
North West England District Weekly News



5th May 2026

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

District News

Senior Leadership Team: Responsibilities over the coming months

In planning for James' upcoming sabbatical, the District Policy Committee has agreed to the following shared responsibilities, and in the current circumstances these have taken effect immediately:

- Lead Deputy Chair: Alan Bradley
- Deputy Chair in Lancashire to cover Stationing: first point of contact
Katie Smith
- District Safeguarding Group: Alan Bradley
- Work alongside Heather Fergusson with Reconciliation & Support:
Caroline Ainger
- Chair of the District Policy Committee: David Newlove
- Methodist Conference 2026: Alan Bradley

District Scrutiny Committee

The District Scrutiny Committee, chaired by Rev. Sarah Parkin, plays a vital role in supporting the District Policy Committee (DPC). Before DPC considers any item requiring a decision (that isn't grants or property related), the Scrutiny Committee

reviews it to ensure all the necessary information is included and is in line with District process. They then present this to the DPC along with a recommendation for a decision, which the DPC then exercises its own informed judgement on. As the Scrutiny Committee meets prior to DPC, this ensures that decisions at DPC can be made in a time effective manner – reducing governance and waiting times for decisions, and enabling the DPC to focus on mission.

Examples of items that the Scrutiny Committee look at include:

- Applications to discontinue public worship
- Requests for lay authorisations to preside at communion
- Changes to the constitution of Synod

Submissions must be sent to the **Scrutiny Committee email address** (not directly to DPC), at scrutiny@nwedmethodists.org.uk

Next meeting: 28 May 2026 with Deadline for submissions: 21 May 2026

District Children, Youth and Family Strategy

The District has begun the process of creating a District Children, Youth and Family strategy.

To help this process, they have created a short form so that you can let the group know about the children, youth and family work being carried out in your context. The form should only take a couple of minutes to complete and the information you provide will be invaluable and help shape the District's strategy in this area.

[Fill out the survey](#)

District Online Worship

Taking place on Sunday 10 May at 6.30pm, with the theme of Christian Aid. Christian Aid week is the 10-16 May. We are delighted that we will have a guest speaker from Christian Aid joining with us for our Online Worship. For the Zoom code (which remains the same), please email prayer@nwedmethodists.org.uk or direct message us on Facebook.

**Launch of
Christian Aid
Week**

**NORTH WEST ENGLAND
METHODIST DISTRICT**

**District
Online
Worship**

**Sunday 10th May at
6.30pm**

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 or direct message us on Facebook.

District Testimony Service

A District Testimony Service will take place on Sunday 7th June at 4pm at Stricklandgate Methodist Church. The service is for Rev Michaela Barker and Deacon Samm Morris, who have been recommended for ordination.



Testimony Service

**For Rev Michaela Barker and
Deacon Samm Morris who
have been recommended for
ordination**

Sunday 7th June at
4pm
Stricklandgate
Methodist Church,
Windermere Road,
Kendal, LA9 4QJ

This is a special testimony service, where District Probationers who have been recommended for Reception into Full Connexion and Ordination at Methodist Conference, can tell their story and give thanks and praise to God for their call and journey to this point. We will also be joined by guest preacher Rev Christine Dutton.

Property

Churches and Circuits are reminded that District consent is required for many aspects relating to property, including sales and lettings and building projects and refurbishments. The District Consents Panel have formulated a Consents Policy which will serve as a basic guide to the consents process and principles and can be found here (insert link to the policy on the website - I think you put it on the other day but let me know if you need a copy). Please do engage with the District Property Secretaries as early as possible - they are here to guide you through the process and provide advice and support.

Grants

A reminder that the District has grants available! Large grant applications for the next Grants Committee meeting on 6th July 2026 are encouraged - make sure you submit early in order for your application to be reviewed at this meeting. Of course, small grant applications can be submitted at any time.

A note about 3Generate - we know many of you will soon be making plans to attend 3Generate later in the year. If you are going to be applying for District funding to support with the costs of this, please make sure you submit an application ahead of the event. Bookings now open: [3Generate - The Methodist Church](#)
The District Grants Policy has recently been updated and can be found [here](#).

Lay Employment

Churches and Circuits wishing to establish any new lay employee posts are required to secure District approval prior to advertising any positions. Please contact Heather Fergusson (District Secretary: Administration & Compliance) who will be happy to provide help and guidance - fergussonh@nwedmethodists.org.uk. Please note that Connexional approval is not required for the establishment of lay employee positions and so there is no need to contact the HR Team at Connexion regarding this.

Events

ArtServe Festival 2026

ArtServe is a movement of Christian people discovering and reflecting God's creative gifts shared among us, so that God is known more fully and lives are transformed. Our varied membership includes creatives of all levels, from the curious dabbler to the professional practitioner and all points in between. Put simply, ArtServe is a bunch of folk exploring creative ways of doing (and encouraging and enabling others to do) life, faith and worship. We are an ecumenical, not-for-profit charitable organisation.



Glimmers...
moments of hope and happiness
ArtServe Festival 2026

Friday 23rd-Sunday 25th October 2026
Kents Hill Park Conference Centre, Milton Keynes, MK7 6BZ

Join us as we explore the 'Glimmers' in our lives: the small, often unexpected moments that bring us closer to God and closer to one another, that deepen our faith, and renew our strength for the next step on our journey. What are they? Where might we encounter them? And how can we respond in creative ways?

Keynote address
Explore the Festival theme with author and creative artist Wendy Usher.

Creative Workshops
Hone a skill or try something new in three creative workshops, including stained glass, dance, fabric postcards, photography, outdoor worship, creative writing, off-loom weaving, and music.

The Sound of Musings
Join Maria the 'flibbertigibbet nun-turned-governess'—and author Bryony Wood—for an evening of laughter, reflection and singing.

...plus worship, fellowship, good food, and much more!

ArtServe Festival 2026
A chance to meet up with other Christian creatives, to practise our creative skills and learn new ones, and to share our creative faith journeys together.



For full information and booking details, scan QR code or visit: www.artserve.org.uk



Find out more here

Lancashire

An evening with Tony Vino!

Bamber Bridge Methodist Church, are hosting 'An Evening with Tony Vino, on 13th June, doors open at 7pm, event starts at 8pm. Refreshments are available.

[Book Tickets Here](#)

[View the Poster](#)

Liverpool Plus

Events at Heath Street Methodist Church (Golborne and Lowton)

This week, Heath Street Methodist are holding two events. On Friday 8th May at 7pm, a Harmony Evening with Phoenix Choir, Golborne.

On Sunday 10th May at 3pm, a Memorial Service, to remember and give thanks for loved ones of the recent or distant past. Further details can be found below.

[Harmony Evening](#)

[Memorial Service](#)

A free event: BBC's Songs of Praise Sing Gospel

Join BBC Songs of Praise celebrating the joy and power of Gospel music with very special guests and plenty of opportunity to lift your voice and your spirits! There is no minimum age for entry, all ages are warmly welcomed but children aged 17 and under must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.

Date: Tuesday 19 May 2026 - recording at 7pm (doors open from 5.30pm)

Venue: Liverpool Olympia, West Derby Road, Liverpool, L6 9BY

[Get your free ticket here](#)

Resources

Cumbria Circuit Monthly News

[Read the newsletter](#)

BBC Radio Pause for Thought

Rev. Jo Cox-Darling speaks about how we 'Encourage each other'.

[Listen here](#)

Good News Stories

Cumbria

