



Bolton & Rochdale Methodist District

Chair of District: Rev Paul Martin
PA & Administrator: Mrs Jill Orrell
Office: 5 Hill Side, Bolton, BL1 5DT
Telephone: 01204 843302
Email: revpm@me.com
Website: www.barmd.org.uk
Charity Registration No: 1130502

District Newsletter – December 2018

Welcome to the Bolton and Rochdale District Newsletter.

This edition includes details about events, dates for your diaries, training opportunities, vacancies, links and contacts. If you have any information to share then please contact us so we can include in future editions. Please share this newsletter around your churches, circuits and contacts.

Thank you to all who attended and took part in the District Service on 18th November. The collection towards the appeal in Haiti raised over £1200 so thank you for your generosity. More information about the appeal and how your Church or Circuit could help further, please visit the District Website.

Events & Dates for your diary: visit the District Website: www.barmd.org.uk

Action for Children Christmas Appeal: Be a Secret Santa for a vulnerable child this Christmas

For most of us, the festive season is a time of joy and family celebrations. But unfortunately, there are thousands of children in the UK right now who are facing a Christmas without food, warmth or love. Action for Children is working to change this - and they need your help.

Why should you get involved?

- Their Emergency Foster Carers are trained to ensure children in care have a safe and loving home over Christmas, with spare presents wrapped for children they need to help at a moment's notice.
- Some Action for Children centres are open over the holidays to support families who have nowhere else to go.
- They distribute food from local food banks to make sure children don't go hungry.
- Their staff call children on Christmas day to let them know someone is thinking of them.

This is why they are asking you to be a Secret Santa for a vulnerable child this Christmas to help them make a vulnerable child's Christmas safe, warm and bright. Their Santas don't have reindeers or wear big red suits. But, they're doing something very special indeed.

See how becoming a Secret Santa will make a difference to children like Lily this Christmas in this lovely animated film: <https://youtu.be/Em41wDI1cFA>.

Please sign up to become a Secret Santa and donate by texting Santa2 to 70607 or visiting iamsanta.org.uk/northwest

How to become a Fairtrade Church: The three goals: To be part of the campaign by becoming a Fairtrade Church, please register with us www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/get-involved/in-your-community/faith-groups/fairtrade-churches

Christian Aid: Be a peacemaker for Christmas Aid

At Christmas time, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, given to bring hope, love, peace and justice to a broken world. We get the chance to spend time with our loved ones celebrating the Prince of Peace, but for millions of people this Christmas, peace seems like an impossible dream.

Violence and conflict remains the norm for many across the globe, from South Sudan to Colombia. In 2016, more countries experienced violent conflict than at any time in nearly 30 years. If current trends persist, by 2030 more than half of the world's poorest people will be living in countries affected by high levels of violence.

But while peace is broken every day, it is also built every day through the tireless work of peacemakers. This Christmas, Christian Aid is calling for you to stand together with peacemakers around the world who are working tirelessly to bring hope to seemingly hopeless situations.

In South Sudan, Bishop Paride Taban is relentless in working for peace in his country where millions of citizens are suffering from hunger caused by years of civil war. Now in his eighties, he believes that peace is something you practice and every day he repeats 28 words for peace: 'If all put these 28 words into their hearts, and every day they repeat them, there will be no war in South Sudan, there will be permanent peace in South Sudan.'

Elsewhere in the shadow of violence and conflict, Diana Abbas sows the seeds of peace through counselling and therapy. She is the only psychologist at a children's centre run by Association Najdeh, Christian Aid's partner in Lebanon. Through psychotherapy, literacy classes and art therapy, the centre gives young Palestinian refugees the chance to overcome the violence they have witnessed. Thanks to Diana and others at the centre, more children can find peace.

Now more than ever, we need peace. With your support, peace is possible this Christmas. Matthew 5:9 shows the blessings lie within peacemaking – in this world it is up to us to do what we can in our daily lives to help frontline peacemakers like Diana and Bishop Paride.

You can be a peacemaker with your donation to Christmas Aid – an appeal to raise vital funds for Christian Aid's work.

It costs just £10 to pay for three young women to attend a community dialogue event that will help them learn about effective ways of reducing crime. £130 could pay for a psychologist to provide one week's worth of counselling and therapy to young refugees in Lebanon.

Will you stand with the peacemakers this Christmas? You can make a donation by visiting www.caid.org.uk/christmas-appeal or calling 0845 700 0300.

To get involved, talk to your local regional coordinator, Bex Turner on rturner@christian-aid.org or 01925 582 817. You can also share the appeal on social media and see what others are doing using #WeAreThePeacemakers

Training Opportunities:

Worship: Leading and Preaching course tutors' training

The Continuing Development Days for Current Tutors of the W:LP course are:

8th June 2019, 28th November 2019

The purpose of the days are:

- For those tutors who have students' who have had portfolios submitted in that period to hear feedback
- For all tutors to be given additional training and support to help them develop as tutors.

- The focus of the training is chosen in response to areas of weaknesses found Connexionally in portfolios.
- To hear Connexional updates relating to the course and to give feedback to the Learning Network to feedback to Connexional colleagues.
- To meet other tutors, build connections and support.

For further details contact Jasmine Devadason at devadasonj@methodistchurch.org.uk

Please book through Rob at NWMannNetwork@gmail.com

Learning Network: North West & Mann Region

See: www.methodist.org.uk/nwm

Our Learning Network Team have various events and training coming up so please visit the website for further information of what is coming up this year -

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/learning/network-regions/north-west-mann-region>

Vacancies:

Southport Circuit: Section Administrator

£10.50 per hour, 16 hours per week (Mon-Thu)

For an application pack please visit www.southportmethodist.org.uk, Email: southportcircuit@aol.com or call 01704 562697. The application deadline is 12 noon on Friday 30th November 2018.

Interviews will be on Tuesday 11th December 2018.

If you would like to have an informal chat about the position before applying, please contact Rev Patrick Evans on 07813 211501.

Southport Circuit: Mission Enabler

Hours: 37 1/2 hours per week. Salary £21,138 pa

Application pack from: please visit www.southportmethodist.org.uk

Email Southportcircuit@aol.com or phone 01704 562697. The application deadline is 12 noon on Friday 30th November interviews will be held on Wednesday 12th December 2018

For details of the various jobs around the Connexion please visit: www.methodist.org.uk/jobs

GDPR:

General Data Protection Regulation came into effect on 25th May 2018.

Training and resources from TMCP are fine tuned for The Methodist Church context:

<https://www.tmcp.org.uk/about/data-protection>

Resources:

- **Action for Children:** www.actionforchildren.org.uk
- **All We Can:** www.allwecan.org.uk
- **Bible Society:** www.biblesociety.org.uk
- **Children's Bible stories:** www.childrenschapel.org
- **Christian Aid:** <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>
- **Connexion website:** www.methodist.org.uk
- **DMLN:** www.discipleshaped.org/events/date
- **Methodist Women in Britain:** www.mwib.org.uk
- **Methodist Publishing:** www.methodistpublishing.org.uk

Our Daily Bread Ministries.....not just the daily devotionals.

Other resources that are available:

1. Looking Deeper- How can I respond to terrorism? Just once more - and then I'll quit. I'm a new Christian: Why is it so hard? At least 23 different titles.
2. Looking at Life - Why in the world is there suffering? Should we care about Easter? At least 15 different titles.
3. Media Club - at least 12 different DVD's great for Bible studies.
4. Discovery series - The power of the cross. At least six titles.
5. Resources for new Christians as well as the youth and small children.

The team are willing to come and share with you, please contact them directly either by email on churchministry_uk@odb.org or by phone on 015395 64149.

Bread of Life – A deeply moving and captivating performance for your church for Lent and Easter 2019. Springs Dance Company is delighted to be returning with its much sought after and highly praised production *Bread of Life*, for churches, cathedrals, festivals and schools. A reflection on the last supper, *Bread of Life* celebrates the meal of bread and wine with Jesus, the ever present King. This Lent and Easter rediscover the living, breathing *Bread of Life*, through this stirring depiction of how God is building a community of love with Jesus himself at the centre. Springs would love to hear from anyone interested in hosting a performance of *Bread of Life*. Further information can be found on the Springs Dance Company website and by emailing touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk or calling 07876 752910

Quiet Days at Chapel in the Fields

We are offering Quiet Days at The Chapel; December 12th - 9:30am for 10:00 start and finish by 3:15pm. Spaces will be limited so please contact tcif15@gmail.com if you would like attend. We are asking for £10 donation for the day to include a simple lunch.