

## Information eXchange 6 June 2011

All information herein is intended for use in churches in whatever form the user thinks fit. If printed, an acknowledgement of source should be included.

### SCAM E-mail warning – from Methodist E-news May 2011

A scam email is being sent to many in the Methodist Church in Britain. The email claims to come from Bishop I Paul of the Pakistan Methodist Church and contains a link to a professional-looking website.

Steve Pearce, World Church partnership coordinator for Asia and the Pacific, has confirmed that it is a fake. The Methodist Church in Pakistan became part of the United Church of Pakistan in 1970. Whoever is sending this email is probably trying to make a claim on some of the assets of the United Church - a common scam.

Please do not respond to it and ensure that others are aware it is a scam. You can find out more about the Church of Pakistan [here](#).

### The Week Ahead – 15<sup>th</sup> April

#### Two Government Consultations

The Government wants to know what people think of the Equalities Act 2010 as part of their “Red Tape Challenge”. You can have your say [here](#), and also read what other people have said.

#### Equalities

Equality regulations are designed to help ensure fairness in the workplace and in wider society. They include regulations and laws on discrimination and harassment.

You can find the Equality Act 2010 [here](#)

Tell us what you think should happen to this Act and why, being specific where possible:

- Should they be scrapped altogether?
- Can they be merged with existing regulations?
- Can we simplify them – or reduce the bureaucracy associated with them?
- Have you got any ideas to make these regulations better?
- Do you think they should be left as they are?

The Government has also launched a consultation on civil partnerships conducted on religious premises. The Government's [press release](#) makes the point that the proposals will not force faith groups to host civil partnerships in their premises against their wishes. (by 23<sup>rd</sup> June)

## Methodist E-News, March 2011

### Refreshment for children and youth workers



Are you involved in work with children or young people or in the community? Then - whether you are paid or voluntary - The Well is for you.

The Well is a network for all working with children and young people associated with the Methodist Church. It includes advice and guidance, access to resources and training, invitations to retreat days and conferences as well as updates on news and the opportunity to share ideas and support with others working in the same field.

Joining The Well network is free. [Click here](#) to register your details.

### Methodist Heritage online



The new Methodist Heritage website [www.methodistheritage.org.uk](http://www.methodistheritage.org.uk) is now live, including an online version of Methodist Heritage Handbook. Complete with photo slideshows, interactive maps and the potential for adding events to the calendar, it provides a vibrant new platform for promoting visits to the heritage sites of the Methodist Church. There are also sections relating to conserving and accessing Methodist archives as well as researching the Church's history.

Whilst there you can [sign up](#) to receive the Spring 2011 issue of Heritage News, the Methodist heritage newsletter.

As the Methodist Heritage Officer Jo Hibbard works to develop and promote the Methodist Church's heritage sites across Britain. This involves plenty of travel and Jo is [blogging her experiences](#) – her encounters with the dedicated volunteers who staff these special places and her disco

### The £1 a day challenge



Over 1.4 billion people live in extreme poverty, surviving £1 a day or less. MRDF is proud to be a partner of Live Below The Line – a global initiative where ordinary people are sponsored to live on £1 a day for a working week. It will be an eye-opening experience and the sponsorship raised will enable some of the world's most vulnerable people to feel more secure about where their next meal is coming from.

MRDF is hoping to get lots of their supporters involved in Live below the

Line between March and May. In the meantime Anna (from the MRDF office) decided to have a go at living below the line. You can find out more and read her blog [here](#).

### **Church gives thumbs down to government's alcohol "responsibility deal"**



The Methodist Church has criticised the Government's "responsibility deal" to tackle alcohol abuse, saying that it prioritises the drinks industry over the vulnerable.

Rachel Lampard, public issues team leader for the Methodist Church, said, "We are totally unconvinced that the Government's proposed 'responsibility deal' on alcohol regulation will be effective in reducing the problem of harmful drinking."

The deal covers voluntary agreements with the drinks industry on matters such as promotions and labelling. Six medical organisations, including the BMA and Alcohol Concern, have walked away from this deal on the grounds that it favours the drinks industry, and places no limits on pricing or advertising.

"We have an opportunity to reverse the devastating effects of years of under-regulation of the drinks market," she continued. "Pledges to put alcohol unit values on labels and promote responsible drinking are likely to be totally undermined if not accompanied by limits to advertising and a broader rethink of alcohol pricing. If the Government means to keep its promises around harm reduction, alcohol policy should be informed strongly by medical evidence and not sidelined by the pressures of the industry."

[Click here](#) for more information.

### **Methodist E-News, April 2011**

#### **New Methodist website for children and young people**



A new website from the Methodist Church is offering resources for children, young people, parents and youth workers.

[www.childrenandyouth.org.uk](http://www.childrenandyouth.org.uk) has age-appropriate sections offering stories, ideas and advice for children and young people themselves as well as specialist sections for youth and children's workers.

"This isn't just another website about working with young people," said Penny Fuller, the Methodist Church's children and youth development officer. "It's a hub of resources for the whole Church as we join children and young people on their journey of faith. It's a place where children and young people can find advice and support as they live out their discipleship in the classroom, on the playground and in the high street."

The website also has a special section dedicated to parents, with guidance and information for parenting children of all ages on topics ranging from bereavement to relationships.

### Resources for church magazines



Church and circuit magazines and websites have a vital role to play in the life of the Connexion, but it can be hard to find good quality Christian material to fill them.

The Christian magazine resource Parish Pump will now feature more Methodist content via The Foundery. Each month Methodist subscribers will have access to the full range of Parish Pump content, which includes inspirational material as well as children's pages, news, humour, in addition to specific Methodist material.

Access to the Parish Pump is by annual subscription. Click [here](#) for a great introductory offer available only to Methodist subscribers.

For more details [click here](#).

### Methodist E-News May 2011.

#### A Gift of Remembrance



*A Gift of Remembrance* is a new booklet offering reflections on death, dying, mourning and loss. It includes Bible passages, prayers and reflections from a variety of authors, including John Donne, Anne Bronte and Major Malcolm Boyd, who was killed in action in France in 1944. The booklet is ideal for pastoral care and chaplaincy and people are encouraged to share it with friends and family who are mourning.

It's the latest in the highly successful A Gift of... series and can be purchased from [Methodist Publishing](#) at the price of £5 for 50 copies (plus postage and packing).

### The handwritten Bible



In the Manchester District's Hyde and Denton Circuit, two Bible passages were divided up between the six churches, and each chose their own method of writing. Some gave the job to a single writer: most used as many people as possible; one section is written in Chinese! The Denton MP and his two children wrote a verse for one church. Another church chose to fill up their pages with an illustration down the side of one page, a pen drawing of the church, and on the other page and a colour picture at the end.

One of the passages was 2 Kings 22, the start of the reign of Josiah over Judah. The picture for the beginning of the chapter was designed and painted by Emma, a member of one of the churches. Emma has epilepsy and Asperger's Syndrome. The chapter describes Josiah coming to the throne after nearly 60 years of 'bad' kings. The Law had been hidden, but was rediscovered during a Temple clear out. The

picture shows Josiah's adjutant-general reading the scroll to the King; the title of the chapter (2 Kings 22) is written on the scroll.

What is your church or circuit doing? [Click here](#) to discover more about the handwritten Bible project.

### **Methodist Church helps to launch the JustPay campaign**

(Note: - The minimum wage is about £5-90/hr; the living wage is £7-80/hr outside London - JBG)



President of the Conference the Revd Alison Tomlin, announced that the Methodist Church will use its influence as an investor to urge companies pay the Living Wage. The Methodist Church will from September pay all workers at least the Living Wage – the minimum wage required for a person to live and participate in society.

To a Westminster Central Hall packed with community activists celebrating ten years of the London Living Wage, Alison said: "A company cannot say with integrity it believes its workers are its most important asset and not pay them enough to live on. A politician cannot with integrity say they believe in the family values while not challenging pay levels that ensure some people must work 60+ hours a week merely to meet their basic needs. The Living Wage is an active expression of our belief that human work and endeavour is a spiritually significant thing."