

North West England District Weekly News



20 October 2026

A PDF downloadable copy of this newsletter is available [here](#).



District News

New District Chair

The North West England District is calling for a new District Chair to join our team from September 2027.

From the Lakes to the Peaks, the North West England Methodist District is a place of incredible diversity, opportunity and possibility. Join us on God's journey as we serve our communities, grow our churches and shape the future of Methodism across the North West.

Come and share the journey. Come and join our team!

District Chair role details

Join our team! Watch our District video

Share our Facebook post to spread the word

A prayer for the appointment of a new District Chair

District Wellbeing Day: Bookings Now Open

Sustainable Ministry: Facing the Challenges Together

Tuesday 1 December | Arrive from 9.30am for a 10am start, finish at 3.30pm | Cross Lane United Church, Cross Lane, Newton-le-Willows, WA12 9PT

We are pleased to invite you to book onto our upcoming Wellbeing Day. This session is a repeat of our June sessions held at the Lune Valley Hub, near Lancaster, so if you missed out in June, this is a great opportunity to attend. When booking your place, you will be prompted to let us know about any dietary or access requirements that you have.

Book your free place through
Eventbrite here



Sustainable Ministry: Facing the Challenges Together

Led by:
Rev. Karen Jobson, Chaplain for Staff Wellbeing, North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Corin Pilling, Vocational Flourishing Officer, Methodist Church

Tuesday 1 December 2026 | Open to Ministers and Lay Employees | Book your place on [Eventbrite](#)
10am - 3.30pm | Cross Lane United Church, Cross Lane, Newton-le-Willows, WA12 9PT

Explore the realities and pressures of ministry today

- Recognise the signs and impact of stress and burnout
- Rediscover what deep, restorative rest can look like
- Ground our reflections in key biblical principles

Please bring your own packed lunch, although biscuits, fruit, cakes and drinks will be available throughout the day. We want this day to be accessible and supportive for everyone. If there are adjustments that would help you participate and learn more comfortably, please let us know.

The day will be led by Rev. Karen Jobson (Chaplain for Staff Wellbeing, North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust) and Corin Pilling (Vocational Flourishing Officer at the Methodist Church).

The District Wellbeing Strategy Team

Launch of Communications Community of Practice

We'll shortly be launching our District Communications Community of Practice, which will exist to encourage, equip and connect those involved in communications across NWED.

Launching online on Thursday 19 November at 10.30am, the group is open to anyone within the District with an interest in communications and digital engagement.



Communications Community of Practice

Advent | 19.11.26 | 10.30am | Online

Facilitated by Tori Allen, District Communications Officer and Samuel Rimmer, District Digital Enabler

The space is particularly intended for those with day-to-day responsibility for communications within local Churches, Circuits and District projects, including

employees and volunteers.

Our first meeting will focus on this year's Advent theme of 'Don't be afraid', looking at the resources we have created and how your church or circuit can use them to take part in our Advent outreach.

The zoom link to attend is: <https://zoom.us/j/96969282874?pwd=bWuraUe4lLfmOvaSFBKs3TCGUf4bSD.1>

Real Living Wage Update

A reminder to those with lay employees that the Methodist Church has pledged to ensure all lay employees are paid at, or above, the Real Living Wage. The rate for 2026-27 has been announced as £14.10 per hour. The Methodist Church expects that any rates below this new amount is uplifted by May 2027.

District Grants Update

A reminder that, in order to ensure proper governance, oversight and compliance with Methodist procedures, circuits are required to submit accounts and reserves policies to the District. It is now District Policy Committee policy that no circuit (or churches within that circuit) will be given funding through a District large grant if their accounts and reserves policies have not been submitted to District in line with reporting expectations. Work is ongoing to consider what support may be offered to enable circuits to meet their financial management and reporting obligations, through, for example, the provision of templates and proformas and training/webinars.

Please direct any queries relating to either of the above to Heather Fergusson, District Secretary: Administration & Compliance - fergussonh@nwedmethodists.org.uk

Mission & Property: Are We Asking the Right Questions?

Ahead of the November Connexional Consultations, join Rev Caroline Ainger, District Secretary for Mission, and the NWED District Property Secretaries for an online conversation about how our buildings and resources can best support God's mission. Open to everyone, from Superintendent Ministers and church property stewards to anyone who attends church and cares about its future.

Two sessions are available:

- Tuesday 10 November, 10:30 am – online via Zoom
- Wednesday 11 November, 7:30 pm – online via Zoom

If you have any questions, please email pottsg@nwedmethodists.org.uk

Book your place through
Eventbrite here

Download the flyer here for
further information

Christmas Card Competition

Our District Christmas Card Competition is now live, giving children and young people from across the District the opportunity to have their artwork featured on this year's official District Christmas card.



The winning design will become the front cover of the Christmas card sent by members of the District Senior Leadership Team to churches, partners and organisations across the District at Christmas this year.

Further details and entry forms are available here

Safeguarding Policy Templates

For all those currently in the process of updating church and circuit safeguarding policies, the most up to date draft versions can be found below.

In section **h) Complaints procedure** of the church safeguarding policy please use the following where the details of the District Chair are requested:

If the complaint is against the Superintendent, it should be sent to Heather Fergusson, District Secretary for Administration & Compliance:

fergussonh@nwedmethodists.org.uk. She will then inform the relevant Deputy Chair / Mission Area Lead.

[Model Church Policy](#)[Model Circuit Policy](#)

Events

Greater Manchester Plus

People's Emergency Briefing on the climate and nature crisis

10 or 13 November | Heaton Moor United Church

[Find out more here](#)

Greater Manchester Citizens Accountability Assembly

Tuesday 10 November | 5pm - 7.45pm | The Monastery, Gorton Lane, M12 5WF

Rooted in listening that has taken place across member institutions, the Assembly will bring hundreds of organised citizens face-to-face with power-holders from across Greater Manchester. We will ask them to listen carefully, respond publicly, and make clear commitments to work with our alliance on the issues facing our communities.

[Find out more here](#)

The Big Quiz Night

Saturday 14 November | 6pm | Heaton Moor United Church | Raising money for the church and Tearfund

[Find out more here](#)

Lancashire

Fairhaven Wellbeing Hub Half Term Activities

[Find out more here](#)

Resources

Property: Preparing your charity for 2027: Martyn's Law, governance and emerging risks

Thursday 12 November | 10am - 10:45am | Webinar | Hosted by Blake Morgan | Free

With Martyn's Law due to come into force in Spring 2027 and increasing scrutiny from regulators, join this webinar to learn what steps you can take now to ensure your church or circuit is equipped to manage evolving responsibilities and emerging risks.

[Sign up here](#)

Safeguarding Sunday 2026

Safeguarding Sunday will take place on 15 November 2026. This year's theme, Love Protects, is inspired by 1 Corinthians 13 and reminds us that safeguarding is more than compliance with policy; it is a practical expression of Christian love, care, and responsibility towards others.

[Resources available here through Thirtyone:eight](#)

Eco Tips for October: Greening your home this Autumn

Tackle climate change and reduce your heating bills by finding and reducing the draughts in your home. Find the gaps that let cold air in and warm air out (keyholes, letterboxes and gaps around windows, doors, loft hatches and floorboards for example). Do what you can to fix these gaps - there are lots of tutorials on how to do this online. It's also a good time to prepare for winter by putting radiator reflector foil or baking foil behind the radiator. This will reflect heat back into your room.

Good News Stories

Ready, Set, Grow!

On Tuesday 1 September, the Roots of Hope Community Garden, at Emmanuel Methodist United Reformed Church in Ormskirk, officially opened. The Church has partnered with the Scarisbrick Mental Health Unit at Ormskirk Hospital, supporting wellbeing and recovery in the community.

[Read the story here](#)



Bread and Wine: a musical setting for Communion

Bread and Wine is a musical setting for Holy Communion written by North Liverpool and South Sefton Superintendent, Revd Darren Garfield. The musical was performed jointly by the Circuit Choirs of North Liverpool and South Sefton, and Farnworth and Worsley, in July and can be viewed below.

[Watch Bread and Wine](#)

News from Connexion

Missional Use of Property Online Consultation

Our properties are a visible sign of our presence in local communities. Following a report to the Methodist Conference, Church members are invited to take part in online consultations on how we can best use our properties for missional purposes. Three consultations will be held in November.

[Click here for dates and to book a place](#)

Vacancies

Internal:

The North West England District is calling for a new District Chair to join our team from September 2027. For further details [click here](#).

The District is also looking to recruit a Pioneer Innovator to work in the Cumbria Methodist Circuit. For more details [click here](#).

[Find all current internal vacancies listed here.](#)

External:

In Lancashire, the Gather Movement Mapping Project are looking to recruit paid volunteers, who can commit 4-8 hours per week for 3 months, to support the project with contacting churches to complete survey questionnaires. Further information is available [here](#).

Contact Us

Have something to share?

One of the best parts of District life is hearing what God is doing in our churches. If your church has a good news story, an upcoming event or a resource that could benefit others, we'd love to hear from you!

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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