



North West England District Weekly News

23 June 2026

A PDF downloadable copy of this newsletter is available [here](#).

District News

Methodist Conference 2026

We pray this week for the Methodist Conference, the governing body of the Methodist Church. Meeting once a year, it provides a forum for prayerful reflection and decision-making on issues that shape the life of the Church, as well as matters that impact the wider community, the nation, and the world. We pray for all those attending and participating in various ways, and we pray for the discussions and decisions that will be made.

All public sessions of the 2026 Methodist Conference will be live-streamed from the Conference Hall and can be viewed on [this page](#). All sessions will be available to watch again, business sessions being available only until 2 August 2026.

Ordination services at their different venues will be live-streamed separately. [Find details here](#).

District Directory

We are launching a new online system for this year's directory, and emails will be sent later this week to Superintendents and Circuit Administrators to update the details we hold for each Circuit. Please do look out for these and contact the admin team should you have any questions. This new system is hopefully going to be easier for Circuits to update and for the District to collate. **We would appreciate responses by the end of July.** Thank you in advance.

Key District Email Addresses

Please see the below reminder of key contacts. Please do contact the team if you have any queries, big or small.

Admin Team: admin@nwedmethodists.org.uk

Property Team: property@nwedmethodists.org.uk

Grants Team: grants@nwedmethodists.org.uk

Data Protection Team: gdpr@nwedmethodists.org.uk

Digital Digest: How to Write Church Emails People Actually Read

Do you ever hear people say they didn't know about an event, a call for volunteers, or change in church life, even though it was announced several times? If church emails aren't being opened and read, important information can easily be missed. This week's 'Digital Digest' explores how to create emails that capture attention, encourage engagement, and help more people stay informed and involved.

[Read the digest](#)

July District Online Worship

Our next Online Worship will take place on Sunday 12 July at 6.30pm, with the theme of Disability Pride Month. We are delighted that we will have Kai Bland, Student Deacon, sharing a message with us. For the Zoom code (which remains the same), please email prayer@nwedmethodists.org.uk or direct message us on Facebook.



Please note that Online Worship is taking a break in August, and will resume on the second Sunday of each month from Sunday 13 September.

Safeguarding News

For all those with responsibility for undertaking Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks within the Church

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Safeguarding in Faith Communities has launched an inquiry into the current definition of regulated activity relating to children in England and Wales. The inquiry seeks evidence from those with experience of safeguarding within faith settings to determine whether the existing framework adequately reflects the realities of faith-based activities, and whether changes are needed.

A frequent question concerns determining the correct level of DBS check for volunteers and workers, particularly where roles may constitute regulated activity with children. The definition of regulated activity is central to these decisions. It considers:

- The nature of the activities undertaken.
- How frequently the activities are carried out.
- The setting in which the work takes place.
- The level of contact and supervision involved when working with children or adults at risk.

However, concerns have been raised that the present framework may contain gaps and inconsistencies and so evidence is being sought to help understand whether the current framework appropriately reflects the realities of faith-based activity and whether reform is needed.

You can contribute to this evidence gathering by completing the survey [here](#). The deadline is 10 July 2026.

Further information is available here:

[All-Party Parliamentary Group on safeguarding in faith communities website](#)

[Guidance: regulated activity with children in England and Wales](#)

The NWED Safeguarding Team

Events

Reflect

An independent group within Methodism which seeks to promote spirituality and spiritual practices for the Methodist people. There are two opportunities coming up soon, further information available below. Please contact Gill Dascombe with any enquiries by email at gilldascombe@hotmail.com

Online Quiet Morning on the
'Practice of the Presence of God'
- 10 or 18 July

Online course on Spiritual
Practices

Greater Manchester Plus

2026 Hong Kong Sunday / Prayer Gathering Liturgy

The below liturgy has been prepared by a group of Hongkongers from different countries, and could be used by churches in June or July.

English liturgy

Hongkongese liturgy

Lancashire

The Good Grief Festival is coming to Blackpool

Venues across the town | Thursday 8 – Sunday 11 October 2026

Good Grief Blackpool recognises that while grief is part of all our lives, many people struggle to speak about it or feel unsure how to support others. This festival, part of a national programme, will use creative and community-based events to gently open up conversations about death, loss and bereavement.

Our hope is to reduce stigma, strengthen compassionate communities and connect the support that already exists locally.

Faith communities have a vital role to play. You bring deep experience of accompanying people through loss, holding space for remembrance, and offering hope and meaning. We warmly invite you to get involved by:

- Hosting a simple event, reflection or conversation
- Offering your space as a welcoming venue (e.g. a café or place to gather and watch national broadcasts)
- Contributing music, readings, prayer or storytelling
- Attending or supporting training and festival activities
- Simply being present alongside others in your community

Together, we can help ensure that no one carries grief alone, and that compassion, hope and shared understanding are at the heart of Blackpool's life.

Please contact Rev. Helen Houston, Trinity Hospice chaplain, for more information on (01253) 358881.

Resources

Eco Church Tips

Looking after wildlife in the heat

Times of drought and dryness can be dangerous for wildlife. Provide water for birds and insects - put a dish of water out to help wildlife stay hydrated. Insects, small mammals, birds, and even badgers, foxes, and deer could benefit. A stone in a plant saucer helps bees to perch and drink without drowning. These small actions make a big difference and are just some of the ways we can live out our calling to care for God's creation. See [this A Rocha blog](#) on looking after wildlife in the heat for more warm weather eco tips.

Good News Stories

Stolen Torah scrolls found outside church

Two sacred Torah scrolls that had been stolen during a burglary at a synagogue in Salford, Manchester have been returned after being left outside a Methodist Church.

The Revd Dr Joanne Cox-Darling, Superintendent, Manchester Circuit, arrived at Whalley Range Methodist Church early on the afternoon of the 11 June to find two Torah scrolls left at the front door.

[Read the story here](#)

BBC Pause for Thought: 'Best-case scenario'

Revd Dr Jo Cox-Darling speaks on this week's theme 'making the most of the light'.

[Listen here](#)

News from Connexion

[June 2026 Property Matters](#)

[New Churches Update - June 2026](#)

Vacancies

[Find current internal vacancies listed here.](#)

External:

Deputy Chair of the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee (MCPOC) - Lay volunteer position. [Find out more here.](#)

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

[View email in browser](#)

[update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)