



## News from **The Methodist Church**

**July 2016**

### **Methodist Conference 2016**

#### **First anniversary of the Safeguarding Past Cases Review**

Last week marked the first anniversary of the apology to survivors and victims of abuse, and the publication of *Courage, Cost & Hope* - the report on the Past Cases Review (PCR),

There is an update on the progress made so far including work with a survivors' reference group to ensure that all policies and guidelines or training materials would be informed by a survivor/victim perspective.

A pilot programme of structured supervision for ministers has begun in two districts to ensure that there is appropriate accountability and support in terms of safe practice. Lessons learnt from this will be brought to the 2017 Conference for the implementation of the supervision programme across the whole Connexion.

There is also a special prayer:

For those who are abused and those who abuse;  
for those who are careless about others  
and those who are careful;  
for those who offer guidance through the dark and those  
who endeavour to safeguard the vulnerable: good Lord, we pray.  
Good Lord, give hope to the hurt  
and a sense of your love and rightness.  
May we all be led into safe and sound living.  
Give us your strength for today, your hope for tomorrow  
and the light of your love to guide us in all things.  
Amen.

**Connexional News is compiled by Rev Andy Fyall**

Any suggestions for items should be sent to Andy by 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2016

The Methodist Conference opens at Westminster Central Hall, London at the end of June.  
Please remember the Conference in your prayers.

Among the items on the week long agenda are:  
Connexional Allowances Committee Review of Allowances 44  
Action for Children  
Conference Arrangements  
Methodist Forces Board  
Ecumenical Report  
Methodist Homes (MHA)  
Methodist Independent Schools Trust (MIST)  
All We Can – Methodist Relief and Development  
Connexional Allowances Committee  
Larger Than Circuit  
Report of the Presbyteral Session Business Committee  
Stationing Committee  
Committee on Methodist Law and Polity  
Methodist Ministers' Housing Society  
Statement of Connexional Finances  
Methodist Diaconal Order General Report  
3Generate 2015 – Methodist Children and Youth Assembly  
The Methodist Church Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment

Remember especially those who are to be ordained on Conference Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July and the induction of the new President of Conference, Rev Roger Walton, and Vice-President, Rachel Lampard.

## ***Faith groups' dismay at UK Government boycott of UN disarmament meeting***

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May the UN Open-ended Working Group completed its second session on working out how to bring in new treaties that could lead to multi-lateral disarmament.

This intergovernmental meeting was endorsed by the UN General Assembly and is supported by 138 of nations and is being boycotted by the UK Government.

In 1968 a deal was struck and the five countries including the UK who already possessed the bomb promised to work towards complete disarmament and in return the other states promised not to develop their own nuclear weapons. 48 years later the UK is planning to buy a new generation of nuclear armed submarines and our commitment to disarmament appears hollow.

Revd Steve Wild, President of the Conference, commented: "It is now time to take disarmament seriously. Agreement on a verifiable and effective treaty leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons would demonstrate our faith in co-operation over threat, hope over fear, life over death. As people of faith we believe that threat of use of weapons of mass destruction is inherently wrong regardless of who holds them. The continued use of this threat by the UK is unnecessary and counterproductive."

Dr Jill Barber, Vice President of the Methodist Church, commented: "It is shameful that our government has voted against the process that is currently taking place within the United Nations. Although we have a UK Disarmament Ambassador based in Geneva, the UK chose not to be present in vital discussions taking place in that same city. The credibility of the UK's commitment to multilateral disarmament is being seriously dented. Our government cannot hold back progress on the introduction of a nuclear ban treaty."

## ***Endurance Challenge The Revd John Beardsley***

A 73-year-old supernumerary Methodist minister, who was never picked for team games in PE at school, is walking all 225 miles of the Severn Way for Christian Aid this May, in an extreme endurance challenge.

The Revd John Beardsley, who lives in Tewkesbury, began a tradition of endurance challenges in 1978 when he climbed the UK's three highest peaks in just 23 hours to raise money for the charity.

Following the River Severn from its source in Plynlimon, Wales, to its end near Bristol, this year John will be walking for 19 continuous days. John's walk began on 5 May and ended at the world's oldest Methodist chapel, the New Room, in Bristol on 23 May.

Christian Aid Week, Britain's longest running door-to-door fundraising week, raised more than £11 million for the world's poorest communities in 2015 and this year is urging the public to show love for their global neighbours by taking part in special services, collections, and events including Big Brekkies around the country.

John said: "Christian Aid is such a worthwhile cause, acting as a catalyst so that money raised in this country can be efficiently used all over the world. Helping to bring immediate relief after disasters and promoting development that enables people to help themselves."

Well done, John!