

REPORTS TO SYNOD

Thoughts from the Synod Secretary

Please read the reports that follow. They give a good flavour of the activities and challenges within our District. We are grateful for all the work carried out by our District Officers and Committees and by those who support them.

Susan Eldridge, Synod Secretary

District Policy Committee (DPC) Report

Since the last Synod, the District Policy Committee met in June 2023, carrying out the business of the East Anglia District, reviewing the finances, approving sundry grants and receiving feedback from the recipients of grants and from District Groups where appropriate. This enables us to share the good things happening and being planned in the District.

Property Issues across the District were discussed. DPC agreed to closures of three Churches across the District. We were pleased to hear that a new District Property Secretary, Mr Roy Hollands, has been appointed and it is hoped he will start in this role in August.

Safeguarding - Our new District Safeguarding Officer, Neil van Holland, started in this role at the end of April and has spent a considerable amount of time meeting ministers and safeguarding officers around the District. He is aiming to address some safeguarding training voids in some parts of the District and also hoping to continue with the Safeguarding Forums in the Autumn.

Lay Employment - We have a new part-time Lay Employment Secretary, Kate Dalton, who since taking up this role in May has been working with several churches and circuits around the District on various employment issues.

Mission - Our District Mission Enabler, Yasmin Finch, reported on several very successful events which had taken place as part of the "Pray 2-3" initiative. For a variety of reasons the development of New Places for New People has been slower than anticipated but there is still a lot of work related to this going on.

EDI - As a District we are still in the early stages of this work, but resources for this have been added to the District website and the EDI group met in July in order to move forward further on this work.

The Spring Synod 2024 will be held on Saturday 27th April at Huntingdon Methodist Church.

Chris Finbow, Assistant Synod Secretary and Secretary to DPC

Sabbaticals report

To take a sabbatical can be a complicated business. Many arrangements have to be made, and all kinds of issues can get in the way, from health concerns, to staffing within the circuit, to availability issues involving outside bodies. For various reasons, some ministers have not been able to take sabbaticals when they would have liked to do so. I would like to thank them for their patience, and encourage them to see any delay as not simply an annoyance, but as an opportunity to think about their plans.

Quite recently I have been sorting through material from past sabbaticals, and have been inspired and even moved by some of the reports written by ministers in response to their various activities. I would encourage those who are taking sabbaticals to find a way of sharing their experiences with colleagues and congregations. In this way, the sabbatical is more likely to be of lasting benefit.

Revd Ann Bossingham
Sabbaticals Officer

Report to Synod from Sign the Cross, Deaf Ministry

Our aims: *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

It feels like we are getting back to where we were before the pandemic.

In August, the Norwich Deaf Church went to Lowestoft Deaf Centre for a day of worship and fellowship. In October, we are gathering in Diss with Deaf Christians from Cambridgeshire and Ipswich for a joint Harvest Festival.

I hope offering additional opportunities like this will continue to be possible.

Sign the Cross has supported two Methodist Churches in providing interpreted services for Deaf people to join with the hearing congregation. Downham Market has been a regular monthly feature since 2016 and although we thought it was going to have to stop, due to lack of people attending, there has been a sudden resurgence and it's stronger than it has been for a long time. The interpreters for this service are provided by Ely Diocesan work with the Deaf Community.

The interpreted service at Sprowston in Norwich has had to end unfortunately. Partly this is because we were using the evening service, when an interpreter was available (me!). Having an interpreter for the morning service would be better, but to hire an interpreter costs approximately £150 a session plus travel costs, which makes it impossible to fund, either from the Sign the Cross or the Church budget, and that's if we could source a regular interpreter. I would still like to make a connection between one of the Norwich churches and the Deaf Church, but perhaps this needs more prayer and time to enable it to happen.

If any Synod members happen to know a Christian BSL interpreter who has moved into the area, please let me know! In the meantime, if you are having a special outreach event or celebrating something that you would like to invite your local Deaf community to, please get in touch with me and discuss how to make it accessible.

Revd Anne Richardson - signthecross@gmail.com

Disabled Advisor's Report

As I continue with this role in the District, I thought on this occasion I would highlight some items that may assist you in making your Church more accessible for disabled people.

- **Making Buildings Accessible**

The Methodist Church is committed to being inclusive and making sure that disabled people can use our buildings is a fundamental part of this. In addition to our calling to be a growing, evangelistic, inclusive church of diverse people, we have legal responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 to make reasonable adjustments to make our buildings accessible for disabled people. To assist with this the Making Buildings Accessible guidance <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/property/making-buildings-accessible/> as well as the Building Access Audit <https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/29644/methodist-church-access-audit.doc> are now available on the website.

- **Finding Funding for an Accessible Church**

Disability charity "Through the Roof" <https://throughtheroof.org/> has created a webpage to show churches and ministries where to find funding for building work to improve disabled access.

Making your church more accessible is a journey - you don't have to get everything right straight away. Just get started and remember that small things can make a big difference. Here are some key tips from the webpage about finding funding:

1. There are many different funding organisations for churches such as the National Churches Trust <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/> or the Benefact Trust <https://benefacttrust.co.uk/> - many offer advice as well as sources of funding.
2. If your church building is used for community activities, ensure you flag that to funders - many more funds are available for community-used buildings than for church-use alone.
3. Building work to provide access for disabled people is zero-rated for VAT – make sure you get an appropriate certificate to give to your builder so you don't pay VAT.

But don't forget, you can always contact me for further help and advice.

Roger Pauley

Agricultural Chaplain's Comments

Waiting for the summer is the theme for today. Farming has always relied on the weather to dictate what you do next. Timing, which is very important to any growing crop, is reliant on 'normal' seasonal weather. This year has not been a normal year once again, and with an early start in July to harvest, we thought we were on our way. But not so, most of July was wet, wet, wet. Now on the 10th August the sun is shining and the combines are rolling the trailers passing the house until after dark.

This is nothing new with changeable seasons in this country and the threat of global warming continually being thrown at us by the media. The whole world seems to be in turmoil, with wars, forest fires, extreme temperatures, but not very warm in East Anglia. I thank God that he is in control and not the politicians.

At this time of year I usually report on commodity and meat prices. The market is so volatile it is very difficult to predict anything for the future. Feed wheat was priced at over £300 per tonne in March, but is now around the £190. Bread wheat, which we all rely on, is now at £255 per tonne. Oilseed rape has returned to near normal, after rising to £840 per tonne in March, to £380 in September. Pig farmers are relieved that at last they can see some profit. The price of lamb has fallen sharply. Finished cattle are about the same as last year. The difficulty in farming, in general, is the price of fuel, mainly due to Russia, but also the Middle East are restricting the amount released on the market.

By the time this article is published let's hope for more stability in the world, whether it is commodity prices, or warring nations and the weather has returned to normal. It is worth noting that we are relying on imports for a lot of our food. Keep buying British if it's available, consider the farmers who are looking for staff to harvest, especially the market garden, soft fruits and vegetables. The government has made some concessions with migrant workers, who would normally come here to harvest.

Yes God is good, as I've written so many times in my reporting, but sometimes we question what is going on! Hold on to your faith and He will make it right as He always has done.

Trust in the Lord and He will direct your path. All we have to do is listen to His calling and respond, because He knows the way we should go.

Blessings to all

George Frost

Still Agricultural Chaplain, East Anglia District Methodist Church

Reflections from your retiring District Property Secretary

It was just over fourteen year ago that Dulcie, my wife, and I decided to go and hear Revd Graham Thompson (previous Chair of District) preach one Sunday morning at Pymoor Methodist Church on the Ely and Newmarket Circuit. After the service, talking to Graham over a cup of coffee, he said that the District were looking for a new Property Secretary and wondered if I would be interested in the vacancy. He was aware that I was the Circuit Property Secretary and a Building Surveyor by profession.

In Graham's inimitable way, he virtually convinced me that I would be ideally suited to the role and left me to further reflect on our conversation.

Following discussions with Andrew King (chairman Administrative Group) and Dulcie, and much prayerful thought, I concluded that this was a further opportunity to serve the Methodist Church of which I had been a committed member for over sixty years. I duly offered my services for this role, which was accepted ... and fourteen years later, with the much used phrase, the rest is history.

I can truly say this has been a quite fulfilling job, which has radically changed since I started, and has become a much more intense and wide ranging job, interrupted only by a stroke ten years ago. Following my recovery I have only been able to continue in the role by the commitment of my wife who has driven me hundreds of miles round East Anglia, done all my typing and been my PA. Dulcie - thank you for everything.

During these fourteen years I have been involved in 573 projects, some large (e.g. refurbishment of a Church) and 68 closures, which always saddens me. In particular the village Church at Manea in The Fens which closed in February 2017, where I attended Sunday School, where we were married 57 years ago, where I first became aware of the saving grace of Jesus and was made a member of the Methodist Church on 9th August 1959.

This is not completely the end of my service in the District as I am continuing my role as District Disability Advisor and taking over from Dulcie as District Manse Secretary.

May I leave you with this verse:

Tis Jesus the first and the last
Whose Spirit shall guide us safe home
We'll praise him for all that is past
And trust him for all that's to come
May the Lord bless you all

Roger Pauley

Safeguarding Report

Sometimes when we think about safeguarding, we might think about training days, process, paperwork, safeguarding officers, and it becomes a word that can create discomfort about being out of our depth and fear of not responding well. What if we ask ourselves, “What kind of community, filled with what kind of people, is God calling us to be?” and “How does safeguarding fit with the ministry of the Gospel?”

In Jesus’ parable of the sheep and the goats, caring for the vulnerable and those in need is central to what is encouraged to be good stewardship as Christians.

Sometimes when we consider safeguarding it is critical that we just have to change our vantage point when we are dealing with something we can sometimes perceive to be a huge responsibility, and see it for what it is, which is being responsible and increasing our awareness of how we look out for one another, and our mind-set will be positively empowered.

Key priorities since April 23 Synod - Training

2023 has seen us hit a period of heightened refresher training requirements with 2019 having been a previous peak in training delivery.

Since April Synod we have delivered 10 Foundation Module courses, and 4 Advanced Module courses with a balance of Face to Face and Online provision, and in the next 8 weeks we already have diarised a further 3 Advanced Module courses, and another Foundation Module.

Training provision is in an intensive phase and I thank you all for your support with this.

Current Safeguarding case load

There are currently 9 active contracts across the district to manage, and 7 further ongoing managed concerns that require work.

God Welcomes All

In Autumn 2023 there will be a new free study guide being launched relating to the Theology of Safeguarding and it will be available from Methodist Publishing. It will be an opportunity to explore why and how Safeguarding matters for everyone. It will be called “God Welcomes All”.

This new study guide encourages all members of the Methodist Church to look at our Christian calling that offers a welcome to all, whilst ensuring that our worship and wider church life is safe for everyone.

It will include; User-friendly study materials, Accessible series of short films, and will be versatile for use by individuals or groups and I would encourage everyone to engage and complete it.

“God Welcomes All” will be a four-session study containing new short films with activities and questions for discussion and reflection. It is based on the Methodist Church’s report on the Theology of Safeguarding 2021 and was piloted in May 2023, and the feedback was positive.

Key DSO work processes moving towards 2024

Work area	Tasks and comment
Casework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promoting being an avenue for advice; - liaising with agencies for advice or making referrals; - direct involvement when action needed; - convening and attending casework meetings; - overseeing work with and support to offenders. <p>Casework must continue to be the priority work of the DSO to ensure that situations are fully assessed and those involved are kept safe and get the right support.</p>
Policy and Procedure development and Compliance, including DBSs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring Connexional policies are updated each new Connexional year; - development of local policies as necessary; - advice on policy requirements; - overseeing the DBS compliance of Ministers; - advice on when DBSs are required; - processing “blemished” DBSs and undertaking the appropriate assessments.
Development of Safeguarding Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Networking and liaison with Safeguarding colleagues across Connexion, and external partnerships to ensure best practice constantly reviewed and developed. - DSO has to attend Connexional DSO national meetings and DSO regional meetings, and County safeguarding boards.
Safeguarding training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DSO leading sessions with pool of district trainers for Foundation and Learning Network for Advanced. - Oversight of the District Training Pool – those trainers who deliver the training across Circuits; - Development of District pool for Advanced trainers; - Re-establish District Safeguarding forums to provide Safeguarding CPD opportunities.
Monitoring and support of offenders in churches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure all offenders are supported by a safeguarding contract; - Establish a Monitoring and Support group, offer support, attend as required; - Risk assessments and reviews of risk as required by Connexional Policy; and - Attendance at Chairs’ meetings

Lastly I would just thank you all for being so welcoming in my first 6 months in post, and your continued support is highly valued.

Neil van Holland
District Safeguarding Officer

District Training Fund Report to Synod

1. The District Travel fund exists to support all ministers' professional development.
2. 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. Each presbyter or deacon will normally make one application each connexional year unless there are exceptional circumstances or alternatively make a fresh application if the annual sum of £300 has not been exceeded on the first occasion.

For applications beyond the sum of £300 deacons and presbyters are encouraged to apply through Revd. Dr. Mike Wilson to the District Grants & Personnel Committee.

3. In order to seek support from this fund the applicant will be expected to provide documentary evidence of booking and payment for the event concerned, included with the application.
4. In the year under review, 3 Ministers successfully applied for this funding. Encouragement is made for more ministers to make use of this facility.

Rev Richman Ncube
District Training Fund Officer

Lay Employment Report

This is my first report to Synod since taking on the role of East Anglia District Lay Employment Secretary (DLES) earlier this year. Since the last Synod there have been 3 appointments in the district. Myself as DLES in May 2023, District Safeguarding Officer Neil van Holland in April 2023 and the new District Property Secretary, Roy Hollands, started in late August 2023. There are currently vacancies being advertised for a Coffee Shop Cook/Supervisor at Christchurch Methodist, Great Yarmouth and a Cleaner for Trinity Methodist, Wisbech.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask everyone to remember to contact me at the BEGINNING of any new lay recruitment process as I need to advise on current correct procedures, provide support where needed and also obtain committee approval for any vacancies and related documentation. Please do not hesitate to contact me DLES@eangliamethodist.org.uk if you have any queries or need assistance with lay employment matters.

Kate Dalton
District Lay Employment Secretary

GDPR Report

Just like any other charity or organisation, all Circuits and Churches must comply with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). As a District it means that we must be able to show that we are complying with the principles. In essence, we cannot just state you are compliant; you have to prove it and provide evidence, so I am happy to report that we had almost 100% of the GDPR checklists completed and returned by the deadline of the 31st May 2023. In addition to this, we do have several Churches that are covered independently by their own ICO procedures.

The GDPR law is a legal requirement but perhaps it is more about protecting you as an individual/organisation and those who attend your churches, rather than about creating a burden of 'red tape'. It's about a professional and responsible handling of all the data we use and process as a church.

Explaining the jargon:

Personal data is information about a living individual which is capable of identifying that individual.

Processing is anything done with/to personal data, including storing it.

The **data subject** is the person about whom personal data are processed.

The **data controller** is the person or organisation who determines the how and what of data processing, in the District, a Circuit or a Church.

To those who would like further support on GDPR and the protocols we must follow, our friends at Sutton Park Methodist Circuit have produced a series of 10 videos talking about the GDPR Data Protection Annual Checklist for Managing Trustees within the Methodist Church.

Check 1 - Review the personal information the Local Church, Circuit or District holds (known as "Data Mapping")

https://youtu.be/Gt_J2lrzY-o

Check 2 - Conduct a "Data Cleansing" exercise to destroy any information that is no longer required <https://youtu.be/axiEgFCmIRg>

Check 3 - Review the Managing Trustees' Privacy Notice <https://youtu.be/HY136cVw-hk>

Check 4 - Ensure your contact information is correct <https://youtu.be/lwXfqEO04gY>

Check 5 - Review and Renew Consents - <https://youtu.be/Dhj5YD4t4NQ>

Check 6 - Review the "Processor Record" of the Local Church, Circuit or District <https://youtu.be/PhXwtpB5LZo>

Check 7 - Review Your Data Security - <https://youtu.be/qb0SDb4DNrk>

Check 8 - Ensure Managing Trustees are aware of their Data Protection Obligations https://youtu.be/rn_H_gAs6Os

Check 9 - Identify Training Needs - <https://youtu.be/mRmditczMOK>

Check 10 - Liaise with your District Data Champion ('DDC' Lorna Burroughes) <https://youtu.be/8jLfBCRqOC4>

If you think that I may be able to help and guide you further please get in touch, but all information and guidance is on the TMCP website: www.t MCP.org.uk/about/data-protection

Lorna Burroughes – District Data Champion

Learning and Caring Group Report

I am sure I am not alone in thinking that we have been “robbed” by Covid of our time over the last few years, time we cannot recover. I regularly wonder where time has gone and why I have not had time to get done all that I intended. Much seems to be a work in progress and not much progress to report but let me mention a few things and I hope to be able to give you more details by Spring.

First let me add my own welcome to Neil van Holland our new District Safeguarding officer, I look forward to meeting him in due course and wish him well and God’s blessing in his new work.

I can also tell you that the WCAT (World Church Action Group) are still busy and doing a grand job. Incidentally I found out quite by accident recently that we have a Wesley Methodist school in Penang (Malaysia). Their website is worth a look, they sing the praises of the Methodist influence left by visiting evangelists, which they have adopted into the school’s ethos. The information gave me a boost at a low ebb.

At home the Regional Probationer Ministers’ Oversight group did its work well: what I thought would be a difficult job to do in the time turned out, with some careful thought, to be manageable. You can be assured that we are looking after our probationer ministers well.

I am also considering how best to help people to share, broaden and deepen their faith alongside looking at a strategy for youth and children’s work in the District; I am open to suggestions from anyone on either of the above.

The question of time that has been lost was brought home to me this summer by a very welcome visit from friends from the USA whom we had not seen for four years and their daughter and granddaughter whom we had not seen for seven. We live in an ever-changing world where God is the fixed point of which we can be certain.

As a final thought along these lines I have recently been reading a book by Peter Enns, an American professor of Biblical Studies, who reminds us that we should not be preoccupied with the certainty of what we believe (our “correct” ideas) but concentrate on trust. Trust in God and all else is less important.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight (Proverbs 3.5 NRSV)

Every Blessing to all.

Richard Dean, Learning and Caring Group coordinator

Environment and Climate Change

The Methodist Conference has set a target of becoming a net zero emissions Church by 2030. To support this ambitious journey we agreed at our East Anglia Methodist District Synod in September 2021 to adopt our own Environmental Policy.

Our own East Anglian objectives, awareness and commitment are:

- to promote awareness within Methodist people of these principles and objectives and of the values underlying them.
- to ensure that Methodist Church employees and office holders are familiar with and implement this environmental commitment and its objectives.
- to ensure that Methodist Church activities comply with all relevant environmental regulations.

Methodist Conference has developed [Action for Hope](#) to help us keep focused on our journey; this is a Six Step Process to help support this journey and to enable the diversity of our churches to fully engage.

- Step 1 - **ASSESS WHERE YOU ARE** - Take a snapshot of your carbon footprint now, as a community or as an individual.
 - Step 2 - **GREEN YOUR ENERGY** - Use energy efficiently by reducing waste. Where possible, source your energy from renewables.
 - Step 3 - **TRAVEL SMART** - Minimise unnecessary travel, use public transport or bikes where possible, car share when you can and fly rarely.
 - Step 4 - **GO FOR GOLD** - Eco Church offers a structured and well-resourced award scheme for churches to join. Five hundred Methodist churches are already registered.
 - Step 5 - **LIVE LIGHT** - Reduce how much we buy, reuse and repair what we can and make careful choices in what we eat.
 - Step 6 - **CELEBRATE TOGETHER** - Take time to reflect on, share and celebrate your achievements.
- [God's World, Our Home](#) is a resource for children and youth groups, to equip them for climate action.
 - The Revd Simon Topping has written a series of six blogs looking at the theology of climate justice. Find them [here](#).

Lorna Burroughes, former Service Group Coordinator

Learning Network Report

As a Learning Network we are here to equip and resource the Church through a wide range of learning and development opportunities, coming alongside churches, circuits and districts to help you realise your calling and flourish in discipleship together.

From September 2023, there will be a few changes in the Learning Network, which we hope will be of benefit to our network and the wider Connexion. We will no longer be regional teams in the Learning Network. We will be one team across the Connexion. East Anglia will still have access to the full range of gifts and skills of the staff in the Learning Network, through our aligned officers Ann Howlett-Foster and Jenna Thorne.

Circuit and District

The team seek to listen to local need, facilitate spaces that allow members to dream and to help shape vision. Within the East Anglia District this work includes:

- Training new trainers for both CSS foundation and advanced modules
- Part of the District Safeguarding Group
- Part of NPNP Guiding Team
- District Reconciliation Group team building
- District Safeguarding Group development day
- Support in setting up the EDI committee and planning EDI training to meet the needs of churches
- Safeguarding Advanced Module delivery
- Pray-2-3 Course delivery
- Creative workshops
- Digital input
- Representation at various District groups and meetings.

Connexional

The team have been involved in supporting change and accompanying those in similar roles across the Connexion. Some of this work has included:

- Support for those candidating
- Well: Resourced – a resource for children, youth and family workers.
- Point of contact and support for chaplains
- Working out Worship
- Moderation for the Worship Leading and Local Preaching course
- Positive Working Together delivery and reconciliation and mediation work
- Circuit Stewards training
- Methodist Pioneer Pathways
- Safeguarding Advanced Module update
- Updating the EDI toolkit
- Bible Month
- Young Adults Leadership Year
- Line Management Training
- W:LP training for tutors and mentors and study skills training for those in training
- 3Generate support
- Safeguarding Conference planning
- Getting Started Online training

The aligned Learning Network officers for the district are Jenna Thorne and Ann Howlett-Foster. They will be at Synod – please do say hi to them and have a chat.

Do drop them a line if you think they might be able to help you in any way:

thornej@methodistchurch.org.uk

or howlett-fostera@methodistchurch.org.uk



If you wish to continue to hear more about Learning Network news and events, sign up for our Connexional Learning Network newsletter, here (***please note that from 1st Sept there will no longer be an Eastern Region mailing list**):

[Sign up for newsletters \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk)

And details of our learning and development events can be found by 'following us' on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/methodist-learning-network-eastern-region-31912731265>

Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) Report

We had a very successful Spring District day on 18th May at Beccles Hungate church when the Revd. Diane Smith, whom some of you will know from her time in the Ipswich circuit, shared her joy and passion for different types of Godly Play. Although we were low on numbers we made up for it in audience participation and story-telling.

Hunstanton Methodist church are hosting the Autumn District day on Wednesday 11th October 2023 when Deacon Linda Kinchenton will be talking about dynamic outreach and the diaconal order. We look forward to seeing as many people as possible there.

There were only two women from our district at the Methodist Women's conference at Swanwick Derbyshire in April this year. In an act of trust and faith I have committed our District to organising Saturday evening prayer at next year's conference and I want to treble our delegation at a minimum. If you haven't been before- it is excellent - and we can arrange to subsidise your stay at the conference centre.

3 million steps is our charity - we are raising funds to support the rehabilitation of patients who have lost physical function after brain injury. It is named after the epic walk, from Land's End to John O'Groats, by brain injured Zara who had to relearn how to walk after an accident.

A decline in active members is causing concern. We are open to any and all ideas to boost our activities and share God's mission with all ages and ethnicity - please let us know of anything you think might be of use in growing the faith of Methodist women in churches, circuits and District.

Sue Groome
District MWiB President

MHA Report

I did not receive an MHA report for this Synod and I was told it is because they were at Methodist Conference in June. That was a fringe event which I did attend but sadly few others did! We were reminded that 80 years ago MHA was set up by Revd Walter Hall and the Methodist Church to fulfil a need to care for and support older people and today their mission is the same.

The long term sustainability of the homes and retirement living schemes has been recently reviewed. One of the consequences of this has been the need to find new owners for some of their care homes and sadly putting Auchlochan Garden Village (in Scotland) into administration.

You may be interested to learn that MHA is embracing the use of technology to enhance care through interactive tables, robotic pets, digital care plans, a family news app (collecting news and printing it for the residents) and an MHA Active app.

According to the latest "Heart and Soul" magazine, 6,500 dedicated colleagues at MHA are supported by over 3,000 generous volunteers. This may be something you would like to do – look at <https://www.mha.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering/>

Susan Eldridge
Norwich Circuit MHA representative

EDI (Equality & Diversity) Report

I have asked each Circuit to identify the people who require unconscious bias and EDI training and the date of completion where applicable. I therefore hope that by Synod I will have an idea of the sense of the task to get all the training completed by the end of the calendar year. I remind you that my role is to encourage the training to be done not to provide the training! There are resources on the EDI page of the District website. I am encouraged that several Circuits are putting on in person training sessions for those unable, or not keen, to do the training online. If your Circuit has appointed an EDI Officer, please let me know their name.

Associated with the training we are asked to fill in a personal responsibility commitment about something EDI related we are seeking to learn and how we intend to go about it. I have just completed mine.

Our District is looking to put on an EDI event next year in conjunction with the Beds, Essex and Herts (BEH) District. This is likely to be after the Spring Synod.

I have received several EDI questions and have been answering these with the help of Stuart Watkin in the Learning Network.

Susan Eldridge
District EDI Officer