

Tori Allen

From: North West England Methodist District <admin@nwedmethodists.org.uk>
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To: Tori Allen
Subject: [Test] District Weekly News ■ 10.06.2025

North West England District Weekly News



10th 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

Representative Synod Dates

Our upcoming Synod dates for Connexional year 2025-26 are taking place on **Saturday 13th September 2025 and Saturday 25th April 2026**, both to take place at Saint Michael's Church of England High School (Astley Rd, Chorley, PR7 1RS).

Important information: Online Suite - Statistics for Mission site

There have been difficulties with the Statistics for Mission Online Suite and as a result, the decision has been taken to shut down Statistics for Mission until the new Online Suite can be launched.

What this means is that **from Monday, 9 June, there will be no access to Statistics for Mission. Any users of the system that need to make changes can do so by inputting the details via a Microsoft form that will be added to the Methodist Church website.** These requests will then be processed manually and will take up to 7 working days to process.

Please note that Property Consents, Annual Returns and Gift Aid will be able to continue to operate as per normal.

Connexion are working towards implementing a new online suite which will be secure, fit for purpose and will offer scope for future improvements. Unfortunately, complications with the development of this new online suite mean that the launch date for this has been delayed, and is now expected to launch in October 2025. If you have any queries, please email onlinesuitesupport@methodistchurch.org.uk who will do their best to respond within 7 working days.

Weekly Spotlight

This week, we're celebrating the Greater Manchester Plus Mission Area. Our Mission Area Leads and Deputy Chairs Revds Katie Smith and Alan Bradley facilitate mission; deputise for the District Chair; encourage and nurture connections; and partner with ecumenical, faith and civic leaders.

There's been a lot happening since September! The Mission Area covers everything from the heart of Manchester with its city centre ministries at places like Central Hall

and Victoria Hall, to rural communities in the High Peak, alongside the peaceful setting of Chapel in the Fields. There's work with people who are homeless, with refugees and asylum seekers, and with long-standing local communities.

One of the exciting things happening under the NPNP (New Places for New People) work is the growth of Caleb Communities through communities such as Bite-Sized Church and Crafty Corner.

Across the Mission Area, churches and chapels continue to serve faithfully – being salt and light in the places they're called to.

We've also had time for reflection and encouragement, with two retreats at Gladstone's Library – one for Superintendents focused on "Leading Well," and one for Ministers around the theme of "Soul Food," led by our Learning Network colleagues.

Perhaps the biggest joy in this season has been meeting people, hearing their passion for God, and seeing the creative and committed ways they're engaging in worship and mission. Church buildings are being used in new ways. People are trying new things. And in it all, there's a deep sense that God is not finished with us – there is much to be optimistic about.

Digital Digest: Optimising Social Media Posts

Social media is a great tool for church outreach and growth. I am often asked how churches can optimise their social media content to maximise their exposure and ensure that as many people as possible see their content.

Most social media platforms now prioritise 'organic' visual content – think photos and videos that you have made. Photos and videos can grab people's attention when they are scrolling through their newsfeed and are much more likely to be interacted with.

One of the key things to keep in mind when creating content is to 'be authentic'. Digital content that shows insights into how your Church operates and the people working behind the scenes will be much more successful.

Try to give your digital audience an insight into what engaging with your Church would be like. One easy way of doing this could be creating content around the 'day-in-the-life' of your Minister. This could include short videos showing the Minister working in the Church, visiting a local school or preparing for a service.

Another easy form of authentic content could be a series of short videos of members of the congregation sharing why they attend your Church. You could also consider asking a member of the Church to do a short video about an upcoming event, explaining what is planned and what a visitor can expect when they attend.

Videos are the best way to engage with your audience – with short 30 second videos being most successful.

The graphic below shows the hierarchy of post types, moving from left to right in terms of how effective they are. If possible, try to avoid relying on sharing links to other people's content – try and generate some of your own content!

The time you post can also help. Content posted early in morning (7-9 AM) and evenings (6-9 PM) often get higher engagement.

If you have any questions about optimising content for your churches social media, our Digital Enabler, Samuel Rimmer can be contacted by email: rimmers@nwedmethodists.org.uk or by telephone: 01772 372160 (ext: 130).



Events: Lancashire Mission Area

Burnley and Pendle Methodist Circuit

invite you to their:

Heritage Write A Song or Hymn Competition

Open to all ages and based on the theme of 'God's grace in love and action'. The winning song will be sung at a musical celebration event on 17th January 2026 at 2pm at Padiham Road Methodist Church. Submit your entry to Claire, contactable by email at circuitoffice@2101methodists.org or 07752 278664. The closing date is 12pm on 31st October 2025.

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Resources

District Online Worship Recording

The District Online Worship recording from Sunday 8th June, with preacher Rev Sharon Read, Mission Area Lead and Deputy Chair for Lancashire, is now available.

[Watch the recording](#)

Action for Children Sunday, Sunday 13 July

Resources for this year's Action for Children Sunday are now available to download.

Action for Children Sunday typically takes place on the second Sunday of July, but can also be marked at any time in your church calendar. The worship material includes Bible readings, hymns and real-life stories of how church donations help children.

[Access the resources](#)

The National Churches Survey: giving every church a voice

The National Churches Trust is carrying out a survey to help policymakers, the media, and the wider public better understand the challenges churches face and to highlight the vital work that churches, like yours, do.

This survey has the support of denominations, faith, and heritage groups across the country and we encourage you to take part.

[Find out more](#)

Christian Community Hubs

Christian led community hubs are springing up all over the UK, with churches using their facilities as hubs to bring local people together - providing encouragement and support in many different ways, and bringing the church into the heart of local communities. They are places where Christian community can come to life and bring hope to whole neighbourhoods.

The newly formed Christian Community Hub Movement is bringing together hubs from all over the UK, to share resources and training, enable local networks and peer support, offer guidance from leading practitioners, and opportunities for everyone to share their story.

An in-person conference is being planned for November, but the pre-launch event happening on Wednesday 16th July will provide a taste of what's to come!

[Find out more](#)

State of the Sector Survey (Lancashire and Cumbria)

This survey has been created to understand the work the voluntary, community, faith or social enterprise (VCFSE) sector does in Lancashire and Cumbria. This includes community groups, arts and culture groups, social clubs, sports clubs, charities, faith organisations, social enterprises, co-operatives, community benefit societies, working men's clubs, housing associations, trade unions, and lots more.

[Complete the survey](#)

Other News

[Local Preacher and Worship Leader News](#)

[Fund for Human Need \(FHN\) Newsletter](#)

Training

Upcoming Webinars:

Trauma Informed Churches, Thursday 19th June 2pm-4pm

Aimed at those seeking to support individuals who anticipate or have experienced being judged in a church. It aims to help us create faith spaces that are both safe and bold for those struggling with, or seeking to overcome, toxic shame.

[Book your place here](#)

Suicide Awareness, Tuesday 15th July 11am-12.30pm

Organised by the Connexional Safeguarding Team this webinar will consider the prevalence, impact and available support.

[Book your place here](#)

Good News Stories

On Saturday 7th June 2025, Greater Manchester Churches Together (GMCT) joined together for the Eve of Pentecost service at St Ann's church in Manchester city centre. Rev Sharon Read, Mission Area Lead and Deputy Chair for Lancashire, attended the service on behalf of the North West England District.

This was the first of such celebrations which was joyful and diverse. This service was led by Rev Alan Kennedy, the new administrator for GMCT, and the preacher was Rev Glayne Worgan, a Trustee of GMCT.



The first photo is all those who represent GMCT or who took part in the service



Second photo, from left to right: Bishop Mark Davies (Bishop of Middleton, Manchester Diocese), Rev Sharon Read (Mission Area Lead and Deputy Chair for Lancashire representing NWED) and Bishop John Arnold (Roman Catholic Diocese of Salford)

Vacancies

Internal

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

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

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