**District groups and committee reports to Spring Synod 28 April 2018**

**District Policy Committee (DPC) Report**

The DPC has met twice since the last Synod to consider the business of the District and its committees. The latter have reported separately.

We have received updates from Aileen Fox relating to Methodist Conference, Jane Gay on Safeguarding, Rev Chrissie Howe on the DMLN and Dr Yasmin Finch on her work as District Mission Enabler.

We have dealt with an application for authorisation to preside at Holy Communion, which then goes to Conference.

We are considering how we will meet the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requirements.

We have discussed our District Priorities. A DPC Away Day is planned on 12 May 2018. This will include looking at how to encourage every Church to consider an “End of Life” or “Mission Church” Plan, as recommended by Conference / Methodist Council.

I step up to be Synod Secretary from 1 September 2018 and wish Jennie Harris a happy “retirement” as she completes her term of office and thank her for all the help she has given me and ask you all to bear with me as I embark on my steep learning curve! At the time of writing this we are still seeking a replacement Assistant Synod Secretary.

*Susan Eldridge - Secretary to District Policy Committee*

**District Training Fund Officer**

Since the Spring Synod 2018, the District Training Fund for Deacons and Presbyters in the active work has received and approved 8 applications.  These include supporting ministers for training in continuing pastoral supervision training, spiritual direction, spiritual disciplines, music education, exploring pioneer ministry and theology residential weeks.  All ministers are entitled to £200 per annum from the District for explicitly training and development needs, with the minister’s Circuit strongly encouraged to provide an additional £100.  A straight forward application form is available from Rev. Alison Walker  **[alison.walker@methodist.org.uk](mailto:alison.walker@methodist.org.uk" \t "_blank)**

## Ministry with the Deaf Community\*

Since the initial report in 2016, the ministry has moved forward.

The aims have been re-stated as:

*to give Deaf Christians the opportunity to be part of a regular worshipping community*

*to develop connections with the wider Deaf Community for service and evangelism*

*to raise awareness in the mainstream church*

Rather than keep referring to this work as the ministry among the Deaf Community it has also been ‘rebranded’ Sign the Cross. This is much easier to sign than ‘Ministry among the Deaf Community’ and will act as an umbrella term under which the various parts of the ministry can be recognised.

A new website giving information about each group with a calendar of events is just launching: [www.signthecross.com](http://www.signthecross.com) I also use Facebook regularly to disseminate information.

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Work continues with groups in Lowestoft and Downham Market with an interpreted or BSL worship every month.

Relationships are developing well with existing Anglican Deaf ministry in both Ely and St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Dioceses and we have a programme of events together over the coming years, including a workshop in June to encourage people to learn BSL. This is open to anyone, Deaf or hearing, and information with a booking form can be found on [www.signsofgod.org.uk](http://www.signsofgod.org.uk)

There is now a District Management Committee overseeing this ministry with a membership of Deaf and hearing people.

If anyone in the District knows of any Deaf Sign Language users in their churches or neighbourhoods or hearing people with sign language skills, please contact me - email: [revanne320@gmail.com](mailto:revanne320@gmail.com) or through the website: [www.signthecross.com](http://www.signthecross.com)

\* This work is among people who are profoundly Deaf and use British Sign Language as their main or preferred language. They are unable to access regular ‘hearing’ church, due to communication barriers.

***Rev Anne Richardson***

**Agricultural Chaplain**

*I wonder how many people have changed their mind on how they voted on leaving the E U there is so much discussion about 'Brexit' and so many different suggestions as what will happen after March 2019 I'm sure very few are certain what the outcome will be, or what was thought the outcome would be. It is obvious that the E U do not want us to leave so are not helping with the negotiations, just creating difficulties.*

*In the farming world plans on cropping have to go on. Markets will have to resolved and perhaps what is produced in this country, more will stay in this country, who knows.*

*This winter has certainly been a challenge with the Waveney valley flooded twice and two periods of snow, which seemed to bring the country to a standstill. Thanks to the farmers who did an amazing job clearing the roads, although not all were registered with the local authority to carry out road clearance. I know in this area it was appreciated, with letters in the press expressing their gratitude. How does the song go 'when will we ever learn'.*

*A lesson to us in the church has always been to be prepared and to help others. Help us Lord Jesus to be faithful to our calling and to you in the years to come.*

*George W Frost* - *Agricultural Chaplain. East Anglia District Methodist Church.*

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**Worship Group**

**Thy Kingdom Come**

Thy Kingdom come is a global prayer movement which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know the transformational love of Jesus Christ. The Methodist Church is now a formal partner in Thy Kingdom Come, and this year we have produced resources for prayer and devotion to accompany those produced by the Church of England. All the resources – including a special Messy Church, all-age and family prayer ideas, outlines for services and for daily prayer – can be accessed and downloaded from **thykingdomcome.global**

Copies of *Waiting in Wonder* a booklet produced by the Rev’d Michaela Youngson, President-Designate of the Methodist Conference, with reflections for 9 days of prayer are available for each member for Synod. Please remember to take yours home – and use it! Further copies can be ordered online.

*Resources for Prayer and Worship* draw on the history and emphases of the Methodist Church, and are shaped by the 280th anniversary this year of John Wesley’s Aldersgate experience, when he felt the change that God works in our hearts by faith. The aim of the resources and the prayer movement is to share that with others. Copies have been sent out to all Presbyters and Deacons in the active work, and are also available to download or order online. Please do engage with these – although as writer and compiler I may have a vested interest in this resource!

Although time is short, you may like to think about how Thy Kingdom Come could be included in the life of your churches and circuits. Some have already organised prayer days; you may feel able to have a prayer meeting, use the resources in house groups, or use the outline order of service during May (or, indeed, at any other time). Thy Kingdom Come will be an annual event, so if you think there is not enough time to organise something this year, but it in your diaries for next year! (Ascension Day 2019 is Thursday 30th May and Pentecost 2019 is on Sunday 9th June).

**District Celebration Service**

Hopefully by now circuits will have booked coaches and filled cars, and everyone is fired up and ready for our District Celebration Service at the Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds on Saturday 5th May. The theme is ‘Day by Day in Worship and Mission’, and our speaker is the President of Conference, the Rev’d Loraine Mellor. Full details, including information about parking, can be found on the District website – eangliamethodist.org.uk/events-news/events/

**Ordinands’ Testimony Services**

You are warmly encouraged to support our District ordinands at their Testimony services before their Reception into Full Connexion and Ordination at the Methodist Conference in Nottingham). Tuesday 8th May, 7pm, Chapelfield Road, Norwich: Preacher – The Rev’d Rosemary Wakelin, Ordinand - The Rev’d Debbie Caulk. Thursday 24th May, 7pm, Royston: Preacher – The Rev’d JongiZihle, Ordinand - Rev’d Charity Nzegwu). Full details: eangliamethodist.org.uk/events-news/events/ ***Rev Catherine Dixon***

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**Learning and Caring Group**

I am, as ever, grateful for the work done by WCAT and attach below their latest report, kindly provided by Donna Ely. *Richard Dean – Learning and Caring group Coordinator*

***World Church Action Team***

Members of the District World Church Action Team continue to meet 2-3 times a year and are committed to raising awareness and encouraging initiatives in partnership with our sisters and brothers in the World Church.

We offer the following update.

* **Website**. Thanks to Sarah Friswell, Communications Officer, for setting up the website which contains up to date news and links to resources. <https://eangliamethodist.org.uk/who-we-are/world-church-action-team>
* **National in Mission Appointment. *Rev Myo, Upper Myanmar, Leprosy Mission***. Whilst we would normally encourage churches to channel any fundraising through the World Mission Fund, we responded to a request for financial help to support the 125th celebrations of the Leprosy Mission to be held during November 2017. The collection at Synod and from individual churches raised £430. Thank you to all who contributed. Photos of the occasion were sent to Circuit contacts and can be viewed on the website. We continue to support this link through prayer.
* **Mission Partners**

***Deacon Angleena Keizer***, serving with the Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem – we continue to support Angleena through our prayers and e-mails.

***Rev Freddy and Mrs Dee Takavarasha***, serving in Uganda as Mission Enabler (Freddy) and Child Ministry Co-ordinator (Dee).

* **Link with Rome**

***Rev Tim and Mrs Angela Macquiban***, are serving at the Methodist Church in Rome.

* **Methodists for World Mission** **Conference,** Swanwick, June 1st to 3rd, theme ‘Africa – Gospel and Culture’. See website for link or contact sarah.friswell@btinternet.com
* **Circuit Contacts** – We would encourage Circuits to have at least one person on the World Church contact list. Please e-mail sarah.friswell@btinternet.com with names.
* **Membership of World Church Action Team**. We are always pleased to welcome new members on the team. If you are enthusiastic about World Church matters and are would like to join the team, contact Deacon Donna Ely, 01379 642791, [donna.ely@mybroadbandmail.com](mailto:donna.ely@mybroadbandmail.com) .

Our five probationer ministers continue to be nurtured with the help of the **District** **Probationers’ Oversight Committee** under the excellent leadership of Rev. Bev Barclay. My thanks to all those, lay and ordained, who assist in this continuing process and we would welcome your prayers for them all.

I have also been contacted recently by **David Friswell**, who is now our Regional Coordinator for the Learning Network in the East of England. I hope we shall be able to work closely with him in the future.

My final request is the usual one: please let me know if there is anything under the Learning and Caring “umbrella” that you would like a wider audience to hear, then I will happily bring it to Synod’s attention.

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**Lay-employee Report**

Hi! Last year I introduced myself as Jane Drury, since then I have changed my name to Jane Mottram! (I was married in January!) I am a Lay employee in the Thetford Diss and Mildenhall Circuit, and Lay- co-ordinator for the District training and support days.

Four Lay support/training days are organised each year, usually on the second Tuesday of January, March and June, and the first Tuesday in December. We meet at 10am Coffee & 10.30 start, we finish by 2.30pm. (visits tend to be longer days)

January, March and December meetings at **Diss Methodist Church**, in June we go on a visit, in recent years we’ve been to an undertakers + crematorium, on a wherry trip on the Broads, and a prison visit. In June last year our agricultural chaplain George Frost arranged a superb day, we visited farms seeing first-hand how farmers have diversified, ‘fresh expressions’ in the farming world!

This June we will be meeting in Norwich, to visit some of the historic Churches which our much valued Lay worker Chaplain, Rev Betty Trinder visited whilst on sabbatical. NB This meeting will be on **Tuesday JUNE 5th a week earlier than usual.** Reminders will be sent out!

On **September 11th** we look forward to a visit from our Safeguarding officer Jane Gay.

**December 4th** Rev John Fenn will be leading a Bible study for us.

These days are such a valuable time set aside to share in training, fellowship, spiritual growth, support and fun as well. It can be quite isolating being a lay worker, especially when new to a post and this is an excellent way of networking and supporting others in the similar work. So if you are a Lay worker do come! (Your travel expenses are paid on the day) Superintendents know that part of a lay workers contract is that they be allowed to attend these days and also the Connecting Disciples Conferences in March at High Leigh or June at Cliff College.

**Who are these days for?** The 'boundaries' are a little blurred but include anyone employed to work in a Circuit and also those who do a similar job voluntarily in a Circuit, for example as a Lay Pastor, Administrator, Outreach worker, Youth and families worker, Prison and farm chaplains, ministerial support workers, etc…

(Circuit Stewards, Treasurers, Preachers, receive support and training in Circuit)

PLEASE let me know if you know a lay worker in the district who isn’t in contact with us!

*Jane Mottram e-mail* [*druryje@yahoo.co.uk*](mailto:druryje@yahoo.co.uk) *(my e-mail address not changed!)*

Methodist Women in Britain

As seems usual these days, our District MWiB has had a busy and eventful year.

At our October District Day in Ely we thanked Revd. Heather Sorrell for all her hard work and dedication as vice President and President over several years. She led us admirably and during her term office encouraged us to raise over £16,000 for E.A.C.H. which was acknowledged by representatives of E.A.C.H. at the rally.

Heather handed over the Presidency to Ruth Arnold from Ely. Ruth and her husband, Bernard, served in Jamaica with MMS at the start of Bernard’s Ministry and Ruth has chosen to raise money for Jamaica during her term of office. The Bishop of Jamaica, Everald Galbraith and his wife Sherraine came from Jamaica especially to launch the charity and everyone agreed that the

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day was inspirational as they introduced “Bees, Beds and Blessings” our way to help our fellow Methodists in Jamaica. They have set up a project with bees to produce honey commercially for fundraising. We are also helping them to renovate and old manse into bedsitters for teachers at a local, rural Methodist School where accommodation is hard to find.

Everald and Sherraine challenged us and Ruth is trying to keep up the momentum to raise as much as possible to help the Jamaican Church.

We are already fast approaching our Spring District Day, which will be held on April 26th in Ipswich. Our guest speaker is Revd. Catherine Dixon from Kings Lynn and we are looking forward to her visit.

In July we will hold a Creativity Day and in November an Advent Retreat. Both of these events are in memory of Lynn White and will be funded by the money given to MWiB by her family.

By the time this report is read a number of us will have attended the residential weekend at Swanwick, and most of us will have been a part of an Easter Offering service. A huge thank you to all who help us to raise money through the Easter Offering envelopes.

MWiB is definitely ‘alive and kicking’ in the East Anglia District. Many Circuit activities are held regularly and District Days are among the highest in attendance in the Connexion despite the wide area and distances we have to travel to meet together.

We believe that MWiB is a vital asset to our District and to the Methodist church in general and will continue to work hard to fulfil our aim of bringing women together and encouraging and equipping them to be a witness to the Lord Jesus Christ in a world that has so much need of His Salvation. *Ruth Arnold (President)*

**SABBATICALS:**

4 presbyters are taking or have taken sabbaticals in the current year **2017-18**:-

Revd James Bamber (St Neots and Huntingdon) 10 April to 9 July 2018

Revd Eleanor Reddington (Central Norfolk) February and mid April to mid June 2018

Revd Colin Watkins (Ely and Newmarket) 23 April to 22 July 2018

Revd Sharon Willimott (North Norfolk) November 2017 to February 2018.

The following ministers are due to take sabbaticals in **2018-19**:-

Revd John Boardman (Bury St Edmunds) September to November 2018

Revd Jacqui Horton (Norwich)

Revd Christine Kennell (Lowestoft) *deferred from 2017/18*

Revd Matthew Olanrewaju (Norwich) *deferred from 2016/17* September to November 2018

Revd Julian Pursehouse March to June 2019

Revd Andrew Sankey (Ipswich) end May to end August 2019

Revd Maurice Stafford (West Norfolk) 3 September to 3 December 2018

At this stage it is likely that there will be at least 11 ministers on sabbatical during the year **2019-20**.

*Revd Heather M Walker - District Sabbaticals Officer*

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**Discipleship & Ministries Learning Network (DMLN) East of England - Synod Report 2018**

This past year has been a time of staff changes with Richard Armiger leaving the region to take up the national role of Director of Learning & Development for the regional network. Revd Chrissie Howe has been acting-up as Coordinator for the East of England Region until the end of January 2018 when Mr David Friswell was appointed to the Coordinator Role. He previously held the role of Team Leader of the World Church Relationships Team. David started on 29th January and is already getting to grips with the work across the region and meeting key personnel across the two districts.

Understandably the vacancies in the staffing have had an impact on the quantity of the work the team has been able to deliver, however some excellent work has been carried out since September, including:-

* + - Creating Safer Space Leadership Module – delivering essential training pending new course
    - Update existing trainers in new foundation module and foundation refresher (including lessons learned from the Past Cases Review)
    - Creating Safer Space Foundation Module – train the trainer
    - Candidates Support programme
    - Continuing to support circuits
    - Supporting work growing out from Germinate
    - OPP management and support
    - 3 Generate – planning and participation
    - Support for ministers in their early years
    - BEH & EA District Safeguarding Groups
    - District Grants Meetings
    - Regional Team Meetings
    - Circuit Reviews
    - Social Media and Communications event
    - WL&P Tutor Mentor Training Day
    - DMLN Staff & Specialism Gatherings

As the year develops we aim to create stronger links within the region to deliver Connexional and regional priorities. A growing emphasis within the church on evangelism and growth will offer opportunities for work within areas of discipleship, exploration of vocation, strategy development as well as the important areas of safeguarding and supervision.

As a team we are committed to helping resource the churches, Circuits and Districts within our region so that they can grow and develop as they seek to fulfil God’s mission. If there are areas of work you would like us to explore or resources that you would like us to help with please do get in touch. – For further information please contact us :-

07799 902570 07799 900481 07799 902579



Ann Howlett-Foster

[howlett-fostera@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:howlett-fostera@methodistchurch.org.uk)

07799 900481



Dave Friswell

[friswelld@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:friswelld@methodistchurch.org.uk)

07799 902570



Rev Chrissie Howe

[howec@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:howec@methodistchurch.org.uk)

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**Wesley House, Cambridge**

**NEW!** Four new MA courses available from September with distinct pathways (including ‘Spirituality’ and ‘Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy’), with the option to include a Methodism-specific module in all four. These courses can be followed either full-time or part-time, and can be undertaken either online or via distance-learning. Please contact the Director of Studies, the Rev’d Carole Irwin, for more details or to register via the Wesley House website ([www.wesley.cam.ac.uk](http://www.wesley.cam.ac.uk)).

**HOLINESS** The free online journal can be accessed via wesley.cam.ac.uk/holiness

**CAN YOU HELP SUPPORT WESLEY HOUSE?** Wesley House has a unique place in British and world Methodism. We are continuing our Founder’s vision of providing training to theologians in Cambridge, with access to all that Cambridge has to offer both in a theological and ecumenical context and also engaging with other disciplines and points of view. Since our new buildings and refurbished buildings opened in April 2017 we have started to establish Wesley House as a meeting place for international students to work, pray and live together in community. Wesley House does not receive public or church funding; we need to raise sufficient income to enable us to sustain the good work we have started. There are various ways in which you can help us, including: supporting our 2018 – 2021 appeal by signing up for a regular monthly donation, or by becoming a Friend of Wesley House. Please visit [www.wesley.cam.ac.uk/support-us/](http://www.wesley.cam.ac.uk/support-us/) if you feel able to support our work, and please do keep us and our work in your prayers.

*Rev Catherine Dixon*

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**Service Group**



Celebrating MHA’s 75th Anniversary Year - 2018

75 years ago the Methodist Conference agreed to set up MHA and the charity is continuing and improving on the care it was created for. Fast forward to 2018 and MHA now runs 90 care homes, 72 retirement living schemes and 61 Live at Home schemes, supporting more than 17,800 older people across England, Scotland and Wales, employing 7,000 staff and enjoying the support of over 5,500 volunteers.

*On Saturday 13 October 2018 there will be a 75th anniversary Service of Thanksgiving for MHA*

*at 3 pm in Derby Cathedral. Please keep an eye on the MHA website for details on how to attend.*

Methodist Homes Sunday – 10th June 2018

This year our theme of worship is: ***‘Full of Years’*** and we invite church groups to celebrate ***Methodist Homes*** ***Sunday*** by taking our theme and looking at ways in which we can help one another to support older members of our church and society as well as recognise and value the unique insights and perspectives of those who are in later life.

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An Order of Service and other worship resources can be downloaded from our website at [www.mha.org.uk/mhs](http://www.mha.org.uk/mhs) or contact Lesley France on 01332 296200 or email [lesley.france@mha.org.uk](mailto:lesley.france@mha.org.uk) for printed copies.

**Impact Report 2017**

Our latest Impact Report shows examples of where our money comes from and where it goes. With the help from our supporters, we are delighted to report an increase in the number of Music Therapists, Chaplains and Live at Home schemes, services which are all supported by our charitable income. You can download a copy of the report from our website or contact us as above for a printed copy.

**MHA’s New CEO**

In February we welcomed MHA’s new CEO Sam Monaghan who began with a busy schedule of visits to MHA’s Care Homes and Schemes. At the start of his role he said “It’s important that we improve others’ understanding and recognition of the work MHA does. This will help to expand our supporter base, both in terms of fundraising to increase the range of services we can offer, and in terms of influencing and shaping policy to support those we work with and for. Sam is a member of his local Methodist Church where he is involved in worship and youth leadership, as well as worship for people with dementia and learning disabilities.

**MHA wins Prestigious Award**Congratulations went to MHA's Chaplaincy Team who recently won a 3rd Sector Charity Care award for our end of life care programme.  Our approach to end of life care is encapsulated in our specially designed programme called ‘The Final Lap’ which aims to make sure all our Care Homes are places where death and dying are faced openly, positively and with support.

**Thank You** – we are very grateful for the support MHA receives from our friends within the Methodist Church and for sharing our mission to improve the quality of life for older people, inspired by Christian concern.

**PUBLIC ISSUES REPORT**

As this will be my last Synod as Public Issues contact I hope that, as an old peasant, I may be forgiven for concentrating on issues which have a direct effect on life in our East Anglian countryside.

**I**n the primarily arable areas of our district, increasingly sophisticated mechanisation on our farms has led to machines substantially reducing the need for workers in many aspects of crop production . Economically inevitable though this may be, it puts increasing pressure on those (both farmers and workers) who remain in farming and must make the best use of expensive machinery to meet the husbandry deadlines imposed by season, climate and crop development. To do this effectively they are now obliged to work increasingly long hours - 100 hour weeks are not uncommon at peak times – and this can have unfortunate consequences. The situation may be illustrated by two actual examples :

Paul works for one of Norfolk’s largest estates - one which has a good record for staff relations (and where his mother’s family has lived and worked since the1790s!). He lives in an estate cottage only a few minutes drive from the grain drier for which he is responsible. As a shepherd’s son he is well aware of the extremely “unsociable hours” that his father accepted were necessary during in the lambing season. His own ‘normal’ time 7.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. is often extended to as late as 6.00 p.m. if there are lorries to be loaded). At harvest time however (6 weeks is a dry year, longer if the weather is wet) he works from 7.30 am till the combines stop work (and stop sending in grain) at between 1.00 or 2.30 the following morning. He gets a half hour lunch break and when he has to work after 9.00 pm the estate provides a meal for a half hour tea break. When he has to work very late it is accepted that on the following morning he need not start work until 8.00 a.m. He recounts that one harvest he didn’t speak to his wife for some days as she was still asleep when he left for work in the morning and was back in bed and asleep when he got home at night!

Stephen works for the same estate as Paul but is based at, and lives on, an outlying holding about 40 minutes drive from the ‘home farm’. He may be called on to work on either of the two farms. Although his basic hours are the same a Paul’s, there are many times during the year when he is obliged to work

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much longer (and traveling time is not considered when determining the hours he has to work. Apart from the very long hours at harvest, he gives the following hours which he expects to work at other times of the year.:-

i) ploughing, spraying or lifting sugar beet - 7.30 a.m. till up to 9.00 p.m. depending on conditions

ii) drilling (i.e. sowing) cereals and other crops - 7.30 a.m. until between 10.00 p.m, and midnight;

iii) harvesting maize for bio-digestion (for the production of bio fuel) - 7.30 a.m. till 7.00 p.m. - in this case the hours worked each day are restricted but 7 day weeks are necessary (7 day weeks are also frequently required during busy times on other crops).

Both Paul and Stephen said that they saw very little of their wives at harvest time and when they were with them they were too tired to do much talking!

There are obvious health and safety concerns when tired men are obliged to operate very large and complex equipment late into the nights of seven day weeks. The long hours of working can also have disastrous effects on family life (divorce rates and suicides are worryingly high in the farming community). Wives and children are disadvantaged and often distressed by their husbands/fathers being able to spend so little time with them. This is one reason why this year the annual George Edwards Memorial Meeting (which commemorates the life and work of the Methodist founder of the National Union of Agricultural Workers) will have as its theme “Women in Agriculture”. This meeting, arranged by Methodists of the East Anglia District and members of the Unite trades union, at the Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse Museum of Norfolk Life. This year it will be held on Saturday 21st July (2.00 – 4.00 p.m.). The speakers will be Jill Barber of the Englesea Brook Museum of Primitive Methodism and former Agricultural Chaplain Rev. Eleanor Reddington. The meeting will be chaired by June Seymour, Sir George’s granddaughter. June Seymour. For more information contact David Yarham on 01328 878709.

The fall in the numbers employed in agriculture has been going on for many years and has had a very unfortunate effect on village life. Workers’ cottages falling vacant have been bought up as by affluent townsfolk to such an extent that, especially in coastal areas. many villages have almost as many ‘second homes’ as permanently occupied homes – and house prices in these areas have been pushed so high that they are beyond the reach most local first time buyers. To be fair, some ‘second-homers’ do make valuable contributions to village life (the Central Norfolk Circuit has greatly benefited from the committed services of local preachers Glynn & Angela Constantine from Sutton Coldfield who have a second home in Kettlestone). Many, however, come to Norfolk only occasionally and take little or no interest in village life.

We desperately need more affordable homes in the countryside but, as Archbishop Justin Welby has wisely said, we don’t need just to build houses but to build communities. It is difficult to sustain active and supportive village communities when the younger members of local families are now forced to live elsewhere while houses in their home villages stand empty for most of the year.

The effects of BREXIT on the migrant workers whose presence is so necessary in those ct areas where arable husbandry is replaced by the intensive production of horticultural crops, or where the rural economy is more dependent or tourism well known. The countryside, like the rest of Britain is becoming-ever more multicultural. It s significant, that this year the Suffolk Agricultural Show will have not only the usual Church of England tent by also an Inter-faith stand which will be supported by the other Christian denominations and by the Ipswich and Bury St Edmonds Inter-faith Groups.

On a sadder note, the once thriving Cambridge Inter Faith Group established by the Cambridge Methodist Social Responsibly Committee in 1980 now appears to have expired - particularly disappointing for me as for 15 years I had the privilege of being its convener. There is still, of course, an active University Inter-faith Group in the City. **-** *David Yarham*

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**ADMINISTRATION GROUP REPORT**

**Finance & Property**

1. The budget for 2018/19 has been sent to the Circuits. All District Accounts are provided in the District Treasurer’s Report.
2. District accounts for Connexional year 2016/17 will all be presented to Synod for approval.
3. The District Property Consents Panel members are Roger Pauley (District Property Secretary) Julian Pursehouse, Shaun Cushion, Paul Hornsby, Paul Harris, and Aileen Fox; need to be appointed

***APPROVE: Accounts for 2016/17.***

***ADOPT: the Budget for 2018/19 & receive rest of the report.***

1. A written report should be provided separately by Mr Roger Pauley the District Property Secretary

**Personnel & Grants**

1. A reminder to all circuits receiving a Ministry & Mission Grant that a report is **now required annually** by the Grants & Personnel Committee to review the work & progress of the project. For District grants which are more than £5,000 per annum, the district requires a monitoring and evaluation report in line with the above.
2. The District offers training on how to approach making **Grant applications,** and also with **Monitoring & Evaluation** reporting. Please speak Mike Wilson 01223 527560 about either of these issues.
3. Since my last report new schemes receiving District grant funding include **Chesterton – Cambridge 14/26 (£90,000 DAF including funds designated for Development projects).** Property grants from the DAF **Morley (14/1 £20,000 DAF).** At time of writing uncommitted capital in the DAF is £80,000. All District grants awarded by the Grants and Personnel Committee are subject to ratification by District Policy Committee.
4. Proposed Administration Group Representatives to Synod for 2017/18: Mr Paul Hornsby, Mr Richard Dunn, and Mrs Aileen Fox.
5. The District Grants Policy: Agreed 5th September 2012.

The East Anglia District of the Methodist Church will consider making grants for work/projects that meet all of the following criteria:

That the work/project

1. relates directly to ‘*Our Calling’* in at least one of the four constituent parts
2. relates to at least one aspect of ‘*The Priorities for the Methodist Church*’
3. relates directly to at least one aspect of the District Policy
4. meets the objectives of the Circuit Mission Policy
5. is innovative and/or involves risk-taking
6. will also be supported by Circuit monies

In addition, grant applications will be viewed positively if every effort is made to obtain grant money from sources outside Methodism and/or if they are for projects which are environmentally friendly. District Officers are available to advise and support grant applications at each stage of the process, if the conditions below have been met.

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District grants are not normally more than the amount also granted from Circuit resources. Unless exceptional circumstance, grants will not be given retrospectively for property schemes or ministry and mission projects.

**Please be aware of the following conditions:**

District grants will only be awarded when the District Policy Committee is satisfied that the Circuit concerned has sufficient Safeguarding policies in place and that Circuit employees or volunteers have completed appropriate training.

District grants for the employment of lay personnel will only be awarded when the District Lay Employment Committee has been consulted and approved the arrangements for the relevant post(s).

A Circuit, and any local church in that Circuit, will only receive grant money for new projects (of any kind) when satisfactory Monitoring and Evaluation reports have been received from existing projects.

***Adopt the Report***

***ANDREW KING. – Group Coordinator Administration***

**Property**

We often hear or read that the Methodist Church is a dying church but from my perspective, with all the varying proposals and confirmed projects within our churches throughout the East Anglia District, this is far from the truth.  I can tell you that Methodism in East Anglia embodies the Easter Message and is "alive" and continues with it's mission throughout the District.

I am pleased that the Annual Property returns are again better than this time last year, but there are a few circuits who need to "chase up" their churches who have still to complete theirs, and I have emailed those who are lagging behind.

May I remind all Church Property Secretaries/Church Stewards, that a copy of all Quinquennial Reports should be sent to me your District Property Secretary as required by Standing Orders.

I have recently received contact from Mrs Scilla Latham, Secretary of Norfolk Churches Trust (Tel: 01379 677272) reminding me that they welcome grant applications for repair works only, they also have officers in each County in our District.  **Another grant giving body for you all to consider.**

May I remind you of the Hunter Rowe Trust, **the Grant giving body** that we at District administer, the Secretary is Alastair Campbell, Tel 01223 842267.

Finally, may I remind you, that in the first instance **all** Property Matters should come to me as your District Property Secretary, either by direct contact or through the Consents System.

*Yours in Christ - Roger Pauley, District Property Secretary*

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