

Sheffield **Methodist** District

Serving the Methodist Church in South Yorkshire,
North Nottinghamshire and North East Derbyshire



South Yorkshire - North Nottinghamshire - North East Derbyshire



Sheffield, Chesterfield, Bolsover & Staveley, Peak, Doncaster, Barnsley Rotherham & Dearne Valley, Trinity



Reports to Synod April 2016

Contents

35 Chapel Walk	3
Action for Children	3
Archivist.....	4
Candidates Committee.....	5
Church Schools.....	5
Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network	6
District Leadership Team	8
Ecumenical Officer for Derbyshire.....	9
Ecumenical Officer for Nottinghamshire.....	9
Ecumenical Officer for South Yorkshire	10
Fairtrade.....	10
Grants - District Advance Fund	11
Inter-faith relations	16
Lay Employment	17
Learning and Development Group	17
Manse Advisory Committee	18
Methodist Council.....	19
Methodist Homes	19
Methodist Women in Britain	20
Ministerial Development Review	21
One Mission	22
Peak Park Rural Development.....	22
Probationer Panel.....	24
Sabbaticals	24
Safeguarding.....	25
Stationing.....	27
Treasurer.....	27
'Who Is Your Neighbour?'	30
Worship and Preaching.....	30
Youth in the Sheffield District.....	31

35 Chapel Walk

35 Chapel Walk is a community art space with an open and inclusive ethos, developed and facilitated by Venture FX pioneer Revd Ric Stott and Methodist lay pioneer Naomi Gordon.

Over the last 12 months we have seen the creative community at 35 grow and change in exciting and dynamic ways. We are now finding our feet as an established venue on the Sheffield arts scene and are seen as a desirable, accessible and friendly venue for exhibitions and other arts events. As well as being a credible arts venue we are also known as a space for pastoral support and spiritual reflection.

We continue to develop our life together in 3 spheres: creativity, community and spirituality focussed on the Jesus tradition but open to stories and experiences from other world views.

Regular events include quiet meditations in the Ignatian tradition, life drawing classes, artists' discussion and support groups, City of Sanctuary welcome group and monthly poetry nights. Our exhibition space is booked up until Christmas with a range of shows including individual local artists, community groups and shows curated by our community that follow the rhythm of the church year.

Over the last few months we have significantly revised our management structure to take into account the growing nature of this ministry in order to manage our resources responsibly and effectively in this rich area of mission. The District Leadership Team has appointed a management committee that includes members of our community on the ground as well as representatives from the District to ensure that this ministry is sustainable in the longer term.

35 Chapel Walk is one example of what can happen when the church engages in "Holy Risk", releasing resources for mission amongst people who would rarely, if ever engage with inherited models of church. We are grateful for the support we receive from the District and are looking forward to the future as we seek to be led by the creative and life giving Spirit of God.

*Revd Ric Stott
Naomi Gordon*

Action for Children



Action for Children is the children's charity of the Methodist Church. It has established contacts with individuals and companies around the world, but the support, both financial and prayerful, from Methodist churches everywhere enables the charity to support over 300,000 vulnerable children and their families in over 650 projects, mainly in the UK, but also in the Caribbean, South Africa and central America.

Much of the work takes place through contracts awarded by Local Authorities and the recent reaction of councils in the Sheffield District to budget cuts has been to take back many contracts "in house" so that now, the only project in the Sheffield District is Fostering North of England but Action for Children works with children and young people

- whose families need support, by providing family support and support for young carers
- who cannot live with their birth families, through fostering and adoption
- who are disabled – both through residential schools and short term breaks
- who experience severe difficulties in their lives such as youth homelessness

Action for Children Sunday 2016

Action for Children Sunday is designated by the Methodist Church as one of its Special Sundays - a time to reflect on and celebrate the work of its Children's Charity.

It is usually celebrated on the second Sunday in July as this is closest to the anniversary of our founding on 9th July 1869, but the day may be celebrated at another convenient time according to local precedent.



If you would like a speaker for your church on Action for Children Sunday or any additional materials, please contact your local fundraiser or Liz Jenkinson, District Advocate johnandlizjenkinson@hotmail.com

League of Light

Many people in Methodist churches use these boxes to collect loose change or make a regular donation to the charity. Across the UK these boxes will raise in excess of £500,000 annually. Please do promote these to your churches wherever possible. For any materials relating to Home Collection Boxes please contact your local fundraiser.



Church Talks & Presentations

If any churches would like to know more about Action for Children's work today, we are always keen to talk about our work and how you can support us either during a Sunday service or a weekday meeting. We will always try our best to accommodate these requests. Please contact Vicky Thaxter, Area Fundraiser (details below) or Liz Jenkinson (District Advocate) johnandlizjenkinson@hotmail.com or details in Synod directory

Recent campaigns

#Stickability Fostering Campaign

Many children in care regularly move between homes and, as a result, are more likely to have poor social skills, worse educational outcomes and employment prospects. To encourage people to foster and provide these children with stable and loving homes, we launched a new fostering campaign in 2015 called #stickability.

What we mean by this is simple: we are looking for people who believe in these young people and are prepared to stick by them through thick and thin.

It's easy for everyone to get involved - simply share a picture of yourself with the person who has always stuck by you on Twitter or Facebook using #stickability.

For more information please contact Campaigns Manager Liz Fenwick by emailing Liz.Fenwick@actionforchildren.org.uk

North Team Fundraisers

North Team contact details

Gill Dean (Fundraising Manager) gill.dean@actionforchildren.org.uk (home based)
Tel: 01925 243277 or 01925 715385
Mobile: 07525 734111

Yorkshire- Suite F8, Conyngham Hall Business Centre, Knaresborough, HG5 9AY

Vicky Thaxter (Area Fundraiser) vicky.thaxter@actionforchildren.org.uk
Tel: 01423 799131

Catherine Schroeter (Fundraiser) catherine.schroeter@actionforchildren.org.uk
Tel: 01423 799133



*Liz Jenkinson
District Advocate*

Archivist

The District Archivists are charged with the preservation of the historical records of the Methodist Church aided where possible by the Circuit Archivists whose local knowledge is invaluable. Increasingly Circuit Administrators are also becoming important in this role.

Sheffield District is particularly complicated by its geographical area and the main deposits are with the Record Offices in Sheffield, Matlock and Nottingham.

In addition there are local deposits in the public libraries in Sheffield, Rotherham, Doncaster, Retford and Chesterfield. This is often of material of a more local or ephemeral nature. One circuit for example has churches in three counties which complicates matters.

The Archivist is also responsible for the collection every 5 years of all circuit plans for deposit in the Rylands Library in Manchester. I am also a member of the Society of Cirplanologists - yes such an organisation exists - that is dedicated to the preservation of circuit plans.

In addition I answer a wide range of questions. Many come from people researching family or local history, one even came from Australia. Others are concerned with tracing baptism registers, particularly important for marriage in some countries, when an up to date certificate is required. Information has been supplied to an author writing a book, now published concerning the murder of a Methodist's daughter in nineteenth century Brimington. Obituaries need correct details.... Recently war memorials on Methodist premises have been subject of National and Connexional interest.

I will always arrange collection and deposits of documents but if any deposits are made locally I need to be copied into the process, in order to keep a log of the transactions and deposit numbers and ensure that the local circuit has a copy. The rule is that records deposited are not available for consultation for a period of thirty years and all records remain the property of the Methodist Church.

I am always available to advise on what material needs to be saved and deposited and always available to visit and speak to local churches and interest groups. In addition it gives me the opportunity to talk to complete strangers about our Methodist heritage and I do that on your behalf.

*John Trantor
District Archivist*

Candidates Committee

I would like to thank all of those who serve on the Committee for their work this year in dealing prayerfully and effectively with 5 Candidates (4 Presbyteral and 1 Diaconal) drawn from 4 of our Circuits.

Thanks also to those who assisted the Candidates whether as Placement Supervisors, Portfolio Mentors, Superintendents or Leaders of the Regional Candidates Support Group.

Pursuant to Standing Order 472, the District Synod approved a Yorkshire Plus Candidates Panel across the Region. This proved really helpful this year in enabling us to hold an All Sheffield Panel for 3 of our Candidates and then the following week have 2 of our Candidates attend the Leeds Panel (supplemented by 2 members of our Committee, the District Chair and myself).

One of the Candidates withdrew before the Leeds Panel sat and will apply again next Connexional Year. The 4 remaining Candidates all appeared before the Connexional Selection Committee in March.

There are already 3 people who have expressed an intention to candidate next Connexional Year and if you are aware of anyone who is prayerfully considering candidating please make them aware of the Candidates Information Evenings in Birdwell on Thursday 28 April and Leeds on 11 April and ask them to contact me.

Revd Ian Rutherford- District Candidates Secretary
ianr7@hotmail.co.uk

Church Schools

There are 3 Methodist schools in the District, Bakewell Junior (Controlled), Emmanuel CE/ Methodist Junior Academy and St. Andrew's CE/ Methodist Primary (Aided). Reports are as follows:

Bakewell Junior.

Only 82 pupils are on roll this year – considerably down on some previous years and likely to remain that way for a few years - which means that finance is tight.

One member of staff was made redundant at the end of 2015 and the number of Teaching Assistants will need to be cut considerably at the end of this financial year.

The school is maintaining the relationship with the local Methodist Church Fellowship Group – which has proved both beneficial and enjoyable to both parties. The next scheduled visit in April will discuss

'Books' – the children reading extracts from some of their favourite books, and Fellowship Members bringing their favourites to show to the children.

In the past few weeks 8 members of the Fellowship have been to the school to share lunch with the children – and it has now been decided to extend this invitation to members of the wider church membership.

The link with a school in Rwanda continues, and Bishop Samuel Kayinamura, Head of the Free Methodist Church in Rwanda is visiting UK in June and will again spend some time at the school. The school are currently looking at helping the wider community in which their link school is situated – and pick up on fundraising to try to place a Bee colony in that area.

Emmanuel Junior Academy

This came into being in February 2015. It is an Anglican / Methodist Academy within the Diocese of Sheffield Academy Trust. A new Governing Body was established and members are working well together to ensure the school offers the best possible education for its children in a Christian context.

School is ably led by Headteacher, Mrs Charlotte Newton-Wall and has 189 children on roll.

The school offers a strong curriculum, with outside visits and visitors to the school introducing pupils to the wider world. School assemblies are led by children as well as staff, the Chaplain and other visiting speakers.

A recent SIAMS inspection was rated 'Good'. Ofsted would be welcome to see improvements in teaching, learning and the overall progress of pupils both in official key stage tests and their personal development as young children.

School life is underpinned by its Christian values including love, respect and forgiveness and all the school community 'strive for the best, achieve the amazing'.

St. Andrew's Primary

Total on roll - 195 pupils; this is a significant rise from 186 last year.

This year, the worship has been revised to cover a core school value each half term. The CE vicar has helped set up new 'Worship Council' to increase the involvement of the children in collective worship. Over the past year, they have worked with the whole school community to reaffirm our Christian values.

Assessment without levels is now well embedded across school, with children making strong progress towards meeting or exceeding the new end of year group expectations. The school was ranked third in Derbyshire for academic achievement last summer. They are now expectantly awaiting an Ofsted inspection.

As a church school, they strongly believe in making a difference to others. In October, the school raised over £180 for the Bishop of Derby's Harvest Appeal, and sent a van load of food to the Sheffield Cathedral Archer Project. In November, it raised £218.20 for the poppy appeal. A few days later all the pupils came to school in non uniform wearing spots and raised £191.55 for Children in Need.

*John Marsden
Church Schools Officer*

Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network

Yorkshire Plus Regional Team Update

This has been a busy year so far for the three of us as we continue to support all aspects of learning and development across the region in a wide variety of ways. We have officially said goodbye to Charity and Piers now and we wish them both every blessing in the future. We are currently in the process of recruiting two full-time posts to the team so should be at full capacity by the summer.

Working locally

We continue to work with Circuits, offering development and review days as well as on-going support. Feedback from our most recent event was encouraging:

“Our CLT Visioning day was a truly fruitful time due to an inspiring and creatively delivered workshop by Rachel and Graham. Their leading was informed, practical and enabling; providing us with a firm focus for developing mission. The DMLN team is an asset and a gift to the local church.”

We have days planned in each of the Districts to support Circuit Leadership Teams.

Ongoing District work includes District Leadership Teams, Supers gatherings, Safeguarding groups, Learning and Development groups, Mission teams and youth and children’s work.

Working Regionally

There are mission-shaped ministry courses running ecumenically in Hull, Knaresborough and Sheffield. We continue to hear exciting stories from people who have attended as they begin new missional initiatives in their churches and communities.

We have worked with Rob Cooper to update the Line Management training for lay employees and have also developed a new course called **‘Preparing to Employ’**, for those who are just embarking on the process. One recent attendee said that the training day was, *‘absolutely excellent, adding – ‘if I’d known how good it was going to be I would have brought more people!’*

Our team has delivered a two-day training programme for the orientation of Lay Employees across the region covering issues like, working in a lay ministry context, basic elements of pastoral care, working with appropriate confidentiality, key aspects of Methodist history and doctrine, understanding of spiritual development, responding to vocation, understanding of how groups develop, exploring effective communication skills, understanding their role and their appraisal process. Lay Employees are vital to the life of circuits but individuals can often find themselves quite isolated. It is important that new employees have the opportunity to meet others, learn more about Methodism and develop their skills. One participant said the training was ‘fantastic’ and that she couldn’t wait for day 2!

We deliver the Leadership Module for Creating Safer Space training alongside the District Safeguarding Officers and will also be supporting the roll-out of the new training the trainers Foundation Module which has been updated since the Past Cases Review.

We are supporting the three OPPs working in the region, through delivering OPP training weekends, line-management, individual work-plans and supporting the micro-OPP weekend away.

The **Encounter Programme** continues to flourish with particular good-practice in West Yorkshire and York and Hull. We continue to offer facilitator and accompanist training but plan for our new staff to offer further support.

The **Pioneer Pathway** continues to be an exciting innovation across the region with the Revd Ric Stott – Venture FX Pioneer, supporting the Sheffield group and developing new Communities of Practice in Halifax and York, alongside our team.

We led a weekend for children’s, youth and family Workers at Sneaton Castle as part of the Connecting Disciples local initiative. Fiona led the group through **The Whitby Pilgrimage** – a downloadable guide written for young people and adults alike, who can use the guide to take them around the town stopping at various points to reflect, pause and pray. There was also a workshop from **Touchstone** on interfaith dialogue and a taster of the 10-week **Unique** course, as well as time for spiritual retreat, networking and socializing.

The feedback from participants was really positive and they were so appreciative that we had put on a weekend for them that they have requested another one for next year. We have subsequently delivered a two-day training the trainers programme for the Unique courses – which empower young people and adults by building positive and supportive relationships looking at a wide variety of issues, including identity, dreams and ambitions, friendship, positive relationships, drugs, alcohol and personal safety, self-esteem and confidence, image, role models and emotional well-being.

Feedback for Jody Wigfull was universally excellent: *‘It was one of the best training courses I have been*

on. You allowed me time to think about myself, my practice and I also learned a lot. The course content was fantastic, and so practical. I know that I can go straight out and start using this.'

The new **Worship: Leading and Preaching** course has been well received across the Region. We have held several Familiarization days in different locations across the region and these have been delivered jointly between our DMLN team and the District Local Preacher's Secretaries. There has been excellent collaboration and a real sense of ownership from local tutors moving forward. Having done the mentor and tutor training, one Circuit Local Preacher Secretary contacted me to say he had shared the training with other tutors and they were ready to start in September. We are working strategically with District Local Preacher Secretaries to respond to circuit requests for mentor and tutor training and are cascading the training down to smaller groups at a more local level as and when requests come in.

We are leading a regional retreat at Cliff College from 19–21 April where Fiona will be leading us in the use of labyrinths as part of our spiritual practice. Margaret Silf will be leading our retreat at The Briery from 15th-17th November 2016.

We support ecumenical groups across the region, including the Regional Training Partnership and its sub-groups as well as the training information leaflet – CLAY and the Ebor Lectures.

Graham works with Sean Adair to deliver vocational discernment events and also a candidates' support group, which is both popular and effective, with significant numbers of people successfully candidating from our region every year.

Working Connexionally

We work in a variety of ways to support the DMLN Connexionally:

- delivering regional training days for students on ministerial training through the Queens Connexional Course
- supporting Connexional Events like Cliff Festival (27th-30th May 2016) and ECG (29th March – 3rd April 2016)
- planning and delivering sessions at 3Generate (25th – 27th November 2015) Connecting Disciples (7-10 March 2016)
- supporting the delivery of Supers' Conferences
- training weekends for the OPPs

We have a wide range of experience and programmes available to circuits and churches. Please do contact us if you feel you would like to be part of engaging the whole people of God in Learning and Development today.

Contacts:

Rachel McCallam 07799900478 mccallamr@methodistchurch.org.uk

Graham Jones 07799 902574 jonesg@methodistchurch.org.uk

Fiona Fidgin 07799 900456 fidginf@methodistchurch.org.uk

Much more can be found out at our Network Page: <http://www.methodist.org.uk/learning/network-regions/yorkshire-plus-region>

Like our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/DMLNYorkshirePlus>

Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DmlnYorkshire>

Rachel McCallam

DMLN Regional Co-ordinator

District Leadership Team

The District Leadership Team has met three times since the September Synod, and in all six times since the 2015 Spring Synod.

The Team's regular and continuing work includes setting and monitoring the District's budget, approving grants, and considering requests for authorisations, extensions for On Trial preachers and church closures. During the year the DLT has received a variety of reports about work in the District, in

particular from all District employees and the main District committees and groups. The District Safeguarding policy was reviewed and amended.

Two particular matters have been given considerable attention by the DLT. Firstly, the District Mission Review, details of which have been circulated to Synod members and which will be further discussed at the Synod. Secondly, 35 Chapel Walk, where the DLT has been working with the previous management group to put in place a new structure for oversight, with new participants and improved reporting and accountability to the DLT.

The role of the District Property Secretary has been reviewed, and is to be split between three people, each taking responsibility for a number of circuits. The Property Panel will meet more often, and is developing some critical path documents.

The DLT welcomed the successful grant application by the *Who is Your Neighbour?* project to the Connexional Mission and Ministry Fund, which secures three-year core funding for this pioneering and important work.

The DLT gave initial consideration to proposals for reshaping the four Yorkshire Districts.

Following the September 2015 Synod's approval to the appointment of a Deputy Chair, the Nominations Group has proposed the name of the Revd Sean Adair, and the **DLT brings that recommendation to the Synod for agreement.**

Requests from the Rotherham and Dearne Valley circuit for the Revd Lynn Broadhead and the Revd Simon Copley to be authorised to serve, were supported and application made to the Connexional Team.

The DLT has considered five applications for annual renewals of authorisations to preside at the Lord's Supper:

- Susanna Brookes, and Barry Parker from the Doncaster Circuit
- Kevin Laming from the Bolsover and Staveley Circuit
- Wayne Ashton from the Rotherham and Dearne Valley Circuit
- Keith Bliston from the Sheffield Circuit

and an application for renewal after three years for Anne Holmes from the Rotherham and Dearne Valley Circuit. The DLT has approved these applications, upon which the Representative Synod may make comments.

The DLT considered in detail the budget for 2016/17 and subsequent years, and the Treasurer's report sets out the decisions reached.

Michael Sanderson
DLT Secretary

Ecumenical Officer for Derbyshire

Churches Together for Derbyshire is almost dormant. I shall attend a meeting of the LEP Support Group on April 6th, and there could be a gathering for Derbyshire LEPs later in the year. Together with Tim Gossling, editor of Derbychurch.Net magazine, I attended the national gathering of Churches Together in England in September, and the two of us are communicating with their field worker Jenny Bond. I am in touch, for encouragement, with my old friend Clive Barrett, who is Ecumenical officer for West Yorkshire. But Derbyshire disappoints at present.

Revd Paul King

Ecumenical Officer for Nottinghamshire

The District covers three counties and Nottinghamshire probably covers the smallest area in the corner of the Sheffield District. But it is very active in ecumenical relationships as the Retford area is the first Circuit to be covered by a Covenant Partnership in an Ecumenical Area. This gives great freedom and opportunity to work together in both town and rural churches. It also brings its share of problems to be tackled, not least in matters of property and finance. The Trinity Circuit also has The Crossing, a major Methodist-URC LEP, which has opened up a number of possibilities to serve Worksop which would not

be possible if the denominations stood alone. The new Bishop of Southwell was installed in 2015 and is undertaking a review of the Parish and Deaneries, and we wait to see how that impacts upon existing or future ecumenical working, it could be challenging. We feel we have built up a good experience of positive partnership and together can do more than the sum of our parts. We are more than willing to share our knowledge and listen to the understanding of others because we know that is the best way forward for mission and God's kingdom.

Revd Peter Sheasby

Ecumenical Officer for South Yorkshire

The **Covenanted Partnership in an Extended Area** (CPEA) with the Church of England across the City of Sheffield comes to Synod for a decision in April 2016. It is a response to the Anglican Methodist Covenant and will be an agreement between the Sheffield Circuit and the four Sheffield Deaneries. The Partnership will support collaboration between churches in neighbourhoods, enable deployment of ministry across the city and help the two churches to develop a joint mission strategy across the city. The Partnership does not exclude other traditions and should enable greater collaboration across the city by simplifying decision-making.

Following the signing of a declaration of intent by the Bishop of Sheffield and Chair of Sheffield District in November, there has been a consultation with Parishes and Methodist Churches across the city. An agreement has been drafted for approval by Synod in April. When the Diocese have approved the Covenant, there will be a joint celebration sometime in the autumn.

I have been a member of **Churches Together in South Yorkshire's** Standing Committee which addressed the overall policy of CTSY and organised a twice yearly Forum, meeting in the four boroughs in rotation. During the year CTSY has reviewed its governance and their autumn Forum agreed the changes. It's early days to assess the changes but there will be fewer meetings for the denominational officers.

The new **CTSY Executive Committee** replaces the Standing Committee. I represent the District until August 2016. After that Gill Newton replaces me on the Committee for two years.

I meet with the other **denominational officers in South Yorkshire** about six times a year to discuss the practicalities of supporting unity between the churches. This group is facilitated by CTSY.

On 1 November I attended the signing of the Declaration of Intent for **Manor Area Ecumenical Mission Partnership**. (Last year in my report I said the declaration had been signed. This was premature; it had been agreed by the District.) Church leaders from four traditions, including Methodist, signed the declaration in support of a local initiative to be agents of God's transformation in the lives both of individuals and the community in the Manor area of Sheffield

CTSY is planning development work in the **new housing areas between Rotherham and Doncaster**. This is difficult because the area covered us huge and there are several piecemeal initiatives, whilst the churches are finding it difficult to organise a joint meeting to plan co-ordinated mission.

My role includes **support for churches planning neighbourhood action** with churches from other traditions. My background is in community development and so I am happy to discuss any aspects of collaboration. My support is essential if you are planning a LEP or Sharing Agreement because I can save you a lot of time and effort. The District Ecumenical Officer email address is ecumenicalsy@sheffieldmethodist.org or call me on 07887 352841.

Chris Sissons

Fairtrade

***"The fields of the poor may produce abundant food
but injustice sweeps it away." Proverbs 13:23***



Another year has gone by in the life of our Fairtrade District. Revd Louise Dawson continues to chair the committee, ably assisted by Aileen Treloar, Michael Sanderson, Chris Kellett, Wilma Gibson and Alison Trezise. We thank Wilma for holding the fort as District Fairtrade

coordinator over the last year and welcome Alison Trezise back after her sabbatical. We are also delighted to welcome Robert Carrack who has recently joined as Sheffield Circuit rep.

The committee has met quarterly this year. As always we would like to add to our number and we urge anyone with an interest in FT to join us. Please let myself or Louise know.

Our work monitoring the Fairtrade churches goes on – one of the things we need to do to satisfy the FT Foundation and keep our FT status. We have noticed recently that some churches (whether FT or not) have not been following the rule that for all District and FT Circuit events FT tea, coffee, sugar etc. must be served and we would like to remind everyone of this.

The event we planned for FT Fortnight this year was based on the theme of “*Sit Down to Stand Up*” i.e. we sat down to breakfast in the café area of Victoria Central Hall to stand up for Fairtrade producers. A delicious array of Fairtrade tea, coffee, juice, muesli, marmalade and jam was served to other faith leaders invited to join Gill Newton on Thursday 3rd March. We were rather disappointed that very few of the other people invited got in touch and realise that if we want to do something similar we will need to invite people several months in advance, not several weeks! However, the select group who did attend enjoyed themselves enormously and we did get a brief mention in the Sheffield Star (thanks to our media mogul Michael Sanderson!)

We would like to encourage all churches to consider becoming Fairtrade churches. It really is not as difficult as you might imagine so do please get in touch or visit the FT Foundation website for more details of what is required and how to apply on www.fairtrade.org.uk

NB: Please let me know if you apply and get your certificate as we need to keep accurate records!

We are also very keen that circuits would become Fairtrade circuits; specifically we hope the Sheffield Circuit will join Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham in this during 2016.

Alison Trezise - 0114 236 5938

jandatrezise@virginmedia.com

Fairtrade Co-Ordinator

Grants - District Advance Fund

Mission and Ministry Grants paid		
Circuit	Project	Amount
Chesterfield	Circuit youth development worker	9,000
Sheffield	Youth development worker (Beacon)	1,500
Doncaster	Junction Manager (Hexthorpe)	1,500
Doncaster	RE Team initiative	3,500
NA	Rural Action Derbyshire - Agricultural Chaplain	3,000
Sheffield	Woodseats ecumenical youth worker	7,500
NA	Cliff College (course fees for 2 District members)	1,019
NA	St John's College (course fees for District member)	1,266
NA	Sheffield City of Sanctuary	5,000
NA	York's Rural Bus Support (Auction Mart Chaplaincy)	1,000
Peak	Chatsworth Rural Fair chaplaincy	1,000
Sheffield	One Sheffield, Many Cultures festival	500
Sheffield	Youth & community worker (Stocksbridge)	12,000
Bolsover & Staveley	Freedom Project office worker	28,000
Trinity	Spiritual accompaniment course (1 District member)	200
District	Peak Park Rural Development Enabler	18,000
Total (A):		93,985

Property Grants paid		
<i>Circuit</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Sheffield	Refurbishment of Carterknowle MC	14,282
Sheffield	Redevelopment of Christ Church Stocksbridge	25,658
Doncaster	Refurbishment of Bentley MC	1,800
Chesterfield	Refurbishment of Barrow Hill MC	2,437
Peak	Disabled toilet at Peveril Centre	10,000
Total (B):		54,177

Future Commitments (as at 31/8/15)			
<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount committed</i>		
2015/16	£	134,430	
2016/17	£	39,786	
2017/18	£	29,210	
2018/19	£	0	
Total future commitments	£	<u>203,426</u>	Total (F)
<i>Total of uncommitted funds carried forward at 31/8/15</i>		<u>149,054</u>	<i>E-F</i>

Summary of Accounts			
<i>Income</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>£</i>
Capital Transfer	182,003	Ministry Grants paid	93,985 (Total A)
CAPF distribution	0	Property Grants paid	54,177 (Total B)
Interest	3,477	TMCP admin charge	630
Total (C):	<u>185,480</u>	Total (D):	<u>148,792</u> Total (C):
Bal b/fwd from 31/8/14	315,792		
Net Income / Expenditure	<u>36,688</u>	C-D	
Bal c/fwd @ 31/8/15	<u>352,480</u>	Total (E)	

District Officer's comments and report on the use of the District Advance Fund during the past year:

The Grants' Committee met formally 3 times this year to review applications , recommend and monitor the use of the District Advance Fund on behalf of the District Trustees . This meetings' arrangement has shown its limitations and in order to provide a more reactive service several new features have been introduced. 1 The grants' committee now have defined delegated powers to approve grants for small amounts without awaiting the approval of the trustees. 2 A procedure to react to emergency situations and time critical requirements is now in place. 3 The application forms have been updated and modified to address a number of new grants' situations. However district grants will still only be

recommended where there is adequate clearly identified local support for the work and the amount of any single grant, particularly property grants, is within district guidelines.

During the year, the fund was used to support youth development in three areas and general mission in two of the most deprived areas of the district. Most encouraging has been the success in the second year of the RE scheme in Doncaster with more local schools wishing to take advantage of the project. The district covers areas with wide demographic differences from inner city to rural countryside. These rural areas have not been forgotten with the support given to them this year. The redevelopment project at Christ Church Stocksbridge which involves significant building work on a difficult site is proceeding steadily and has not been without its problems. The fund was used to support three church refurbishment projects and the extension of the Peveril Centre facilities at Castleton.

The District Trustees, under the guidance of the District Treasurer, take great care to ensure that all financial commitments entered into by the District can be met and for this reason grants are only considered for a maximum of 3 years. The Trustees may however consider extending grants on a rolling annual basis provided evidence of achievement is clearly demonstrated.

Monitoring and Evaluation of grant-funded work undertaken during the year:

Monitoring and Evaluation of District Funded work is carried out by keeping in regular contact with the projects. The District have formal evaluation and review procedures. It is noted that the Methodist church is not the employer for several of the posts supported. This means that the Methodist employment criteria can only be encouraged to be applied. More specific annual objects for mission projects are being applied to enable a better evaluation where the projects run for a number of years. Property projects are regularly monitored by the District Property Secretary in conjunction with members of the grants' team where appropriate.

John Purdy
District Grants Officer

RESERVES POLICY

Report on behalf of

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT

To

RESOURCING MISSION OFFICE

Resourcing Mission Office

We submit our annual report in accordance with the requirements of the Methodist Conference and the Charities SORP.

- (i) The trustees have established their mission aims taking into account all of the resources available in terms of people, property and money
- (ii) Mission initiatives/projects have been costed or estimates made of projected future costs which take into account the needs of the buildings and the requirements of the Quinquennial Inspection Report/s
- (iii) We have agreed a Reserves Policy which is set out overleaf and is recorded in the trustees' minutes and our Annual Report
- (iv) We recognise the need to be accountable as charity trustees for all the money which comes into our hands and will provide further information as required by the Circuit/District/Connexion
- (v) Our Report is attached overleaf 

* please delete as appropriate

To be completed by Receiving Body

The

Resourcing mission office

received the RESERVES POLICY of

Sheffield District

Policy accepted and acknowledgement sent to the trustees

YES / NO

Policy noted and the following enquiries made of the trustees

Responses received and any further action taken

*Circuit/District/Resourcing Mission Office

Signatures

Date.....

* Please delete as appropriate

RESERVES POLICY of

Sheffield District

1.	Unrestricted Funds held at 31 August 2014	£538,719
2.	Restricted Funds held at 31 August 2014	£218,370
3.	Endowment Funds held at 31 August 2014	£16,980

4. Reserves policy for General Funds

The policy of the District is to maintain liquid funds in the general fund equivalent to at least six months expenditure. Liquid funds amounted to 26 months of expenditure at 31 August 2014. The District plans to reduce its reserves in a controlled manner in line with its policy over a three year period.

5. Policy for Restricted Funds

The reserves policy for the District Advance Fund is that the District will only award grants from the liquid funds available, after making allowance for grants pledged but not yet paid over and any specific anticipated future commitments. Grants are awarded in accordance with the District mission policy and usually for a period of not more than three years. The uncommitted DAF funds at 31 August 2014 were £187,034.

Other funds are held for specific purposes, with the policy of the District being to ensure that sufficient amounts are held in or available to each fund in order to meet its future specific commitments.

Designated funds at 31 August 2014 are:

- Chair's manse fund (£16,263) carried as reserve against repair or enhancement works on the Chair's manse provided by the District
- Youth fund (balance £10,856) to support youth work projects
- Methodist Bookshop Fund (balance £46,692) currently allocated to support training of volunteer and employed children and and youth workers and the District's Venture FX pioneer minister

Other restricted funds at 31 August 2014 are:

- Peak Park Rural Development Enabler (balance £9,920) being grant funding for this project to be spent in future periods. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding
- Who is Your Neighbour (balance £13,383) being amounts allocated or received in support of this project promoting unity and challenging pre-dice across South Yorkshire communities. All existing commitments are expected to be met from secured funding
- Manses trust (balance £1,991) carried as reserve against repair or enhancement works on the Chair's manse provided by the District
- Methodist Women in Britain (£2,138) to equip women to fully participate in the life of the Christian church and in society.

6. Terms relating to Endowment Funds held

The income from the Edgar Hodkin Endowment is to be devoted to Protestant Evangelical Christian work in the following order :

1. Sunday School Work
2. Theological Institutions
3. Home Missionary Work, including especially Lay Workers
4. Diaconate Work
5. Assistance to poor circuits
6. Assistance to Work like the Student Christian Movement
7. £10 per year for the upkeep of and beautifying of Chapel grounds and yards by planting trees, shrubs, etc. It is the Trustees' policy to award grants of £30 to cover a three-year period in order to best facilitate the aims of the bequest.
8. Any worthy new work of a Christian character, but not for pleasure, recreation or sport.

This Reserves Policy has been approved by **Sheffield District**

Treasurer	Chair
Full name Neil Harland	Full Name Gill Newton
Signature 	Signature 

Inter-faith relations

I enjoyed a sabbatical from June to August last year, and among other things had the opportunity to broaden my awareness of inter-faith relations around the District. There are some important initiatives being developed in which Methodists are involved, and I met a number of very committed individuals. At the same time, there seem to be fewer examples of concerted Methodist engagement in inter-faith dialogue and joint working than in some other Districts. On a personal level, I was glad to develop my own links with places of worship of different faiths during these three months.

The Roman Catholic Church has traditionally identified four types of inter-faith engagement: the dialogue of life; the dialogue of action; the dialogue of theological exchange; and the dialogue of religious experience. Many of the most important examples of inter-faith engagement belong to the first type, and take place at a personal and local level. However, there is also an important role for "civic" relationships, of which there are several examples across the District. The Sheffield Faith Leaders' Group, for example, meets three times a year, and last year produced joint statements and organised Peace and Unity Walks following the Charlie Hebdo shootings and the attacks in Paris and elsewhere in November.

The national Christian Muslim Forum is currently working closely with the Methodist Church to develop a project across six Districts. The Sheffield District is one of these. The project makes available £500 per District to support new forms of engagement, primarily between Methodists and Muslims but also potentially involving people of other denominations and faiths. I am currently speaking with a number of people in different parts of the District to see what can be developed with this support. Although any events will need to take place by the end of July, I would continue to welcome ideas.

And finally, an invitation. I try to visit places of worship of different faiths in Sheffield as often as possible, not least at major festival times. I would always be glad to be accompanied by other Methodist (and not only Methodist!) friends on these occasions, so if you would be interested in joining me for any of these visits, do let me know.

Revd Gareth Jones

Lay Employment

As at March 2016, we had a rich variety of staff in the District, including Administrators / Pastoral Workers and a number of cafe workers, pre-school staff, caretakers, cleaners, children's centre staff and premises managers

As Lay Employment Advisor it is important that I should be contacted as soon as it has been decided to take on a paid employee. This applies to all lay employment whether a person is employed full time or for only an hour per week. By law every lay employee must be issued with an approved Contract of Employment (at the very latest within 8 weeks of the individual starting their employment).

On the Methodist Church website is an excellent section relating to lay employment. It can be found under the title of 'Lay Employment Advisory Information Pack'. It is a very comprehensive guide and is updated on a regular basis. The weblink is [http://www.methodist.org.uk/ministers-and-office-holders/employees-and-volunteers/church-\(lay\)-employees/lay-employment-advisory-info](http://www.methodist.org.uk/ministers-and-office-holders/employees-and-volunteers/church-(lay)-employees/lay-employment-advisory-info)

I would suggest, however, that you contact me in the first instance if you are considering the appointment of a lay employee so as to 'go through' our requirements from a practical point of view. I hold on computer, for your use, examples of the various form letters, application forms, job descriptions and Contracts of Employment. A pre-prepared simplified set of documents is now available for caretakers and cleaners. Please note that I need to approve all documents **before** a post is advertised.

The Living Wage minimum rate of pay for all employees is currently £7.85 per hour. This rate of pay will increase to £8.25 as of 1 April 2016. Qualifications, experience and responsibilities must be taken into account in arriving at the actual salary paid. I can offer suitable advice if required. Please remember to review salaries on an annual basis – preferably from 1 September each year.

I am required to maintain a database of all Lay Employees within Sheffield Methodist District. This involves having a list of full names, addresses, 'phone numbers & National Insurance Numbers etc'. I keep a copy of contracts and job descriptions and need to be advised of any changes other than with regard to pay.

If you have any queries relating to Lay Employment matters please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Rob Cooper

District Lay Employment Officer

e-mail: rob.cooper@2bpeople.com

01904 761605 / 07947533598

Learning and Development Group

Our draft District Mission statement includes learning as a key element:

'Developing a positive culture of discipleship through learning, changing and joining in.'

Learning and development opportunities are regularly highlighted and promoted in the weekly news bulletin, indicating high levels of activity within our District. Over a period of a month, last year, over 30 individual activities were promoted, ranging from single workshops to courses over a year. Some of these were facilitated through the Learning and Development Group whilst others were organised independently at church, circuit, District or regional level. It is impossible to monitor or evaluate all these activities, nor would we wish to do so. The aims of the group are to a) ensure that infra-structures, including information and promotion, are in place to enable learning churches and circuits to develop and b) help to support and facilitate learning and development activities, where needed.

The work of the group continues with regular meetings and on-line activities. The database of learning and development opportunities continues to be regularly updated. This process informs and supports the District Website and is managed by the District Administrator. It is designed to help signpost people to opportunities and to people who might help with informing, facilitating or offering experience. We have shared this document with other Districts and received encouraging feedback about our approach. The group has also actively contributed to the revision of the District Mission Statement and supporting action plan relating to learning.

The group has recently focused on producing a folder in which a range of leaflets and information can be placed to inform and promote the learning and development opportunities available to individuals,

churches and circuits. The cost of this folder is being shared with the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network of the Yorkshire Plus region, with whom we are actively working. Leaflets are currently being refined and proofed; they will be produced 'in house' with the help of the District Administrator. They will offer information about the content of courses, workshops or self-directed learning and target audiences as well as web-links to further information or resources. They will be regularly reviewed and updated.

Our ambition is to use these promotional packs to offer a 'road-show' approach to circuits and churches and encourage them to explore opportunities, commit to learning which matches their aims and aspirations and to mobilise others to assist with facilitation, where needed. We have created an action plan to develop an accompanying presentation and will share all our materials with the District Leadership team before 'hitting the road'.

As reported previously, we did a lot of work on workshop materials to support Equality, Diversity and Inclusion; some of these have been piloted and used. However, this work was 'put on hold' when we found that Alistair McClure has responsibility for developing Connexional materials for the same purpose. We met him, shared with him the work we have completed, and critiqued some of the draft materials he had prepared. We offered him free use of the work we have done so far, as well as indicated willingness to further critique or pilot resources as they develop. We look forward to furthering this work as opportunities arise.

The group is actively committed to exploring and developing how we can become learning communities, churches and circuits and their knowledge and enthusiasm is a privilege to co-ordinate.

Jan Eldred

Chair of the Sheffield District Learning and Development Group

Manse Advisory Committee

Manse Visits

We have been impressed by the excellent standards at all the manses visited during the past year. It is a credit to the Circuit Stewards and members of the two circuits concerned that they have been able to maintain their properties in such good condition.

Committee Members

At the start of the year we said with reluctance good bye to John and Christine Job as they felt it was time for them to relinquish this responsibility. They were thanked for their work and service as members of the committee. We welcomed as new members Michael and Maureen Bowman, also Barbara Savage. All three of whom have already given good help through taking part in manse visits.

99 Grange Road

The letting of this property continues through the agents Merryweathers of Rotherham. The agents carry out regular inspections of the property and supply reports to the District Office. It would seem that the present tenants are happy with the house and are taking care of the fabric. Changes in regulations in regard to property being let, have been passed to us through the agents and this has resulted in the provision of additional smoke alarms to meet the requirement that there is one on each floor level of the house. Externally, minor damage caused by strong winds has been repaired.

Quinquennial Inspections

Some of the inspection reports have shown the need for work on certain of the manses in the District. The committee have drawn the attention of the Circuit Stewards in the relevant Circuits to the need for action on these inspection reports. It was noted that it is helpful to have the inspection carried out by someone who, as part of the report, will provide photographs showing things that need attention. It is so much more helpful to be able to see what is being described in the report than to try and visualise what the inspector is saying needs to be done.

General

Should any Circuit be considering purchasing a property for use as a manse, then please take careful note of the requirements, as shown in Standing Orders, in regard to size and situation of the house. If anyone has a query then please do not hesitate to get in touch – if we do not know the answer, we will do our best to find it for you.

Clive Taylor

District Manse Advisory Committee Secretary

Methodist Council

Being on the Council involves three or four meetings a year, usually overnight or in April over three days. It also involves a lot of reading, 70 different papers so far and counting. It certainly helps see the breadth of the Methodist Church in Britain today.

In my first two meetings we have discussed matters covering

- Finance – the Council oversees the Methodist Church's resources, looking both backwards and forwards, also an anti-fraud policy, and releasing Circuit and Church funds for mission.
- Property – from manse gardens to £5million church refurbishment schemes.
- Ministers personnel files & supervision and the theology behind the Diaconal Order.
- Local Preaching, the new course and a new connexional officer.
- One Mission Forum and global engagement through the World Church.
- Larger than Circuit (District reviews) and issues of Leadership.
- Marriage & Relationships, a difficult topic which needs sensitivity on all sides of the debate.
- The future of the Methodist Church, looking at Statistics for Mission and Corporate risk factors.

The next Connexional budget up to 2020 will take the majority of our time in April, with proposals for a 0 – 2 % increase countered by a motion to reduce by -1 or -2%, using reserves to cover some work.

Being on Council also gives me direct access to the Connexional team. Anyone can contact church officers by phone or mail, but we meet them face-to-face and are specifically asked to raise any issues which are troubling District colleagues.

Watch the Methodist website for the many detailed papers which appear before each Council, and/or the report in the Methodist Recorder or online after each meeting. The agenda affects us all directly and will shape the church of the future.

Revd Peter Sheasby

Methodist Council Representative

Methodist Homes


The Methodist Church
The Church in action for older people



At Methodist Homes (MHA), we have the privilege of supporting and caring for around 16,000 older people, more than half of whom are members of our Live at Home schemes, living in their own homes. In 2015 we adopted a 10-year strategy which outlines our aim to increase the number of older people we serve directly to 50,000, together with the hope of influencing wider society as well. The area which will see the biggest growth is our community service, Live at Home, which aims to reduce social isolation and loneliness amongst the older population. Currently

services include one-to-one befriending, lunch clubs, outings and exercise groups – but there is a real opportunity to become more innovative. We have initiated 'Project Evolution' to drive these developments and by April 2017 we will have established the right relationships, tools and resources to enable the Charity to directly reach more than 36,000 older people in communities through its Live at Home Schemes by 2025.

The theme of the 2016 **Methodist Homes Sunday Appeal** on June 12th is '*Creating Communities that Care*'. The theme echoes what we are increasingly coming to see as one of the core purposes of everything MHA is involved in, whether in residential work, the activities of the Live at Home Schemes or in a growing desire to join with others in campaigning for a fairer society for older people. We address the issue of loneliness which highlights the need for people to be connected in a community of their

choice and as the numbers of older people continue to grow, each of those three words will become increasingly important.

Marking MHA Sunday is an opportunity to support the work which we are involved in, and it is also a way of ensuring that issues around the care and support of older people are included on our Church's agenda, so that together we can look out for those in our community who can so easily be overlooked. There will be an Order of Service contained within our Spring Heart & Soul magazine. You can also download a copy and other resources at www.mha.org.uk or contact Lesley France on 01332 296200 or email lesley.france@mha.org.uk

We all hope to receive kindness and respect in our later years and we know that sensitive, attentive caring can make a big difference to the quality of life. We ask for both your financial support and your prayers so that more older people will benefit from the loving, Christian based care MHA provides.

For more information on how we use our fundraised income and what we aim to achieve, with your help, over the next 10 years, download '*A Year in Our Life*' at www.mha.org.uk/about-mha/our-publications/ or contact us for a copy.

News

In November 2015 MHA was delighted to win the Laing Buisson 'Excellence in Dementia Care Award' for our work with music therapy. This interactive therapy enables people with dementia to express themselves and engage with their surroundings. Family and friends frequently comment on how much more expressive and communicative their loved ones with dementia become once they begin the therapy, and how it eases stress and agitation. This therapy is provided without charge in all our Homes with dementia care, and is financed from our fundraised income.

Lesley France

Faith Communities Relationship Co-ordinator

Methodist Women in Britain

Methodist Women in Britain is a non-membership movement for all women in Methodism.

At District level MWiB organise a programme of events each year, beginning with a Re-dedication Service in October at Victoria Hall Norfolk Street: this year we were very pleased to welcome two previous Presidents, Dr Mary Jefferson and Revd Ann Baldock, as co-Presidents for the year.

After lunch we launched the District Partnership, which this year is "Post Ebola in Sierra Leone". Our aim is always to combine fund raising with awareness. Mary Jefferson has many years of experience and contact with the Women's Skills Centre in Freetown and is very happy to give talks about her connection with this group. It is hoped we will raise at least £2000 during the year.

The Nov 2015 Christmas Market at Victoria Hall for World Mission Fund, although appearing to attract smaller numbers, made an amazing £1000 plus

The 2016 March film at the Showroom, 'The Theory of Everything', took place on a foul, wet and windy day. MWiBers enjoy a film which challenges and pushes boundaries - including the weather.

This year the AGM at Victoria Hall, which usually follows the film, takes place in May, when more time can be given to next year's programme. Several items, such as the appointment of President, Treasurer and Secretary need our creative attention. We are not alone in the struggle to fill such roles, but those of us who are able to offer service find we enjoy it!

Two Retreats led by Revd Joy Adams from the Whirlow Spirituality Centre at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit are being offered in April. There is still time to apply for a place, though you will need to book. Details for the Peveril Castle event at Castleton on April 28th and The Tickhill event near Doncaster on April 29th are available from the District Secretary: pdflavell@aol.com

Our final event of the year will be 'A Summer Supper and Entertainment' at Bakewell. District Suppers are famous for their hospitality so this is one for bringing a friend or two.

2016 was Jill King's last year as our Connexional Representative keeping us up to date with the many interesting events which take place around the Connexion and Overseas. We are delighted that Ann Taylor has offered to take on this important role and look forward to her joining the team.

Connexional events such as the MWiB Annual Conference in April at The Hayes, Swanwick, are hugely popular and highly recommended, but you need to book early if you wish to obtain a place. It is a great way to network and "gossip the gospel", to 'Sing the Faith' with a large group of women, to share with women known throughout Methodism and engage with them in stimulating workshops.

Our opportunity to hear the MWiB Connexional President, Anne Browse, arises in June when she is programmed to speak and worship with us at Victoria Stafford Road. Her Theme is 'Story and Song'. Don't miss this.

Are you missing your District copy of "Together in Mission" this year? A new format, along with the need for a new editor is on the AGM agenda, another reason why the AGM is not only an opportunity to review the past year, it is also an opportunity to express your thoughts about what goes onto next year's programme. We take your feedback very seriously.

Thank you MWiB representatives who send out publicity and drum up support for the programme. Thank you to all those no longer able to come to meetings, but who remember us in their prayers.

If you are new to the District, why not try one of our District MWiB events? Our secretary will be delighted to add you to the mailing list. (pdflavell@aol.com)

Mary Jefferson Co-President

mary1414281@yahoo.com

Revd Ann Baldock Co-President

baldock719@btinternet.com

Ministerial Development Review

Ministerial Development Review (MDR) is a process which enables Presbyters and Deacons to reflect, with input from others, on how their ministry is being experienced and fulfilled both in relation to the Church as a whole and within the particular context in which their ministry is being exercised. Every Presbyterian or Deacon in circuit or district appointment, every District Chair and every Supernumerary who has entered into a formal agreement with a Circuit to undertake pastoral responsibility in one or more Local Churches is required to engage in Ministerial Development Review.

The process envisages that there will normally be reports on three areas as a result of the review:-

1. Hopes and Goals
 - Ministers are encouraged to record up to three hopes or goals which have been identified as a result of reflecting their ministry and which have grown out of the review meeting's discussion about their ministry and circuit/ district/ connexional priorities. The recorded hopes and goals are confidential to the three participants at the review meeting.
2. Points for action regarding the wider context
 - If there are changes or developments within the circuits / district / Connexion which have implications for the Minister that need to be discussed with people not involved at the review meeting the points should be recorded and the nature and extent of disclosure would be agreed by the three participants.
3. Areas for learning and development
 - It is intended that the review will assist in identifying learning and development opportunities that the Minister can take up to enhance their existing gifts and skills. The process for reporting needs to the District Office and seeking reimbursement of expenses has been clarified.

In the connexional year ended August 2015 all Ministers concerned in the Sheffield District had undertaken a review, with the exception of one Minister on long term sick leave.

The process for the current connexional year is underway.

John Lashmar

MDR Officer.

One Mission

This is the name for the recently combined world and home missions department of the Methodists in Great Britain. It incorporates all aspects of mission in one team.

Each District has a representative. Sheffield has Anne Dyer [Apologies for not being able to be at Synod in person but circumstances may forbid it: Suzanna Brookes, the Doncaster Mission focus group coordinator is standing in for Anne.]

Mission means taking a risk to obey God's Great Commission and get involved with HIS Mission on earth.

- Do you read the world news?
- Do you read to pray?
- Do you pray to go?
- Do you dare to help?
- Do you dare to help others go?
- Do you do All we Can?

Let us remind ourselves of the Wesleyan thinking -

*Do all the good you can.
By all the means you can.
In all the ways you can.
In all the places you can.
At all the times you can.
To all the people you can.
As long as ever you can.*

If you wish to know more, come along to our half day Mission event, with the national leader - David Friswell, 7th May 2016 at Cantley Methodist Church, Doncaster - see the posters.

If you wish for the District rep Anne Dyer to come to your church please contact her on adyerdon@gmail.com She is well qualified in missions and can tell you her story or bring discussional style seminars on how to relate to other cultures now on our doorsteps for the sake of relating the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Anne Dyer
One Mission convenor

Peak Park Rural Development

It's hard to believe this month brings a one-year anniversary of appointment to post. It feels like no time at all. It is also 6 months since we agreed on 4 projects to focus on!

Tissington

This project is nearing completion. The written work is completed. It has been agreed by the church members, has a forward by Sir Richard Fitzherbert and has been proof read. As I write this report the proof is at the printers and I eagerly await a printed copy to check before we order the final number. The printing is to be funded by the chapel. I will use it for the first time in worship on Palm Sunday at Tissington. The intention is for it to be left for visitors to use (free of charge) in the Chapel and possibly in other locations around the village. It is hoped that the pilgrimage can be encouraged on church websites with electronic copies made available (maybe also Tissington Hall website – yet to be broached.)

A folder encouraging pilgrims to write and leave their own reflections on their pilgrimage will be placed in the chapel. It is hoped that alongside casual visitors, individuals and groups may purposefully choose to take the pilgrimage. I have thoroughly enjoyed this and hope the opportunity for further creative writing arises. I haven't forgotten the idea of a children's version. I may need to borrow some children to get further ideas for this.

Completion of this project may be an appropriate time to revisit the CEO of the Peak Park.

Lowberdale Carefarm Project

A meeting of the co-ordinating group was held on the 19th January 2016 and the date of the 16th of February was fixed to gather together people who may be interested to hear of the vision and the story so far. These people comprised local ecumenical church members and providers of youth and other community services that may be both interested and able to offer valuable, sound advice. We decided to hold it at the Cornerstone coffee shop and limit the size of the group for our first 'public' announcement. We aimed for 20 maximum as this is enough for the venue and thought if half come along, we would still have enough for our first venture. 15 people came along. They were welcomed with tea and biscuits, and then Mark Lowe (farmer) and I spoke of the vision and the concept of Care farming. We were very well received and the chatting and atmosphere after the presentation was lively and buzzing. It was hard to get people to leave.

At the meeting in February we had decided we would hold a further event after lambing. We are hoping this will be in May time and will be in a bigger venue with more people invited. Possibly even at the farm itself. Further plans need to be made. We are also currently working on scoping, fund raising and networking plans to further the project. It is going to be a long journey but it is very exciting.

Buxton Circuit

Further conversation with Revd Andy Parker lead us both to agree that it would be helpful if we were able to be more encouraging of the churches purpose and mission and build up the people of the churches before trying to run the event we had originally hoped for.

I have attended worship and coffee mornings at Earl Sterndale in order to get to know the people better. Andy and I have agreed some dates for all age worship that we are working together on. We aim to reach out to the families that are coming to Messy church, visiting families and others in the community. I have kept in touch with the senior steward at Monyash to encourage the Messy Church project and I have supported their Local Arrangement service too. I will lead a creative worship at Hollingsclough. I hope this will build a stronger bond and encourage the members to grow in their call to mission, and help re-focus outreach from "getting funds in" to "getting good news out."

I have also attended a few coffee mornings at Harpur Hill to begin get to know the people there.

Edale

I have finally managed to make contact with, but not yet meet in person, the local Vicar and also the Rural Dean. They are it seems, happy to meet with me. We simply have to find a mutual date!

I met the church council on the 1st February, where I presented a 'possible' leaflet that would tell our history and also explain to people what we were doing in the chapel today at Edale. It described the intention of having the door open each day and inviting people in to come and sit a while. There would opportunity to use a prayer board or to take away a small prayer card. The leaflet would also explain the intention to 'restore' the chapel and maybe even install a toilet as part of the 'radical hospitality' to the visitor, pilgrim and traveller. The idea appeared to be well received.

Mrs Jennifer Fox and Revd Richard Trowel and myself agreed to visit some churches that were open all day to see if we could learn anything from them. We visited Little Longston Chapel on the 4th of February; Jennifer made some useful notes. We agreed to visit two other chapels in Notts and Derby. Tissington and Mill Dale, both open, one is modernised and one is very traditional, without electricity. A date for these visits is to be agreed. We will report back to the council. The Chapel is also due a Quinquennial report that will aid us with our planning. I think we are making slow but sure progress.

Other work

I have met with Revd Adrian Perry, superintendent of Peak Circuit a few times and together we met with Deacon David Clarke to discuss his work and life of Bakewell project that he has run for the past 5 years and is now retiring from. David is concerned that the work should continue and possible chaplaincy opportunities were discussed. However after lengthy discussion it was felt that it should be included in a greater review of the whole circuit work.

I was particularly interested in a 'harvest gathering' that David has organised, gathering visual representation of the trades and services of the town to create a harvest week display. This seems to have potential to be reproduced and with slight variations and a bit of creative thinking, it 'could –might –perhaps' be something for the Buxton circuit chapels... a little more thought needed. David offered to support me if I was able to do something with it.

I continue to build links with the Anglican (and only) church in Elton. The Rector David Truby is very supportive and we meet quarterly. He is very encouraging as is the lay pastor and the local residents. They seem happy to build the links. They are appreciative of the support, acknowledging they too have staffing difficulties and low numbers. Our joint working helps to maintain a presence. I supported Revd Adrian Perry when he led a Methodist communion service in the church on January 31st. His service was very much appreciated by local church members. I am currently leading a short Lent course in the village.

Deacon Lorraine Brown
Peak Park Rural Development Enabler

Probationer Panel

Will Fletcher, Tracey Harris and Andrew Mumford successfully completed their second year of probation, culminating in their unanimous approval for ordination by the District Probationer Committee and Presbyteral Synod in March 2016. Their probationer year included attending monthly gatherings for support, instruction and prayer; preparing and presenting a Gospel-in-Context report; participating in a Yorkshire Plus Probationers Retreat in January and a Quiet Day at Whirlow in February; continuing academic study; meeting regularly with their supervisors and Worship Development Groups; submitting papers which included an extensive self-reflection; and conversing with the District Probationers Committee in November and March. We rejoice in their gifts and graces, their growth over the last two years, and their faithful ministry among us.

Many thanks to their supervisors (Phill Borkett, Julie Minns, Tom Read, respectively), leaders in their circuits, District Chair Gill Newton, District Probationer Tutor Sean Adair, and all the members of the District Probationers Committee.

Revd David Markay
Sheffield District Probationer Secretary

Sabbaticals

The District Sabbatical Advisory Group (DSAG) normally meets twice a year to consider and approve sabbatical plans and arrangements. In recent times its role and membership have been reviewed. Membership now consists of the District Chair, the District Sabbaticals Officer, the District MDR Officer and two lay people or supernumerary ministers. The Group is blessed by the inclusion of John Lashmar, Agnes Tranter and Revd David Hunter who all joined DSAG about a year ago. DSAG has produced its own Terms of Reference which reflect the need for sabbatical plans to be consistent with hopes and goals as agreed within the MDR process. Additionally DSAG has produced a Terms of Reference document for Local Sabbatical Support Groups (LSSG) and this is sent to all those intending to take a sabbatical to fully explain the role to their LSSG members. LSSGs are important in their role of supporting ministers, their families and ensuring adequate cover during sabbatical periods.

During this connexional year, DSAG has received and approved reports describing their sabbatical experiences and insights gained from the following:

Deacon Jan Miles and Revds. Yemi Jalyemisi, Debora Marschner, Claudia Lupi, Gareth Jones, Mark Goodhead and Phill Borkett.

DSAG has considered and approved prospectuses together with sabbatical timings and arrangements for Revds. Peter Sheasby, Tim Crome, Judith Jessop, Julie Minns, Margaret Mwilu, Mick Neal and Jo Archer-Siddall.

The Sabbaticals Officer has been in touch with the following who are due to take a sabbatical in the 2016/17 connexional year: Revds. Sean Adair, Louise Grosberg and Sandra Marshall. DSAG expects to consider their sabbatical prospectuses at its meeting scheduled for 20th October 2016.

*Graham S Dawson
District Sabbaticals Officer*

Safeguarding

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to update Synod members about Safeguarding activity in the District in the past year. For the Methodist Church as a whole, the key event in this area was the publication in May 2015 of the Past Cases Review, which described in summary the scale and experience of victims and survivors of church context abuse and then set out a series of far reaching recommendations to change the culture of the Church so it can be a much safer space for all. The PCR report has set the agenda for much of the development work that has been undertaken in recent months, and therefore this report aims to provide assurance to Synod members that Sheffield District is making good progress towards achieving the goals that it has been set.

At the same time, this report summarises key aspects of ongoing Safeguarding work that is taking place across the District.

PCR recommendations – application in Sheffield

The PCR report set out 23 recommendations which were approved at Conference in June. Many of these have a national policy dimension but locally we have addressed issues about improving recording practice and rolling out new safeguarding training:

- Recording workshops – we have delivered 5 recording workshops across the District since June 2015 and 2 more are planned in Sheffield Circuit. Around 80 people including ministers, pastoral secretaries and local safeguarding officers have attended these workshops to date which are designed to introduce Church policy and identify best practice
- Foundation Module training – Sheffield was selected as a pilot District to deliver a new course designed for those who had attended the FM over the last five years and who need their knowledge to be refreshed. Bolsover and Staveley and Chesterfield Circuits offered to pilot and have delivered 4 courses to date. A further course took place in Rotherham. There will be a broader roll out across the whole District from September and it will be a mandatory course for all those who completed the original FM Course. The basic course for new entrants has also been updated.
- Re-orientation for existing FM trainers – the Connexion has asked District to arrange events for existing trainers so that they can be briefed on PCR findings and be prepared to deliver the new and revised courses. We have arranged for this to take place on April 26th at 7.30pm at High Street MC, Rawmarsh, Rotherham.

In addition, Sheffield has been asked to supply, on a pilot basis, details of current Covenants of Care for the proposed national register which was a further PCR recommendation.

Casework

A key aspect of the Safeguarding Officer's work is to provide advice, guidance and practical support and leadership in the event of churches identifying issues of concern whether within churches themselves or in the communities they serve. Whilst the details of these must remain confidential, since January 2015 there have been 15 cases of varying type and level of seriousness that have required attention. There are no over-arching themes, but an emerging issue has been an increased number of concerns relating to vulnerable adults.

Training and Support

With the issue of vulnerable adults in mind, the **Annual Safeguarding Conference** held in November 2015 at Victoria Hall, explored how we can improve our safeguarding practice in respect of this group.

Delivered in partnership with Sheffield City Council, 40 colleagues braved wet and windy weather to learn about the new Care Act, examine key issues of capacity and consent, reflect on spiritual aspects of working with vulnerable adults and explore what holistic well-being might mean. Feedback from delegates was very positive and another event is being planned for October, although there are current discussions with regional colleagues as to whether this should be a regional event instead. A possible theme being mooted is a focus on work with survivors and making our churches safer spaces.

In September we held our first **Practice Seminar for our District Safeguarding Group (DSG)** and a wider group of invitees. The principal aim of this was to provide those who serve on the DSG with an opportunity to have some fellowship and then explore in depth a specific topic. Our chosen subject was Spiritual Abuse and our thoughts were led by Dr Lisa Oakley, from Manchester Metropolitan University, who is a national expert in the field. This was a very useful and thought-provoking session, and we plan to run similar events for about 20 people at a time in the future. Sadly the seminar due to have been held in March, to have been led by Jane Stacey, PCR project manager, was postponed due to Jane having the flu, but we plan to re-schedule in May.

Leadership Module training has continued to be offered on a regional basis to all who are mandatorily required to attend, and District data suggests that we have virtually achieved that goal. The **Foundation Module** continues to be rolled out via circuit structures as required.

Safer Recruitment

The Connexion published revised guidance about DBS eligibility and the application process in August 2015. This was distributed through circuits, but where there is any uncertainty about its application, I can be contacted to advise. Methodist Church policy does expect that progress is being made to draw up brief role profiles for jobs in churches, and that the recruitment process includes a simple application form and the taking up of references. Again I am available to advise if this expectation seems burdensome in some cases, to ensure proportionality is applied.

Church Audits

Through the Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator network, we have sought volunteers to pilot a church safeguarding audit process, which will increasingly become an expectation as the Church nationally tries to measure how far it is changing its culture. The Crossing in Trinity Circuit was the first to undertake this task in February 2016, and there are discussions about completing one in Peak Circuit at the moment. Since the process needs an enabler at the meeting to help ask the right questions and challenge as necessary, some DSG members have agreed to carry out this task along with myself. More details will be published after the next meeting of the group on May 3rd

Conclusion

The DSG and the network of circuit co-ordinators both meet regularly to consider policy and practice issues at both District and more operational levels. I am grateful for the support members of these groups give me which enables the District to deliver to a good standard on this complex agenda. For the future however, the DSG wishes to recruit a number of new members who can offer different dimensions to its work, perhaps from a law enforcement perspective and also as a chaplain. Any interested parties are invited to have a preliminary conversation with Hilary Murden our independent chair or myself.

The Methodist Church has not yet been identified in the first wave of organisations asked to appear before the Independent inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse – there is a suggestion that the PCR process helped in this regard – but it will be very important to make sure that all our policies and procedures, as well as local practice arrangements, are fully in place should we be summoned to provide evidence of our commitment to making our churches safer places for all. Through liaison with Anglican colleagues at a national and local level, who have been summoned to appear as reported in the national press, we will aim to ensure that Sheffield District is well prepared to respond to any requests made of it. In this way, too, we can ensure that our day to day practice is as sound as it can be.

Grahame Snelling
Executive Officer for Safeguarding

Stationing

As Lay Stationing Representative I work with the District Chair, District Administrator and others throughout the year to ensure the stationing process for the District is carried out in accordance with Connexional guidelines.

In the Sheffield District we recognise that the stationing process is an unsettling time for presbyters, deacons, circuit stewards and congregations. Change is rarely easy and often challenging for those in the midst of it all. On the other hand, change can be energising and invigorating so we encourage all involved to be sensitive and supportive throughout: we want the stationing process to be a positive and affirming time for all. To this end we hold briefing sessions and meet individually with presbyters, deacons and circuit stewards at various times during the process. In addition the District Chair and I can always be contacted by email or telephone to answer any queries or discuss particular difficulties that may arise as the process progresses. I don't pretend to know all the ins and outs of this somewhat peculiar process we call stationing but there is always someone I can refer to either at District or Connexional level.

When I first became Lay Stationing Representative I was fortunate enough to attend and observe the first Stationing Matching Group where presbyters are matched with the appointments. This takes three and a half days. It was unlike anything I had ever encountered in the secular world where I did have some experience of recruitment. Being new to the whole stationing business I have to confess that some of the detail went over my head. However, I was extremely impressed by the prayerfulness, the integrity and the graciousness of the whole procedure. It's not perfect: no system ever is because we are human and make mistakes. Neither does it always produce the outcomes we expect or hope for. But I am confident that God is at the heart of the process working in and through all those involved to bring about His purposes .

The stationing situation in each District varies from year to year. Usually there are not enough presbyters to fill the vacancies throughout the Connexion and it is inevitable that some circuits will not be matched. This is disappointing initially but can lead to some radical thinking and re-organisation that brings a fresh approach and renewed focus to a circuit's mission and ministry.

This year in the Sheffield District we have eleven presbyters and deacons who have to discern God's calling for the next stage of ministry and decide whether to seek re-invitation or enter the stationing process ready for September 2017. The Chair and I will do our best to ensure that they and the circuits they serve are sensitively supported throughout.

Ann Lyons
Lay Stationing Representative

Treasurer

Full statutory accounts for 2014/15 the District have been approved by District Leadership Team and independently examined. Copies are available on request. A summary of the District finances is provided here

: INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	2014/15 £'000	2013/14 £'000	2012/13 £'000
INCOME			
Unrestricted	88	121	103
Restricted	88	104	67
District Advance Fund	185	184	188
<hr/> Total Income	<hr/> 361	<hr/> 409	<hr/> 358

EXPENDITURE			
Unrestricted	95	91	138
Restricted	99	117	84
Advance Fund grants	204	129	345
Total expenditure	398	337	567
SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)			
Unrestricted	(7)	30	(35)
Restricted	(11)	(13)	(17)
District Advance Fund	(19)	55	(157)
Total surplus/ (deficit)	(37)	72	(209)

The District recorded a deficit of £37,000 in 2014/15, with the previous year including one-off receipt of £27,000 on closure of the Yorkshire & North East Regional Training Forum.

The main sources of funds continued to be Circuit Assessments and grants from the Connexion supporting the Peak Park Rural Development Enabler. *Who is Your Neighbour?* continued to attract support from non-Methodist trusts.

Further details of income and expenditure during the year are shown overleaf.

FUNDS HELD AND OUTLOOK	31-Aug-15	31-Aug-14	31-Aug-13
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Closing Funds			
Unrestricted funds	519	538	521
Advance Fund (net of grants pledged)	151	187	144
Restricted funds	68	31	20
Endowment funds	0	17	17
Total funds	738	773	702

Unrestricted funds are expected to run at a deficit until 31 March, as the portion of assessments relating to District costs is gradually increased, whilst costs are tightly managed. This reduction in funds is still expected to leave the District compliant with its reserve policy. Endowment funds have been converted to restricted funds, with necessary Charity Commission approvals, to release this capital for current mission.

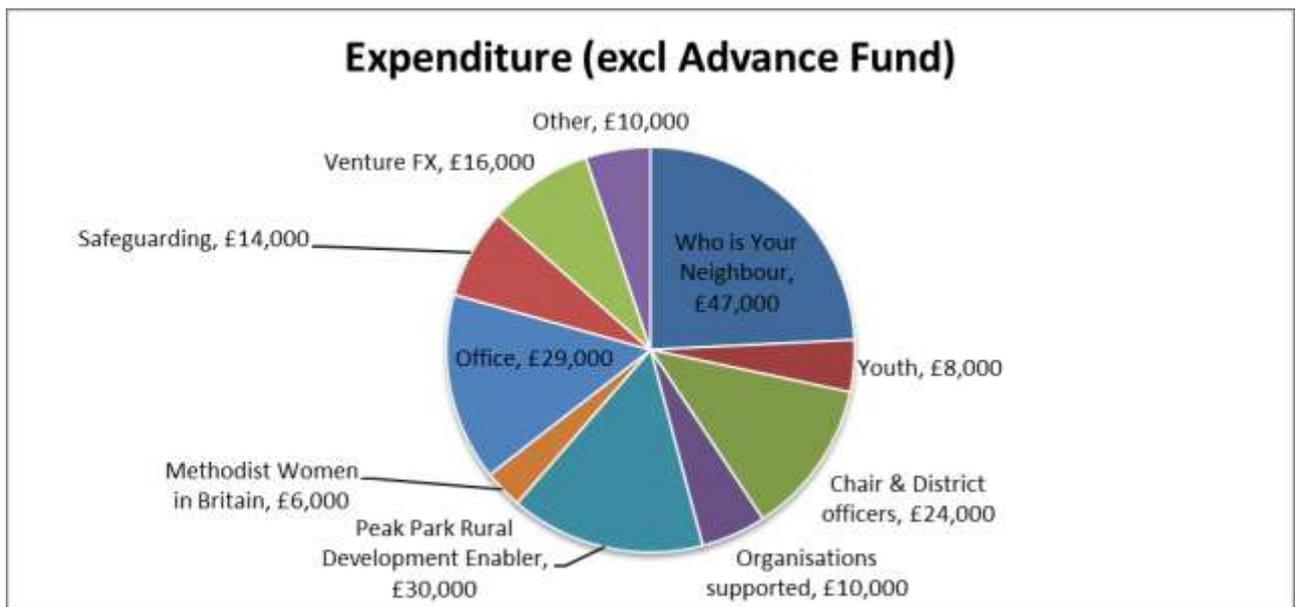
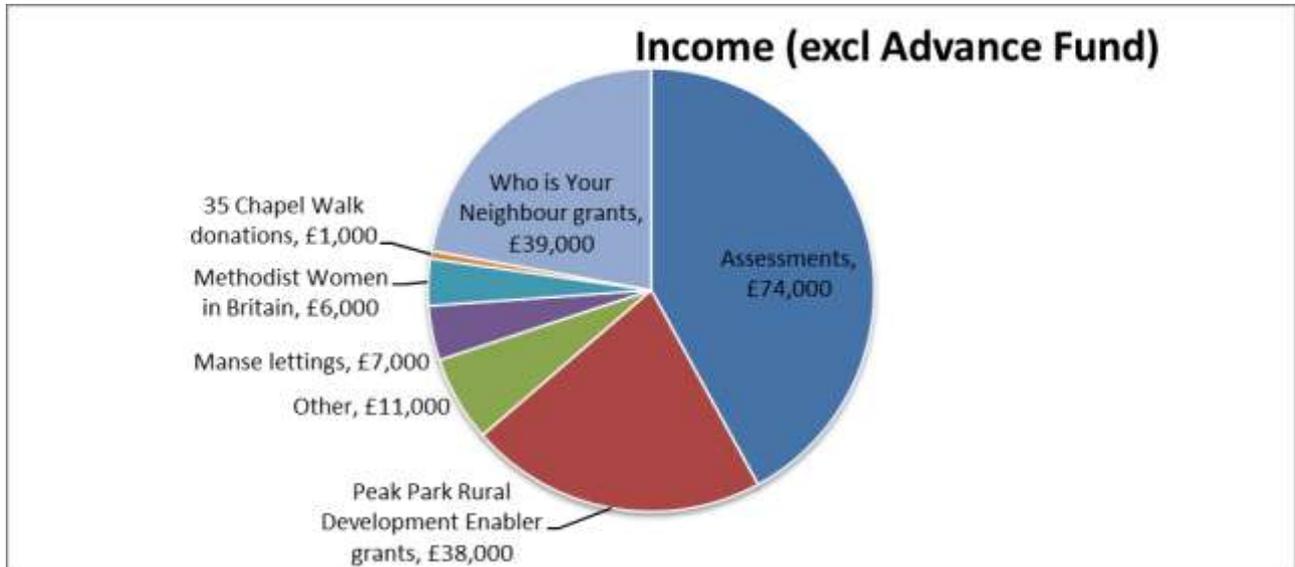
Circuits

Circuit Assessments remain the major source of funding for the core activities of the District. Whilst the amount relating to the District will need to increase in the coming years, it is intended that this be done at the same time as the Connexional element falls, thus meaning no net increase in the assessment burden shared by our Circuits. I have continued to meet with Circuit Treasurers during this year, where we shared challenges and ideas, and discussed new developments.

I would once again like to extend my thanks to Circuit Treasurers for all the work they do in a difficult financial climate; this coming year will also bring the challenge of significantly changed financial schedules for both circuits and churches.

Neil Harland
District Treasurer

Income and Expenditure - Analysis



'Who Is Your Neighbour?'



The 'Who Is Your Neighbour?' project began in 2010 and works in South Yorkshire. The Sheffield Methodist District has provided a 'home' for the project since its early days. Our office base is in Scotia Works on Leadmill Road, having moved from Diocesan Church House, Rotherham, our first base.

We hold **safe space dialogue**, conversations in which people can speak frankly about things like race, culture and migration and in which there is also space for reflection and challenge. These conversations help people think about their own opinions and to be more open to the beliefs and opinions of others. They can provide a solid foundation on which to build **relationships with people who are different** and who have different beliefs and values.

We are also interested in divisive narratives, the stories that blame or scapegoat particular groups, and are working with people to tell the stories of their own experience as a way of **challenging divisive narratives**.

During 2015 we worked with uncertainty about the project's future due to funding coming to an end. We have now secured funding from a Methodist Connexional grant for three years from January 2016 providing welcome stability. We are grateful to John Purdy and Neil Harland for making us aware of the existence of this grant fund and to the Sheffield District for a bridging grant that allowed us to continue to operate when previous funding came to an end.

Our staffing is:

- Project Manager: 4 days a week
- Development Worker: 2.5 days a week (currently vacant, recruitment under way)
- Administrator: 1 day a week
- Sessionally paid dialogue facilitators

With the stability provided by the Connexional grant, we plan to expand our project in response to growing demand for our work and are seeking further funding to do this.

Some of our work since the 2015 Synod report:

- A series of conversations in a neighbourhood where many long term residents were angry about the arrival of Slovak Roma people. We are working towards negotiating particular points of conflict.
- A series of conversations involving clients of a charity that supports homeless people. Staff had described division and antipathy between new clients recently arrived from other countries and longstanding clients. Some participants in the conversation acknowledged a change of attitude towards new arrivals and particularly asylum seekers.
- Monthly conversations between a group of asylum seekers and refugees and people from the 'host' community. These conversations allowed people to hear about painful experiences and to work through mutual misunderstandings.
- A session with Adult Education tutors in which they experienced facilitated dialogue and reflected on how they could adapt and use our approach in their own work, particularly when difficult and controversial topics are raised by students.
- We are working in partnership with MESH, a mediation organisation, in a neighbourhood where young men from one ethnic community are being aggressive and even violent towards other residents. We are supporting local people to develop responses to the situation

*Revd Eileen Sanderson
District Representative*

The **Methodist Church** 

Worship and Preaching

Report will follow

Youth in the Sheffield District

DYFERENCE weekend 2015

On 10 – 12 July 2015 we had our 3rd DYFERENCE youth weekend away at Glenbrook outdoor activity centre. It was a fun filled weekend with activities, worship, workshops, craft, a disco, bonfire, open mic, BIG Questions, BBQ, lots of games and plenty of food! We had 30 young people attend representing five of the circuits in the District.

I want to thank the, around, 20 volunteers and paid workers who made the weekend possible by around offering their time ranging from a workshop, craft activity, food prep & organisation to attending full weekend with their young people. We are looking forward to the next one (below).

3Gen 2015

Info from Methodist Church website:

'An action-packed and inspiring weekend for hearing the voice of children and young people across the Methodist Church, focussing on fun, faith and friends

3Generate 2015 welcomed nearly 600 children and young people aged 8 to 23 from all over the country. This year the event will take place over the weekend 25-27 November 2016. More details will be announced over the coming months so please watch this space...'

This year both the young people & leaders created manifesto's for what they would like youth work in the Methodist church to be for the next year. These, along with further resources, can be found on the website: www.methodist.org.uk/mission/3generate/before-and-after-3generate/3generate-manifestos

Our District had 26 young people & 10 leaders (many on team) attend 3Generate this year on 20-22 November. This is up on the last number of years & we hope that our District will continue to be well represented at this event.

DYFERENCE weekend 2016 - upcoming

On 1 – 3 July 2016 we have our next & 4th DYFERENCE youth weekend away at Glenbrook outdoor activity centre. This year we're joining with YHA Edale to do some Climbing & Abseiling for half of the day on Saturday along with our usual activities, workshop etc. at a DYFERENCE weekend.

We'd like to get as many young people along as possible & aim to have representation from all of the circuits in the District. If you are unsure whether your circuit will be represented please do contact George (District Youth coordinator).

All the information needed for youth leaders/representatives and young people can be found on the District website & for further info please do contact George.

George Dixon-Gough

District Youth Coordinator

youth@sheffieldmethodist.org

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