

Dear Presbyters, Deacons and Circuit Administrators

Please see below the following news and information that has come to the office since the last update. There are quite a few items, especially following Conference, but *please do check this out and forward the information to your churches and circuits.*

Property News from Patrick Reynolds (District Property Officer)

I attach information from Patrick in relation to guidance on churches opening this month.

The guidance includes a link to the latest Government guidance (on page 1) - 'COVID-19: Guidance for the safe use of places of worship from 4 July'. Please note that reopening a church requires a 'Risk Assessment' (link on page 4), and an 'Action Plan' (link also on page 4). Please make your Circuits aware of the updated guidance and distribute/forward copies as required. The documents can be found on the District website property page.

Contact Patrick if you have any queries at property@cornwallmethodists.org.uk

Safeguarding News from Dave Cross (District Safeguarding Officer)

Online Gaming: I have had information passed to me this afternoon in relation to a website/app called "Gasha Studio" -

This is an online game where a child can create avatars and create scenarios and recently parents have been finding concerning screen shots on their children's mobile phones which show the avatars involved in sexual acts. The platform is also used to communicate with others and there have been occasions when children have been asked to send naked pictures of themselves to prove their age.

The users can also create their own environment and some have included pole dancing and dungeons, there are difficulties in turning off the chat feature with discussions around child abuse, bullying and murder taking place.

New: video regarding sexual harassment, documents and links to charities and organisations have been added to the website <https://www.cornwallmethodists.org.uk/safeguarding>

Zoom: I have just been informed of a scam that is doing the rounds at the moment that it may well be helpful to know about especially given the number of older / vulnerable people using Zoom to access church this is particularly worrying.

"Did you know Zoom had voicemail - apparently it does. BUT...If you receive a text message saying you have a Zoom voicemail be careful. Likely to be something like - 'you have a Zoom voicemail from' and giving a name e.g. Janet44. If you are told to ring a telephone number starting with "09" don't do it "09" means that you will pay exorbitant charges per minute just trying to connect to it"

Can you pass this out in the hope that we can reach as many people as possible.

For your information, phone numbers beginning 09 are what is termed premium rate and the cost is higher than normal calls as it is used to cover the cost of providing the service. These numbers are the sort that are usually advertised for competitions and prize draws.

Contact Dave Cross at safeguarding@cornwallmethodists.org.uk

President and Vice President 2020

There is a podcast including the new President (Revd Richard Teal) and Vice-President (Mrs Carolyn Lawrence) of the Methodist Conference, a response to the Methodist Conference debate around race and a discussion about churches returning to worship.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/podcasts/the-methodist-podcast-episode-24/>

Methodist Church YouTube Channel

The Methodist Church has a YouTube Channel at

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MethodistChurchinGB>

Here you will find another instalment of the Big Church Sing – the exciting online worship event for all to enjoy. Get your singing voices ready, and join in on the YouTube at 4pm this Sunday.

Conference 2021

The Methodist Conference has elected the Revd Sonia Hicks to serve as President and Barbara Easton to serve as Vice-President, starting their year of office when the Representative Session of the Methodist Conference opens in Birmingham in June 2021. Sonia will be known to some of you as she has visited Falmouth & Gwennap Circuit in 2015 and her husband Revd Conrad Hicks who shared in the District's One Mission Roadshow in November 2019. (Note from Jacqui – As personal friends of ours, we are really happy for Sonia and Conrad!)



Worship

The following link is for a themed service provided by Singing the Faith - Beyond Exile: A service to celebrate a return to public worship

They have produced this resource to consider as means of celebration which can be adapted to suit your local situation. <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Meditation

Please check out the meditations provided by Revd Jo Smart. These reflective meditations can form part of your quiet time.

<https://www.cornwallmethodists.org.uk/services-and-online-resources>

Website

If you find anything amiss with the District website, or you would like to add any information, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for reading to the end!

Jacqui

Jacqui Liddicoat

District Administrator

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Methodist District

www.cornwallmethodists.org.uk