



NORTH WEST ENGLAND METHODIST DISTRICT

NWED Weekly News

Your weekly newsletter from the North West England District.

4th December 2024

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This week's newsletter includes:

- **News**
- **Good News Stories**
- **Advent Resources**
- **Events and Courses**
- **Christian Aid update**
- **Job Opportunities**

[News](#)

1) Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

The Catholic Bishops' Conference in England and Wales have set up an e-campaign so that people can easily send a (pre-written) letter to their local MPs re the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, which is up for renewal in March 2025. If not renewed, it will not be

possible to reclaim the VAT on works to listed church buildings, which will have a massive negative financial impact. The resources can be found [here](#). If you choose to use this text to send in a personalised letter, please consider copying in Jo Warren, the advisor at the Bishop's conference, so she knows that you have sent it. Her email is josephine.warren@cbcew.org.uk.

2) Fairhaven Methodist Church in Lytham St Anne's have 50 **large plastic stackable chairs** that they are giving away, and 40 children's chairs. If you are interested please contact Michaela by email at- Michaela.barker@methodist.org.uk.

Good News Stories

Greater Manchester Plus Mission Area

Central Hall Manchester has been recognised as a 'Church of Sanctuary' as part of the Manchester City of Sanctuary and City of Sanctuary UK networks. Read more about what this means [here](#).

Lancashire Mission Area

1) The Rev. Mark and Sarah Jason took part in the 5K 'Santa Dash' on Saturday 30th November to raise funds for Pendleside Hospice. Read the story [here](#).

2) Warton Messy Christmas

Rev Emma told us the story of the angels visiting the shepherds in Bethlehem on that first Christmas night. We had lots of fun doing a variety of pre Christmas crafts based on this story including making marshmallow angels, creating stained glass candles, making bun case shepherds, and hand print angels. During the afternoon everyone also made a Christingle. We ended the session by lighting our Christingles and then singing 'This little light of mine' holding our lighted Christingles in the air as a reminder to all of us that we are to shine our light for Jesus sharing His love with everybody we meet.

Liverpool Plus Mission Area

Dinner Church meets once a month in Anfield at Homebaked Bakery. For us, faith, food and fun are a winning combination! Find out more [here](#).

Advent



There are lots of wonderful events happening in our District across Advent and New Year, which we are compiling into a 'What's On' poster. To view the poster and find events in your Mission Area, [click here](#).

If you have a festive event in your Circuit, please do send them in to us. We will be sharing an updated version of this poster throughout Advent.

Advent Reflections

Week 1 of our District reflections, which link to the Connexional 'Hush the Noise' theme, can be found [here](#). They are also posted daily on our [Facebook page](#).

Events

The Learning Network

- The Encounter course is starting in February 2025. There are three taster evenings planned for January where people can come, ask questions and find out more. Find out more about Encounter [here](#).
- Circuit Steward training, on MCBX, is designed for circuit stewards to reflect on their role and responsibilities. You can find out more about this course [here](#).

Sanctuary UK Course

Sanctuary UK offers simple, free resources that help churches to start conversations around mental health and equip them to welcome those of us who are struggling. The course is about reducing mental health stigma; raising awareness and building communities that are safe. The core resource is The Sanctuary Course - developed in consultation with mental health professionals, theologians and Christians with lived experience - available free on their [website](#). Please contact Lisa Yates at lisa@sanctuarymentalhealth.org if you'd like to chat about how the course could be used in your context.

Youth Worker Conference

Save the date: 8th March 2025 at Roundthorn Hotel, Penrith

Organised by the Carlisle Diocese

The day will encompass training, time for ministry and to see you're not alone. The booking will be out early January with the range of seminars from lego church, connecting with your local schools and behaviour management.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service

You are warmly invited to a 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service' with Andy Flannagan on Sunday 19th January 2025 at Hoole United Reformed Church, Hoole Road, Hoole, CH2 3NT. The Service will take place at 3pm and will be followed by some refreshments. All are welcome! To find out more about Andy Flanagan please follow this [link](#).

Christian Aid news

Alastair Johnston has recently joined the Christian Aid team, as the new Church Engagement and Fundraising Officer for Cheshire, Staffordshire and the Wirral. You can find out more about Alastair and his role [here](#).

Job Opportunities

Is God asking something new from you? Could one of these roles be it? Please click on the hyperlinked roles below to find out further information.

- [Pioneer Innovator, South West Cumbria United Area](#) (full time).
- [Circuit Safeguarding Officer, North Liverpool and South Sefton Circuit](#) (5 hours per week).

Contact Us

The deadline for sending your stories and events in to us is 12pm every Tuesday. Please send all content to admin@nwedmethodists.org.uk.