



# North West England District Weekly News

26 May 2026

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

## District News

### HMRC Approved Mileage Rates

You may be aware that HMRC has announced an increase in the mileage rate for the use of personal vehicles on business travel from 45p per mile to 55p per mile, for the first 10,000 miles of business use, backdated to April 2026.

Whilst HMRC will now allow this rate to be used without incurring income tax liability, it is not automatically the case that this rate should be applied. Methodist Conference confirms the rate that should be used by all Methodist entities (Circuits, Districts etc.). The rate does normally mirror the HMRC approved rates, so this is likely simply to be a timing issue. A request has been made to the Connexional Team for clarification and we expect a response shortly.

**Pending authorisation by Conference (or the Connexional Finance Team) the higher rate should not be implemented.** This is to ensure that there is no discrepancy of treatment of staff due to some bodies implementing and others not.

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### 2026 Data Protection Annual Checklist

Please see [this letter](#) regarding this year's GDPR checklist and please note **the deadline has now been extended to 31 July 2026**.

Many thanks to those churches and circuits that have already completed this.

The letter contains a link to submit the form electronically; alternatively [this attached copy](#) can be completed and either emailed or posted back to us.

**Important:** Please also ensure that your Circuit return is completed, as well as those for each Church.

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## Goodbye Messages for Brec Seaton

Following our announcement about Brec Seaton in last week's newsletter, you still have time to send a parting message or good wishes to her if you wish to. Please send any messages to Mel ([clarkem@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:clarkem@methodistchurch.org.uk)) or Kristie ([evек@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:evек@methodistchurch.org.uk)) by 17 June.



## District Wellbeing Days

### Sustainable Ministry: Facing the Challenges Together

We are pleased to invite you to book onto one of our Wellbeing Days:

**Tuesday 16 June for Ministers**  
**Wednesday 17 June for Lay Employees from the District, Circuits or Churches**

Venue: Lune Valley Methodist Hub, Brookhouse, Lancaster, LA2 9NY  
*(if a lift from and to Lancaster mainline train station would be helpful, please contact [jonesc@nwedmethodists.org.uk](mailto:jonesc@nwedmethodists.org.uk), and we will endeavour to arrange this)*

Timings of the day: arrive from 9.30am for a 10am start. Finish at 3.30pm.

Please book your place by emailing Carole Jones by Friday 12 June: [jonesc@nwedmethodists.org.uk](mailto:jonesc@nwedmethodists.org.uk)

**Please bring your own packed lunch**, although biscuits, fruit, cakes and drinks will be available throughout the day. **Please let us know of any dietary requirements you have.**

We want this day to be accessible and supportive for everyone. If you have any access needs or there are resource adjustments that would help you participate and



**NORTH WEST ENGLAND**  
METHODIST DISTRICT

### Sustainable Ministry: Facing the Challenges Together

**Tuesday, 16 June**  
Ministers

**Wednesday, 17 June**  
Lay Employees

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



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

[https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?e=\[UNIQID\]&u=40c16db336e6cf69ea991e064&id=b0227fd616](https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?e=[UNIQID]&u=40c16db336e6cf69ea991e064&id=b0227fd616)

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learn more comfortably, please let us know.

We appreciate that people may not be able to attend the day this year due to the short notice and geography of the venue. We will aim to have the date for a future Wellbeing Day in the District diary earlier next year and will explore venues in other areas of the District (especially further south for next year).

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). Corin recently led a service on Radio Four with the theme of Wellbeing: Breathe. You can listen to the service [here](#).

The District Wellbeing Strategy Team

## Monthly Property Support Meeting Monday 9 June, 10.30am - 11.30am on Zoom

The District Property Team warmly invite anyone involved in church or Circuit property matters to join these new monthly support meetings. Each session will focus on current “hot topics”, practical guidance and shared learning to help churches better understand and navigate the often complex world of Methodist property. Our hope is to create a supportive and welcoming space where people can ask questions, gain confidence and feel better equipped to plan sustainably for the future.

**NORTH WEST ENGLAND  
METHODIST DISTRICT**

### Monthly Property Support Meeting

**Monday 9 June, 10.30am on Zoom**

A new monthly online meeting for anyone involved in church or Circuit property matters, including ministers, superintendents, property stewards and local church officers.

These sessions provide practical guidance, support and updates to help people better understand and navigate the often complex world of Methodist property.

**Topics for the June meeting include:**

- New property guidance and resources being added to the NWED website
- Mission planning and the sustainable use of property
- Renters' Rights Act updates
- Preparing manses for new ministers
- Net Zero, energy audits and grant funding opportunities

**Zoom Details**  
Meeting ID: **991 9076 0467**  
Passcode: **120761**

This meeting is being led by **Graeme Potts and Stephanie Roux**  
District Property Secretaries for the NWED District

[Download the poster here](#)

## June District Online Worship

Taking place on Sunday 14 June at 6.30pm, with Revd Alan Bradley

preaching. For the Zoom code (which remains the same), please email [prayer@nwedmethodists.org.uk](mailto:prayer@nwedmethodists.org.uk) or direct message us on Facebook.

**NORTH WEST ENGLAND  
METHODIST DISTRICT**

**District  
Online  
Worship**

**Sunday 14th June at 6.30pm**

With Revd Alan Bradley,  
Mission Area Lead for  
Greater Manchester Plus  
& Deputy Chair preaching.

District Online Worship is held on the second Sunday of every month. For the Zoom code (which remains the same), please email [prayer@nwedmethodists.org.uk](mailto:prayer@nwedmethodists.org.uk) or direct message us on Facebook

## We are seeking to recruit a District Secretary for Mission

The deadline to apply is today, Tuesday 26 May, by midnight.

Find out more here

## Events

### Greater Manchester Citizens Accountability Assembly Tuesday 23 June 2026

**Greater Manchester Citizens  
2026 Accountability Assembly**

Greater Manchester Citizens is a broad-based alliance of organisations who practice the craft of Community Organising to **build our power and win change.**

On 23rd June, 2026 join 100s of leaders to make asks of GM's power-holders on:  
The Cost of Living  
Mental Health Services  
Tackling Hate & Discrimination

Sign up here:  
<https://actionnetwork.org/events/greater-manchester-citizens-accountability-assembly/>

Contact: [sophie.morbey@citizensuk.org](mailto:sophie.morbey@citizensuk.org)

Greater Manchester  
**citizens**

Rooted in listening that has taken place across our 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.

We will be making public asks on our chapter priorities:

1. Mental Health, including improving CAMHS and wider mental health services across Greater Manchester
2. Tackling Hate & Discrimination, including on public transport
3. Tackling the Cost of Living Crisis, including campaigning for the Real Living Wage

[Find out more and sign up here](#)

## Training

### **Equipping the Equippers**

#### **Hearing the Voice of our Leaders, Young People and Children**

Work with children and young people is often the ministry that goes unseen and unmentioned, yet it is happening all across our District.

As a District we are passionate about supporting the existing work to flourish and walking alongside those who desperately want something to happen in their church or circuit. You are a key part to helping us build a strategy that is truly useful to and reflective of the work across our District. This 2 hour session will serve a dual purpose:

- To equip leaders in how to run a pre-designed session focused on hearing the voice of their group of toddlers/children/youth etc.
- To serve as a consultation space, where we hear what matters to you and how we can best support you in your role.

Consultation sessions are now open for booking across a variety of dates.

[Find out more here](#)

## Resources

# Manifesto for Hope in our City Region: Updated Version (May 2026)

The Manifesto is a call to action for civic leaders, faith groups, and local communities to work in closer partnership to build a fairer and more just city region in Liverpool, where everyone can thrive. This updated version of the Manifesto includes a prayer and details of the launch, as well as some comments from Church Leaders and Civic Leaders in response to the Manifesto.

Download the Manifesto here

## Good News Stories

### A Million Acts of Hope in the Trafford Circuit

The Cornerstone and Sevenways Churches took part in the A Million Acts of Hope week (13-20 May) by taking letters of hope out with them to meetings and events to ask people what hope means to them.

You can view the responses they received in the photo. Click on the photo to download a larger version.



### Garden Gold for Ollie

Congratulations to Ollie Pike who has won gold at this year’s RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Ollie is the garden designer who worked on the [Methodist Church garden at the RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park in 2024](#), which also won a gold.

Rev Alan Bradley, Mission Area Lead and Superintendent Minister at Knutsford who helped coordinate the hosting of the garden at Tatton, commented, “I want to add our delight and congratulations to Ollie. He has such a gift, and it is wonderful that he is being recognised with another RHS gold.”

# News from Connexion

## Can you help plan free websites for local churches?

We are currently planning to offer all local churches a free basic website, to be hosted on [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk), and linked from the [Church Finder](#) tool.

We want to make sure that these microsites are easy for local churches to maintain, are invitational and have all the information visitors need.

Could you help us in the design of these microsites? We are looking for volunteers to attend online focus groups to be run by our website developers in the next few weeks. If you are interested in attending please fill out the short form below.

[Register your interest here](#)

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## The Conference Agenda

The Agenda Volume 1 for the Methodist Conference 2026 has been published. The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church and meets annually to discuss matters affecting the life of the Church, the nation and the world.

This year the Methodist Conference will be meeting in Telford from 25 June – 1 July.

[Access the agenda here](#)

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[New Churches Update May 2026](#)

[Property News May 2026](#)

[Sign up for newsletters from Connexion](#)

## Vacancies

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

# 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](mailto:admin@nwedmethodists.org.uk)

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[update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)