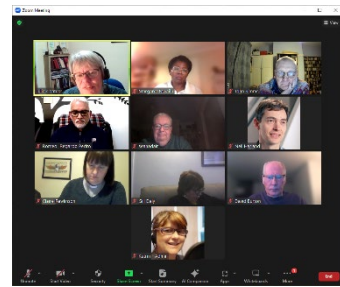


Sheffield Methodist District Leading Team

Meeting on Wednesday 7 March 2024 at 7.00 pm via ZOOM

Present

Julie Coates (JC) (Acting Chair); Margaret Mwailu (MM); Romeo Pedro (RP); Sean Adair (SA); John Simms (JS); Neil Harland (NH); Claire Rawlinson (CR); Gill Daly (GD); David Burton (DB);
Erica Dunmow (ED) joined at 19:45;
(non-voting) Katrin Hackett (KH);



Opening Business

1. Opening worship

JC opened the meeting, sharing the verse from Mathew 13: 52 (from the Message) – the one who can bring out the treasures both old and new, as needed.

2. Apologies for absence

Gill Newton (Presidential duties); McCauley Key; Jon Bellfield

We note that McCauley has stepped down from this meeting, we send him our prayers as he and Jack are involved in fostering.

3. Minutes of the DLT on 3 January

These had been circulated and were accepted as an accurate record with one minor amendment in section 9 should read Assistant Secretary of Conference.

4. Matters arising from the minutes.

District Vacancies

Probationers Secretary-Tracey Harris will be moving on in September. We are not anticipating receiving any probationers in 2024, but it would be good to have someone in post.

Under 10s in Ministry support – this role supports those in the first 10 years of ministry; there are two gatherings, a 24 hour retreat and a quiet day. Suggested names: Tom Read; Angela Potheary (also possibly the Probationers role, but to wait for the moment)

Synod Secretary – thanks to Margaret for her time in this role since 2017; there was an expression of interest from Sean Adair. He has been interviewed on 6th March for this role by JC, MM and DB, if DLT are happy, references will be followed up with the name going to Spring Synod, to start in September. It might be appropriate that he also attends the gathering of Synod Secretaries at Conference. Sean left the meeting whilst the DLT considered the application, which they unanimously agreed to support.

CYF Worker Rep to DLT – Amy Roddam (Doncaster Circuit) -

Youth rep to DLT – Grace Perkins (R&DV Circuit) – Both these will be followed up by Vic Loveday and JC, with the names then going forward to Synod.

Pioneering Rep to DLT – this vacancy is due to McCauley stepping down. NH suggested Ian Bell, DLT agree that this be followed up.

Lay Stationing Rep – The only suggested name at the Superintendents' Meeting was one who has been in this role before. Janet Hampshire (R&DV Circuit) was suggested, JC will make an initial approach, if not, will take up with Superintendents.

Extra hours for Communications Officer – Sam is aware of the need to send regular reports so that the DLT can see the impact of the extra hours.

Trinity Circuit transfer of Trust Fund – all agreed as per the request

Visit of President & Vice-President in 2024/25 –

Some suggestions have been circulated. It was agreed that an afternoon service on Sunday at Victoria Hall would be good. **KH & JC will communicate with the P&VP office**

5. Decisions made between meetings for recording.

There is nothing to record.

Items For Discussion and Decision

6. Treasurers' Report

The report has been circulated. General Fund covers the Office, HR and Safeguarding costs. Advance Fund goes to staff costs for missional work and makes grants to church and circuits. Restricted Funds currently Peak Park enabler and the Persian Ministry, plus some for the New Places.

There are no causes for concern at the moment. Financial controls are in place. The Fixed Asset is the Chair's Manse in Rotherham. It is noted that if we did sell this manse, we would get more than the figure reported.

Annual Report final version has been circulated. Two minor changes –McCauley Allcock should read McCauley Key. Griff Wynne died in November 2022,

DLT accepted the report and agreed for it to be signed, NH will update the Charity Commission site.

NH was thanked for his work.

7. Mission Strategy update

The report has been circulated. NH drew attention to the item on Metal Methodist looking at a grant for digital pioneering to create a short-term role on organisation and communications. The grant needs to be applied for by the District, it might seem sensible to make this role a District employee.

After confirming that we wouldn't need to use this funding for other District purposes DLT were happy for this application to proceed.

New Beginnings seed funding – this was mentioned at the last meeting and the proposal is a more formal working out of the process. This will be launched at Synod, and in the District Magazine. DLT happy to endorse this.

8. Safeguarding Report

Alison Hill joined the meeting. The report and policy have been circulated. There is an audit at church and circuit level, there will be an audit for District this year, but needs to know who to send it to. The Chair would be the first point of contact with a copy to the District Administrator, and the Chair.

A question was raised about why an interim safeguarding contract is in place. It was confirmed that this is because we are waiting on a report from the police. Alison does keep checking on this. The church are supporting the individual well, whilst still being vigilant. The District Safeguarding Group (DSG) Standards have been helpful. Things are working very well, and the plan created is robust. There is still some resistance, especially over training – but the feedback once done is very positive. Churches are now asking for help, so there is better engagement. Regular meetings with Circuit Safeguarding Officers are encouraging, with them now meeting more with Church Safeguarding Officers. The District Safeguarding Policy has been extended to include information about procedures for District events involving children, young people or vulnerable adults.

Alison was thanked for her work.

DLT accept the report and approve the District Policy

9. Requests for Lay Authorisation

No requests have been received. There have been no changes advised regarding the existing authorisations so they will be renewed automatically. KH will follow up on one confidential query.

10. Requests to Cease to meet

Litton (Peak Circuit) - The circuit meeting will be on 21 March, a reasoned statement will follow which will be forwarded to DLT members via email for approval/comment prior to Synod.

Whitwell (Trinity Circuit) – This has been agreed by the Circuit Meeting, where 26 members voted to approve the request and one abstained. DLT agreed with this decision.

A prayer was offered for both congregations

Other Matters

11. Methodist Council report

The report has been circulated. All the reports discussed are on the Methodist Church website. RP drew attention to the additional safeguarding training required for those in senior leadership. The Action for Hope grants will be available after the Methodist Conference.

Romeo was thanked for his work

12. Communications Report

The report has been circulated. Since writing, the number of plays of the Podcast has increased to over 400. This has been a good way to enable to share stories. Neil reminded DLT of the need for feedback.

13. Peak Park Rural Development Enabler - deferred

14. Victoria Hall

The report has been circulated. It is encouraging to see the progress that has been made. ED was thanked for her work with the church. The last leadership team meeting agreed to try and form a Church Council, the overview management group will continue as part of being a City Centre church. There is no longer a need to have a 5-year District review. The evening congregation is an ecumenical group, without a formal partnership, but decisions are taken collaboratively.

The report was accepted.

15. GDPR

The report has been circulated and was accepted. KH was thanked for her work.

16. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

ED - A priority will be looking at mentoring work, how we change recruitment processes while staying within safer recruitment.

Work-load has made doing more development work difficult. SA commented positively on the quality of the training resources available. The evaluation report is that take-up is improving.

17. Grant requests

Andrew Fox joined the meeting. Broom is looking to move forward in a realistic way, to enrich what can be offered to church users, circuit and also District. SA gave words of encouragement.

When questioned AF explained that the Circuit will be exploring other funding – Benefact Trust which does specifically mention AV equipment to make things more accessible. South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau (SYFAB) might be worth exploring; Veolia (waste recycling); [Katrin - Benefact Trust is Methodist Insurance's grant making body]

DLT would encourage this further exploration. Andrew left the meeting

DLT agreed to support this application

Grove Street have claimed their £20,000 and give their gratitude to DLT for this money. This will enable the work to be completed by Easter

18. AOB

Appointment of the new Chair. DLT will need to meet as soon as possible after 15 March to meet the proposed candidate. This can be on Zoom or in person. A Manse visit would need careful handling with the existing tenants. This is an affirmation, although there is the possibility of declining the appointment.

JC suggests that the nominee is asked for dates to meet, which will be circulated to DLT to fix this, plus other members of the nominations committee. This was agreed.

Voting at Synod will be by paper secret ballot,

Superintendents Rep to DLT – the superintendents will be asked to bring a name to Synod

Property Advisory Group was set up to support and advise the Property Secretary. Currently Property Secretary is the person who makes decision on approval. The proposal is that such decisions are made in consultation with the group, which may need to be enlarged. DLT will be given a summary of

significant approvals on a regular basis. This will give DLT an overview, and will be the ultimate arbiter if agreement is not made. This will be similar to the work of the former Consents panel.

DLT agree with this proposal.

JC shared that there are some big issues that Tom Rattigan is working through with circuits, that DLT need to be aware of, namely – Inkersall in Derbyshire North East, several churches in the Barnsley Circuit, and TKCC in Doncaster

Dates for DLT meetings 2023/24

- Tuesday 8 May
- Tuesday 9 July

Synod / District Gatherings

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| • Spring Gathering (Synod) | 20 April 2024 | Sheffield – Victoria Hall |
| • Autumn Gathering (Synod) | 14 September 2024 | Trinity – The Crossing |
| • Spring Gathering (Synod) | 5 April 2025 | Sheffield |
| • Autumn Gathering (Synod) | 13 September 2025 | Doncaster |
| • Spring Gathering (Synod) | 18 April 2026 | Sheffield |

The meeting closed with prayer at 21:20