



NORTH WEST ENGLAND METHODIST DISTRICT

NWED Weekly News

Your weekly newsletter from the North West England District.

18th February 2025

[In This Issue](#)

This week's newsletter includes:

- **District Spotlight**
- **District News**
- **Events**
- **Resources**
- **Christian Aid News**
- **Good News Stories**
- **Job Opportunities**

[District Spotlight: Meet Your Safeguarding Team](#)

We are here to support and promote a safe environment across the North West England District. Our team includes both familiar faces from the former districts and new members who have recently joined us. No matter where we've come from, our shared commitment

remains the same—to support you with any safeguarding concerns or queries you may have!

How to Contact Us

For general safeguarding enquiries or referrals, you can reach us at:

Email: safeguarding@nwedmethodists.org.uk

General Contact Number: 01772 372160 EXT: 301

Meet the Team

District Safeguarding Officers

Helen Bolton – Greater Manchester Plus Mission Area

Email: boltonh.dso@nwedmethodists.org.uk | Phone: 01772 372160 EXT: 110 or 07367 382536

Julie Paterson – Cumbria Mission Area

Email: patersonj.dso@nwedmethodists.org.uk | Phone: 01772 372160 EXT: 115 or 07 453 368 011

Jack Watson – Lancashire & Greater Manchester Plus Mission Area

Email: watsonj.dso@nwedmethodists.org.uk | Phone: 01772 372160 EXT: 114 or 07 444 101 130

Linda Locke – Liverpool Plus Mission Area

Email: lockel.dso@nwedmethodists.org.uk | Phone: 01772 372160 EXT: 113 or 07341773728

Safeguarding Administrator

Heather Laycock – Administrator with Lead for Safeguarding

Email: laycockh@nwedmethodists.org.uk | Phone: 01772 372160 EXT: 117

Whether you already know us or are meeting us for the first time, we're always here to listen, support, and ensure the safety and well-being of everyone in our community. If you have any concerns or just want a chat, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility!

District Spotlights on each of the Safeguarding team members will follow over the coming weeks.



1 - The Safeguarding Team

District News

Conversation with Volodymyr Prokip

Ukrainian Methodist Minister, Volodymyr Prokip, of Lviv Methodist Church, with a Youth for Christ Ministry there, has regularly spoken to Methodists across the former Lancashire District in the last few years, and speaks here with Rev'd Phil Gough, as the third anniversary of the Russian war with Ukraine approaches.

Over the coming week, we will be sharing excerpts from their conversation on our Facebook page., including information on the 'Christ during Wartime' image that we are using as a focus for our Lent reflections.

The full conversation between Volodymyr and Phil will be available to watch on our [YouTube channel](#) from Monday 24th February.

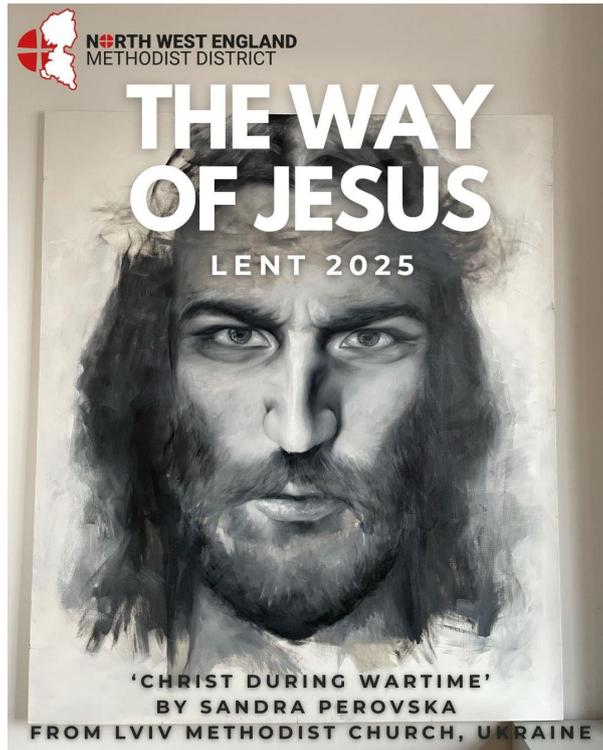
[Renters' Rights Bill – What you need to know as a Managing Trustee Landlord](#)

Here is an update from TMCP and is for any Circuit or Church who have property that is rented out.

The Renters' Rights Bill (the Bill) is expected to come into law by Summer 2025 and will bring long promised reforms to the way people rent homes. [Read more](#)

Connexional Newsletters

A reminder that if you would like to sign up to newsletters from Connexion, you can do so [here](#).



2 - Christ during Wartime image

District Updates Webinar: Thursday 27th March 7.30pm - 8.30pm on Zoom

Come along to this information evening and hear the updates following the launch of the North West England District.

This evening will include:

- Devotions
- An update from each hub, to hear developments on various areas in the new District
- Q and A session

To Join:

<https://zoom.us/j/92628597645?pwd=JRGkH54xtvg4MSVlpeAcvz5jEiSok8.1>

(Meeting ID: 926 2859 7645 Passcode: 814479)

To access via phone dial 0203 481 5237 or 0203 481 5240 and follow prompts.



NORTH WEST ENGLAND
METHODIST DISTRICT

NWED UPDATES



THU 27
MARCH
2025

ONLINE EVENT

HOSTED ON
ZOOM

7.30 - 8.30PM

(ARRIVE FROM
7.20PM FOR A
7.30PM START)

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IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, PLEASE
EMAIL ADMIN@NWEDMETHODISTS.ORG.UK

Events- Greater Manchester Plus and Liverpool Mission Area

1) Stockport Multifaith Network invites you to their **Covid-19 Day of Reflection** on 9 March 2025 - an event of sharing stories, reflections, tributes and prayers. This event is taking place at 3pm at Dialstone Lane Methodist Church, SK2 7LQ. For details contact raj.patta@methodist.org.uk or roy.ioanne@btopenworld.com.

2) **Victoria Hall, Bolton Open Day** on Friday 14th March from 12pm-4pm, including free building and tower tours.

3) **You are invited to the launch of the Methodist Archivists' Handbook at Manchester Central Library, 12 March 2025 (11am – 3pm).**

Bringing together Archivists and Administrators from across the Connexion, this special event will mark the launch of the [Methodist Archivists' Handbook](#) and is an opportunity to celebrate the contribution volunteers and staff of the Methodist Church working to care for the records of the Church for the future. There will be copies of the printed handbook, presentations, lunch and cake included.

Please RSVP by 26 February to archives@methodistchurch.org.uk and an itinerary will follow.

4) News from Chapel in the Fields

Live music at the Chapel

Come join us for what promises to be an amazing evening at the Chapel with multi-instrumentalist Dave Bainbridge (Iona/The Strawbs) and vocalist/instrumentalist Sally Minnear (Lord of the Dance/Pendragon). Their remarkable talents blend to create both powerful Celtic-tinged vocal songs and spellbinding ethereal soundscapes.

There will be an interval with refreshments available  

The Chapel is a warm, modern, comfortable venue but has a relatively small audience capacity, so if you're thinking of booking.... please do [book here](#) while tickets last! 

Learn simple Japanese Sashiko

Date: Thu 20th Feb

Time: drop in anytime between 10am - 12:30pm

Location: WA14 5SS

The Chapel is a place of creativity & calm, we offer Quiet Days, art workshops and events to improve mental health & wellbeing, centred in peaceful natural surroundings.

Particularly suitable if you have neurodiverse family members who like working with their hands, why not drop in anytime between 10 - 12:30 and join us in simple Japanese Sashiko hand stitching. You can stay for as much or as little time as you wish.

We have a regular monthly group that meet for this mindful activity 

5) Knutsford Methodist Church are hosting their Church Weekend and invite you to their cafe Church or workshops with guest speakers on Saturday 8th March. Find out more [here](#).

"We are looking forward to a gentle, fun and hope filled weekend as an antidote to the pessimism and cynicism of the world in which we live. The Christian faith leads to a hope that is more than mere optimism. So come and share in this conversation as we explore the meaning of hope and where we see God at work today in the world and in the church. If our future rests on hope, where do you see hope bubbling up? "

6) Churches Connect Day

Welcome Churches is on the road! We are looking forward to hearing about your experiences as you welcome refugees and people seeking asylum, as well as sharing with you what we are doing.

We are coming to **Chester on Saturday 8th March 2025. Hoole Baptist Church** in **Chester** has generously offered to host us, and we would love as many from your church to join us as possible. The day will include a range of activities to inspire, encourage and equip, and is aimed at people both with lived experience of seeking refuge and without.

For more information, and to book places, please click [here](#).

7) **Methodist Women in Britain Spring Gathering**, Wednesday 12 March 10am - 2pm at Connections Community Methodist Church, Henniker Road, Off St Helens Rd, Bolton BL3 3TP.

Visiting speaker is Kerry Bamber, co-founder and director of AIM Northwest, a domestic abuse charity based in Leigh that support and empower people across the local areas. AIM Northwest is the chosen charity of our chair, Viv Lowe and we will be supporting and linking with them. We are inviting everyone – if they wish, to bring a wrapped gift value £3 for our Lucky Dip Fundraiser for the charity. (Please label if the item is only suitable for either male or female recipients). During the day there will be opportunity to buy yourself a surprise from the donated gifts.

We will also be serving a soup lunch and tea/coffee will be available throughout the day.

We encourage both women and men to come and join us for the opportunity to learn more about this service and also to share together our fellowship, friendship and faith.



3 - Stockport Multifaith Network Covid-19 Day of Reflection

VH125

OPEN DAY

FREE BUILDING & TOWER TOURS

Friday 14th March

12:00 - 16:00

The Victoria Hall, Bolton



4 - Victoria Hall Open Day

Methodist Archivists' Handbook LAUNCH EVENT

**Calling all archivists,
administrators and those
caring for the records of the
Methodist Church.**

Join us for a special event celebrating the work and contribution of volunteers and staff of the Methodist Church working to care for the records of the Church for the future.

**12 March 2025
11:00 - 15:00
Manchester
Central Library**



**Presentations, networking
and special guests.**
Itinerary to follow RSVP.

Please RSVP
archives@methodistchurch.org.uk
by Wednesday 26 February

The Methodist Church
The Methodist Archivists' Handbook and this event have been made possible thanks to The National Archives resilience grants.

5 - Archivists' Handbook Launch

Thu 20th Feb
10am - 12pm

 Chapel in the Fields

Sashiko

Drop-in stitching workshop

Join us for some mindful stitching as we take part in a collaborative artwork for GM Mental Health

All collaborative materials provided - if you would like to stitch any additional personal items please make a small donation

Chapel in the Fields - Sinderland Lane - Dunham Massey - WA14 5SS



6 - Learn simple Japanese Sashiko

**Dave Bainbridge
& Sally Quinlan**



live in concert



**Saturday 28th June
7:30pm**
Chapel in the Fields
Dunham Massey - WA14 5SS



www.davebainbridgemusic.com

7 -  Live music at the Chapel 

Events: Lancashire Mission Area

1) The **Churches Together in Lancashire Annual General Meeting** is taking place on Thursday 27th February at 7.30pm on zoom. The agenda and zoom link can be accessed [here](#).

At 8pm, they are then hosting 'Understanding the Palestinian Crisis: A conversation between Dr Marwan Darweish and the Revd Dr Peter Colwell'. Find out more [here](#).

2) LGBTQ+ Coffee Morning at Layton Methodist Church

In recognition of LGBT+ History Month and in support of Blackpool Pride, Layton Methodist Church is hosting its first-ever LGBTQ+ Coffee Morning on Saturday, 22nd February 2025, from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

This special event is an opportunity for everyone to come together in a welcoming and inclusive space to enjoy coffee, cake, and conversation. As part of the Inclusive Church Network, Layton Methodist Church is committed to ensuring that all feel valued and supported, embracing the belief that love is love.

A bake sale will also take place, with proceeds going directly to Blackpool Pride, helping to support the incredible work they do in our community.

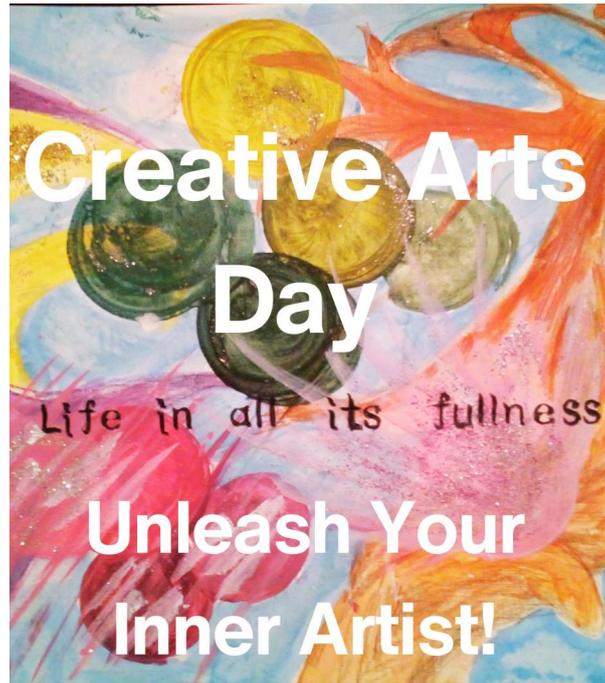
We invite everyone—whether you are a member of the LGBTQ+ community or an ally—to join us for this celebration of love, diversity, and inclusion.

For more information, please contact community@forwardproject.org.uk or call 01253 310758.

3) As part of **Preston Ribble Circuit's Year of Faith Development**, you are invited to their **Creative Arts Day** on Saturday 15 March 10am-3pm, and to **David's Portrait Gallery** on Tuesday 25th March at 7pm. More information is available in the images below.



8 - LGBTQ+ Coffee Morning at Layton Methodist Church



Join us for a day of creativity and exploration at
Ashton Methodist Church
on Saturday, 15th March from 10 AM to 3 PM.
This event is open to everyone, regardless of skill .

9 - Creative Arts Day

Creative Arts Day

Join us for a day of creativity and exploration
Ashton Methodist Church Saturday
15th March from 10 AM to 3 PM.

This event is open to everyone, regardless of skill level.

What to Expect:

Experiment & Create: Whether you're an experienced artist
or just discovering your creative spark,
you'll have the opportunity to explore and experiment with various art forms.

Materials:

Bring your favourite art supplies or try something new with materials we provide.

Demonstrations:

Witness inspiring demonstrations in visual and written arts.

Reflection Time:

Take a moment to reflect on your creative journey
share insights with fellow participants.

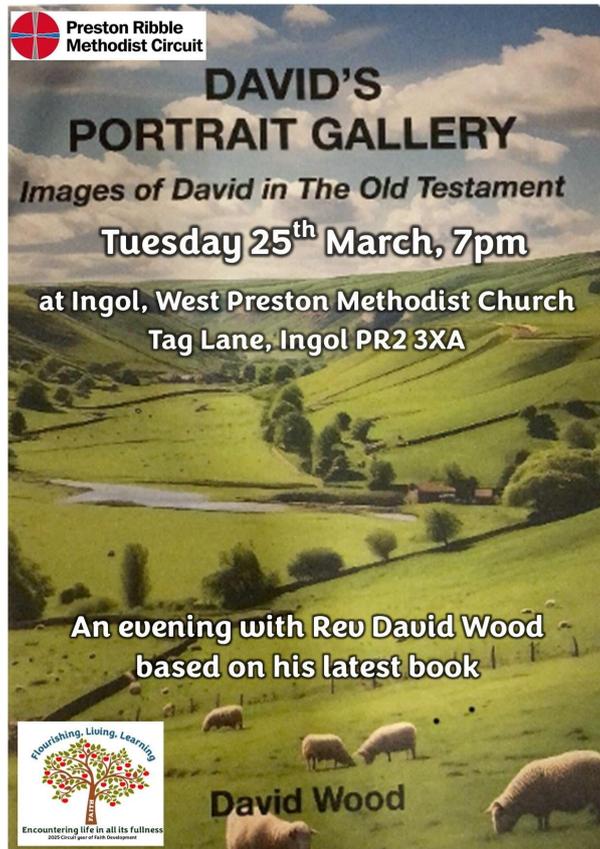
What to Bring:

Your Creativity: Feel free to bring any materials you love working with.
Bring your own packed lunch to keep you fueled throughout the day.
Drinks will be provided.

Come and join us for a day filled with creativity, inspiration, and community.
For further information please contact: Revd Jane Wild on 07340 359890 or email
jane.wild@methodist.org.uk

We can't wait to see you there!

10 - Creative Arts Day



11 - David's Portrait Gallery

Resources

10 minutes on Rural Mental Health Week

Rev David Newlove, our Cumbria Mission Area Lead, recorded a podcast with Helen Cameron, President of the Methodist Conference on mental health and the rural community. The podcast forms part of the JPIT (Joint Public Issues Team) '10 minutes on...' series.

You can listen to the podcast [here](#).

Monday meditation: the most recent meditation from Peter Lumsden, Learning from Prophets, can be accessed [here](#).

"The prophets exemplify the personal journey, from order, through disorder, and finally to a deeper level of reorder. They themselves move from a position of anger and judgement, to one of empathising with and entering into suffering with the people.

They also call out the waywardness of the nation - who had moved away from the moral code they had been given through the law to one of coercion and control, both of God and of others.

Surely there are lessons in both of these areas for us."

Music from Salt of the Sound

Christian Aid News

Changemakers Conference on 8 March 2025

This conference will provide all you need to know for Christian Aid Week, and we'll tell you about our 80th Anniversary and our humanitarian work in Gaza. We are delighted to be joined by Gerado Tobar, Programme Officer in Guatemala – [here is a sneak peek](#).

Please do [register](#) to join the conference online from home or in person at one of our regional watch parties, where you can also partake of a free simple lunch.

Regional Christian Aid News for the Cumbria Mission Area

SAVE THE DATE! ** 12 July 2025 for our 80th Anniversary Celebration** in Haltwhistle, with an optional walk or cycle along Hadrian's Wall beforehand. More details will follow soon! Do start to think about who you know who would like to walk or cycle all or part of Hadrian's Wall, and do let people at church know there will be a Celebration event (late afternoon) even if they are not walking or cycling.

Upcoming Regional Gatherings:

Wed 2 April, 7-8pm – Christian Aid Week 2025 – The Focus Story [[Click here](#) to join meeting]

Wed 30 April, 7-8pm – Recruiting your volunteers and Event Support [[Click here](#) to join meeting]

Good News Stories

Liverpool Plus Mission Area

Linacre Mission Pantry Bootle Merseyside

We run a pantry every Thursday at Linacre Mission. We are based in one of the poorest areas of Liverpool. Our pantry is open to all, and people pay £5 to receive fresh meat/ fruit and veg/ bread and tinned items. Depending on what they pick they usually receive between £12 and £16 worth of goods. It is popular, we are open for 2 hours and have between 45-55 people visiting us each week.

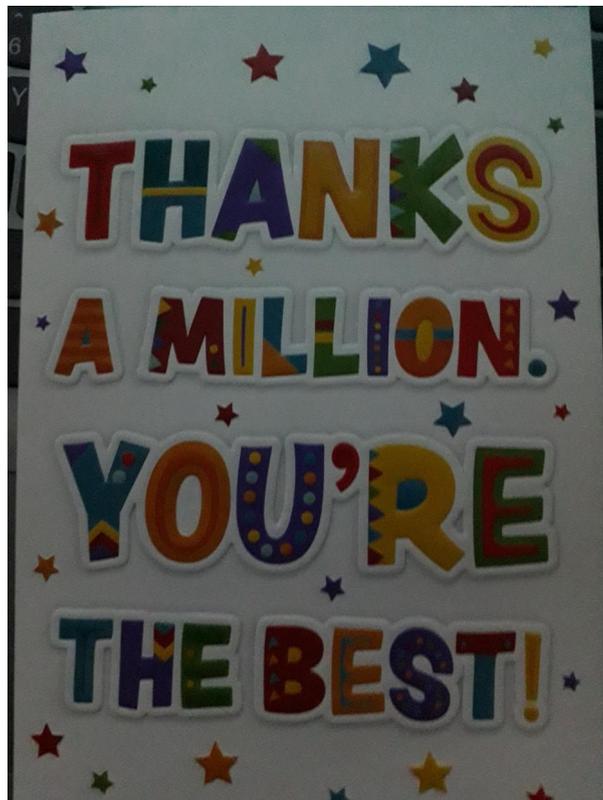
It's quite hard work, but it is rewarding when we get a card like this. It makes our efforts so worthwhile. See the card below.

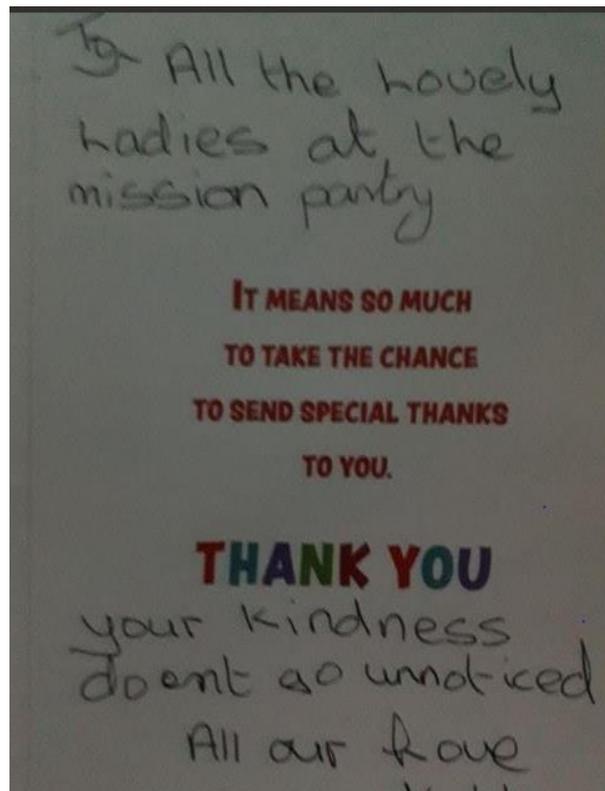
Cumbria Mission Area

A story of encouragement from Re:new, Cumbria's Church at the Margins project based in Barrow-in-Furness.

We held a short informal worship space at Re:new for Blue Christmas – we set aside the tinsel and carols to acknowledge that for many of us there is hurt as well as joy in this season. We held two short reflective services, for those who were comfortable with this, and the afternoon with crafts and conversation for a gentler approach. We created a space to pause and reflect, particularly as the high street was full of Christmas decorations and noise, offering a safe space for something different.

People came and made blue hearts, which they could write on and take home or leave on our tree. In the afternoon, I started a conversation with a lady who was shopping for Christmas decorations. She told me that she had not celebrated last Christmas, because her husband had just died, but that she felt ready to decorate the house this year. I explained about Blue Christmas, and invited her to make a heart. She and her friend made hearts, wrote on them, and took them away. We don't always get to see the fruits of our endeavours, but I know this lady left able to celebrate Christmas again feeling loved and with a sense of peace.







13 - Blue Christmas at re:new



Cumbria
**Church at
the Margins**

Job Opportunities

Current Circuit vacancies can be viewed [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.