

# Young people have their say on priorities of Methodist Church

Young Methodists from across the country have taken the opportunity to share their priorities and passions for their Church, highlighted for the very first time in three new 'manifesto' documents.

Following research undertaken at the Methodist Children's and Youth Assembly, 3 Generate, three manifestos outlining the foci of the different age groups have been published online. This new venture is intended to raise the voices of the young people of the Church and highlight the real and varied concerns close to their hearts.

Split into the three age group tiers of the assembly - 8-11s, 11-18s and 18-23s - the manifestos highlight many different issues important to young Methodists including: the environment, poverty, bullying, disability accessibility and the refugee crisis.

Craig Gaffney, Youth President of the Methodist Church added: "These statements are essential reading for all Methodists across the Connexion. It is vital that everyone in the Church engages with the voice of young people and the topics close to their hearts. All of the issues raised should be important to the whole Church and its membership and should be a regular focus for any Christian living out their faith."

Craig continued: "It's so encouraging to see that the young people of the Methodist Church are so passionate about social and global issues. I am proud to be part of a Church where even our youngest members have a heart for those in need."

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

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

  
News from **The Methodist Church**  
March 2016

**#Enough – Please contact your MP about child poverty and the Welfare Reform Bill**

If you've been supporting our #Enough campaign, you may have seen that the House of Lords recently forced some amendments to the Welfare Reform and Work Bill. The Bill is soon coming back into the Commons, so now is the time to write to your MP to ask them to ensure that these amendments are protected.

The Welfare Reform and Work Bill will break the link between a family's needs and the amount of support that it can receive from the benefit system. This is predicted to result in hundreds of thousands more children growing up in poverty.

*Some progress...*

The Government has already accepted a number of positive changes to the Bill in the Lords, in response to campaigners. Families adopting children and kinship carers - those looking after the children of relatives – will be exempted from the 2-child rule on tax credits. These families will be able to offer a good home to children who might otherwise need to be looked after by local authorities without fear of being penalised by the benefit system for having too many children.

*...but more to do*

The Bill is now in its final stages and MPs will have their last opportunity to vote on important changes in the next few weeks. Please ask your MP to ensure that the Government continues to measure child poverty. Families need to have #Enough money to meet their basic needs. But the Government wants to report on its progress in tackling poverty without looking at family income or even whether children have access to the necessities of life.

The Government wants to measure child poverty by looking at if a child's parents are working and what GCSE results they get. These are important pieces of information but as two-thirds of children living in poverty are in working households they are poor measures of poverty today.

## A Circuit Service to remember

The visit of the President of the Methodist Conference,  
**Rev Steve Wild**  
7<sup>th</sup> February 2016

*"Deeper faith & courage in sharing it"*



The worship band

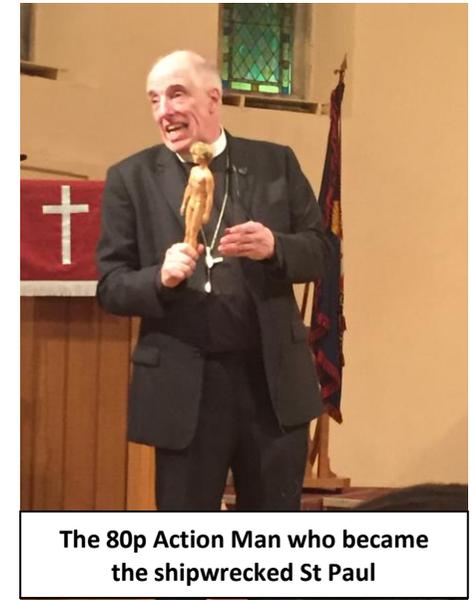
Rev Peter Hancock  
Chair of the District



'What does it mean to  
belong to a Connexion?'



Rev Steve Wild  
preaching and sharing  
testimony to God at  
work



The 80p Action Man who became  
the shipwrecked St Paul



The congregation singing  
'O for a thousand tongues to sing'

It was a cold and windy day, but the crowds came to Stamford to fill the Methodist Church on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February. We were delighted to welcome the President who did not disappoint us. He preached about the endless love of God for all and shared story after story of how God has touched the lives of people on his journeys during his Presidential year. With his characteristic humour and warmth Steve challenged the 350 strong congregation to commit to their churches making one new disciple for Christ during this Connexional year. As a sign of this commitment, representatives of each church present were invited to come forward and have their hands anointed with oil by the ministry team. It was a wonderful evening and we saw God at work. Now the challenge is to continue to do so! Thank you, Steve, for your faithful witness.



The signature selfie at  
Peterborough Station