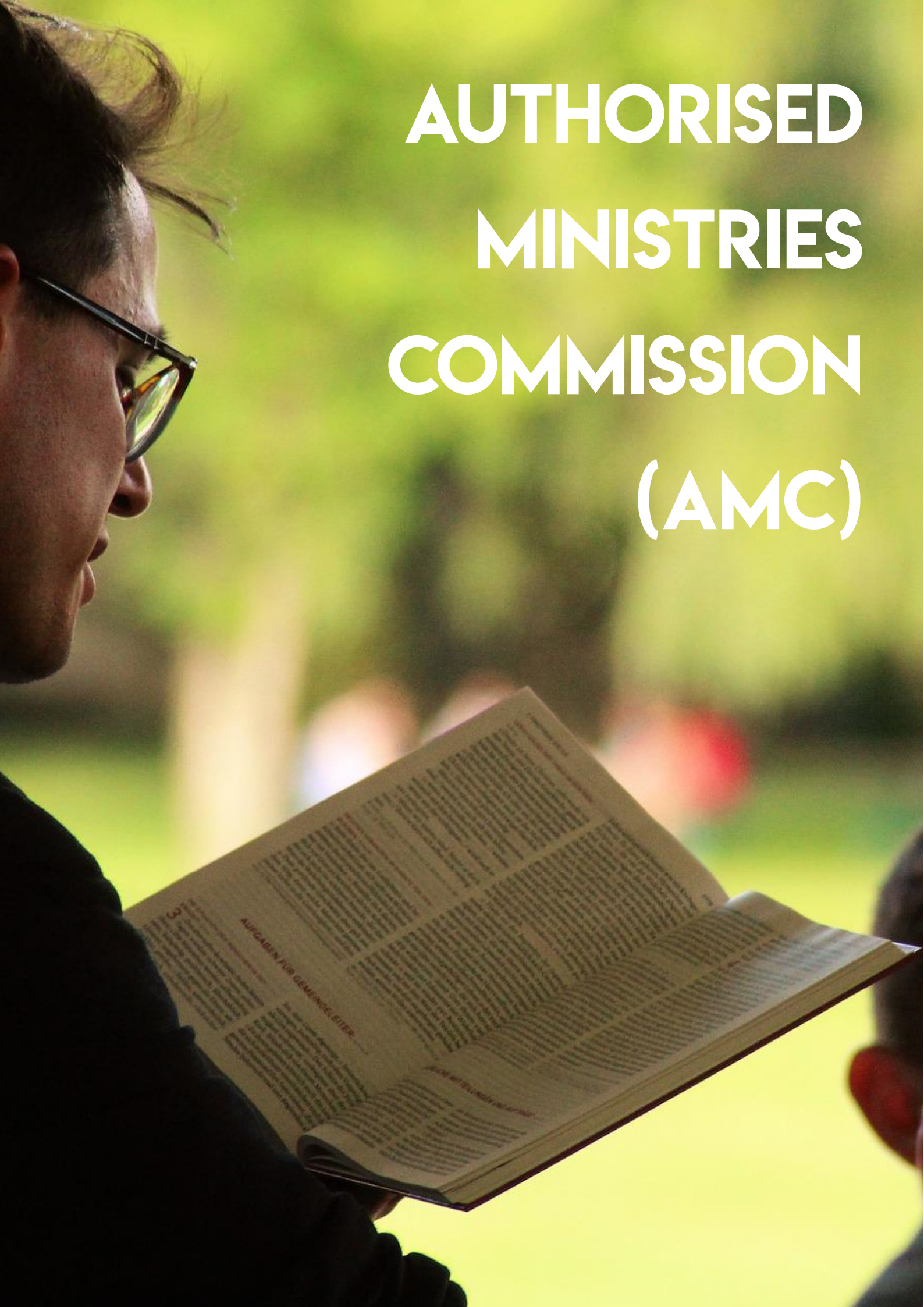
The HR group will continue to provide churches and circuits with effective support and advice in all areas of the lay employment journey where the group's intervention is sought. The Methodist Church website has a rich resource of materials which churches and circuits are encouraged to access and use,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

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 (AMC)



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).

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

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

Ministerial Development Review (MDR) and Continuous Development in Ministry (CDIM)

We have not had many applications for CDIM since the start of Covid – grants are available for short courses or retreats for both lay and ministers.

Guidance, along with the necessary forms, can be found on the District website.

With the support of the learning Network, we organised 3 Ministerial Development days throughout the year. Currently James is running an online Ministers Coffee Morning. This offers a space for ministers to come and learn from one another, gather around a particular theme with input from an external speaker.

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.

The Committee said 'farewell' to three members this year: two presbyteral, who moved out of the District, and one lay member who retired after long-standing service. We were delighted to welcome two new members: one presbyteral and one lay. This keeps the membership of the committee at a sufficient strength to cover the Connexional criteria laid down in Standing Orders.

Achievements:

Following their recommendation from the Connexional Candidates' Selection Committee, two candidates from the District started their training at the Queens Foundation in Birmingham in September 2021: one presbyteral and one diaconal.

This Connexional year the District Candidates' Committee met in person, although to allow for social distancing the venue was changed to Wesley's Chapel. The committee gathered over two Saturdays (15 and 22 January 2022), meeting four candidates: three for presbyteral and one for diaconal ministry. Of these, two presbyteral and one diaconal candidates were recommended to go forward to the Connexional Candidates' Selection Committee in the third week in March.

Building on the experience of the previous couple of years, the Committee have used a mixture of virtual and in-person meetings; a Candidates' Committee training evening and a preparation evening for the day of the District Candidates' Committee being held online. An extra in-person meeting, in addition to the usual meeting between candidates, their Superintendents, the District Chair, Candidates' Secretary and Regional Network Co-ordinator, was held in August to support candidates through the process. The Regional Support Group, facilitated by the Learning Network Co-ordinator, offered support to candidates in parallel to the process.

I would like to offer my thanks to ordained colleagues in the District who agreed to be portfolio mentors for candidates or offer placements and placement supervision, this is a vital part of the process. I also thank members

of the District Candidates Committee for their diligence in preparing for the committee meetings and their prayerful discernment when we gather; to James Pickin, the Regional Network Co-ordinator for his active attention to and participation in the processes, and finally, to the District Admin Team for their time and skill in making the practical arrangement for the meetings.

Future Plans:

Two people have already indicated that they are considering candidating in 2022/23.

***Revd Dr Eleanor Jackson,
District Candidates' Committee Secretary.***

District Probationers Committee

There are currently six probationer ministers serving in the London District: one presbyter and two deacons in their first year of probation and two presbyters and one deacon in their second year.

In November 2021 all probationers met with representatives of the District Probationers Committee (DPC) for informal conversations. Committee members were generally impressed by the progress of all the probationers.

In January 2022 the probationers joined with their peers from the South East District and ministers in their first five of ministry, for a retreat. We spent the time reflecting on issues of 'wellbeing', with input from the District Chairs and the Probationer and Early Secretaries of both Districts. Space was given for rest and personal reflection which was very much appreciated. Several commented on how much they gained from the opportunity to catch up on proper sleep. We met at Yarnfield Conference Centre in Staffordshire as the probationer deacons were required to be there for interviews with ROAC (Religious Order Advisory Committee) immediately after the retreat finished. This arrangement worked well, but looking ahead, this annual retreat will move into February to avoid clashes with the various requirements which are put on probationers in the weeks around Christmas.

The full DPC met over two days in late February to discuss in depth the progress and training needs with the probationer ministers. A great debt of gratitude is owed to the members of the committee who work with dedication and enthusiasm. They have to digest a great deal of written material in preparation. The DPC welcomed three new members this Connexional year: two lay people and one deacon. We need to recruit three presbyter members from September 2022 due to ministers leaving the London District or standing down after long service.

A Testimony Service for those moving forward to ordination this year will take place at Wesley's Chapel on Sunday 22nd May at 6.30pm.

Revd Andrew Letby

Secretary—District Probationers Committee

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

There are some promising signs that the new WLP 3.0 version of the Worship: Leading & Preaching course is proving helpful to local preachers and worship leaders in training and their tutors. A lack of tutors in some circuits has continued to be an issue over the past year, making it difficult for the students concerned to progress in their studies. This problem has been alleviated in part by at least one circuit generously opening up its tutorial sessions to students from other circuits, and I am most grateful to the Learning Network for surveying tutor provision across the District and taking welcome action to fill gaps and recruit and train new tutors.

The Learning Network's programme of continuing development events for local preachers and worship leaders is proving popular. These Gatherings take place online every few months and combine a speaker-led session on a particular topic with an opportunity for preachers and worship leaders to meet in small groups in Zoom breakout rooms to share their experiences and ideas about preaching and worship leading.

Plans

Over the next 18 months I look forward to:

Continuing to build relationships with local preachers' and worship leaders' meetings around the District.

Continuing to develop the learning and development aspects of my role in liaison with the Learning Network.

Additional points

Obstacles to achieving what I set out to do (other than Covid).

None in particular, other than time constraints.

Issues raised for the District.

The need to develop and maintain tutoring capacity in the circuits, to ensure that as many students as possible can successfully complete their course.

Stories or key messages for the District to hear.

We are blessed that across the District we have so many faithful, dedicated local preachers and worship leaders, who over the last two years have adapted to new and different ways of preaching and leading worship and are keen to develop their knowledge and skills further.

Janet Tweedale

District Local Preachers and Leaders of Worship Secretary

District Sabbaticals Advisory Group

The membership of the District Sabbatical Advisory Group (DSAG) consists of lay and ordained people.

The Group was unable to meet physically this year because of the pandemic but were able to communicate and make decisions via email throughout the year. Recommendations were submitted 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. Ms Nellie Showers our convenor/secretary stepped down from her role in December 2021 and the group wish to thank her for all her hard work and care that she showed in the role. We welcome Ms Dawn Downes from the Wimbledon Circuit as our new convenor and Secretary. We thank ministers for their patience when at times your enquiry was a little slow in the last few months.

Achievements

Last Connexional year was a challenging one for most of our presbyters and deacons as original prospectuses approved were not achievable and prospectuses have to be resubmitted. Some sought to defer rather than cancel their original programme.

A number of ministers taking their sabbaticals in the next Connexional year have already sought advice and are well into the necessary planning.

Presbyters/Deacons are mandated to share (for five minutes) their plans at their respective circuit meetings before and after their Sabbaticals in order for Circuits to take an interest.

As a group we continue to encourage Sabbaticees to share their experiences in the form of a report at the end of a sabbatical. We are happy to report that there has been an improvement in this area and whilst such information is valuable to the circuit, it is also useful to those going on sabbatical.

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.

Revd Nigel Cowgill

London District Chair

Stationing Report

The stationing of ministers into circuit appointments offers challenges in any year and this last year was no different. We were delighted that Stationing matching took place in person this year. As always, the Chairs are grateful for all the care circuits offer to ministers and their loved ones through the process of stationing. Thanks are also due for the patience of those making visits, and the trust that they and their families have shown as they prepare to move in 2022.

At the start of the stationing matching process in November, 133 Presbyteral appointments were vacant across the Connexion, and 81 presbyters available. As a District, throughout the process we had 15 appointments to fill.

At the time of writing, there are still two appointments unfilled within the District and we continue to pray for those circuits as they look at what ministry might be like for them in the next year. We are delighted that we will welcome eight new Presbyters and one Deacon into the District

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 continues as we ask them to consider 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 the possibility of accepting probationer ministers or ministers from other conferences and churches around the world.

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.

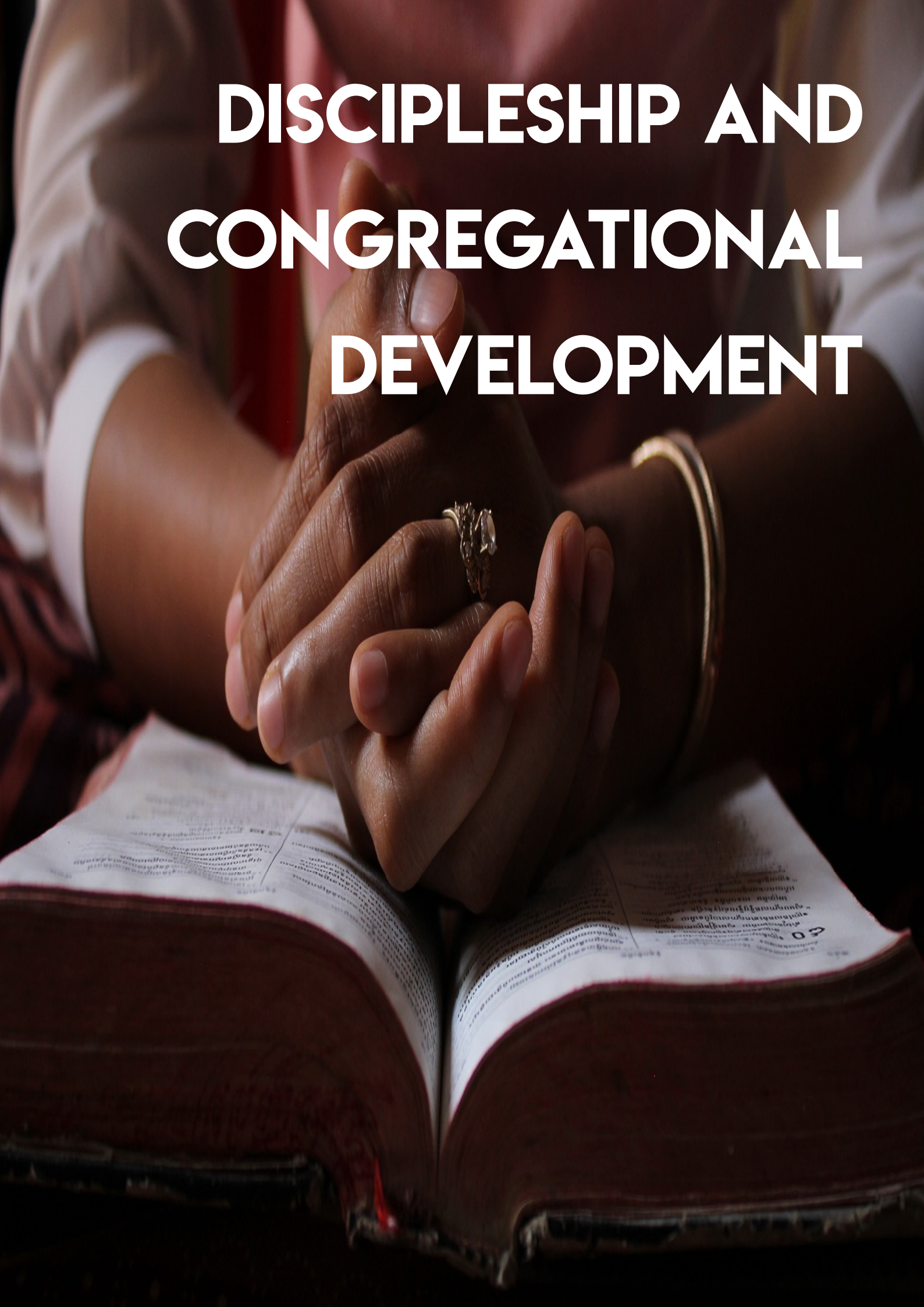
Training for circuits and ministers who may be involved in stationing for 2022 take place on:

- Saturday 30th April 2pm in person
- Wednesday 25th May 6.00pm on Zoom

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, both lay and ordained, have ministries to fulfil as members of the body of Christ.

Revd Nigel Cowgill
London District Chair

DISCIPLESHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT





Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB)

In 2011 Methodist Women in Britain was formed through the coming together of Women's Network and the British Unit of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFMUCW).

It's a movement within the British Methodist Church which seeks to resource individual women and women's groups in a variety of ways, connecting them with women worldwide. It is autonomous and has a representative on the United Nations Assembly. It is led by a group of volunteers and funded by donations. It exists to connect women with an interest in creative spirituality and passion for global justice by:

- 1) Bringing women together to know Christ and to make Him known.
- 2) Encourage, equip and enable women to serve God in the church, the community and the world.
- 3) Raising money every year for the World Mission Fund through the Easter Offering Appeal.
- 4) Providing fellowship and training including day and residential conferences.
- 5) Supporting the 17 United Nations Sustainable Goals.
- 6) Supporting and producing online and printed resources for Women's World Day of Prayer.
- 7) Creating an awareness and supporting people with visual and hearing impairment.
- 8) Supporting refugees and engaging in social justice campaigns.

The new strapline is: For Women, for Justice, for Christ.

Achievements

Like many organisations, MWiB London District which is divided into three Sectors (A,B & C) was heavily affected by

the Covid-19 pandemic and had to lay aside most of the goals planned. The Sectors function through its activities and fundraising which understandably is more effective with in-person gathering.

Our first in-person event was by Sector A on Saturday 2nd October 2021, this was a Quiet Day at Ruislip Methodist Church, hosted by the Harrow & Hillingdon Circuit but opened to the whole District. The speaker for the day was Deacon Denise Creed. The feedback from those who attended was very encouraging.

Our next event was the Annual District Day Celebration, this was held on Saturday 16th October 2021 from 11.00am to 1.00pm. At this event Mrs Eve deGraft spoke about her Presidency Theme: Living Water in a Parched Land focussing on her chosen Charities for her term of office. (Providing Bore Holes) in 3 villages in WA, Northern Ghana so that the Villagers can access clean water for domestic use. Secondly, to support (The ROBES Project) a night shelter in the Southwark & Deptford Circuit. It was heart-warming to see the happy faces of adults and children as they were able to have access to water via the Bore Hole.

On the same day, from 2.00pm, was the Induction Service for Mrs Helen Cornick, President, MWiB London District for 2021 – 2023. This service was led by Mrs Eve de Graft and Rev Peter Cornick. The main speaker was Rachel Allison, UK Helen Kim Memorial Scholar. The incoming President's Theme is Taking Opportunities

Thanks were expressed on behalf of the MWiB London District to outgoing President, Eve de Graft for serving in this role for the past 2 years for her sterling work. We wish her well and pray for God's continual presence in her life as she moves forward.

Both Events were held at Wesley's Chapel, City Road. It was a great day, a time of fellowship and sharing news from around the District, Circuits and Churches.

Sector News

The Sectors are continuing to give of their best despite the set backs and the uncertainties currently with most organisations.

Sector B: This Sector is in a much -improved position, thanks to an uptake of the roles that were vacant. This came as a result of a joint meeting of all Sectors held on Saturday 8th May 2021.

Sector C: This Sector, like others, has been meeting online. An In-person MWiB Thanksgiving Service was held on Sunday 10th October at 11.00am at West Croydon Methodist Church.

Plans

As we were unable to fulfil our goals for last year, the Executives have decided to carry on raising funds to supply Bore Hole to the villages in WA, Northern Ghana.

To God be the glory for what he has helped us to accomplish so far and we ask your prayers for MWiB London District as we journey on together in faith.

Eve de Graft

President



Children of Kahali Village,
Wa, Northern Ghana



1st Bore Hole to supply clean water

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:

Between September 2021 and April 2022, the District has facilitated 10 Advance Level Safeguarding training sessions with a further 14 to be completed by the end of the Connexional Year. This only equates to around 300-400 people trained. Uptake has been slow perhaps in part due to attendees needing to complete online learning before attending a session.

Following the Connexion's adaptation of the Creating Safer Space (CSS) training modules to online versions, the District has facilitated two Train the Trainer sessions to enable circuits to run Foundation Module sessions. Train the Trainer sessions will continue to be held bi-annually.

The District continue to hold two training forums per year on specialised topics. This Connexional year has included 'Working Online Safely' and 'DBS Regional Outreach Service'. The District hopes to hold a third session in May 2022, agenda to be published.

The audit process is now well underway. To date (March 2022) 133 churches have completed the self-audit stage. Meetings with the Assistant DSO have now commenced and these have proved to be beneficial and insightful for both District and Church Officers. Further details are available in the separate audit report.

Future Plans:

As churches adapt to the new landscape shaped by the Coronavirus, the Districts focus remains with supporting training opportunities, specifically around both Foundation and Advanced Module CSS. The District continually seek volunteers to support in the facilitation of training and interested parties are invited to have an informal chat with the DSO.

This year's District Safeguarding Conference has been postponed to November 2022 with the intention of being able to return to in person attendance. This will be dependent upon the latest Covid guidelines at the time. The conference theme is anticipated to be Unconscious Bias.

The development of the London District website continues on a rolling basis, with further information and resources being added.

Monitoring and Support Group Training is now available with event dates to be published in the new Connexional Year.

Obstacles and issues:

Ongoing and new requirements placed upon those at a local level continue to increase and safeguarding practices continue to develop and grow at an ever increasing rate. The audit process highlights the need for a more collaborative team approach for both safeguarding and training roles. When in existence, circuits and officers feel supported within their role, isolation is reduced and safeguarding practices improve considerably.

Conclusion and key message:

The last couple of years have been extremely challenging. As we move away from the pandemic, we will no doubt face new challenges, particularly following the investigation report into Child Protection in Religious Organisations and Settings. The Methodist Church response can be found here:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/safeguarding/latest-news/safeguarding-news/the-methodist-churchs-response-to-the-recommendations-of-the-independent-inquiry-into-child-sexual-abuse/>

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest thanks to everyone across the District who are striving hard to maintain and improve safeguarding practice within our churches. This is an incredibly vital role and contributions made can sometimes go unrecognised. Thank you for all you do, your dedication and commitment in the safeguarding arena, it is very much appreciated!

Becky Skinner

District Safeguarding Officer



The Learning Network

The Learning Network exists to be a resource to churches, circuits and districts of the Methodist church. We do this through a variety of means including training, events, coaching and wider development conversations. The London Learning Network team has gone through some staff changes over the past year and as a result has consistently been operating with one staff member less than its full capacity. In addition, the Learning Network now works more Connexionally with a variety of opportunities being offered regardless of location.

Achievements

The team are involved in around 43 pieces of work in addition to local circuit work. Some of these include:

- Piloting and leading on a national roll out of Line Management training for all new and existing Line Managers.
- Providing a new programme for a regional support group to those going through the candidating process.
- Piloting a new leadership development course as well providing coaching support to London circuits on the Transformational Leadership Learning Community.
- Providing support to safeguarding training including running additional Foundation and Advanced Modules to help ease some of the burden on circuits through having to train all Local Preachers.
- Providing support to Bible Month events
- Continuation of our Worship Leader and Local Preacher Gatherings

The team have received positive feedback from events such as:

Thank you it was so interesting and helpful, full of interesting content delivered in imaginative and thoughtful way.

Best training, I have had in my 9 years of being a lay worker

Having never attended anything like this I was a little dubious. However, it was both enjoyable and thought provoking and I definitely took something away from the session.

Plans

Our priorities for the remainder of the Connexional year have been set by the London Learning and Development

Forum. As well as continuing with other pieces of work, we plan to:

- Worship Leading and Local Preaching: The team are continuing to provide support for the worship leading and local preaching course including helping to recruit tutors and match these to circuits in need.
- Capturing and creating space for organic learning: This is following on from recent research about the most effective learning spaces.
- Circuit Vision working: Collating some of the wider learning and development needs from circuits to help steer future learning and development plans.

James Pickin

Learning and Development Coordinator



Youth and Children's Work

To provide support, guidance, encouragement, resources, and advice to all those involved in Children's, Youth, Families and Young Adult Ministry. It also falls within the remit of Youth and Children's Work to create and deliver training programs, workshops, webinars, and other appropriate opportunities for development.

Over the last 12 months, Youth and Children's work has contributed to the creation of and signposting to resources suitable for online and hybrid children's and youth groups. These resources include bible studies, websites, training, games, crafts, videos, prayers, devotionals, and updates on the latest Covid-19 guidance on opening children and youth provisions.

The portfolio of training available to all churches and circuits across the District has been updated and can be found on the District website. These training opportunities include a mix of in person and online sessions; as well as the option for churches and circuits to take advantage of bespoke training on a range of topics.

Attending Connexional Youth and Children's Communities of Practice has allowed for a more joined up approach to youth, children's, and families' work. This has further allowed for partnership work in delivering workshops, creating shared resources, and highlighting concerns. This can be seen in the work done with 3Generate's conference and online engagement strategy:

3Generate 2021 – At 3Generate, held at the NEC in Birmingham. I headed up the 'On the Margins' Venue with topics covered including poverty, LGBTQ+, disability, homelessness, race and gender. See image below. The London District provided funding to assist church members' attendance. 3Generate 365 - This online engagement gives children and young people the opportunity to have their voices heard all year round. As District ambassador for London, I produced resource material for leaders to hold their own tune in events, I also attended a few online youth groups to run the sessions and meet with the young people and children.

Newly implemented within this Connexional year is the Youth and Children's Community of Practice; a partnership with the Learning Network to provide an opportunity for youth and children's workers to come together and share good practice, learn from each other, support and pray for each other.

Future Plans:

To craft and deliver more Parallel Equipping Webinars/Workshops including:

- Understanding Self Harm
- Understanding Gangs
- Safeguarding in a Youth Work Context

- Understanding Anti-Racism and Allyship

The Youth and Children's Coordinator continues to deliver high quality webinars and equipping days for those working with children and young people; with a view to planning two sessions per month.

As we emerge out of the disruption of the pandemic, we have a unique opportunity to reboot our youth, children's, families and young adult ministries. As such I am offering Churches the opportunity to take a guided journey through the process of revisioning their ministries for children and young people.

All the above is underpinned with the need to raise the profile, value and importance of youth, children's, family and young adult ministry to the future of the Methodist Church, starting with encouraging churches to build sustainable youth and children's ministries, that the whole church gets behind and encourage churches to better support those working with children and young people.

What are the issues raised for the District through your work?

The pandemic caused a lot of children and young people to lose connection with the church, so we need to be intentional about how to can reach those that have 'fallen off the grid' as well as those new young people that may have started a journey of faith during lockdown. How do we better connect with them?

What are the stories or key messages that you wish the District to hear?

We need to be intentional about how engage with children and young people. Gone are the days when simply putting on a provision at the church would be enough, we need to look for new ways of engagement, of meeting the needs of the children and young people in our communities; schools work, family/intergenerational ministry and detached work are examples.

Brian Smith

Youth and Children's Coordinator



The Social Responsibility Commission

The Social Responsibility Commission (SRC) continues to seek to [advise](#) the District on policy and priorities for Methodist Social Responsibility involvement in London; to co-ordinate and advocate that involvement and to encourage theological reflection on its nature and significance as an expression of Christian discipleship.

Achievements

The past 12 months have been a year of transition. Under a new convenor, Anthony Boateng, the commission has consulted with its members in order to maintain its relevance and effectiveness.

The commission now has terms of reference which sets out its purpose, mission, objectives, membership, remit, responsibility, strategies and reporting arrangements.

Ongoing Plans

- Continue to work towards making the SRC both a proactive and responsive commission as we seek to act upon the following priority areas: COVID related issues, the refugee crises, affordable homes and racial justice.
- The commission is seeking to build relationships and partnerships with various circuits and external organisations that are doing work related to the role, purpose and mission of the SRC. This would hopefully allow the commission to address as many social justice issues as possible with the necessary degree of depth and care.
- As part of our ongoing recruitment strategy, we are aiming to increase our efforts to identify and empower the younger generation within the District to play a role in our work.
- Efforts are ongoing to obtain a speaker who would facilitate our Annual Away Day. We hope to use this opportunity to discuss the SRC work themes and priorities.

Anthony Boateng

Convenor

London HIV Chaplaincy

Our work is concerned with restoring the health and wellbeing of HIV+ people who have experienced rejection for daring to ask questions, 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
- Provide Book Groups as one way of meeting some of these goals

Constantly look for ways to feedback the issues we identify to faith communities and their leaders

The Year ...

Like 2020, 2021 has been another difficult year for everyone and the HIV Chaplaincy has had to continue to find different ways of doing things. Most of what we do with clients means meeting with them face-to-face but obviously during the lockdowns in 2021 we have not been able to do this. However, the trustees were successful in bidding for some funds so that it wasn't necessary to furlough the Chaplain. This meant that where possible at least telephone, text and email communication with clients could continue and this meant a life-line for our clients. Since the lifting of the last lockdown clients have been eager to meet with the Chaplain again, socially distancing, and resuming the Reading Groups.

Covid-19 has affected clients in many ways: many lost their private spaces at home; it has also challenged the provision of private spaces in places where previously the Chaplain met with clients (i.e. in the Central London's coffee shops). So this has made our commitment to the clients all the more necessary.

At the end of 2021 seven clients were referred to the Chaplaincy by a counselling agency who felt that these clients would benefit more from our services than their own. This has meant that the numbers of clients have remained to the maximum, 360. More than fifty percent of our clients are non-white women; most of the men are gay or bi-sexual. All are eager to be given 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.

One major new development for the Chaplaincy has been the beginning of some collaboration work with the Susanna Wesley Foundation of Southlands College. The purpose of this collaboration is:

- to equip the Chaplain to develop clarity about the learning that should be gleaned from our published book "Who Cares About HIV?"
- increase engagement between the Chaplaincy and the networks of which Susanna Wesley Foundation are a part.
- and to contribute to the creation of public learning resources, developed from themes that will emerge through the accompaniment process

The trustees board welcomed the Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle to the board in September 2021 as a replacement for the Revd Michaela Youngson. Jongi, is exploring different ways on how the HIV Chaplaincy might better engage with Church Leaders.

Finally, yet again the London HIV Chaplaincy are deeply grateful to, and commend the London District for having the generosity, courage, and humility, in accepting the trustworthiness of the Chaplaincy, to fund us as we attempt to care for our clients and to put right a violation of trust.

Phil Schneider (Chaplain)
and Steve Penrose (Trustee Secretary)

District Reconciliation Group

Every District in the Methodist Church have a group of those who are prepared to offer resource and support for the work of reconciliation. The London District Reconciliation Group meet to share in training and to offer oversight to one another in our ongoing work.

This year, as well as being asked to engage in several conversations, we have been developing resources intended for everyone in the District.

Achievements

Members of our group have been asked to offer support to several situations across the District, offering mediated conversations between individuals. We have been available to several Circuits working through difficult situations. We have also drafted a handbook with some significant resources to support the District.

Plans

We are seeking to find a new convenor of the District Reconciliation Group and will produce our handbook for the District.

Revd Dan Haylett

Reconciliation Group Convenor

FINANCE AND PROPERTY



District Finance Report

A summary of the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 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 2022.

The Full Trustee Report and Accounts are aligned with the Charity reporting requirements FRS102. This is further explained in the full report and accounts along with the comparative figures of 2019-20 accounts where relevant.

The District General Fund (non-designated) operated with a surplus of £25,060 for the year. The principle reasons for the surplus was the decrease in expenditure on travel, meeting and training due to the ongoing Covid pandemic.

The District own two manses and these were revalued in 2017-18 accounts. As there has been little change in value since that time, the only impact on the Manse Value Fund is the depreciation of the buildings.

The Benevolent Fund continues to provide the support needed by ministerial staff in special circumstances. In the year, grants were made of £3,651 and interest income earned was £19. The fund held £8,143 at end of year.

New grants awarded from the District Advance Fund amounted to £387,142, of which £120,224 was paid in the 2020-21 year and £266,918 is transferred to Liabilities for payment in future years. DAF Grants of £901,298 are held for expected payments in future years.

The Jean Richardson Endowment Fund exists to assist exchange visits between UK and Overseas youth organisations. The net income was £753. 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 £30,985.

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 Woven.

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 2020 – August 2021)

	2020-21	2019-20
Income		
Assessments from Circuits	1,545,741	1,510,625
deduct: Payment to Methodist Church Fund	1,296,157	1,235,853
District Assessments	249,584	274,772
Donations	7,240	0
Contributions from Circuit Advance Funds	409,643	464,801
Total from Circuits	666,467	739,573
Contribution from Connexion to cost of Chair	127,296	123,825
Interest on deposits and investment income	41,860	59,643
Other Income (e.g. Rent, Grants, training)	57,170	58,206
grants (incl trfs from DAF & General fund)	176,947	320,000
Total Income	1,069,740	1,301,247
Expenditure		
Grants and Donations committed in year	491,621	651,344
Salaries and associated costs	402,087	377,254
Property Costs (incl. Ins., C tax, utilities etc.)	73,043	51,975
Office Expenses (Admin., tel. travel etc.)	24,676	20,580
Synods, Commissions, Committees, Conference, etc.	2,483	7,066
Depreciation (now incl. of manse buildings)	20,550	20,130
Training	0	13,495
Other Expenditure	35,910	42,058
Audit& Accountancy fees	9,396	8,946
Manse loan interest		
Total expenditure	1,059,766	1,192,848
Net income	9,974	108,399
Gains/(losses) on disposal of Manse		
Gains/(losses) on revaln fixed assets		
Gains/(losses): on investment assets	18,809	(7,533)
Net	28,783	100,8666
Fund Balances from last year	5,103,790	5,002,924
Total Fund Carried Forward	5,132,573	5,103,790

Balance Sheet (as at 31 August 2021)

	2020-2021		2019-2020	
Fixed Assets				
Manse & Property (Depreciating)	1,706,586		1,724,611	
Investments with TMCP	1,714,491		1,695,682	
	3,421,077	3,421,077	3,420,293	3,420,293
Current Assets				
Cash in Bank and in hand	174,675		173,534	
Central Finance Board Deposits	244,043		264,871	
TMCP interest accounts	2,153,481		2,204,903	
Loans from the District	0		0	
Debtors and Prepayments	22,255		13,610	
	2,594,454	2,594,454	2,656,918	2,656,918
Current Liabilities				
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	11,660		25,283	
Grants payable (within 1 year)	676,287		740,732	
	687,947	687,947	766,015	766,015
Long Term Liabilities				
Grants Payable after 1 year	195,011	195,011	207,405	207,405
Net Assets		5,132,573		5,103,790

Balance Sheet (as at 31 August 2021, cont.)

Fund Balances and Move-ments		Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains on revaluation	Transfer to other funds	Closing Balance
		£	£	£	£		£
Unrestricted Funds							
General Fund	U	161,894	383,691	(358,539)		(92)	186,954
Designated Funds							
London District Advance Fund	D	180,881	414,451	(360,542)			234,790
Manse Value Fund	D	1,723,858		(19,100)			1,704,758
Manse Refurbishment Fund	D	143,524	468	(31,503)			112,489
District Training Personnel &	D	12,355	-	-			12,355
District Youth Enablement	D	10,814	52,000	(44,334)			18,480
London District Chaplaincy	D	2,326	37,170	(35,738)		3,612	7,370
London Crs cont learning	D	(423)				423	-
Growing London Leaders	D	6,745					6,745
District Focus (FKA Moving Sto-	D	39,497	51,006	(34,361)			56,142
University Chaplaincy	D	3,612				(3,612)	-
WL & LP Training (FKA Proclaim)	D	4,396		(143)		(280)	3,973
CSS Advanced Level Training	D	4,855	10,613	(6,707)			8,761
Emergency fund	D	1,449	-	(328)			1,121
3 Generate Coaches	D	500	-	-			500
Media & interfaith project	D	5,975	13,000	(7,925)			11,050
New Community Church Project	D	5,326	15,000	(6,843)			13,483
CDiM	D		10,217	(3,160)			7,057
ADSO	D		25,111	(14,145)			10,966
Covid 19 Support	D	151,388	-	(96,506)			54,882
Total Designated		2,116,197	214,585	(300,793)	-	143	(2,030,132)
Total Unrestricted		2,458,972	1,012,727	(1,019,874)	-	51	2,451,876
Restricted Funds							
London District Pastoral & Be-	R	11.775	19	(3,651)	-		8,143
Tower Hamlets - Sale-Land Step-	R	2,563,721	36,111	(36,111)	10,732		2,574,453
Worship & Local Preacher Re-	R	143	-	-	-	(143)	-
London Regional Network (incl.	R	528			-		528
Grenfell Tower Fund	R	(92)			-	92	-
Inter Circuit Support	R	3,700	20,000	-			23,700
Total Restricted Funds		2,579,775	56,130	(39,762)	10,732	(51)	2,606,824
Endowment Fund							
Jean Richardson Bursary	E	65,043	883	(130)	8,077		73,873
Total Funds		5,103,790	1,069,740	(1,059,766)	18,809	-	5,132,573

General Fund Budget – unrestricted non-designated (September 2022 – August 2023)

London District of the Methodist Church Budget 2022-23

	Actual 20-21	Budget 2021-22	Draft budget 2022-23
	£	£	£
Income			
Income from assessments on circuits	1,545,740.75	1,545,740.00	1,622,216
<u>Less</u> Assessment to Connexion			
Methodist Church Fund payments	1,296,157	1,317,396.00	1,312,031.00
Contribution to pension reserves		25,000	
Net Income from circuits	249,583.75	203,344	310,185.00
<u>Add</u> Other Income			
Other income	6,240		
CFB interest receivable	570.94	1,200.00	0
DAF grants paid through district	0		
Total Other Income	6,810.94	1,200.00	0
Less Operating Expenses			
General and Governance			
Audit fees	9,396.00	9100	9,490.00
Bank Fees	98	114	117
Consultancy	100	8,500	
Ecumenical grants	4588.97	5,220	5,293
Hospitality& gifts	2,203.93	2,028	2,085
Meeting facilities (Non commission)	239	2,460	2,465
Miscellaneous	0	355	366
CCLB License	230	237	244
Methodist recorder subscription		250	257
Minutes of conference & cpd	314.50	392	404
Travel	00	626	645
Total General and Governance	17170.40	29,282	21,440
Chairs Expenses	1,701.51		9,631
Commission, synods, methodist conference etc			
Authorised Ministries Commission	1538.65	4,732	8,022
Social Responsibility Commission	0	756.00	779

General Fund Budget (September 2022 – August 2023) continued

Superintendents' meetings	703.92	1,116	1,154
Methodist Conference	0	302.00	311.00
Synods	240	4012.00	4,131
Total Commission, synods, methodist conference etc	2,482.57	10,917	14,397
Finance expenses	259.20	420.00	436
Office Expenses	10,7902.3	17,248.00	16,548
Property costs			
Manse costs	13,865.96	26,436	22,323
Office rent costs			
District Training room annual cost	2,578.50	3,532	0
Office rent	24,412.52	25,016	25,145
Total office rent	26991.02	28,548.00	25,145
Total Property costs	40,856.98	54,984	47,468
Safeguarding costs	1,548.60	4,794.00	4,868.00
Salaries & Associated costs	156,431.44	174,403.00	193,450.00
Training costs			
Staff training - non project	0	1,000.00	1,000.00
Chairs' training		1,000.00	1,000.00
Total training costs	0	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Operating Expenses	231,243.00	303,396	310,238.00
Net Profit / -Loss	25,152	-98,852.00	-53.00
Less Depreciation		2,000.00	2,000.00
Net Cash surplus/deficit		-96,852.00	1,947.00
Less Capital Costs		4,000.00	4,000.00
Cash surplus / -required		-100,852.00	-2053.00

Circuit Assessments 2022-2023

Circuit number	Circuit name	Circuit assessments 2022-23	MCF	District expenses	Quarterly payments	
		100% £	80.875% £	£	£	
1	City Road	54,960.00	44,448.90	10,511.10	13,740.00	
2	West London Mission	51,288.00	41,479.17	9,808.83	12,822.00	
3	Westminster	43,168.00	34,912.12	8,255.88	10,792.00	
4	Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham	26,856.00	21,719.79	5,136.21	6,714.00	
5	Battersea & Wandale Valley	58,048.00	46,946.32	11,101.68	14,512.00	
6	Lambeth	75,412.00	60,989.46	14,422.54	18,853.00	
7	Southwark & Deptford	98,596.00	79,739.52	18,856.48	24,649.00	
9	Tower Hamlets	21,916.00	17,724.57	4,191.43	5,479.00	
10	Hackney & Stoke Newington	43,268.00	34,993.00	8,275.00	10,817.00	
11	Islington & Camden Mission	21,108.00	17,071.10	4,036.90	5,277.00	
12	London Mission North West	30,936.00	25,019.49	5,916.51	7,734.00	
13	Harlesden	19,136.00	15,476.24	3,659.76	4,784.00	
14	Notting Hill	11,676.00	9,442.97	2,233.03	2,919.00	
20	Newham	35,096.00	28,383.89	6,712.11	8,774.00	
22	New River	91,336.00	73,867.99	17,468.01	22,834.00	
23	Wembley	33,088.00	26,759.92	6,328.08	8,272.00	
24	Ealing Trinity	48,540.00	39,256.73	9,283.27	12,135.00	
25	Richmond & Hounslow	36,856.00	29,807.29	7,048.71	9,214.00	
26	Wimbledon	25,828.00	20,888.40	4,939.60	6,457.00	
28	Blackheath & Crystal Palace	46,348.00	37,483.95	8,864.05	11,587.00	
30	Lesnes Abbey	45,076.00	36,455.22	8,620.78	11,269.00	
31	Barking, Dagenham & Ilford	52,748.00	42,659.95	10,088.05	13,187.00	
32	Romford	52,128.00	42,158.52	9,969.48	13,032.00	
33	Forest	80,228.00	64,884.40	15,343.60	20,057.00	
34	Enfield	77,456.00	62,642.54	14,813.46	19,364.00	
35	Barnet & Queensbury	45,076.00	38,891.17	9,196.83	11,269.00	
36	Harrow & Hillingdon	102,776.00	83,120.09	19,655.91	25,694.00	
37	Teddington	29,968.00	24,236.62	5,731.38	7,492.00	
38	Kingston upon Thames	34,520.00	27,918.05	6,601.95	8,630.00	
39	Sutton	60,028.00	48,547.65	11,480.35	15,007.00	
40	Purley	25,788.00	20,856.05	4,931.95	6,447.00	
41	Croydon	63,696.00	51,514.14	12,181.86	15,924.00	
42	Bromley	28,588.00	23,120.55	5,467.45	7,147.00	
43	Orpington & Chislehurst	47,756.00	38,622.67	9,133.33	11,939.00	
	Total from Circuits	1,622,304.00	1,312,038.44	310,265.56	405,576.00	

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. Grants approved by the committee meet the criteria which are set out in a policy document on the District website. These 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 between September 2020 and August 2021 was £428,737. These are summarised by category as follows:

Category	Total Amount
General	£79,500
Ministry	£211,237
Project	£138,000
Total	£428,737

The total payments of grants made during 2020 – 2021 including those approved in previous years was £513,981.

As in previous years, the grants were awarded to a diverse and inspiring range of projects. These are a few examples:

- £30,000 to Grange Hill Methodist Church, towards building access modifications.
- £30,000 to Wandsworth Chaplaincy Community Trust towards a Prisoner resettlement scheme.
- £15,000 to Wealdstone Methodist Church towards a church and community worker.

The next page details DAF grants awarded by the London DAF committee between September 1st 2020 and August 31st 2021.

Our thanks go to all committee members who have kept the important work of DAF running through these difficult times.

Revd Richard Grocott,

Secretary of the London DAF committee.

District Advance Fund Grants Agreed (September 2020 – August 2021)

Date agreed	Grant to	Purpose	*DAF	**LMF	Category	Years
18.10.20	Shern Hall MC	Streaming Project		£4,000	LMF	1
20.10.20	London District	Assistant District Safeguarding Officer	£73,471		Ministry	3
20.10.20	London District	CSS Advance Level Training	£25,766		Ministry	3
20.10.20	Forest circuit	Temporary Loan	£50,000		General	2
28.01.21	Kensal Rise MC	Renewal of Church frontage		£8,000	LMF	1
28.01.21	Grange Hill MC	Access modifications	£30,000		Project	2
28.01.21	Peckham	AV system update	£2,500		General	1
19.05.21	Wesley's Chapel	Black Lives Matter Heritage Exhibition		£15,000	LMF	1
19.05.21	Goodmayes MC	Community Phased Building Project	£50,000		Project	2
19.05.21	Wandsworth Community Trust	Chaplaincy	£30,000		Ministry	3
19.05.21	Barkingside MC	Front extension	£20,000		Project	1
19.05.21	Grange Hill MC	Access modifications - supplement	£10,000		Project	1
19.05.21	Deptford Mission	Upgrade to AV system	£8,000		Project	1
19.05.21	Yiewsley MC	Roof repair	£20,000		Project	1
19.05.21	Wealdstone MC	Church and Community Worker	£15,000		Ministry	3
19.05.21	London District	Woven project	£32,000		Ministry	2
14.07.21	Wembley circuit	Circuit Administrator	£27,000		General	3
14.07.21	Loughton MC	Church Hybrid Worship	£5,000		Ministry	1
14.07.21	Roehampton MC	Youth work	£30,000		Ministry	3
*DAF: District Advance Fund		Total	£428,737			
**LMF: London Mission Fund						

Property Advisory Group

The roadmap out of lockdown resulted in the return to and re-engagement with our property in a manner of ways with careful consideration. The Pandemic no doubt brought about change, but requests for consent for property schemes indicated ongoing activity in spite of these changes.

Property Consents Activity

2021 saw an upsurge in property activity with 91 new property projects registered on the Property Consents system, which is an increase of 13 on the previous year's figures and six points above the average of the five years preceding. The increase in activity stems mainly from renovation work. Whilst the main stay of property development remains in the letting and leasing of property, an uplift in projects to improve and change property is noted.

Property Returns/Annual Returns

The Property Return forms part of the Annual Return to be completed by churches and Circuits. The District publicised an early returns submission date to allow good time for any anticipated issues to be communicated, and in time for a reflection of how we are doing as a District. Of the 34 Circuits, 13 presented with no returns submitted. Of the remaining 21 Circuits, only four had all churches complete their returns, and only two Circuit Returns submitted. This is clearly an area for attention, and whilst some were hampered by technical issues in using the system there is a need for training and clearer communication to enable returns to be completed.

The completion of returns for the previous year ending 31 August is accessible from 1 September. To allow for a full picture in future, the Property Development Officer will use a number of communication methods to alert of the submission deadline to property officers within the District.

The Property Advisory Group (PAG)

The PAG now feature on the District Web pages, by way of introduction to who we are. We met via zoom throughout 2021 and planned and held a successful Property Seminar – 'Post Pandemic Property'; which was held via Zoom in October last year with good attendance. The event included speakers from within and outside the District, who shared different perspectives of how they dealt with developing property with mission, within their Circuit.

Future Plans

The recent feature of a Property Q&A within the Learning Network's zoom training held in January was a good indicator that more such forums could be of assistance to those grappling with property issues. The Property Development Officer would like to continue with ways to engage Circuits so that queries and concerns are made a manner that allow Circuits to assist each other by sharing experiences and knowledge. The District want to increase the PAG with additional members to widen its ability to strategise and help the Circuits and churches within the District; and to fill vacant positions with the Property Consents Panel to ensure informed decisions are made in good time to allow for property development to flourish.

Kathleen Henriques-Brown

District Property Development Officer



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