

# EDITORIAL

#### Marian Izzard

We have entitled the theme of this autumn edition of MET Connexion 'Moving Forward' as we wanted to give space to reflect on some of the responses that MET members have made, or are making in light of the recent Methodist Conference decisions on *God in Love Unites Us (GILUU)* with regard to marriage and relationships. We have also given space to other leading evangelicals who share what God is saying and doing in these times of change and challenge.

We recognise that MET members will differ in their views on the recent Conference decisions. The outcome of the decisions is also affecting people in different ways in terms of the way forward for them in the Methodist Church. Some feel called to stay, others feel called to leave - or have left, whilst others are still undecided.

MET supports all who seek to stand firm and remain faithful to God's Word whatever the decision that they have reached or are exploring on these issues.

David Hull, Chair of MET reflects on the present moment within the Methodist Church and outlines the way ahead in a Five Point Plan.

Chris and Nicola Briggs, presbyters in the Nottingham and Derby district, share why they feel called to stay in the Methodist Church despite the Conference decisions.

Ashley Cooper, Principal of Cliff College, shares a personal reflection on the way forward following the Conference decisions.

Sarah Sedgwick shares openly and honestly about her reasons for leaving the Methodist Church.

Joseph M. Y. Edusa-Eyison, Methodist Bishop, Northern Accra Diocese of the Methodist Church in Ghana, shares a message to the Mother Church following the recent Conference decisions.

Gavin Calver, CEO of the Evangelical Alliance shares how God is calling him to be braver in these times of challenge both culturally and spiritually and what that means for us as evangelicals.

Martin Parsons provides us with a perspective on Afghanistan and what is happening to the Christians facing persecution from the Taliban.

Our Bible Study is part two of a three part study on Paul's letter to Titus which Gareth Higgs has compiled. This second section looks at 'Maturing in Christ'.

Praying Always is compiled by our Prayer Coordinator, Roz Addington who shares what God has laid on her heart and provides us with prayer pointers for a four week cycle.

Some of our photos in this edition have been supplied by Marine de Villepin, a French photographer. Marine is a Christian, and seeks to serve God through her photography.



The next edition of MET Connexion will be the winter edition available in January/February 2022.

### FEATURE ARTICLES

- 5. FIVE POINT PLAN
- By David Hull
- 8. BE BRAVER! By Gavin Calver
- 12. CALLED TO STAY By Chris & Nicola Briggs
- 15. THE WAY FORWARD: A PERSONAL REFLECTION By Ashley Cooper
- 18. A CHURCH DIVIDED By Sarah Sedgwick
- 21. AFGHANISTAN: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE CHURCH FACES PERSECUTION By Martin Parsons
- 24. A MESSAGE TO THE MOTHER CHURCH By Joseph M. Y. Edusa-Eyison

## REGULARS

- 3. FROM THE DEVELOPMENT WORKER By Derek Balsdon
- 10. BIBLE STUDY By Gareth Higgs
- 27. RESOURCE REVIEWS
- 31. PRAYING ALWAYS
- 35. FROM THE CHAIR

#### CREDITS

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