

From the Circuit Meeting

The most recent Circuit Meeting was held on 1st May 2024 at Northolt.

The meeting began with attendees being asked to bring something their church is celebrating, and then sharing the prayer needs of their churches and communities. Notable celebrations included new members at Ealing Green, successful building repairs at Acton Hill, and significant birthdays at Northolt and Greenford.

As readers of *In-touch* will know it is a time of change in the circuit, with Rev Steve Day replacing Rev Rachel Bending as Superintendent Minister, and Gerald Barton, the Circuit Administrator and editor of *In-touch* for some 20 years, handing the baton to our new Circuit Manager, Andy Brierley. The meeting gave thanks for Gerald as he retires, and there will be a chance to thank him and pray for his ministry at the Circuit Service in July.

The membership of the meeting remains unchanged, but the Circuit is keen for more volunteers to join Marcia Pinnock-Roye as a synod rep. Acting as a rep for the circuit offers a chance to meet people across London, and to hear what other circuits are doing. It also helps with discipleship and in getting an overview of what is happening in the wider Church.

Property Developments

A proposal has been made to lease the Pitshanger building to West London University's Drama School, on a 5-year lease. A special meeting will be held in October to discuss this and the wider long-term strategy for the building, which the meeting voted to no longer class as a worshipping space.

The current proposal for Kings Hall, following the termination of the Pocket Living scheme, involves the creation of a worship space out of the dome, a café space and up to eight storeys of residential flats, which the Circuit would own and rent out. The aim is to keep the façade and some of the structure behind it, including the walls which were the vestry and office. The next step is to appoint a land agent and take steps to go on the open market.

Safeguarding and EDI

The Circuit continues its focus on safeguarding training to support church officers and Circuit stewards in their roles. A number of church members have completed the advanced training, either in person or online. Those who need to or would like to complete the training can register online at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/safeguarding/methodist-safeguarding-training/>. Paul Williams, the Circuit Safeguarding Officer, has attended the 'Training the Trainers' course, and the Circuit is looking for another trainer so we can deliver foundation level safeguarding training in our Circuit.

Rev Rachel Bending re-emphasised the importance of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Training, which is mandatory and legally required for the following office holders:

All ministers (including Superintendents and District Chairs)

Local Preachers

Connexional Committee members

Connexional Team members

Circuit and District Safeguarding Officers

Circuit stewards and church stewards

Lay Workers (Lay Pastoral Workers; Children, Youth and Family Workers; Pioneers; Worship Leaders)

The Methodist Conference in 2021 agreed that those in key roles in the church should undertake some mandatory EDI training, but the hope is that many others will also choose to do it, because equality, diversity and inclusion are not just legal requirements but vital to our discipleship, ministry and mission.

Details can be found on the Methodist Church website, under 'The Inclusive Methodist Church'. There is a video on the webpage that explains what the training involves, and how to register. The module is held online.
