



Quarterly Newsletter



Andy Fyall
District Chair



Dear friends,

Welcome to our District Newsletter for December 2025 – February 2026

As I write, the season of Advent is almost upon us. The prophet Isaiah reminds us:

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." —Isaiah 9:2 (NIV)

Advent is a season of waiting but not the passive kind. It is a sacred, intentional time of holy expectation, where we quieten our hearts and prepare room for Christ, both in remembrance of His first coming in Bethlehem and in hopeful anticipation of His return in glory.

In the rush of December, it is easy to lose sight of the spiritual invitation Advent offers: to slow down, to listen, and to look forward. The world around us celebrates Christmas with noise and distraction, but Advent calls us into stillness and wonder.

Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the prophets all waited in their own way. Mary waited with a heart full of surrender. Joseph waited with quiet obedience. The shepherds waited without even knowing what was coming. And the prophets waited for generations, trusting in the promise of God's faithfulness.

Advent reminds us that God often works in the silence. That the darkness is not the end of the story. That the Light of the World has come and will come again.

This season, let us not rush to the manger. Let us journey slowly, intentionally, and prayerfully. Let our hearts echo the ancient cry: "Come, Lord Jesus." May we prepare Him room not just in our homes, but in our lives, our thoughts, our relationships, and our daily choices.

With every blessing,

Andy

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

In this season of Advent, awaken in us a deeper longing for Your presence. Help us to wait with hope, to serve with love, and to trust in Your promises. Prepare our hearts to receive You—not just as the baby in the manger, but as King and Saviour of our lives.

Amen.

Love God Love Others Make Disciples





Nottingham and Derby Methodist District

December 2025 - February 2026
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District Events between December 2025 - February 2026

Monday 8th December

Supernumeraries Christmas Gathering

- Join Andy Fyall and the District Team for a time of worship, feollowship and food.
- **Nuthall Methodist Church**
- **Time: 11:00 - 13:30**
- **Contact:** districtadmin@methodist-nd.org.uk

Thursday 22nd January

A District event to mark Holocaust Memorial Day

- 'A Show of Hands' - a solo performance by Bill Varnam. A story-telling and song experience to commemorate the Holocaust
- **Location: West Bridgford Methodist Church**
- **Time; 19:30 - 21:00**
- **Contact:** pa@methodist-nd.org.uk

Monday 2nd - Wednesday 4th February

Ministers' Retreat

- 'Mission and outreach for the world in which we live' led by Trey Hall, Connexional Lead for Evangelism & Growth
- **Location: Laude Abbey**
- All ministers booked on should have received confirmation of a place.
- Contact: pa@methodist-nd.org.uk

Save the Date

Saturday District Celebration (19:00 - 21:00)
7th March Location: Melbourne Methodist Church

Thursday Presbyteral Session of Synod (10:00 - 16:00)
12th March Location: Rivergreen Methodist Hub

Tuesday Reconciliation Group Training Day
24th March Location: Rivergreen Methodist Hub

Time: 10:00 - 15:00

Information and resourcing of the practicalities of being part of a District Reconciliation Group, using real life examples, appreciative listening and how to create reconciliation spaces effectively and efficiently.

If you are interested please contact
pa@methodist-nd.org.uk book onto the training day



Saturday District Gathering (Representative Synod)
25th April Location: Oldfield's Hall, Middle School
Uttoxeter ST14 7PL



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Resource for Circuits

Thursday 4th December

- **Reflective Line Management of Lay Employees in the Methodist Church**
- For first-time or long-time line managers offering a holistic approach and an exploration of good practice
- **Online: 09:30 – 16:30**
- [Eventbrite:](#)
- **Other dates and times available**

Tuesday 20th January

- **Lay Orientation Training Day**
- A day for new Lay Employees to meet, explore their role, understand Methodism and get to grips with key employment practices and much more!
- **Online: 10:00 – 15:00**
- [Eventbrite](#)

Tuesday 3rd February

- **Leadership Skills Training**
- A day exploring a wide range of leadership skills and styles.
- **Online: 10:00 – 15:00**
- [Eventbrite](#)

Tuesday 15th February

- **What makes online supervision good?**
- A CPD event for Reflective Supervisors in the Methodist Church in Great Britain..
- **Online: 09:30 – 12:30**
- [Eventbrite](#)

Art of Spiritual Accompaniment

This is an experiential course for both lay and ordained people exploring listening, prayer, discernment and accompanying others in the Christian life, organized by The Spirituality Network within the Diocese of Derby and the Nottingham and Derby Methodist District but open to all.

Dates 2026

7 February	
28 February	7 March
21 March	18 April
Summer Break	
4 July, (Retreat)	
5 September	19 September
3 October	17 October
7 November	21 November



If you are interested the separate leaflet on the Art of Spiritual Accompaniment' course which has been circulated to circuits.

'I would really recommend this course on the basis that it offers personal challenge and exploration as well as enabling you to have the skills to accompany others on their spiritual journeys. There is a strong emphasis on listening and it was helpful to develop listening skills by working in a triad. The sessions are informative as well as giving space for reflection and group work. There is much value to be gained in sharing with people from different denominations who each bring their own insights.

I am grateful to the District for the encouragement I received to do this course. After much thought and prayer someone said to me 'Just do it'. I am glad I did because it has opened up a new ministry for me.'

Rev Linda Williams,
Supernumerary from the Sherwood Forest Circuit



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Safeguarding Update - Safer Recruitment

I often get asked if there is a way that people who have been in roles for a long time can be safely recruited. We want to make sure that anyone who holds a role, whether paid or voluntary, has a clear picture of what the role entails, and is suitable.

There are four things you need to do to ensure this:

1. Carry out a DBS check at the appropriate level. You can find the flow chart to check this [here](#).
2. Access the [right level of training](#) for the role (see page 124)
3. Create a role description. Example role descriptions can be found on the [District website](#). You may want to ask the person in post to write up what their role consists of, so you have a clear picture of what they are already doing. This can then be collated with one of the templates online.
4. Identify a line manager to ensure they have someone to go to if they need help and support, and to carry out regular check ins.

Being thorough with our Safer Recruitment process is a major contributing factor to creating safer spaces for all, and protecting vulnerable groups. It also helps us to protect those volunteering in church roles. If in doubt, please do reach out to me for advice.

Rosie Clements (Regional Officer for Safeguarding / District Safeguarding Officer)

clementsr@methodistchurch.org.uk

District Message

Don't forget to visit the resources section on the District website for support with lay employment or property.

We would encourage you to contact our District Property Officer and Lay Employment Secretary for help and advice.

Email Cliff property@methodist-nd.org.uk

Email Clive employment@methodist-nd.org.uk

[Resources – Nottingham & Derby Methodist District](#)

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER FROM OUR DLES:

In line with Methodist Church Policy [CPD 438A \(5\)](#), before drawing up any proposal for a new appointment, or changing a contract in any way (including ending a fixed term contract), please contact Clive Teale employment@methodist-nd.org.uk for the latest guidance. This includes proposals for self-employed agents.





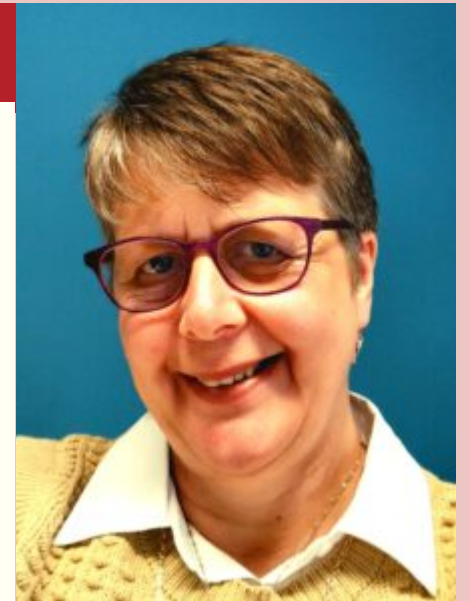
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New Places for New People

Hi, my name is Suzanne Morton, and I am the Nottingham and Derby New Places for New People Lead.

I wanted just to share with you some great ways the Methodist Connexion is supporting local church to reach out to those around them:

The New Places for New People fund is available to churches throughout the district to create new and innovative ways to take Jesus out to our local communities. Currently (until May 2026) Nottingham and Derby District have £198,907 to allocate to churches/circuits. So, what do you need to do?



The New Places for New People initiative seeks to bring Jesus into local neighbourhoods through small, intentional, open and innovative new spaces to meet people. Existing church venues can be used but key to New Places for New People is to engage with those who do not already know Jesus. This could be done in a HUGE variety of ways and in this format small often works better. Jesus made close friends with a group of fishermen who miraculously became his disciples. How GREAT would it be to meet a whole new group of people that one day you too could see as Jesus's disciples!!

The intention of the NPNP is to simply gather people, usually around a shared interest, and through intentional sharing allow them to go on a spiritual journey of discovery. How amazing is that!!!!

So, what do we offer you?

- 1.Funding
- 2.One to one support with discerning God's purpose and journey for you to share your faith and the good news of Christ
- 3.Ongoing one to one support to pray, discern and implement vision
- 4.The possibility of employing a pioneer to help you on this journey.

Interested?????. Then why not call me for a chat or drop me an email and see where God leads.

Contact Tel: 07398748422 Email: Suzanne.morton@methodist-nd.org.uk

Want to know more?

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/evangelism-growth/new-places-for-new-people/>

Suzanne Morton

(Part time District New Places for New People Lead /Part time District Faith Rooted Community Officer)



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Spotlight in a Circuit

*Newark and Southwell
Rev Langley Mackrell-Hey*

President's Visit

Visit from the President of Conference, accompanied by our District Chair, to North Muskham Methodist Church (the site of a hoped-for New Places for New People project facilitated by the sale of a chapel and joint investment with the community), led by presbyter-pioneer Rev Peter Hibberts. Lunch then was hosted by Balderton. Picture featuring our three Local Lay Pastors.



North End

Contemporary worship at North End Methodist Church in Newark. A unique offering.

Baby Basics

Southwell Methodist Church offers storage space for Hope Community Methodist Church's Baby Basic partnership. The project looks to support new mothers and families in poverty, seeking asylum, arriving to the UK as refugees, fleeing domestic abuse, trafficking & who are homeless or in temporary accommodation.





Celebration - Bishop Badges

BISHOP'S BADGES

Much to their surprise, three members of Brailsford Methodist Chapel were recently nominated for a Bishop's Badge by Brailsford All Saints vicar, Rev Bex Allpress.

Badges are awarded annually by the Bishop of Derby in recognition of Lay Ministry in two categories; 'Innovation' and 'Service'.

INNOVATION

Along with their four Anglican colleagues, Sue Leese (steward) and Jane Baker (treasurer) received theirs in recognition of their work as the 'Churches Together Team'.

Since its inception in September 2022, the aim has always been to facilitate community events where church and chapel can be seen working together with both individuals and groups in the community for the greater good of all.

Our events so far:

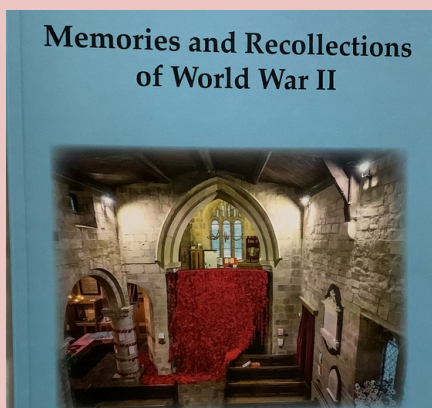
1 Christmas Tree Festival December 2022

2 Brailsford Bayeux to celebrate the Coronation April/May 2023:

An impressive creation 10.85m wide including 406 squares stitched/created by 292 people under expert guidance of local resident Laura.



The Brailsford Bayeux at All Saints Church



Book is a Collection of memories of WW2, from visitors to the Poppy Waterfall

3 Advent Doors Festival December 2023: 24 open doors each depicting a Christmas Carol

4 Remembrance Poppy Waterfall November 2024: 600+ poppies crafted throughout the year, draped from the internal bell tower at All Saints . Memories of the Second World War collected from visitors

5 VE Day Celebration : Exhibition plus Presentation in words and music. Published book of memories launched. All have meant hours upon hours of planning and creativity fostering a real sense of togetherness.

SERVICE

David Baker has joint membership. His badge is in recognition of his role as Bell Tower Captain at All Saints where he quietly and conscientiously encourages all ringers, both experienced and novice.

Badges were awarded by Bishop Libby in a joyous celebratory service at Derby Cathedral on Sunday 5 October.

And as a PS- We regularly worship together!

Sue Leese (Brailsford Chapel Steward)



Sue Leese, Bishop Libby Lane, Rev Nicola Briggs, David and Jane Baker

Next Circuit Spotlight

Grantham Vale of Belvoir

*If you have anything that you would like us to consider including on our newsletter,
email pa@methodist-nd.org.uk*

**Next Edition
March 2026 - May 2026**

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