

Volunteers needed for work on equality and diversity in the Methodist Church

- Do you want to make a positive difference to the life of the Methodist Church?
- Have you lived experience of injustice?
- Are you a professional expert in this area of work and knowledgeable about equality and diversity?



If you answer 'yes' to all or even some of these questions then it is likely you are just the sort of person the new equality work structure needs.

This year the Methodist Conference agreed a structure that enables all aspects of equality and diversity to be recognised within the Church and that the district chairs would be instrumental in facilitating the recruitment process.

The recruitment process is now in full swing. For an application pack [click here](#) or contact the help desk at Methodist Church House (020 7486 5502) for a hard copy. The closing date for applications is 29 October 2010.

To discover more email [Margaret Sawyer](#) or phone 020 7467 5120.

Methodists gear up for great Christmas giveaway

Full of inspiring and accessible words and images, A Gift of Christmas is a little reminder of who is at the heart of the festive season. It is an ideal gift to give away at any outreach event you may be planning.

The booklet is the second in the re-launched 'A gift of' series (formerly 'in your pocket'). This completely revised edition contains brand new images and quotations on Christmas, but retains the look and feel of its predecessor.

A pack of 50 booklets costs just £5 (including postage and packing). To order your pack [click here](#) (copies available from mid-October).



A free nativity play script, written by the Revd Howard Mellor, and a PowerPoint presentation of the booklet will both soon be available to download for free from www.methodist.org.uk/gift.

More than Gold

The 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games are a unique (and perhaps once in a lifetime) mission opportunity to engage and communicate with local communities. They provide a particular theme on which a local church can capture and contribute to the sporting, social and cultural wave which will be growing in the UK, between now and summer 2012.

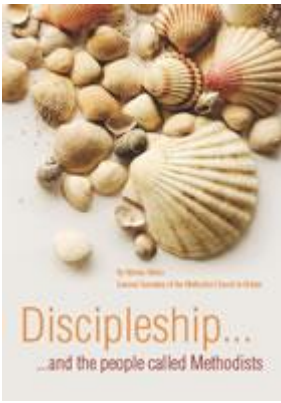
Andrew Carter, evangelism network development officer, comments, "Over 100,000 people have signed up to volunteer for the 2012 Games and there are plans in place for a Schools Olympics to run across the country. The question for the Methodist Church is: are we ready for the Olympics?"

In response the Methodist Church is a partner with the ecumenical movement More than Gold, enabling the Church to reach out to its local community during the Olympic Games, wherever that community is based.



To discover more about More than Gold, go to their [website](#) or attend one of their [nationwide briefing events](#) taking place during October and November. You can also [sign up](#) to receive their newsletter.

Methodist Church launches first ebook



The Methodist Church has launched its first ebook as its renewed emphasis on discipleship continues to gather momentum. The book, *Discipleship and the People Called Methodists*, is available to [download](#) for free in both the epub and mobi formats.

At the same time, the book has just been reprinted again and now has over 19,000 copies in circulation.

The author, the Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, general secretary of the Methodist Church, says: "Discipleship is about transforming the world as well as ourselves, and I'm delighted that the Methodist people are really taking this emphasis on discipleship to heart. The demand for this book in its print version shows that as a Church we are really keen to explore what discipleship means and how we can become better disciples together, and

the ebook version will enable more people to join in."

Print copies of the book are available from [Methodist Publishing](#) and it can also be [downloaded](#) as a pdf.

Methodist Heritage Newsletter

Heritage News is the latest new publication from Methodist Heritage: a free full colour, biannual newsletter (or you can receive it as a printer-friendly, black & white pdf email attachment).



The newsletter brings you up to date with the work of the Methodist Heritage Committee, showcases the mission work going on around the Connexion's heritage sites and using the collections, and features the exciting new partnerships, activities and publications resulting from the Conference's 2008 decision to seek to use our Church's heritage for mission.

To order your copy (or sign up for the newsletter by email), visit the [heritage pages](#) of the Methodist website.

Missing Generation research project



Is your church struggling to attract people aged 25-40? Do you wish your congregation reflected the age range of the local community?

The research project aims to discover what characteristics churches with a strong representation of the Missing Generation (aged 25-40) have and then share this with the whole Connexion. In order to do this, we are looking for churches to use as case studies.

You may be able to help us in our research if your church:

- has a significant number of 20s and 30s in its congregation
- is looking to improve the representation of that demographic within its congregation
- is growing in other ways, but does not have a large number of the missing generation age group.

Individuals can also help us. We will be exploring where those aged 25-40 choose to worship and therefore are looking for people in this age group to participate in some research too. They would need to have grown-up within a Methodist context, but would not need to still be part of a Methodist church.

If you would like to find out more about this project, or get involved visit the [Missing Generation website](#) (online from the end of October) or email [Liz Clutterbuck](#).

The changing nature of the Methodist Church in Britain

The Methodist Church has released statistics which reveal the diversity of its congregations across Britain.

For the very first time, the Church's Statistics for Mission Report features data collected in October 2009 on language, ethnicity, Fresh Expressions and the number of churchgoers engaged in children and youth ministry.

The report showed that at least 89 churches ran worship or fellowship in a language other than English or Welsh in 2009.

The Revd John Chambers, a minister at Walworth Methodist Church in London, said, "We have four fellowships in our church: Sierra Leone, Ghanaian, Zimbabwean and Nigerian. During the year, each fellowship will hold a service; parts of which will be given in a language that many people in the church will understand.

"It's great because it acknowledges the diverse nature of our church. Holding fellowships in this way has helped our church to grow. We have 500 members. People will come to our church knowing that their ethnic tradition will be acknowledged."

The report also reveals the high proportion of Methodists in local ecumenical partnerships - 7% of all Methodists (16,500 people) belong to an ecumenical congregation.

Dr Christopher Stephens, research officer, said: "We are collecting these statistics each year to get an accurate picture of who and what we are as a Church in the 21st century. The report will enable us to support local churches in their mission needs and help congregations do the same ... I think this report will surprise some readers, including Methodists. It demonstrates clear areas of growth and a rich diversity that may reflect a Methodist Church that is different from the general preconception."

The 2010 Count is now under way. Local churches should enter their numbers at <http://data.methodist.org.uk> or follow any alternative instructions received from their circuit or district offices.



Urban ministry



The Urban Mission Development (UMD) Project, 50% funded by the Methodist Church in Britain and 50% by the Evangelical Coalition for Urban Mission (ECUM), has now come to a conclusion.

A bigger grouping of agencies and denominations, including two Black-majority churches, has grown out of the work, called the Christian Coalition for Urban Mission (CCUM). The Methodist Church engaged in this emerging work through the Revd Lorraine Mellor, chair of the Nottingham and Derby District.

The www.urbanmission.org.uk website is the main public resource. It will be a signposting site, with links to agencies, training and resources that can help local ministry in disadvantaged urban communities. The site also has an archive of all the reports from the six year UMD Project. The rest of the coalition's work will be more facilitating and encouraging denominations and agencies to work together as they support their own constituencies.

Methodist presbyters serving urban churches will also shortly receive the next edition of Urban Bulletin, as produced by ECUM. However, CCUM will be looking to develop a successor publication.

For more information, email [Erica Dunmow](mailto:Erica.Dunmow).

Charges dropped against Fijian Methodist Church leaders

The Fijian government has dropped most of the charges against leaders of the Methodist Church in Fiji. Fijian Methodists have made contact with the Methodist Church in Britain to thank people for their prayers and support.

Mike King, leader of World Church Relationships in the Connexional Team, said, "The Church leadership was keen to give us this heartening news and to thank the many Methodists in Britain who have prayed so faithfully for the Methodist Church in Fiji at this difficult time."



Methodists in Britain fasted in solidarity with the Methodist Church in Fiji in February after increasing pressure was put on the Church from the country's government led by Commodore Bainimarama. The Fijian government forced the Church to cancel its annual Conference and choir festivals until 2014 and prohibited local districts and circuits from carrying out their activities, including administrative meetings.

The Church is hopeful that these new developments herald a change of heart and a return to conversation instead of confrontation. It is hoped that further steps towards the normal functioning of Church governance will be achieved through talks.

For more details, [click here](#).

Peanuts and piglets make perfect presents this Christmas time



MRDF has just launched its all-new range of extraordinary gifts for Christmas. The collection includes piglets that will help school leavers in Cameroon to make a living and peanuts that will enable a food production group in Zambia to make a tasty profit.

Extraordinary gifts make ideal presents - and with gifts starting at just £8 you can make a positive difference without breaking the bank.

Each gift comes with a colourful bookmark and a card that can be given to the gift recipient. For larger gifts, it's possible to request a CD-ROM with a presentation illustrating how the gift will make a difference. This is ideal for showing to a church or group which has bought or received an extraordinary gift.

Extraordinary gifts can be bought [online](#) or by calling 020 7467 5132 to request a catalogue.

Important changes to the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

John Penrose, the government minister for tourism and heritage has announced that the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme is to be amended.

Currently listed places of worship, of any faith or denomination, can claim a grant equal to the VAT paid on eligible maintenance and building works. The new measures will see the scheme return to its original scope: works on clocks, pews, bells, organs and professional services such as architects' fees will be excluded for the rest of the current financial year.



The changes will come into effect from 4 January 2011 and will apply until the current end date of the scheme, 31 March 2011. This also applies to the Memorials Grant Scheme, under which professional fees will no longer be eligible from 4 January 2011. For those currently undertaking repairs covered by the schemes, claims must be made by 31 December 2010.

For more information, [click here](#).

Cliff College - mission and the world of work programme



This new programme enables Church leaders (including chaplains and ministers in secular employment) concerned with the development of the ministry of lay people at work to develop new strategies and resources to further the Church's mission in the world of work.

It covers biblical approaches to the meaning of work, theologies of work, spirituality in the workplace and models of mission within that environment. There is also space to consider the contemporary role of chaplains and sector ministers, models of leadership for supporting lay people at work and

resources for ministry and mission in the world of work.

The programme can be taken as part of a certificate, diploma or MA degree accredited by Manchester University. It involves attendance at Cliff College for a teaching week (22-26 November 2010) and a reading week (25-29 April 2011), together with personal study and the writing of two assignments.

However anyone is welcome to the main teaching week even if not intending to take an academic qualification.

For more information [click here](#), email the [postgraduate administrator](#) at Cliff College or phone 01246 584216.

Belonging Together

Alongside familiar phrases like 'whole people of God', and 'Fresh Expressions', you can expect to hear 'belonging together' being used more often. [Belonging Together](#) is a significant partnership project to affirm diversity, bring cohesion to the partnership's work, and create an environment for meaningful interaction for all within the Methodist Church.

[Katei Kirby](#) is the Methodist Church's new partnership officer helping to develop a more excellent way of affirming, bringing together and celebrating all God's people. You will be able to find out more through E-News, Buzz and the website, and Katei is keen to hear your views too. She could be visiting a church near you!

