



EDITORIAL

Marian Izzard

As we enter a new year with all the hope and anticipation that this brings, particularly following a very difficult year for us all, we are mindful that we live in uncertain times. We perhaps have a tentative and optimistic hope that things will be better in this coming year. Many of us, I am sure, are pondering 'What is God saying in these times?' This question has led us as a team to explore this further and to focus on it as a theme for this edition of MET Connexion. The title 'Speak, Lord: Discerning God's voice in a confusing world' was the title of our online day of teaching last October led by our Development Worker, Derek Balsdon and Prayer Secretary, Roz Addington. We felt that this same title was apt and fitting to be used as we seek to explore and try to understand what God is saying to us as individuals, as a church, as a nation and as part of a global network.

Andrea Williams, Chief Executive of Christian Concern and the Christian Legal Centre, acknowledges that we often struggle to hear God's voice and stand up for the truth in 21st Century culture. She calls for a return to the truth in her article 'How Truth Has Stumbled in the Public Square'.

Ashley Cooper, Principal of Cliff College, reflects on the work of Cliff and the amazing journey on which God has led them, from the past to the present and how he is leading them forward into the future.

Jane Holloway, National Prayer Director for the World Prayer Centre, Birmingham explores how we can hear God's voice through prayer; looking at how we can hear God's voice personally; with others; and the importance of hearing what God is saying for outreach and mission.

David Hull, Chair of MET, poses an important question in these challenging times as we emerge from a global pandemic and as Conference is due to make a decision this year and asks: What is the Lord saying to the Methodist Church?

Titilola Ossai, the Evangelical Alliance's 'One People Commission' Coordinator explores and shares God's heart for unity in diversity amongst our churches and offers some spiritual and practical steps for us to take as God's representatives.

Dave Bookless, Director of Theology for A Rocha International and vicar of St Mary's Norwood Green in multicultural Southall, asks what God is saying to us through current events of a global pandemic and climate change. He explores this in his article: 'Hearing God's voice when Creation is Groaning'.

Our Bible Study section in this edition is the form of a shorter 'Bible Focus' and is a portrait of Abigail (1 Samuel 25) which has been compiled by the Revd Dr John Job, a Supernumerary minister and former Lecturer in Biblical and Evangelical Ministry at Cliff College.

We have included another 'Good News' section in this edition. We would love to hear from you if have some good news stories that you would like to share in the next edition. Please do send them to editor@methodistevangelicals.org.uk

The next edition of MET Connexion will be the spring edition, available in mid-May.

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