



## District Newsletter – November 2020

### District Chair's Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

#### **We will remember them**

This is a time of reminder and remembrance of all that is important, and that all people are important. During October we were invited through One World Week to remember our connectedness to God, to the planet, and to all people; not least, we remember those who suffer poverty and discrimination of innumerable kinds, and recognise that whenever any aspect of creation is disrespected, or anyone is not treated as having equal worth, all are the less for it. At the start of November, we remember 'All Saints' and 'All Souls': those who have gone before us, showing us something of the way; we thank God for their love, witness and courage, and remember all who have died, including those dear to us, and those whose lives have been lost in the pandemic. Finally, on Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day, we recall those who have served and died or endured other unimaginable sacrifices, including in two world wars, ultimately in the cause of peace and a better world.

Even if our awareness and appreciation of life's precariousness, vulnerabilities and constraints has been sharpened through the pandemic, too easily we can forget what is important, or, through preoccupation or topsy-turvy values, ignore or disbar things or people of value, especially the vulnerable. The Disciples were guilty of this in Mark 10.13-16, when they rebuked those who brought children for Jesus to bless. Jesus was indignant: "the kingdom of God belongs to such as these". What is more, the young, the vulnerable, those on the edge, teach us something about the nature of God: "Truly I tell you: whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will never enter it." And he put his hands round them, and blessed them.'

At this time, not least in the midst now of a further lockdown, with all the attendant frustrations, isolation and fears, can we draw on our deepest memories and be open to the most pointed or poignant of reminders, including the witness of service and sacrifice that is widely evident in the present, to recognise again and grasp more fully all that is of true worth in God's eyes, to guide us in what we too should embody and reflect in our living and serving? Can we trust that God will meet us, even in the most painful of memories or in the most pressing of our present constraints, to heal and inspire, enabling us in turn to include, serve and bless, even as Christ included, served and blessed?

With my prayers for you all at this time, and wishing you every blessing,

The Revd Dr James Tebbutt



## **A Pastoral Letter from The President of the Conference to the Methodist People**

The Revd Richard Teal has written a pastoral message following the announcement of a second lockdown in England which can be read below:

Dear Friends

We are all devastated by the expected introduction of a second national lockdown in England as well as the ongoing restrictions imposed in Scotland and the firebreak that our sisters and brothers in Wales have been living under for the past couple of weeks. Scientific advice is being heeded to bring down the rising rate of the virus and its possible consequences. The introduction of the lockdown from Thursday in England may be necessary but its consequences will also be far reaching. There will undoubtedly be a serious setback for the economy, and people who are struggling financially and in numerous other ways will be greatly affected. It could prove to be a tipping point for many people. The poor and the vulnerable have and will continue to be hit the hardest. There is a feeling of hopelessness for many people.

Our National Health Service staff and other keyworkers are already tired through the outstanding service they have given to us all, particularly during these past few months and this second lockdown will be especially difficult for them. They need our continued support, encouragement and prayers.

Governments, all those in political life plus medical and scientific advisers are having to make very hard decisions on our behalf which, in a number of places, are far from popular. Whilst they rightly need our scrutiny, they also need our support, encouragement and prayers, that their decisions will help people's well-being.

One of our Methodist Presbyters commented to me recently that during this period she was trying to develop what she calls a 'sacrament of kindness'. I like that phrase very much. In the concerns of the moment we all need in our living to develop to each other a 'sacrament of kindness'. So much seems to be against this idea but it is something every single one of us could develop in our attitudes to ourselves, to other people and indeed the communities we serve.

Finally, as I write as the President of the Conference, I would be denying my role if I did not specifically mention something of our Faith. Bishop Leslie Newbiggin of blessed memory was once asked whether, as he looked to the future, was he optimistic or pessimistic? His reply was simple and straight forward 'I am' he said, 'neither an optimist nor a pessimist. Jesus Christ is risen from the dead!'. Therein lies our hope. The God who is with us in the worst of situations, even when the flame of hope seems very weak. Such is our faith and hope in the risen Christ. Not a hope which ignores the shadows of suffering, but a hope strong and secure in the assurance that love is at the heart of all things, that the eternal God is our refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms. The best of all is, God is with us.

A Prayer by Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

Let nothing disturb or dismay us, O God, for all things are passing and you alone are unchanging. All things are wrought in patience, O God, and those who possess you lack nothing. Our sufficiency, O God, is in you alone, now and always. Amen

## **Pastoral Letter to the Agricultural Community**

Please see attached on email the letter which has been circulated this month from the President, Revd Richard Teal, and Vice-President, Carolyn Lawrence.

## Argentina IEMA Partnership Link Group – update

After the recent appeal for donations for the IEMA to support covid-19 relief work we have received the letter below from Joan Wager on behalf of the Group.



Cumbria – Argentina Methodist Partnership

Report from the District Partnership Team October 2020



**GRACIAS!**

*“Our gratitude is immense for the generosity of your help with the families that IEMA is assisting...The money you have sent has benefitted very many families who give thanks with joy and gratitude.*

*Receive our warm affection and prayers for you’*

*Bishop Americo Jara Reyes*

The response to the appeal issued at the end of July, for money to enable our Methodist friends in Argentina to continue their work of supplying families in need with food and other essentials, was great! **We have been able to send just under £6,000**, given through Methodist Churches and Mission Communities in our District.

As well as the Covid 19, which is on the increase in Argentina, there are many issues of the economy, domestic violence, and human rights which affect our sisters and brothers in IEMA. Their request for financial help was a rare event. Our Partnership has always been based on mutuality and sharing. On this occasion we were able to give generously – and in return we have received messages and prayers of encouragement for our own situation. We are also encouraged by the way IEMA continues to work for the poor and dispossessed, and for their imaginative way of sustaining their communities of faith during ‘lockdown’.

So thank you to all who gave so generously - an encouragement to the Partnership Team because of the way it reflects our District’s commitment to this special partnership.

It had been intended that 2020 would be an active year of exchange visits, sharing in training opportunities in Argentina and Cumbria, and a further development in links between younger people. Covid 19 intervened! Rev James Tebbutt’s proposed visit in August had to be postponed. Nora Viacava, who coordinates FeMMA (the equivalent of MWiB) and is part of IEMA’s training team, should have been in Cumbria, and the programme to link Langwathby Primary School with a Methodist Primary School in Rosario is currently on hold. But enthusiasm to see all of this come to fruition remains high and there is ongoing contact between individuals with promises of meeting when we can.

Throughout the lockdown, Pastora Cristina Dinoto, from Mendoza, has posted a daily prayer on Facebook. These have been relevant, inspirational and sensitive to what people are facing. Here is an example .....

ENDING THE DAY. ...

It happens to all of us that we have days that we are well, encouraged, hopeful and at other times we say “ I can't anymore ”, and we feel discouraged, and the sigh escapes us: ‘how long O God?’

And that's when we feel your presence, we get settled in your words, and as fresh water that renews us, we remember a Bible verse with some of your promises, we gently begin to sing a praise and we are in your presence.

And what Paul says to the Romans, I take it for us today.

Rejoice in hope, show patience in suffering, persevere in prayer. Romans 12: 12

That's why we will pray:

Beloved Father, in the night of this day, when it seems that our whole being fails, Your Word, speaks to us of Hope, to persevere in prayer to be patient.

This weather is not easy, but we continue to trust that you renew our strength every day.

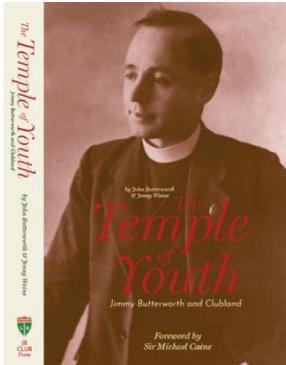
We put in your hands all those who are most vulnerable, in your hands those who are facing sickness, those who seek work, for them we pray and for us too.

Lord, may we rejoice in hope and may our strength be brand new tomorrow.

In the name of him who heals and gives new life to each one. Amen.

## Books to read

We have received information below about books which may be of interest, one below and one on email as a separate attachment. You will notice that the one referred to on the separate attached flyer is by James' father(!).



### ***THE TEMPLE OF YOUTH: Jimmy Butterworth and Clubland***

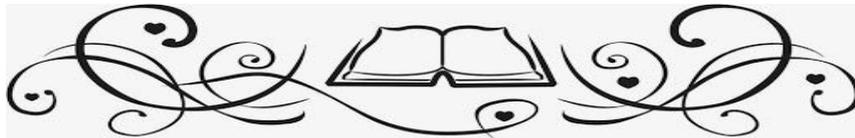
#### **ABOUT THE BOOK**

**Authors:** John Butterworth and Jenny Waine  
**Format:** Hardback; 416 pages; 120 photographs  
**ISBN:** 978-1-5272-5017-8 **JB Club Press, 2019**  
**Price 20.00** (including post & package)

For information or to order online,  
go to [www.jb-clubland.co.uk](http://www.jb-clubland.co.uk)  
or email: [press@jb-clubland.co.uk](mailto:press@jb-clubland.co.uk)

This inspirational biography tells the story of Reverend James Butterworth (1897 – 1977) founder and head of *Clubland*, the revolutionary and egalitarian youth venture he pioneered in Walworth, South London. Years before the welfare state came into being, or secondary education was available to all, the excellence of the buildings, and the quality of the training in a range of cultural and physical activities, empowered and enriched the lives of many thousands of young people, and made *Clubland* an international landmark in the history of church youth work.

Written to celebrate the centenary of the start of his extraordinary ministry in 1919, the volume spans the whole of Jimmy Butterworth's life. Born into poverty and mill labour on the moorland edge of Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire, the local Methodist chapel at Green Haworth was always central to Jimmy's existence. From drudgery in a local dyeing works at twelve, and the suicide of his father soon afterwards, he fought in France on the Somme and at Arras in WW1, returning to another struggle for admission to Didsbury Theological College and the ministry. Finally after graduation he was invited to Walworth Wesleyan Chapel, where he remained for more than half a century on his lifelong mission to expand the opportunities and horizons of those similarly dealt a hard start in life.



### **Coffee Shop Sunday - Coffee Break Prayers**

Trevor Gay from Coffee Shop Sunday, which is an initiative of the Coventry & Nuneaton Methodist Circuit, has sent the following information regarding some publications that have been produced during lock down.

Following the success of our first ***"Prayers in Lockdown"*** we have now published a second Booklet. This one is called ***"Coffee Break Prayers"*** - Again the booklet has been written virtually through collaboration with 29 authors.

Hard copies are available if you would like some and you can download it electronically. We ask if you use the booklet that you just acknowledge **Coffee Shop Sunday**. There is no copyright issue I take the view that God is the owner of all our prayers - Here is the electronic link.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/14Ut04KJU2OmEkzVfssa9KcAPxMJ\\_aPB/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/14Ut04KJU2OmEkzVfssa9KcAPxMJ_aPB/view?usp=sharing)

Let me know if you would like hard copies.

Ever blessing.

**Trevor Gay**

**Coffee Shop Sunday - *"Meeting God in an ordinary place"***

# CUMBRIA METHODIST DISTRICT DIARY

(Please note that in the District Directory some District meetings were advertised as starting at 9.30 am, which was an error. The relevant meeting times have been changed below to start at 10 am.)

## NOVEMBER 2020

- 2 – 5 Stationing Matching Group 1  
16 9:00 Strategy Steering Group – Zoom  
18 10:00 District Sabbatical Group – Zoom  
18–20 12:30 District Ministers’ Retreat – Zoom  
30–1 Dec Stationing Matching Group 2

## DECEMBER 2020

### JANUARY 2021

- 20-21<sup>st</sup> Superintendents’ Residential Meeting – Thornleigh, Grange or Zoom  
23 10:00 District Treasurers’ meeting – Stricklandgate, Kendal or Zoom  
26 10:00 District Policy Group – VTBC or Zoom  
27 10:00 Candidates Committee – Stricklandgate, Kendal or Zoom

### FEBRUARY 2021

- 1 10:00 Regional Learning Network Forum – Preston  
6 10:30 District Ministerial Development Review meeting – Stainton  
11 19:30 District Safeguarding Meeting  
26-28 Rev R Teal – Presidential Visit
- Friday evening – Ecumenical Leaders gathering
  - Saturday morning and afternoon – Rural Church workshop – Wigton Road, Carlisle
  - Sunday morning – preaching Solway Circuit
  - Sunday afternoon and evening – Tea and service – Stricklandgate, Kendal

### MARCH 2021

- 13 10:00 District Circuit Stewards’ Meeting – Keswick or Zoom  
17 09:30 Presbyteral Synod – Wigton Circuit  
17 14:00 Superintendents’ meeting – Wigton Circuit  
23 10:00 District Policy Group – Stainton

### APRIL 2021

- 13 10:00 Lay Employee Day – possibly Kendal  
24 9:30 Representative Synod – Western Fells Circuit  
28 19:30 District LP meeting with Bob Bartindale - Zoom

### MAY 2021

- 4-7 Diaconal Convocation  
8 10:00 District Stationing Briefing – Stainton

### JUNE 2021

- 7 10:00 Regional Learning Network Forum – Preston  
24-1 July Conference - Birmingham

### JULY 2021

- 8 10:00 District Policy Group

### SEPTEMBER 2021

- 11 9:30 Representative Synod – South Lakes Circuit

### OCTOBER 2021

- 9 10:00am District Local Preachers’ Meeting – Carver Uniting Church, Windermere?

*This has been sent to Ecumenical Representatives, District Officers, Ministers, Supernumerary Ministers, Lay workers, Circuit Stewards, Circuit Administrators, and others who have subscribed to this Newsletter. Please feel free to circulate this among your churches and to others who may find any of these items of interest. If anyone would like to be added to the circulation list, please contact the District Administrator, Carolyn Dickinson.*

The next issue of the Newsletter will be December and any information for this to be sent to District Administrator, Carolyn Dickinson by **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November.**

<p>Chair of District: The Revd Dr James N Tebbutt Telephone: 01768 866342 Email: <a href="mailto:cumbriamethodistchair@outlook.com">cumbriamethodistchair@outlook.com</a></p>	<p>District Administrator/Chair's PA: Carolyn Dickinson Telephone: 07727 415400 Email: <a href="mailto:cumbriamethodistdistrict@outlook.com">cumbriamethodistdistrict@outlook.com</a></p>
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