

# North West England District Weekly News

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24th June 2025

Welcome to the latest edition of our weekly newsletter!

In this week's edition:

- District News
- Digital Digest
- Events
- Resources
- Training
- Good News Stories
- Job Opportunities

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

## District News

### Methodist Conference 2025

During the 2025 Methodist Conference all public sessions will be available to watch live [on this webpage](#) via an embedded Youtube live stream.

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## District Testimony Services 2025

Over three Sundays in May the District held four Testimony Services for our five Probationers who have been recommended to be received into full connexion and ordained at Methodist Conference on Sunday 29th June 2025.

We wish to thank all who hosted and participated in these wonderful services of celebration, and for the refreshments provided at each. The services were all supported by friends and family, as well as by local members and those drawn more widely from across their Circuits and the District.

We offer thanks, also, to all who contributed to the offerings for the Connexional Ministerial Training Fund held at each service. The total raised across the four services was £1,514.70. Thank you!

We pray, now, for Judith, Sincere, Hayley, Ruth and Sarah as they go forward at the end of the month, as



*Deacon Judith Laycock with her parents Revd Keith and Eleanor Richardson*



*Revd Sincere Makunde with the Zimbabwean choir*

recommended, to be received into full connexion at the Conference this year in Telford, and ordained in various surrounding churches.

To God be the glory!

*Revd Phil Gough, District Secretary  
for Ministry and Vocations*



*Revd Sarah Hooks and some of  
those who took part in Sarah's  
Testimony Service*



*Revd Ruth Dowson with others who  
took part in the Testimony Service*



*Revd Hayley Edmondson and those  
who took part in her Testimony  
Service*

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**District Online Worship: Action  
for Children Sunday, 13th July  
at 6.30pm**

This month our guest speaker  
is Karis Kolawole, Faith  
Partnership Lead for Action for  
Children.

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 look forward to  
seeing you there!

A promotional poster for District Online Worship. It features a circular portrait of Karis Kolawole, a woman with dark hair and a purple shirt. The background is a mix of maroon and light pink. Text includes the North West England Methodist District logo, the event title 'District Online Worship', the specific event 'Action For Children Sunday', the date and time 'Sunday 13th July at 6.30pm', and contact information for the Zoom code and social media.

**NORTH WEST ENGLAND  
METHODIST DISTRICT**

**District  
Online  
Worship**

**Action For Children Sunday**

**Sunday 13th July at  
6.30pm**

With guest speaker,  
Karis Kolawole, Faith  
Partnership Lead for  
Action for Children

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

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**District Spotlight: Cumbria Mission Area**

*By Revd David Newlove, Mission Area Lead*

I recently heard someone say, “everything’s the same, but different”. I think that sums up much of my role as the Mission Area Lead for Cumbria. Whilst I share a lot in common with my four District colleagues the area I serve in has its own unique setting.

For a start I serve across the beautiful Lake District and up to the Scottish Borders, but apart from the geographical differences to much of our District it’s the flourishing of missional relationships across an ecumenical area that makes mine distinctive. We are in what is termed a Covenanted Partnership in

Extended Area (CPEA). That is a partnership of the Methodist Church, Salvation Army, United Reformed Church and Church of England – our Mission Area is virtually coterminous with the Carlisle Diocese. A percentage of my time is spent at various meetings liaising with others and seeking to extend our missional vision across the County.

Alongside my role as your MAL here and as a Co-Superintendent in North Cumbria I am heavily involved in the bringing together of the 8 Cumbria Circuits into one. This will be celebrated at our launch service on the 31st August when, along with the welcome of our new ministerial colleagues, I will be appointed as the Superintendent of this new, large Circuit.

Separate to these roles and as part of my own ministry I am an Agricultural Chaplain – Cumbria has a lot of livestock farms (we don't have the depth of soil for arable crops). We have 9 Auction Marts, I can be seen most Wednesday's talking to farmers at The Borderway Mart in Carlisle. Coupled to this is the visiting a number of the local and County shows. For those in travelling distance I do this on my tractor – a great talking point and an opportunity for mission. Now to convince my MAL colleagues that they need one too.



# Digital Digest

## Photo Tips – Creating Better Social Media Posts

In our last digital digest, we covered the best ways to optimise social media posts to ensure that they reach as many people as possible.

Images are often the first thing people notice when visiting a church's website or social media page. Posting photos on social media are a very powerful way to tell your church's story online in a way that words alone can't. Whether you're capturing a church or community event or sharing Sunday worship, quality photos make a difference.

Top tips for better church photography:

- Natural Light is Best: Take photos near windows or outside. Avoid harsh flash when possible.
- People are drawn to authenticity. Try to capture candid moments of fellowship, worship, laughter, or service.
- Photograph people engaged in meaningful activity, like making tea after the service or lighting a candle.
- Check the Background: Tidy up distractions behind your subject (e.g., noticeboards or empty chairs).
- Use both hands when taking photos or rest your phone/camera on a stable surface. You can also use inexpensive mini-tripods or phone stands.
- Permission is Crucial: Always get written consent before sharing photos of individuals online, especially under 18s. Further information on photo consents can be found by [clicking here](#).
- Create a Church Photo Bank: Over time, build a collection of high-quality images you can draw from. Categorise them by event type,



season, or location, so you can quickly find what you need when updating a newsletter, social media post or your website.

If you have any questions, our Digital Enabler, Samuel Rimmer can be contacted by email: [rimmers@nwedmethodists.org.uk](mailto:rimmers@nwedmethodists.org.uk) or by telephone: 01772 372160 (ext: 130).

## Events

Loving through a broken heart:  
Palestine and Israel in the  
shadow of Gaza  
An evening with Rev Dave  
Hardman, Methodist Liaison  
Officer, Jerusalem  
Friday 25th July 2025 at  
7.30pm

Have you ever wondered about  
the rights and wrongs of what  
is happening in the Middle  
East? Would you like to learn  
more in order to gain some  
understanding? Rev Dave  
Hardman is currently back in  
the UK and will share some of  
his experience at this event,  
taking place at:  
Methodist Church, Kents Bank  
Road,  
Grange over Sands,  
LA11 7EY



A craft stall will also be  
available.

# Resources

Learning and Development Newsletter

No bombs of terror but balms of healing: lamenting for peace

As we grieve the ongoing violence and conflicts in our world today, let us join in prayer for peace, compassion, mercy, love and restraint. Let us uphold each other, particularly those others affected by the escalation of violence, in our prayers. The world today needs balms of healing and not bombs of terror.

With thanks to Rev Dr Raj Patta

## **NO BOMBS OF TERROR BUT BALMS OF HEALING** **LAMENTING FOR PEACE**

GOD OF PEACE,  
WITH THE ONGOING VIOLENCE IN OUR WORLD TODAY,  
WE LAMENT UNTO YOU, AND WE WEEP WITH YOU,  
CRYING OUT: NO BOMBS OF TERROR, BUT BALMS OF HEALING.  
STOP KILLINGS AND START SURRENDERING TO PEACE.

MAY THERE BE A BALM OF HEALING IN IRAN,  
MAY THERE BE A BALM OF HEALING IN ISRAEL,  
MAY THERE BE A BALM OF HEALING IN GAZA,  
MAY THERE BE A BALM OF HEALING IN UKRAINE,  
MAY THERE BE A BALM OF HEALING  
IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD,  
AND MAY YOU RESTORE THE WELL-BEING  
OF ALL PEOPLE ON YOUR PLANET.

HELP THE LEADERS OF THE NATIONS TO BE PRUDENT  
BY TURNING SWORDS INTO PLOUGHSHARES,  
BY TURNING SPEARS INTO PRUNING HOOKS,  
IN SPARING LIVES AND SECURING HOPE,  
ALLOWING LOVE TO BE THEIR  
GUIDING PRINCIPLE IN ALL THEIR DECISIONS.

GOD OF PEACE,  
WE CRY OUT: NO BOMBS, BUT ONLY BALMS OF HEALING  
IN JESUS, THE BALM OF GILEAD'S NAME WE PRAY. AMEN

[raj.patta@methodist.org.uk](mailto:raj.patta@methodist.org.uk), 18.06.2025



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## **The Leadership year for 18-30 year olds**

The Leadership Year is an exciting opportunity for 18-30 year olds in the Methodist Church who want to invest time in developing their leadership abilities. It is aimed at those who may just be starting out in a leadership role, or who are wanting to be involved in leadership, either within or outside of the Church.

It includes 3 residential weekends (Nov, March, July), an option to meet with a mentor and being part of a small group. It is a chance for young leaders to meet with other young adults, to reflect on what it means to be a Christian leader (in church, secular workplaces, and local community) and to develop characteristics needed for self-aware, visionary, resilient leadership. There are 12 fully funded places available. All details and application form are [here](#).

Applications close on 21 September.

## **Training**

### **Communication & Theology, Storytelling and Social Media & Practical Video Production**

The Communications Officers of the CTMR (Churches Together in Merseyside) member denominations are offering training for anyone working in the world of media. It will focus on: Communication & Theology, Storytelling and Social Media & Practical Video Production. We'd love to hear from you if you are interested in knowing more - just drop us an email at [office@ctmr.org.uk](mailto:office@ctmr.org.uk)

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## **Domestic Abuse Awareness training**

The Manchester circuit is running a training session exploring domestic abuse this coming Saturday. It's provided by an organisation called Independent Choices, who specialise in this area and who use offices in one of the circuit's buildings.

There are up to 5 spaces left if anyone from the district is interested in coming. The venue is Crumpsall Methodist Church, M8 5ST.

[Further details and booking information here](#)

## **Good News Stories**

Methodist Minister the Revd Martin Abrams, who is based in Southport, has been awarded a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the King's Birthday Honours List for his services to the community as Spiritual Care and Chaplaincy Manager at Southport Hospital.



[Read the story here](#)

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## Breaking bread, building bridges in Liverpool

"There is no greater leveller than sharing a meal around a table, regardless of colour, regardless of creed, regardless of nationality, regardless of means."

St Luke's Methodist Church in Hoylake offers food and friendship to asylum seekers in the community.

[Read the story here](#)

## Vacancies

### Internal

Vacancies can be viewed on the District website [here](#).

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Please click the link below to download the PDF version of this newsletter.

[PDF Download](#)

## 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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