

# West Devon Methodist Circuit

## Newsletter - May 2021

On 23<sup>rd</sup> May we will celebrate Pentecost when we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit coming to those first followers of Jesus. As we re-emerge from what has been the strangest and most challenging of years we are faced with a choice – do we quickly revert to trying to do what we have always done OR do we seek new opportunities to do new things in new ways? It is the Holy Spirit who will prompt and enthuse us and show us God's way if we give time to prayer and seek to discern what God has in store for us. As we approach Pentecost the psalmist offers us this prayer:

Teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God.  
May your gracious Spirit lead me forward  
on a firm footing. Amen

Liz

**Easter around the Circuit :** despite all the restrictions Easter did not go unmarked in the Circuit. Here is a flavour of what was happening.....



Winkleigh



Hatherleigh



Boasley



Bridestowe

*There were services on Easter Sunday at Boasley, Bridestowe, Hatherleigh, Madworthy and Fairplace. Halwill United Churches had a celebration service on Easter Monday and Iddesleigh celebrated Easter on the Friday of Easter week with a family service in the evening.*

***Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. ALLELUIA!***

.....  
A number of churches around the Circuit have now reopened for worship. Some are meeting fortnightly others are experimenting with different times and even different days. There are some Zoom services taking place and outdoor/drive-in worship has also been a feature. It wonderful to see new and creative ideas arising as more people have considered how they can meet in the situation we've found ourselves in. Boasley, for example, had a walk and worship event last month. What has your church been doing? What do you have planned? Let us know! And if you do have new initiatives you may be interested in the new grants being offered by the District.....*read on!*

### [Post Covid Seed Corn Grants](#)

*The District Policy Committee delighted to announce the opportunity for churches and/or Circuits to apply for one-off grants according to the information and criteria below.*

#### **PURPOSE:**

To encourage churches and/or Circuits to start thinking about new ways of engaging in mission and ministry in a world that has been changed by the Coronavirus pandemic.

## **RATIONALE:**

The District is allocating funds to provide pump priming grants of up to £1,000 to be used to enable developments that arise as a result of the pandemic. There is no wish to be prescriptive as to how the grant might be used but, rather, to encourage innovation and enterprise. The grants will not be given to maintain mission and ministry that was in existence before the lockdown restrictions were put in place.

In considering this opportunity, Managing Trustees could reflect on how their ideas link in with both *Our Calling* and the Connexional *God for All* strategy.

Our hope is that such grants will encourage new ways of thinking that lead to new ways of being the Church.

## **ACTION REQUIRED:**

On no more than two sides of A4, share your vision, show how the grant is going to be spent, what the grant is being requested for, and - most importantly in your application - tell us what difference, what impact and what fruitfulness you hope to see as a result of receiving a grant. Explain what your hopes are and what you want to achieve.

As you prepare your application you may find it helpful to consult page 17 of the Mission Planning Workbook: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/18460/mission-planning-workbook.pdf>.

Any application also needs to be clear as to how it links with the District Policy (see: <https://www.pemd.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/District-Policy-2019-.pdf>) and your own Circuit/church mission plan. Please attach your mission plan/policy to the application.

Once completed, please send your application to Jo Simpson - [evangelism@pemd.org.uk](mailto:evangelism@pemd.org.uk).

## **IF SUCCESSFUL:**

If your application is successful, there will be a requirement for at least one person from the project to be part of a 'community of practice' (three times a year) so that learning can be shared and further opportunities to develop the projects can be explored. News of projects may also be shared via *District E-news*.

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## **THE END OF AN ERA**

It was with heavy hearts that the members of **North Tawton: Lakeway United Church** took the decision to close on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. A time of prayer and sharing of memories took place on 6<sup>th</sup> April and the building was formally handed to the South West Synod of the URC.

Non-Conformist worship has been taking place on the site of North Tawton: Lakeway United Church since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the present building having been constructed in 1833/34. Schoolrooms were added in 1863 and extended in 1878 – a reflection perhaps of the part that this building has played over the years in the lives of many young people in the community. Sunday School and Pilots were both well supported and more recently the church has provided a rehearsal space for the junior branch of the local amateur dramatics group.

When the local Methodist Church closed in the 1990s the congregation joined their friends at the URC and Lakeway United Church was born. The 'new' congregation have continued to share with the Parish Church and the Gospel Hall in united services, including the annual outdoor service and Remembrance Day services.

People throughout the town of North Tawton are aware of the hospitality that has been offered by the members of Lakeway United Church. Wonderful Harvest and Christmas Carol Service suppers have been enjoyed by folk from across the county, not to mention the fellowship that has been shared at Tea & Praise worship and the many fund-raising coffee mornings.

The worship space at Lakeway has always had a sense of tranquillity and many people have found peace and solace there at times of need in their lives. However, the few remaining members recognise that their work is done and the mission and purpose of this building has been fulfilled. 'Well done you good and faithful servants.'



The members of **BROADWOODKELLY METHODIST CHURCH** have also decided that they will not be reopening. The members and one or two invited guests met at the end of April for a time of prayer and remembering. A longer item looking back on the worshipping life of Broadwoodkelly will appear in the next newsletter.

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### **Christian Aid Week 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May**

The climate crisis hurts us all. But people living in poverty fight the worst of it every day. From drought to flooding, climate change robs people of control over their lives and what they need for survival - a reliable source of water.

Details of this year's Christian Aid Week campaign

#### **Every. Last. Drop.**

can be found at [christianaid.org.uk](http://christianaid.org.uk)

.....where you can also find details about 'Wave of Hope' – a way of responding, and drawing attention, to the G7 summit to be held in Cornwall in the summer.

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### **'Situations Vacant'**

**'At Home' Worship Co-ordinator** - the 'At Home' worship has become a valuable and integral part of the worship being offered by the Circuit. We will soon be needing some new people to join the 'team', specifically a co-ordinator who would be able to collate the service and upload it to YouTube. This role could be shared by a number of people. If you are interested, or would like to know more, please contact Rev Liz.

**Cuttack Partnership.....** at the time of writing the Covid situation in India is getting worse day by day. Our friends living and working in the Diocese of Cuttack are extremely worried and have asked for our prayers.

God of compassion, be close to the people of India as they face the full effects of the pandemic.

Be especially close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.

In their loneliness, be their consolation;

in their anxiety, be their hope;

in their darkness, be their light.

We ask this through the one who suffered alone on the cross,  
but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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### **KEEPING UP TO DATE.....**

*The Plymouth & Exeter District enews is published monthly. It is a great way to keep in touch with what is happening in the District and beyond. To subscribe please contact [admin@pemd.org.uk](mailto:admin@pemd.org.uk)*

*Likewise, the regional Learning Network also publish a monthly newsletter which is full of information regarding training opportunities; events and activities to equip volunteers and church members for various church roles, and much more. For example the latest newsletter has To subscribe please contact*

*<https://www.methodist.org.uk/subscribe-sw>*

*The Learning Network also has its own YouTube page where currently, among other things, you can find instructional videos about using Zoom.*



"I downloaded them from a cloud."

**Don't forget.....**that if you are out and about the Belstone Tea Rooms are now open Friday - Monday, 2pm - 5.30pm Outside seating only until 17<sup>th</sup> May but well worth a visit!

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**New Chair of District**

Subject to the approval of the Methodist Conference the Revd Daniel Haylett has been designated as the new Chair of the Plymouth & Exeter District for an initial two-year period with effect from September 2022. Mr Haylett is currently serving as the Superintendent Minister of the Enfield Circuit.

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**NEXT STEPS.....**

Are you wondering what your vocation looks like as we emerge from the Covid restrictions? Is your church wanting to do something new or different to reach out to and engage with your community? Over the coming weeks we will be distributing a new booklet produced by the Evangelism and Growth team. In it there will be an overview of some of the key programmes and resources available to help us to take intentional missional steps into the future. An online version is already available and can be found here <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/evangelism-growth/read-our-next-steps-booklet>

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**DIARY DATES.....**

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|--|--------|---|
| Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June               | 7.30pm | Circuit Meeting                           |
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June               | 7.30pm | Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> June - 1 <sup>st</sup> July |        | Methodist Conference                      |
| Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> July               |        | Farewell service for Rev Liz Singleton    |
| Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September          |        | Welcome service for Rev Chris Jackson     |