



## **NORTH WEST ENGLAND METHODIST DISTRICT**

# NWED Weekly News

Your weekly newsletter from the North West England District.

11th March 2025

### [In This Issue](#)

This week's newsletter includes:

- **District Spotlight**
- **District News**
- **Events**
- **Resources**
- **Good News Stories**
- **Job Opportunities**

### [District Spotlight: Meet Linda Locke](#)

#### **District Safeguarding Officer (Liverpool)**

Hello, I'm Linda Locke. I retired early from teaching Science in Liverpool Secondary schools for over thirty years in 2017, where I had roles as Head of Year, Assistant Headteacher and, latterly, SENDCo (special educational needs coordinator). I was also the school safeguarding

lead for several years, working closely with children's services, local authorities, police and children's support charities. It was an insight into the trauma and impact experienced by victims that instilled in me the very clear need to have safeguarding front and centre of organisations.

I have been a member of Farnworth Methodist Church in the Sankey Valley Circuit since I was a teenager and play an active role as a worship leader, steward, pastoral visitor and editor of our church magazine.

My faith is very important to me, and I see my roles of Circuit and District safeguarding officer as a way of serving the Methodist Church to help all who worship and meet in our churches, pioneer groups and house groups experience God's love in safe spaces.

In my leisure time I enjoy nothing better than socialising with friends and family whether it be the cinema, theatre, meals out or my personal favourite, live music events. There's nothing like singing along with a good band or singer, belting out the classics from classic rock to Kylie, Pet Shop Boys to the orchestra at the Phil. It must be the inner Methodist in me! Recent years have seen me volunteering as one of the Pastors at the Creamfields dance Music festival. A very worthwhile weekend supporting young festival goers but also a chance to experience music in another form.



## District News

### Lent 2025 Reflections

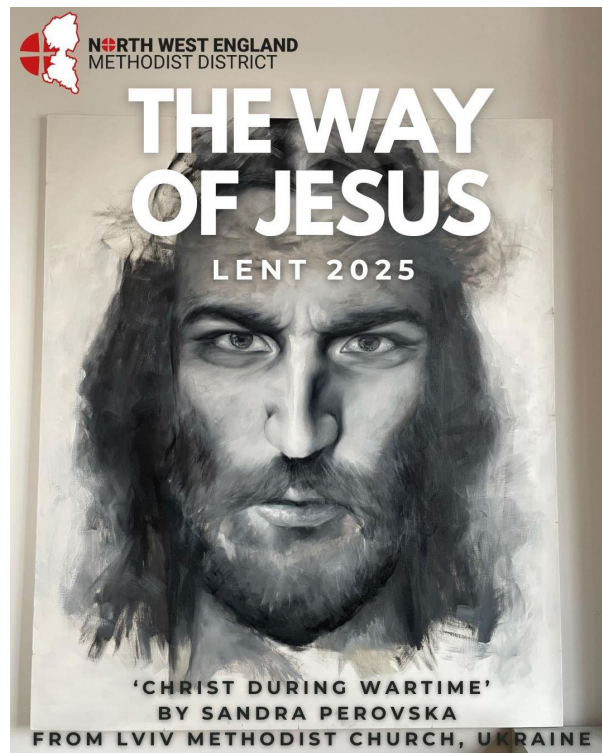
We are posting daily Lent reflections on our [Facebook page](#). The reflections for week 3 of Lent are also available on our [website here](#).

### We are recruiting for an additional District Property Secretary (DPS).

Details of this post can be found on our website [here](#).

### Data Protection Annual Checklist Update

Towards the end of this week, an email will be sent to Superintendents and Circuit Administrators / Managers, explaining the process and what is required.



1 - Christ during Wartime image

## Events

### District Lay Employee Gatherings

**LAST CHANCE** to book onto this year's lay employee gatherings for all lay employees in the NWED! We need time to send welcome packs or order lunches, so please do book on now if you've not already done so.

Online:

[NWE District lay employee gathering online Registration, Wed 26 Mar 2025 at 10:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Or in Leyland:

[NWE District lay employee gathering - Leyland Registration, Tue 1 Apr 2025 at 10:30 | Eventbrite](#)

### **Women's History Month Heritage Talk**

Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum are hosting Heritage Talk via Zoom on Saturday 15th March 2025 at 11am. Their Heritage Officer, Amy Wilkinson, will mark Women's History Month by exploring the lives of inspiring women in the Primitive Methodist movement. Find out more [here](#).

### **Lancashire Mission Area**

1) **Creative Arts** at Ashton Methodist Church on Saturday 15th March. Find out more [here](#).

2) **Quiet Day for Lent taking place at Garstang Methodist Community Hub, Park Hill Road PR3 1EL on Friday 21st March from 10am.**

The day will be led by Deacons Pru Cahill and Maggie Patchett, and local preacher Jane Close. Guided reflection, prayer, stillness, craft in a peaceful setting. No need to book. No charge but donations welcome. Drinks and biscuits provided. Please bring your own packed lunch. There are also a number of cafes nearby. Nearest parking opposite St Thomas CofE Church, PR3 1PA (£3.50 for the day).

3) **Bipolar Awareness Month Coffee Morning**

At Layton Methodist Church, we are committed to being an open and welcoming space for all. Last month, we proudly raised over £200 for Blackpool Pride, reaffirming our dedication to celebrating diversity and supporting our community.

This March, in recognition of **Bipolar Awareness Month**, we invite you to join us for a **Coffee Morning on Saturday, 22nd March 2025, from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM**. Proceeds from the bake sale will go to **Bipolar UK**, helping to support those living with bipolar disorder.



**Free entry – everyone welcome!**



**Where?** Layton Methodist Church, Westcliffe Drive, Blackpool, FY3 7DZ



**Follow us on Facebook:** @LaytonMethodist

Because at the heart of our Methodist mission is **inclusivity, love, and community**. We can't wait to see you there!



**NORTH WEST ENGLAND**  
METHODIST DISTRICT

The **Methodist Church**  
Learning Network

Come refill  
your cup...

10.30am  
-3.30pm

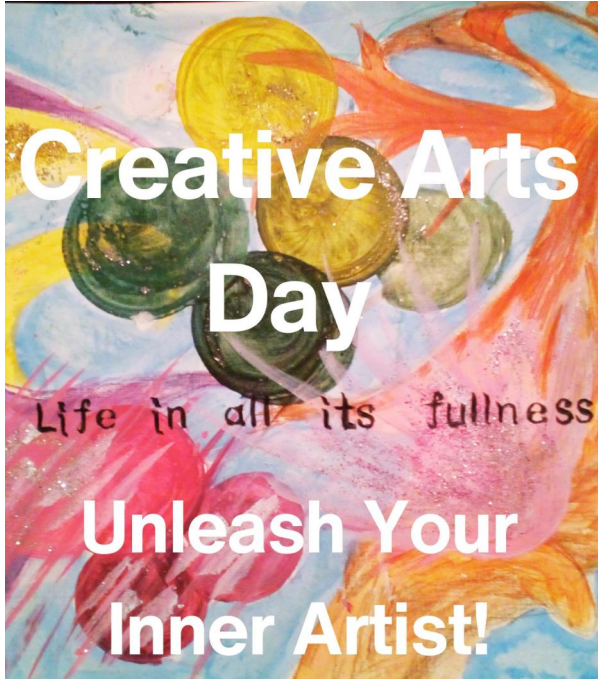
Weds 26th  
March  
online

Lay employee  
gatherings

or Tues  
1st April  
Leyland MC

Click on chosen date above to book  
For more details contact Kristie on [evек@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:evек@methodistchurch.org.uk)

2 - District lay employee gatherings



**Creative Arts**  
**Day**

Life in all its fullness

**Unleash Your**  
**Inner Artist!**

Join us for a day of creativity and exploration at  
Ashton Methodist Church  
on Saturday, 15th March from 10 AM to 3 PM.  
This event is open to everyone, regardless of skill .

3 - Creative Arts Day



4 - Bipolar Awareness Month

## Resources

### Exploring Ordained Ministry

Considering Ministry? Could it be Ordained Ministry? Have you ever felt God nudging you to serve the Church? Has anyone ever suggested to you that you would make a good minister?

Come and find out more about:

- Being an Ordained person
- How to Candidate for Ordained Ministry
- What is included in the Training Pathways
- What a minister gets “paid”

Not sure if this day is for you? Have a conversation with a friend, your Minister or Superintendent Minister. Please be aware that attending this exploration day does not oblige you to become a Methodist Minister! Sign up [here](#).

### Pensions and Housing Webinars

The webinar is an opportunity to get an overview of what's on offer in terms of the Methodist Ministers Housing Scheme and also a general understanding of the pensions provision. You can come at any point in the lead up to retirement and more than once if that's helpful.

29 July 2025 from 10am to 12pm - click [here](#) to book

25 November 2025 from 2pm to 4pm - click [here](#) to book

Find an update about a **Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme** user survey [here](#).

### **Citizens UK - Churches' Community of Practice 2025 - 13 March**

**Join the Churches' Community of Practice first Learning Thursday of 2025 exploring how Community Organising can help us reconnect with the fundamental WHY of 'being church'.**

Churches can be good at the 'how' of supporting people in our communities, especially to mitigate hunger, loneliness and homelessness. But how often do we re-examine the WHY of our activities? Organising strives for a realistic understanding of 'the world as it is', in order to work towards a vision of 'the world as it should be'. This is deeply theological and prophetic. This session will explore what this means in our current context, replete as it is with multiple crises and existential threats. We will draw on traditions of lament, 'staying with the trouble', and enacting hope. We will hear stories of how Organising is enabling congregations to grow into who they are called to be, and think about actions we can take in our own institutions to increase our impact.

Sign up [here](#).

### **Greater Manchester Plus Mission Area**

Central Hall Manchester's March reflection is available to watch [here](#).

### **Methodist Women in Britain**

The MWiB Spring Newsletter is now available to read [here](#), alongside their prayer diary [here](#).

## CASAI marks Women's World Day of Prayer and International Women's Day

On Friday 7th March, some of the CASAI (Church Action on Sexual Abuse Issues) family came together to share in both the World Day of Prayer and International Women's Day.

The CASAI office is based in Warrington, Cheshire. We are one of several 'hubs' in the North West that our Survivor family can come to and have space to laugh, cry, sing, pray, share, be still, be safe, be loud, be quiet, be heard, be supported, be healed, be fed, be ourselves, be someone else.....just be.

On Friday we prayed, sang, laughed, expressed gratitude, uplifted each other, ate pizza and cake and made our own flower garlands. We heard some life wisdom from the Maori women of the Cook Islands and shared their traditional greeting.

We tried our hands at Kintsugi which is a Japanese art that repairs broken pottery with gold, rendering a new piece that is more exquisite than it was before the break. We did it in the context of our bowl representing ourselves and God's love being the glue and paint which heals our brokenness.

We checked in with other women around the country for a word or two of wisdom, and shared daffodils amongst our CASAI family and to women in the wider office block where we are based.

It was great afternoon, but we know there is a serious side to International Women's Day because sadly a lot of women across the world are killed, abused, oppressed and marginalised for being born a woman.

The words of the song "I am woman " written by Helen Reddy in the 60s still have relevance today.

We pray to God for all the women we know who are still suffering ....for all the women who have no hope....

for all the women who died for our freedom and all the women we know and love 



Amen







## Job Opportunities

### **Internal:**

We are recruiting for a District Property Secretary, details for which are available [here](#).

Current Circuit vacancies can be viewed [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](mailto:admin@nwedmethodists.org.uk).