**Break-out Questions**

* If you could choose 4 people - who would you choose?  
  Who are the campaigners who have helped the church to understand that there is diversity to be celebrated?
* What is the story as a church, where are we on the journey?
* What connections can you find between some of the stories that Helen has shared and your own, in your own life or your own context
* How can be we be brave in the current era? What do we need to be brave about?
* What lessons have we learned from times and places where we have got it wrong?

**Chat Feedback**

Importance of recognising the many local heroes and groups involved in inspiring projects and campaigning - who will never be famous but who are being brave and changing cultures, attitudes and behaviours. The bravery of those who have done this specifically in the context of safeguarding - facing the hostility, resistance and denial...

Similarly to above, that there are groups in the local who can make a difference in the local community in church and they can make such a difference in changing culture in the local.

We talked about whether we would have been brave enough to say the things Bishop Budde did if we were in her situation. We also shared some people we would have put on our posters.

We discussed how there is no national lead for older people's ministries. Is the voice of the older person being heard. There can also be challenges when people have dementia and still wish to be in a role.

Ecumenically, there are others who are working with older voices, Faith in Action, Faith in later life and Anna Chaplaincy. In society, dementia seems to have "loss", loss of memory, loss of identity. The church can have a voice of hope.

We began by pondering which 4 people we would include: Doreen Lawrence mother (Doreen), Local people (often unknown by many), parents of children have died, but campaign to ensure others don't have to endure same despite their own grief, Ministers/lay people who have for years spoken out and acted upon injustices.

It can be difficult to engage people in issues of social justice at a local level. Some people’s experiences are so far removed from the issues that they are not able to appreciate underlying issues or the lived experiences of others.

We were grateful for people like Tracey Hulme who is working hard to people others and to develop our local understanding.

We questioned if social media and news media’s responses are making people fearful in speaking out. People are labelled, negatively.

Is justice seeking viewed an add-on in a local church context? Why are our groups so small, with only a few people involved.

We gave thanks that people have different gifts and passions in regard to social issues and we acknowledge we can learn from them.

Do we work across all denominations, or do we limit ourselves to just working in a methodist context? We are strong together as Christians.

We wanted to celebrate how the wider Methodist Church has helped local Methodist people to be brave and to speak out and notice injustice.

Ian Rutherford in Manchester, A lady in recovery who bravely shared her story of child removal to a full Gateshead Council last week, and we mentioned someone in Sheffield who is an entrepreneur who has put the needs of those in need in the community at the heart of their work.

interesting to reflect on interfaces and impact of different 'injustices' eg. impact of climate injustice used to cover racial injustice in some communities

Can Helen recommend books or articles we can read, to identify people who are championing social justice.

We also had a good conversation about how we can help people (especially in relation to justice) to help people feel safe in local churches/Christian communities.

In being brave, we recognised that it is often easier being brave in a group but that also there are people in positions of influence who can speak against injustice, but then we have responsibility to support them and not leave them standing on their own

We also mentioned Sam McBratney

Our group had a great discussion as to how we practically learn from lessons in the past within our current contexts. There was the thought that complacency is one of the main risks to the journey we are on. The question was raised how can we keep it fresh. John Howard was mentioned as another influential Methodist regarding prison ministry and how he travelled throughout Europe. We also spoke about how justice can look different for individuals.

I also meant to add how difficult safeguarding as an agenda is within a Church setting when often the common response is but 'this is how we have always done things' and the shift of emphasis to include vulnerable adults rather than just children as being at risk. The need for guidance to be current and comprehensive moving forward.

Just a personal reflection: I think being brave can be impacted by what we feel is a requirement to be polite. I still see groups where injustice occurs and is failed to be challenged. Just a thought for us to consider

Is it possible to be brave whilst still feel safe?? I would hope so - but how can we support the brave more effectively?

‘Getting it wrong’ can be quite judgemental in itself. Sometimes things such as SSM is wrong and people are leaving because of it - but equally some are joining eg a couple who had looked for a church for 22 years and only found it when we agreed this. Also in some smaller places there is no firsthand experience of diversity. Also danger in seeing ‘the problem’ rather than the ‘person’. Do we need to emphasise the biblical call to love all.

"Go Back to Where You Came From" starts tonight Channel 4 9pm, is the programme I mentioned in our breakout group. 6 Brits with a variety of opinions are sent to Mogadishu Somalia Raqqa and Syria.