



North West England District Weekly News

17th February 2026

A PDF downloadable copy of this newsletter is available at the bottom of this email.

District News

District Stationing Briefings for 2026-27

The District Stationing Briefings are for circuits and ministers who may be involved in a reinvitation process, contemplating a move, or looking for a new minister. They are designed for circuit stewards, superintendents and other members of Circuit Invitation Committees, and for ministers and their partners, who are involved in Stationing Matching in the next cycle, beginning in May 2026 and leading to appointments that may be extended, or which will begin in September 2027.

Experience in preparing and leading the sessions last year and feedback from those attending indicated that it was better to be in person for the briefings. Therefore there will be three physical briefings, geographically positioned to be helpful for Cumbria / Lancashire, Lancashire / Liverpool Plus, and for the Greater Manchester Plus Mission Areas. The information provided at each will be the same so that anyone is welcome at any of the sessions according to whichever might be a convenient date for you.

Please can we encourage anyone involved in stationing next year to attend since the processes do vary to a degree year on year, and in any event, there is much important information and process to be reminded of even where someone has been involved in stationing previously. Therefore, if your circuit is involved in stationing, please ensure that your circuit is adequately represented at a briefing. If you are a minister in the penultimate year of your present appointment, please also attend. Church Stewards are also welcome to attend though generally Circuit Stewards can cascade information to the Church Stewards.

Each session will last about 2 hours (but sometimes they do extend to 2 ½ hours, and there will be short breaks as required). Booking on Eventbrite is now open and please use the links below to book for the relevant date.

If these dates prove to be difficult in your situation please be in contact as a Zoom meeting will be considered, but only if there is difficulty attending one of the face to face meetings and the numbers justify hosting one.

Dates, times and venues

Tuesday 28th April 2026 – 2.00 pm (refreshments from 1.30 pm) at Manchester Central Hall, (M1 1JQ)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1982674167808?aff=oddtcreator>

Thursday 30th April 2026 – 7.30 pm (refreshments from 7 pm) at Upholland Methodist Church, Skelmersdale (WN8 0NR)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1982674776629?aff=oddtcreator>

Saturday 9th May 2025 – 10 am (refreshments from 9.30 am) at Lune Valley Methodist Hub, Brookhouse (LA2 9NY)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1982675128682?aff=oddtcreator>

Please raise any queries via Carolyn Dickinson (District Administrator):

dickinsonc@nwedmethodists.org.uk.

We are looking for new members to join committees in the Administration & Compliance Hub

Are you seeking to use your skills, expertise and gifts in a new way, or are you interested in learning more about a particular area?

Could you make an important contribution to the life of the District?

As our new District continues to develop its mission and strategy, supporting, developing and maintaining effective frameworks and procedures is a vital task. District committees play an important role in how our District works, helping shape mission, support ministry, steward resources, and ensuring good governance across our circuits and churches. They bring together people with different experiences, skills, and perspectives, all working together for the common good of the church.

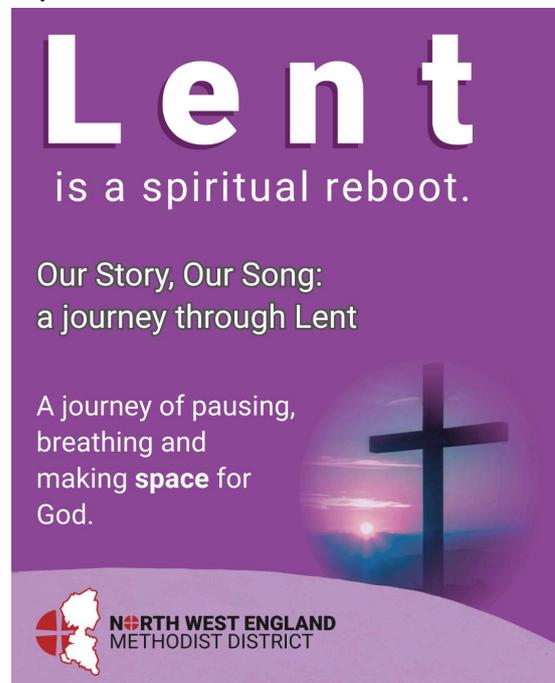
Expressions of interest are invited from individuals across the lives of the churches and circuits that make up our District to complement the skills and background of other members of the committees. If you would like to speak to someone about the work of the committees, please email: admin@nwedmethodists.org.uk

Please note that the other District hubs will also be seeking additional capacity, so please do get in touch if you have skills or interests in these areas (Mission and Leadership / Ministry and Vocations).

Our Story, Our Song: A Journey Through Lent

This Lent, we're joining the Connexional invitation to see the season as a journey of pausing, breathing and making space for God.

Through Lent we will be sharing reflections on the theme, 'Our Story, Our Song: A Journey Through Lent', exploring how the hymns and worship songs can guide us more deeply along the road to the cross.



Each week, a different contributor will reflect on a hymn or worship song of their choosing, sharing what it means to them personally and how it connects with their own faith journey. As we listen to one another's stories, we'll reflect together on the themes of Lent: the journey towards the cross, the practice of giving things up or intentionally laying things aside, the deeper spiritual journey of these forty days, and the call to grow in discipleship.

Every reflection will include a few questions to help us pause and wonder, and a simple prayer to help us breathe and make space for God.

We invite you to share in these reflections each week and we hope and pray that they will allow you to pause, breathe and make space for God during Lent.

Read this week's reflection by Revd. Phil Gough

Replacement Boilers and Net Zero Guidance

What would your church do if the heating system failed? Projects involving new heating systems or replacement boilers require consent from the District, so please get in touch with the District Property team by email at property@nwedmethodists.org.uk.

In light of the aspirational Net Zero by 2030 target, set by the Methodist Conference, the like for like replacement of gas and oil boilers is discouraged, as this will lock churches in to fossil fuel heating systems past 2030. Churches should consider all

alternative options, and may wish to commission an energy audit to do so.

In line with Connexional guidance, the District Consent Giving Panel will no longer give immediate consent for new fossil fuel boilers, unless work has been undertaken to investigate alternative systems and explain why they would not be suitable. You can find more guidance on Net Zero [here](#), or contact the Net Zero Property Officer, Anna Newlove, at newlovea@methodistchurch.org.uk.

If your church's gas or oil boiler is over 10 years old or starting to show signs of its age, now is a good time to start considering what you might replace it with. Don't wait until it fails.

New Place for New People (NPNP) Caleb Stories - The Hong Kong Fellowship

In Stockport, Mei Yuk leads a Caleb NPNP for people who have come to the UK from Hong Kong. Each month, this new Christian community offers relevant worship, rich fellowship and great food! If you want to know more about how the Caleb project can help you to start something new in your context email Anthony at: revanthonyclowes@me.com.



Watch Mei Yuk's stories here.

Events

'Pilgrims, People and Places' Living as a People of God Across the Communities of Cheshire

Churches Together in Cheshire invite you to this gathering taking place on Wednesday, 18 March at Foxhill House and Woodlands (WA6 6XB).

[Find out more here.](#)

Methodist Women in Britain Swanwick Conference 'Where Power meets Purpose: Small Acts that Change the World'

Booking is now open for MWiB's annual Conference, taking place from 10-12 April, with guest Carolyn Godfrey. [Find out more here.](#)

Greater Manchester Plus

Saturday 14th March, 9am - 1pm St. Mark's Church, Haydock, WA11 0AX

Book your place today! (use QR code or link below)
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/inspire-2026-fruit-that-will-last-tickets-1977887521821?aff=oddtcreator>

Inspire 2026
'Fruit That Will Last'

Join lay planters from across the north west and guest speaker Rev. Bob Jackson (church growth and planting researcher)

CALEB COMMUNITIES | JOSHUA CENTRE | CULTIVATE

Inspire 2026 'Fruit That Will Last'

Saturday 14th March, 9am - 1pm

Come and meet with the leaders and planters of New Worshipping Communities from across the North West region.

[Find out more and book your place here](#)

[Methodist Women in Britain \(MWiB\) Spring Gathering - find out more here](#)

Liverpool Plus

Vigil for Ukraine

Tuesday 24 February at 5pm
Liverpool Parish Church, L2 8TZ.

A vigil to mark the fourth anniversary of the Russian full-scale invasion of

Ukraine.



Good News Stories

Probationers' Retreat



Probationer Ministers, both Diaconal and Presbyteral, from across the North of the UK and the Isle of Man, met at Rydal Hall, Cumbria, for their Probationers' Retreat last week. You can read more about that retreat [here](#).

Please continue to pray for all our Probationer Ministers, especially over the coming weeks and months, as our District Probationers' Committee meets and discerns, with others, progress towards potential ordination.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



On Monday 19 January 2026, Churches Together in the Merseyside Region organised a special event to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Representatives from ten different Christian denominations gathered for a day of reflection, discussion and shared worship, celebrating the unity that binds Christians together.

Revd. Dr. James Tebbutt and Revd. Caroline Ainger attended on behalf of our District. Revd. David Goodwin, an ecumenical officer in the Liverpool Plus Mission Area, and Revd Clement Matariano, a minister in the Liverpool South Circuit, also took part in the day.

Read about the day [here](#).

Garden Twinning

The Ridge Methodist Church in Marple has twinned their garden with another in rural Africa. This enables a family in Africa to have three years training to grow crops, have food to eat and if they wish, to open their own business. You can find out more about the Garden Twinning scheme [here](#).



Resources

A Prayer of Lament

By Rev. Dr. Raj Patta

Migrant God, yet again we, as (im)migrants, are demonised;
 this time we are blamed by one of the billionaires as colonisers.
 Have we extracted wealth and stolen resources like the colonisers?
 Have we exploited Indigenous peoples and transported them as 'slaves'?
 Have we expanded territories and gained profit by enslaving people for plantations?
 Then why, O God, why are we insulted for making the UK "colonised by immigrants"?
 On the contrary, we as (im)migrants have decolonised British society
 by tirelessly contributing to the welfare of society,
 by paying our taxes for the benefit of the wider citizenry,
 by offering our gifts for the transformation of communities,
 by celebrating multicultural and inclusive diversity in our neighbourhoods,
 by making our nation not an island of strangers but a nation of sanctuary,
 by integrating into society, overcoming divisive politics of hatred and hostility,
 by bridging communities with faith and friendship,
 by supporting the economy through our jobs and hard work, and
 by upholding the British values of love, hope, dignity, and respect.

Be with us, O God, in our fears and anxieties
as these vile comments strike us day after day.
Give us courage to face them,
truth to resist them,
and strength to overcome them.
Help us, O God, to be treated justly and fairly,
affirming our humanity, celebrating our inclusivity,
and restoring our dignity.
Break down the walls of 'us' and 'them',
for we are one—like you and one with you—
working for the mutual flourishing of all on our planet.
May we, as a nation, be a place of safe haven,
offering hope, home, and hospitality to all. Amen.

Digital Training for Churches

Getting Started Online is a video course from the Methodist Church exploring our place in the digital world. It's made up of 24 short videos that you can watch all together, or separately.

[Find out more here](#)

Resources from Churches Together in England

Lent resources 2026

Last-minute inspiration! Seasonal prayers, devotionals, Bible studies and more from our national Member Churches and partner organisations. Collected together in one place. [Explore the resources here.](#)

A Million Acts of Hope

Faith groups and charities are planning a 'week of action' from 13 to 20 May. Sign up for the introductory webinar on 23 February. [Read more here.](#)

Launch webinar: Thy Kingdom Come 2026

A new theme 'God With Us' and new ecumenical prayer resources.
Tuesday, 24 February at 10am. [Book here.](#)

Webinar: Faith, Money and Justice

Reclaiming community wealth and transforming systems in the Black church tradition

from JustMoney Movement.

Thursday, 26 February 6–7pm. [Book here.](#)

Click on the buttons below to read the following news items:

Fund for Human Need newsletter

Property Matters: February newsletter

Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) annual review 2024-25

The Progressive Christianity Network in Bolton

An ecumenical group, meeting monthly at St Andrew and St George URC Church, which works to support open and contemporary Christian understanding. The next meeting is on 25th February. More information is available [here](#), or by emailing Gill Dascombe at gilldascombe@hotmail.com.

Vacancies

[Please find current internal vacancies listed here.](#)

Job Opportunities with Together Liverpool:

[Countering Hate, Cultivating Hope: Project Lead](#)

[Countering Hate, Cultivating Hope: Project Coordinator](#)

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PDF Link

Contact Us

The deadline for sending your stories and events in to us is 12pm every Tuesday.
Please send all content to admin@nwedmethodists.org.uk

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