

Museum Street Landseer Road Chantry

Methodist Church

Connections



◀ **Genesis 1:31** ▶

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

August 2021 5

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the blessings through this pandemic has been the way in which our three churches have come together and supported each other. We worked together for four months on our joint Zoom Sunday Worship from January to April, with participation in the services from a cross section of people. We had a Zoom book study together and Museum Street Zoom Coffee mornings were open to all.

Our leaders have worked hard and have met frequently together by Zoom. They came up with the plans as to how to implement and follow the government COVID rules, so that we could safely open our churches. When the second COVID wave hit the country, we listened carefully to one another and took joint decisions about when to close and when to safely reopen. Your leaders have done a wonderful job and I am very thankful that we have not had a COVID outbreak in our midst.

Now that we are more freely able to meet in person, we are planning a joint BBQ so we can get to know each other better in person; this was initially going to be in July but due to some folk having to isolate, it was postponed to 28th August. We also have a joint Book Study on the *Methodist Way of Life* currently underway, and our thoughts are turning to what comes next.

As we return to doing more activities in person at our three churches, we want to maintain the close links that are developing between us. We will be holding a joint service at Landseer Road on Sunday 15th August at 11 a.m. Alan Road and Bramford Road will also be joining us. *Please note that there will be no worship services at Chantry or Museum Street on that Sunday.* And then, beginning in October, we will be holding a monthly joint worship service on the last Sunday of every month.

God is moving in some new ways amongst us. As God told the prophet Isaiah to tell the people: *See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.* (Isaiah 43:19)

In Christ,
--Pastor Joan

BIBLE VERSES

You say,.... Versus God says.....

You say: 'It's impossible'
God says: All things are possible.
(Luke 18:27)



You say: 'I'm too tired'
God says: I will give you rest.
(Matthew 11:28-30)

You say: 'Nobody really loves me'
God says: I love you.
(John 3:16 & John 3:34)

You say: 'I can't manage'
God says: I will supply all your needs.
(Philippians 4:19)

You say: 'I can't go on'
God says: My grace is sufficient.
(II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)

You say: 'I'm afraid'
God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear.
(II Timothy 1:7)

You say: 'I can't figure things out'
God says: I will direct your steps.
(Proverbs 3:5-6)

You say: 'I'm always worried and frustrated'
God says: Cast all your cares on ME.
(I Peter 5:7)

You say: 'I can't do it'
God says: You can do all things.
(Philippians 4:13)

You say: 'I'm not smart enough'
God says: I give you wisdom.
(I Corinthians 1:30)

You say: 'I'm not able'
God says: I am able.
(II Corinthians 9:8)

You say: 'I feel all alone'
God says: I will never leave you or forsake you.
(Hebrews 13:5)

You say: 'It's not worth it'
God says: It will be worth it.
(Roman 8:28)



You say: 'I can't forgive myself'
God says: I forgive you.
(I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)

PRAYERS

How long, O Lord, how long?

We wait for the vaccine that will ease our planet's fear, come, Lord of hope.

We wait for the justice that will end our planet's hunger, come, Lord of hope.

We wait for the ceasefire that will stop our planet's violence, come, Lord of hope.

We wait for the change that will restore our planet's climate, come, Lord of hope.

We wait for the return of Jesus that will complete our planet's destiny,

Amen

O Lord, as we wait in a world of turmoil for an end to sickness and anxiety, facemasks and lockdowns, loneliness and job losses, enable us to keep our eyes fixed in You. Help us to be strong and take heart as we wait for You to deliver us. Give us grace to look beyond ourselves and remember others in far more difficult situations, especially our brothers and sisters in contexts of persecution or great poverty, where coronavirus has been yet one more hardship to add to what they already bear so patiently.

Bless them and provide for them, we ask, in the name of Jesus.

(Psalm 27:14)

With hearts full of hope and expectation, Lord,
we wait for the coming Kingdom.

Make us people who serve others,
distinguished by our generosity.

Make us people who speak of Jesus,
distinguished by our kindness.

Make us people who are good neighbours,
distinguished by our tolerance.

And so, may all those we know be drawn
to the God who was, and is, and is to come.

Amen

(From the current Barnabas Fund prayer diary)



Saturday 28th August at 5 p.m

In the garden of Landseer Road Methodist Church.

At our Joint Barbeque we will be serving meat and vegetarian burgers & sausages, salad and dessert.

There will be live music with some outside singing.

Tickets are available for a suggested donation of £5 each from Chantry :Francis Rokobuli.

Landseer Road: Linda Rachel.

Museum Street: Kath Calvesbert.

Any profit will go to FIND.

WORLD MILK DAY

This article is carried over from last month.

From a cool glass of milk, to hot butter being spread across toast, or a heaped bowl of ice cream, World Milk Day celebrates it all. The day was organized by the Food & Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations to celebrate the dairy industry and recognise milk as a globally important food.

World Milk Day seeks to start a conversation on how nutritious, affordable, and accessible milk is around the globe - not to mention delicious!

Humans began to drink milk when animals were first domesticated in the Neolithic age around 9000-7000 BC. Milk became important in many cultures, both for spiritual and logical reasons.

As much as milk was worshipped, it was also

ridiculed. While early Japanese Buddhists mocked those who consumed butter, Northern Europeans were thought disgusting for consuming reindeer milk. In Rome, milk was thought to be a low-class beverage, only to be consumed by farmers who had no other choice.

The next chapter in the history of milk consumption, came with industrialisation. While most countries and cultures had adopted milk, many places were just not close enough to dairy farms to enjoy it. When the railways came along, urban demand for milk in places like London and Paris shot up. Throughout the 1800s, there was much innovation around milk, from breweries opening dairies to feed spent grain to their cows, to vaccines being invented from watching how milkmaids avoided smallpox.

Milk has clearly had a huge impact on society, but the demand and production of it have shifted dramatically in recent years. Trends are shifting towards alternative non-dairy milk.

Who know what will happen to dairy next!



Fascinating facts about British dairy.

Cows can eat up to 50kg of food a day.

Cows can drink up to a bathtub (about 60 litres) of water day.

It takes a cow between 50 to 70 hours to turn grass into milk.

The average person in the UK drinks 144 pints of milk a year.

The average tea maker can make 20 cups of tea from 1 pint of milk.

On average, a cow produces 39 pints of milk a day.

It used to take one person 1 hour to milk 6 cows by hand, today we can milk 100 cows an hour with the use of robotic milking.

The British dairy industry provides jobs for 80,000 people.

The British dairy industry is worth £6 billion to the UK.²¹

There are 1.84 million dairy cows in the UK.

Cows can't sleep standing up.

What do humans and cows have in common? ... They all have 32 teeth!

There are many references to Milk in the Bible

Hebrew halabh, "new milk" - milk in its fresh state is frequently mentioned in the Old Testament in connection with honey. Milk often has ties to fertility, so the milk points to the abundance of the land. Honey tends to represent delight, joy, sweetness, and pleasure. This combination could imply that Israel would no longer experience a time of bitterness and barrenness when they entered the Promised Land.

Milk is used figuratively as a sign of abundance in **Joel 3:18** "**When that day comes, the mountains will run with the new wine and the hills flow with milk. Every channel in Judah will be full of water; a fountain will spring from the Lord's house**".

Christian doctrine is likened to 'milk' for spiritual babies, which will strengthen them to grow to the point of being able to understand 'solid food', the deeper of spiritual truths – **Hebrews 5:12-13** "**By this time you ought to be teachers, but instead you need someone to teach you the ABC of God's oracles over again. It comes to this: you need milk instead of solid food. Anyone who lives on milk is still an infant, with no experience of what is right.**"

It is also used as the unadulterated word of God - **1 Peter 2:2** "**Like the new-born infants you are, you should be craving for pure spiritual milk so that you may thrive on it and be saved**".

www.nationaltoday.com/world-milk-day www.countrysideonline.co.uk

www.biblestudytools.com Creation Fest – Celebrating the good news of a God

SIX THINGS TO DO

1 Think of things to thank God for:

“Whatever is true, whatever is noble,
whatever is right, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable
if anything is excellent or praise- worthy
think about such things.”

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

2 Rest in the Presence of your Good Shepherd:

“Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,
for you are with me.”

PSALM 23:4

3 Stop carrying your burdens by yourself:

“Come to me, all who labour and are
heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ”

MATTHEW 11:28

4 Trust in God’s plan, not your own:

“For I know the plans I have for
you, declares the Lord, plans for
peace and not for evil, to give you a
future and a hope.”

JEREMIAH 29:11

5 Ask God to hold your worries in His loving hands:

“Cast all your anxieties on him,
because he cares for you.”

1 PETER 5:7

6 Set your focus on Jesus, not your needs:

“Seek first the kingdom of God
and his righteous ness, and all these
things will be added to you.”

MATTHEW 6:33

Irene Jarrett

Taken from the Newsletter of “Our Daily Bread Ministries”

HOW TO EXPLAIN!!

the Gospel using three verse's.....

Any person you share the Gospel with should walk away from the conversation feeling loved by you and loved by God. Christians and the church are often perceived as being judgmental and hypocritical, so this could be the first step for them to experience God as a loving father who accepts them and values them. Trust God to do the rest!



John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

You can share this verse and explain that God has done two very important things: He has loved and He gave. He loves us so much that He gave Jesus to die in our place for our sin. He rescued us from our brokenness!

We just need to do one thing: believe, and we receive the gift of eternal life. This is the life God desires for us!

God wants us to have a life filled with love, acceptance, forgiveness, and purpose! He is ready to be our hope and our help.

Romans 6:23 i

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Without God, our sin leads us toward death. Have you ever felt far away from God? This is just one example of what sin does: It separates us from God. Sin causes a separation between us and God. Sin leads to brokenness – the brokenness we see in our own lives and all around us.

BUT! God doesn't want it that way. He loves us and desires to be in relationship with us. He wants the very best for us!

He has given us a gift, through Jesus, and that gift is the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus died on the cross so our sins don't have to separate us anymore. When we accept that gift, we get eternal life with God.

CONTINUING WITH NO:3....

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15

This is a crucial Bible verse about sharing the Gospel.

Remember it is not your responsibility to save whoever you're talking to — only God can save.

But it is your responsibility to love them and speak to them with gentleness and respect.

Share with them authentically about why you have hope.

So many people are looking for what you have – hope!

Where our preachers are in August.

C Finbow	8 th August at Kelsale
	29 th August at Chantry
L. Rokobuli	8 th August at Alan Road
D Sawyer	8 th August at Trimley
R Sawyer	1 st August at Chantry
V Vallow	22 nd August at Elmsett
D Welbourn	8 th August at Holbrook,
	15 th August at LR for Joint MS/LR/C/BR/AR Service.
	22 nd August at Woodbridge
C Westren	15 th August at Peasenhall
	29 th August at Brantham

IF JESUS CAME TO YOUR HOUSE



When you saw Him coming would you meet Him at the door,
With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly visitor?

Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in?
Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where it had been?

Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymnbooks out?
Could you let Jesus walk right in or would you have to rush about?

And I wonder - If the Saviour spent a day or two with you,
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?

Would you go right on saying the things you always say?
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?

Would you take Jesus everywhere you planned to go?
Or would you maybe change your plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends?
Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?

Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on?
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?

It might be interesting to know the things that you would do,
If Jesus came in person to spend some time with you.

Lois Blanchard Eades
was a poet residing in Dickson, Tennessee, in the 1980s.

THE CASE FOR HYDROGEN

David Howlett asks a very good question?

Cut the carbon emission, let's have a greener world. Buy or replace your car with an electric one. No carbon emissions!

Hold on - where is the electricity coming from? Where is it stored.

Initially the case for the electric car sounds ideal but when you delve a little deeper things don't look so bright. The manufacturers are continually struggling to increase the range of an electric vehicle, its limitation being caused by the size to weight ratio and of the capacity of the lithium battery.



Have we considered the supply of lithium? The world supply is limited and major deposits are mainly held by three countries. Supplies at the current rate of use are estimated to last until ~2050. We've seen many times with the case of crude oil, how holders of the major reserves can hold the world to ransom. Similarly, this could happen with the supply of lithium ores.

It is also worth going on line and looking at and seeing the impact which lithium mining in Bolivia is having on the fauna, flora and ground water around sites.

We hear lots about the wonders of switching to the electric car. Yes, we have to get away from petrol and diesel but in doing so we have to think of other consequences that accompany this.

We are striding ahead with our wind farms and solar power. This is great, but when the day is dull and the wind doesn't blow, output is significantly reduced. Inversely strong sunlight and winds can cause a surplus of power.

What do we do with it? The storage of large quantities of electricity with batteries is a no-go. One or two attempts with hydro-electric power plants has been to reverse the process and use surplus power to pump water to a higher reservoir for reuse to power the turbines.

THE CASE FOR HYDROGEN

David continues his Case for Hydrogen

I feel that one source of power has been neglected, not publicised enough and more money should be provided for research into its use. It is Hydrogen. The biggest potential supply is locked up in H₂O, yes water and there is plenty of that on our planet!

Obtaining gaseous hydrogen from water is an extremely simple process, called electrolysis which has been known for centuries; put two electrodes into water, apply a direct current and miraculously hydrogen appears at one electrode and oxygen at the other.

When you set fire or burn hydrogen all you obtain is lots of heat and water - no carbon compounds.

My case for more research into its use: -

- Infinite supply of raw material
- No transport cost.
- Can't be held to ransom over supply.
- Clean, only produces water and heat.
- Can be used to propel engines lorries, cars even aircraft, etc.
- Storage of surplus electricity from solar and wind power. Power from this source could be used to electrolyse water and the hydrogen stored. The stored hydrogen then can be used, in times of high electricity demand, to fuel steam turbines. (Redundant coal, gas and oil fired power stations converted to hydrogen to generate steam for existing turbines and alternators.)
- Possible to convert existing internal combustion engines to run on hydrogen.
- Bottled supply similar to Calor gas hence limitless vehicle range by carrying a spare cylinder.
- Exploit our increasing solar, wind and hydro power by being able to store the energy.

Dave Howlett BA. C.Chem.

We need your help!

The world needs your help!

The climate crisis presents us with the most important agenda humanity has ever faced. We have a once in a civilization opportunity to act and avert catastrophe. All the experts say we have no more than 10 years in which to change our attitude to the environment and our everyday behaviours.



To put it in these stark and graphic terms is to underplay its significance.

It is a daunting challenge. Governments and political leaders have spent the last three or four decades either in denial or kicking the issue into the long grass for their successors to deal with.

Whatever the horror surrounding the pandemic, it has taught us two important things: we cannot treat global issues as *someone else's problem*, and that apparently impossible things are achievable when they are given the priority they need.

The climate crisis is daunting. It is scary. But it is an especially demanding call when viewed through the eyes of faithful discipleship – recognising that we are called to be good stewards of God's creation, and in so doing to side with the most vulnerable.

People find it hard to comprehend, and even harder to understand what we might do individually. That is why as individuals and as groups, we need to commit ourselves to two things: *learning* about the issues so that we are less daunted by the unknown, and *action* which makes a difference.

We (Elizabeth and David) placed a challenge before the circuit meeting for:

- every church to establish an action group and choose just one bit of the climate challenge;
- each church to explore that topic in some depth, to learn about it, find out why that topic is important, what can be done about it, and how to make a difference;
- for every church to draw as many members and friends as possible into the learning process, to begin to turn fear and ignorance into hope and action.
- each church should then find some way of sharing their learning and understanding with others – maybe a drama, or a poster, or prayer headings, or a simple list of changes everyone can adopt to make a difference;
- the circuit to come together regularly to share our discoveries and encourage each other.

The Ipswich Circuit of the Methodist Church committed itself to respond to this challenge, so that we provide inspiring, compelling, passionate leadership to break the log-jam of fear, split the mammoth task into understandable, bite-sized pieces and build meaningful HOPE and mobilise practical, informed action?

We are committed to mobilising an action group across the circuit so that we can support local action groups with two things:

- information and resources so that they can explore what practical action they can commit to;
- a conduit through which ideas and practical experience can be shared to accelerate our progress.

The circuit group has met and made a start, but is small at the moment and still needs more support. The immediate priority is for every church to create their own enthusiastic team with whom we can work. The Felixstowe section is already well underway with great and often simple initiatives. Young people are often the most highly motivated to promote both the understanding and the action for change, and this is also an opportunity to draw people in from the fringes of church life who are already either active or seeking ways to act.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 5th September is designated as Climate Sunday, and we will be holding a circuit-wide service at 3pm at Landseer Rd.

The COP26 conference: perhaps the world's most important meeting, will take place in Glasgow from the 1st to the 12th November, and we are hoping that we will be able to host an event over the weekend of 30th-31st October to demonstrate our commitment to action.

Time for action:

Within your churches, please have the conversations and let us know who will be the contact person with whom we can work on this vital initiative.

Keep your eye on the circuit website for ideas and resources that can help your local conversations, as we start to build up its content.

Talk about and share practical things you are already doing to build Hope in God's Future.

Elizabeth and David Welbourn

Climate Action



Climate Sunday

Circuit Service

**5th September, 3pm
Landseer Road**

Preacher: David Welbourn

Hear from:
**Felixstowe Climate
Emergency group**

Methodist Way of Life Study Group

Come and join us for a five-week study of the
Methodist Way of Life
led by Rev. Joan Pell.

Let us grow together as disciples of Christ.

**Thursdays from 12 Noon to 1.30 p.m.
at Museum Street Methodist Church**

5th, 19th & 26th August

Members from all three churches are welcome.
Bring your lunch with you to eat as we talk.

So, what is a *Methodist Way of Life*?

A Methodist Way of Life provides
a set of commitments and practices
that encourage and equip people
to better live a Christian life through:

Worship
Learning & Caring
Service
Evangelism

Find out more at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/mwol/>



We are holding a
BR / AR / CH / LR / MS
Joint Worship Service
on Sunday 15th August at 11 a.m.
at Landseer Road

Note: There will be no services at Chantry or Museum Street on that day.

Methodist Conference 2021.

The Methodist Conference met this year in Birmingham during June.

There was a very full agenda, stretching to over 900 pages!

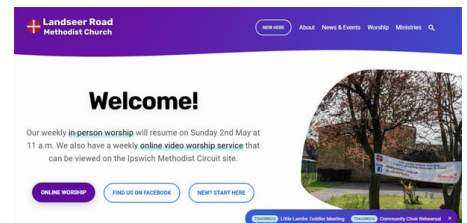
The summary of the items discussed and the decisions made are in the **Conference Business Digest** which is **appended to the on-line issue of the magazine available at [Museum Street Methodist Church Ipswich](https://www.museumstreetmethodistchurch.org.uk)** .

Many of the decisions made this year will impact on all churches so do please take the time to read this important document.



Landseer Road

Landseer Road, Ipswich IP3 9LX
<https://landseer.methodistic.org.uk>
[facebook.com/landseerroadmethodistchurch](https://www.facebook.com/landseerroadmethodistchurch)



Current activity can be located on the website at <https://landseer.methodistic.org.uk/>



Museum Street

Black Horse Lane, Ipswich IP1 2EF
[https:// museumstreet.org.uk](https://www.museumstreet.org.uk)
[facebook.com/museumstreetmethodist](https://www.facebook.com/museumstreetmethodist)

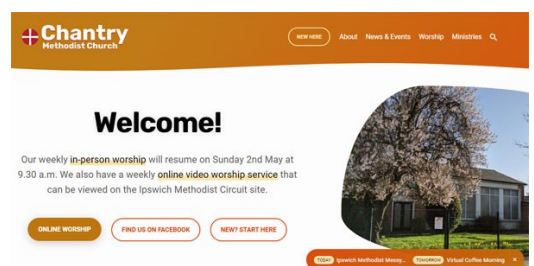


More details can be seen on the website at [https://museumstreet.org.uk](https://www.museumstreet.org.uk)



Chantry

Kingfisher Avenue, Ipswich, IP2 0QN
<https://chantry.methodistic.org.uk>
[facebook.com/chantrymethodist](https://www.facebook.com/chantrymethodist)



More details can be seen on the website at <https://chantry.methodistic.org.uk/>

DO YOU LIKE GETTING ABOUT?

Can you empathise with this?

I have been to many places in my life but never been **in Cahoots**. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone. I've also never been **in Cognito**. I hear no one recognises you there. I have, however, been **in Sane**. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends and family. I live close so it's a short drive. I would like to go **to Conclusions**, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore. I have also been **in Doubt**. That is a sad place to go and I try not to visit there too often. I've been **in Flexible**, but only when it was very important to stand firm. Sometimes I'm **in Capable**, and I go there more often as I'm getting older. One of my favourite places to be is **in Suspense!** It really gets the adrenaline flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get! And sometimes I think I am **in Vincible** but life shows me that I am not. People keep telling me that I am **in Denial** but I'm positive that I've never been there before! I have been **in Deep** - many times; the older I get the easier it is to get there. So far, I haven't been **in Continent**, but my travel agent says it is on the list.

Found on the internet by anonymous!

PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers those who have suffered bereavement.

Comfort the families and friends who grieve.

We particularly think of those who are ill and especially those known to us.

We ask that they will soon be restored to full health.

We particularly think of those who have worries and anxieties.

Give them peace and comfort in the knowledge that you are close to them.

May they know of your nearness to them.



SUNDAY SERVICE'S IN AUGUST

		01-Aug	08-Aug	15-Aug	22-Aug	29-Aug
Digital		Gardner	Sankey	Keeble	Yelland	Jacobs
Printed		Gardner	Sankey	Pell	Yelland	Jacobs
MS	10.45 am	*Pell	Digital	@ LR	LA	Pell
C	9.30 am	R. Sawyer	LA	@LR	*Pell	C. Finbow
LR	11.00 am	@Chantry	Barclay	Welbourn	*Pell	LA

LA=local arrangement, *=communion.

Future Joint Services.

It was agreed at the last Joint Leadership Team meeting *to have Last Sunday of the month Joint Services rotating around the three churches, beginning in October.*

15th August at Landseer Road

31st October at Museum Street

28th November at Chantry

**Museum Street AGM
has been re-scheduled to
Thursday 2nd September at 2 p.m.**

CONTACTS



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Please share this with the office holders and members of your Church and Circuit. This can be read online and downloaded from www.methodist.org.uk/conference

Conference Business Digest

A report for local churches about the business of the 2021 Methodist Conference

The 2021 Methodist Conference, held in Birmingham and online: Presbyteral Session 24-25 June; Representative Session 26 June – 1 July.

www.methodist.org.uk/conference2021

Election and Induction of the President and Vice-President

On Saturday 26 June the Revd Sonia Hicks was elected and inducted as President of the Conference and Barbara Easton as Vice-President. In her Conference address Mrs Hicks focused on her theme for the year, “God’s Table: An Invitation for All”, reflecting on the racism and marginalisation she and her family have experienced and how the Church can respond to injustice and division in society today. The Vice-President, Barbara Easton, drew on her experience as a quilter to address the Conference on a range of issues including on diversity, the environment and ecumenical relations.

You can read the President’s address in full here: [The President’s Address to the Methodist Conference 2021](#)

You can read the Vice-President’s address in full here: [The Vice-President’s Address to the Methodist Conference 2021](#)

Reception into Full Connexion

During Conference worship, 22 presbyters and three deacons were received into Full Connexion on Sunday 27 June, along with four presbyters by transfer and one presbyter by reinstatement. Later that day, ordination services took place in five churches in the vicinity of Birmingham. The Conference rejoiced that those ordinands who had been received into Full Connexion

online at the 2020 Conference were ordained in six venues across the Connexion on the preceding weekend.

Education strategy

The Revd Dr Roger Walton introduced the report, ‘Transforming Lives: A Schools’ Educational Strategy for the Methodist Church’, which outlines the strategy for Methodist schools for the next ten years.

The Conference:

- Affirmed those who work and volunteer to support education;
- Urged Circuits to audit local schools regularly as part of their mission;
- Encouraged Districts to appoint District Education Officers;
- Invited young people to consider education as a vocation and Circuits to support them;
- Encourages Circuits and churches to recruit governors for local schools;
- Asked Circuits and Districts to sponsor new Methodist schools where appropriate.

The Conference also agreed to:

- maintain and extend Methodist engagement with schools;
- pursue educational excellence;
- develop a confident Methodist ethos and working together with local partnerships including local heritage sites;
- prioritise areas of need.

Methodist Church House

The Conference received a report from the Methodist Council, which updated the Conference on the work that had been undertaken so far in relation to Methodist Church House. It heard that, in the light of the significant change of circumstances since the decision had been made to rebuild Methodist Church House, the Council had agreed to discontinue the proposed redevelopment. Instead, the Council now recommended that Methodist Church House be sold, with the proceeds of the sale used for alternative office accommodation for the Connexional Team in London. Under the terms of the required Charity Commission Scheme for the Centenary Hall Trust, the Conference confirmed the decision to sell Methodist Church House.

Deliverance Ministry

The Conference adopted interim guidelines for deliverance ministry, brought by the Methodist Council and the Faith and Order Committee. The Faith and Order Committee is undertaking some further theological reflection on deliverance ministry which will be presented

to the 2022 Conference. The guidelines include the safeguards that such ministry should only be undertaken within a liturgical framework, should never be undertaken by only one person, should not be used for people under 18 years old, and should not be used in an attempt to change a recipient's sexual orientation or gender identity.

The Conference appointed a Connexional Panel on Deliverance Ministry which will have, amongst other things, oversight of this ministry, training materials, appointing of practitioners. The Panel will also act as an advisory body for deliverance ministry in the Methodist Church, particularly for District Chairs who will be the point of contact for those recommended for training. Feedback on the guidance is being sought: guidancefeedback@methodistchurch.org.uk

Climate Change and Fossil Fuels

The Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment (JACEI) reported to the Conference on the further work undertaken in respect of investment in fossil fuels. In the light of this further work, JACEI has advised the Central Finance Board to disinvest from a number of companies, which are believed not to be aligned with the Paris Agreement goals.

Holy Communion and online worship

The Conference agreed to adopt a three year period of active discernment on the issue of Holy Communion and online worship, during which churches will be encouraged “with reverence and joy, to a time of discernment, both experiencing and reflecting upon what it might mean to celebrate the Lord’s Supper online and to use this as an opportunity to discuss the issues raised in our churches thereby deepening our understanding of our life together.”

In adopting the proposed period of discernment (beginning on 1 September 2021), the Conference commended the report to Districts and Circuits for study and reflection, and invited feedback.

Reflective Supervision

The Conference adopted the Reflective Supervision Policy for ordained ministers in the active work and those in designated lay roles within the Methodist Church. A review of the implementation of the policy, including its extension to relevant lay roles, is to be brought to the Conference of 2026.

The Conference thanked the Revd Dr Jane Leach, making her final report as Connexional Director of Supervision, for her work in this area.

Ministry in the Methodist Church

After a period of consultation and feedback on the draft Statement, the Conference adopted *Ministry in the Methodist Church* as a considered Statement of the judgment of the Conference.

Alongside the formal Statement, the Changing Patterns of Ministry report considered the life of the Church in respect of the context of ministry, for those who are lay and ordained, and some of the practical considerations and challenges connected with that.

The Conference adopted the recommendation that the office of Local Lay-Pastor be established with the Ministries Committee directed to establish details of the scope of the role, its training and licensing. The Conference also adopted a new understanding of itinerancy as a characteristic of ministry in the Methodist Church, directing that this be brought to the attention of all candidates and probationers. Some aspects of stationing matching process will also be reviewed and to ensure there is a clear process for enabling some presbyters to serve in local, pioneer and specific cultural or language appointments.

The Ministries Committee is to produce a resource detailing guidance for “good endings” to help manage Church relationships when appointments end.

Budget

In presenting the budget, the Connexional Treasurer, the Revd Tim Swindell and the Director of Finance and Resources, Matt Tattersall, told the Conference that there is a deficit in the pension scheme and a fall in income over the previous year which has led the budget to be further revised. Mr Swindell told the Conference that “The Church is full of tired people and we all need them to recover. We are right to be ambitious but we don’t have limitless people or resources.”

The Conference adopted a resolution asking for churches, Circuits and Districts to give, according to their ability, towards a target of 15% of their reserves to address the pension deficit. It adopted a budget which is based on a reduction in the District Assessment of 1% in 2021/2022.

Oversight and Trusteeship

The Conference reaffirmed the *Our Calling* vision statement, which was launched 21 years ago, and adopted it as the primary strategic driver for the Church’s work.

The Conference adopted resolutions that raise the minimum size of a local church to 12 members from six with churches being asked to examine creative

ways of working with other local churches so they are not over-burdened with matters of trusteeship; and directed that work continues towards the creation of a Connexional Council as the connexional trustee body, and to replace the Methodist Council and Strategy and Resources Committee.

Work to review the constitution of the Conference and its ways of working will carry on in the coming year with a report coming before the 2022 Conference.

A Task Group for Regional and District Structure Planning will be set up with the aim of reconfiguring the district structure more appropriately.

Marriage and Relationships

A report on marriage and relationships, '*God in Love Unites Us*', was received by the Conference in 2019 and the District Synods were asked to consider the provisional resolutions and report back to the 2021 Conference. The Conference received a report on the results of the Synod votes (which showed that 29 out of the 30 Synods confirmed support for the provisional resolutions) and on the range of views expressed in the Synods and by ecumenical and overseas partners.

The Conference confirmed provisional resolutions on the principles or qualities of good relating, understanding of cohabitation and same sex marriages conducted on Methodist premises or by Methodist office-holders.

The Theology of Safeguarding

The Conference adopted *The Theology of Safeguarding* and commended it for study and reflection throughout the Connexion. The report explores the theological roots of safeguarding, how theological thinking is used, the failure to challenge inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour, how churches can welcome people who have experienced abuse, grappling with power and forgiveness and change. It also explores spiritual abuse and the trauma of abuse and acknowledges how the Methodist Church has cause to repent, seek forgiveness and take responsibility for past actions.

Notices of Motion

The Conference expressed its concern and support for campaigns in the following areas:

- Changes to the social care system and the work led by Methodist Homes (MHA) to #FixCareForAll;
- The situation in Myanmar;
- The recent cuts to the foreign aid budget;
- The change to the immigration rules, particularly as they impact refugees;
- Climate justice as we approach the COP26 climate change conference in November.

All We Can

In the All We Can report to the Conference, the Methodist Relief and Development charity detailed its work.

Since September 2019 All We Can has had a transformational and measurable impact upon the lives of 2,139, 475 people and has partnered 22 local organisations in six countries. Due to the overwhelming impact of COVID-19 on All We Can's local partners, a significant portion of the charity's workload was spent responding to this ongoing emergency situation. All We Can's long term development partners and other local organisations were supported to pivot their programmes to assist communities in coping with the impact of COVID-19.

Methodist Ministers' Housing Society

The Conference received a report from the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society, which set out the activities of the Society in the last year. The Conference asked that collaborative conversations take place to consider how the covenant relationship between the Church and its supernumeraries and their widowed spouses can be expressed fully and appropriately in the housing of supernumeraries, and to bring recommendations to the Council.

Methodist Women in Britain

The Conference received a presentation from Methodist Women in Britain, which marked the tenth anniversary since the group was established. They shared the highlights of their work over the past ten years.

3Generate

3Generate, the annual Children and Youth Assembly of the Methodist Church took a different form in 2020 and became 3Generate365, a year-round process of engagement with children and young people in their local setting to enable them to listen to God, discern what God is saying, deepen their faith and be confident in being evangelists sharing their faith with others. The Conference reaffirmed the importance of hearing the voices of children and young people in discerning future direction, and directed that there is such consultation when revising strategic policies.

Strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity

The Conference adopted a far-reaching Strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity, which will see "a profound change in the culture, practices and attitudes of the Methodist Church". As it is rolled out, the strategy will support Methodists with issues of equality, diversity

and inclusion, with the aim of becoming a Church in which God's unconditional love is expressed in word and actions and where all people are able to play their part.

The strategy's recommendations include a celebration of the richness of the Church's diversity and opportunities to learn more of, and to be changed by, God through encounter with each other across the Church.

Comprehensive training on topics of racism, gender, disability and LGBT+ awareness will be mandatory for anyone in a leadership role. The strategy will also introduce moves to ensure that the leadership of the Church reflects the diversity of its membership. A series of structures, processes and practices will be put in place to ensure that people are treated with justice and dignity and that the discipline of the Methodist Church is upheld in the face of discrimination; preventing, challenging and redressing all behaviours which are discriminatory or belittling.

Ecumenical Matters

The Ecumenical report to the Methodist Conference detailed how the global pandemic has seen already existing good relationships with ecumenical partners, in most cases, grow stronger as we have continued to share experience and expertise in support of one another.

The Revd Helen Cameron has served as Moderator elect of the Free Churches Group from April 2021 and will become Moderator in April 2022.

The Conference received the report of the Joint Covenant Advocacy and Monitoring Group, which proposed that a new, successor, group be established, to be named *Life in Covenant*. The Conference approved the terms of reference for the new group and appointed the Revd Ruth Gee as its Methodist co-Chair.

Memorials

Memorials are messages from Circuit Meetings and District Synods to the Conference. They play a vital part in enabling the Conference to hear and to respond to concerns from across the Connexion. This year, the Conference considered and replied to 44 memorials on topics including marriage and relationships, online communion, oversight and trusteeship, local preachers' training, finances and the pandemic, fossil fuels, and equality, diversity and inclusion.

Israel Palestine

In response to four memorials which were received on the subject of the Kairos Palestine statement 'Cry for Hope', the Conference commended the document

for study, whilst acknowledging the complexity of the situation. The Conference also adopted the reply to memorials presented to the 2020 Conference, and which were referred to the Methodist Council for full consideration.

Conversion Therapy

The Conference received a memorial calling for a ban on Conversion Therapy in any form. The Conference agreed to support and adopt the 'Memorandum of Understanding on Conversion Therapy in the UK' definition of conversion therapy, to call on all Methodists to refuse to offer or participate in offering conversion therapy in any form. The Conference directed the Methodist Council to consider, draft and publish a policy on 'Conversion Therapy', called on the UK Government to ban the practice without further delay, and to consider further the most appropriate way in which to engage with HM Government on this issue.

President and Vice-President designated for 2022-2023

The Conference designated the Revd Graham Thompson to be President and Anthony Boateng to be Vice-President of the Methodist Conference 2022/2023.

Appointments

The Conference made a number of appointments and reappointments, including:

The Revd Michaela Youngson as Assistant Secretary of the Conference for a period of six years from 1 September 2021.

The Revd Dr Janet Corlett as Chair for the Isle of Man District from 1 September 2021; the Revd Daniel Haylett as Chair for the Plymouth and Exeter District from 1 September 2022; the Revd Novette Headley as Chair for the Birmingham District from 1 September 2022.

Future dates of the Conference

The Methodist Conference will meet in Telford from 23-30 June 2022


The Methodist Church

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