

South West Peninsula District E-News

February 2026



District E-News

February Issue

As we begin to head into the Lent, we bring you the February Edition of the E-News. Packed with the latest news, events and information from across the District, we hope you find this issue helpful.

Dates for Your Diary- February

Tuesday 3rd-5th District Retreat-
Newton Abbot

Saturday 7th 10am Circuit
Treasurers Meeting- Zoom

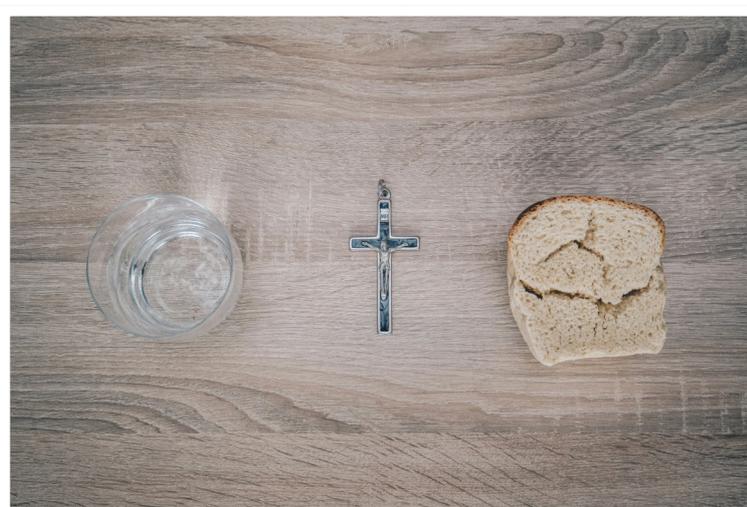
Monday 9th 10.30am District
Property Committee- Exeter
(Velwell Rd)

Tuesday 10th 10am- 3.30pm
District Staff Meeting- Lifton

Wednesday 11th, 10.30am
District Grants Committee-
Exeter (Velwell Rd)

Thursday 12th
10.30am-3.30pm Supervision
Development Day- Wonford

Monday 23rd 10.30am-3.00pm
Probationers Committee-
Plymouth Central Hall



God is Our Refuge and Strength

A Message from Revd Dr Daniel Haylett

Dear friends,

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should
change,

though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

though its waters roar and foam,

though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

(Psalm 46:1-3, NRSV)

Dates for Your Diary- February Cont'd

Tuesday 24th 10am Mission
Area Leads
Meeting
Exeter (Velwell Rd)

Saturday 28th 10am - 3.30pm
District Policy
Committee Pipers

The Psalmist knew what it was to live through the most of threatening of storms. Like so many across our counties in the last few weeks, the Psalmist faced the real force and effect of the roaring waters, and needed to find very real help in a time of need.

We know how difficult life has been for communities across the region because of the storms, and we have both real loss and communities working together demonstrating the very present help of God as refuge in the midst of troubles. Yet of course Psalm 46 is a poetic protest

against the very real threat of storms of all kind that disturbed the city; political and military storms rage on whatever the weather.

The Psalmists point is that in the midst of such storms, uncertainty and even threat and chaos, God’s people can find confidence and reason for hope. The Psalm reflects God’s agency, over and above the powerful forces of the wind and rain, and over and above any shaking of the foundations of the world as we know it. This joyful hope invites courage and perspective with the famous lines about being still towards the end of this Psalm rooting us into a way of faith that cannot be overcome.

Our prayers are with all those who are going through storms in life right now. For those who have to repair and rebuild, and for others who face anxious and difficult days. May each of us find the presence of God in Christ making the difference for us in the storm.

With Every blessing

Dan



Lets Face It! Update

A Message from Helen Pierce

The Let's Face It! immersive arts installation has now travelled around the district in 5 places throughout October, November and December. It was well received at all the venues, Helston Central Methodist Church, Truro Methodist Church, The Mint Methodist church, The Royal Lyceum Theatre, Torquay and Sherwell United Methodist Church, Plymouth. Over 1,000 people looked at the installation and some amazing feedback was received. *Answered prayer in so many ways.*

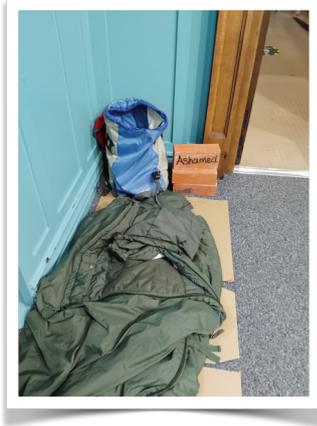


The feedback forms also revealed some insightful ideas about how the Methodist church and its buildings could be supporting housing and homelessness in new and alternative ways, with 57 people across the District interested to stay in touch and continue supporting this area of work - which is wonderful.

Not only were audiences challenged by the content of the immersive installation, the musical performance and testimony of his experience of homelessness given by Rhys



Helen Pearce District Social Justice Co-ordinator, Rhys Wynn Jones AKA The Night-Church Pianist, Anne Middleton Performing Arts Mission Enabler



The experience of sleeping rough - part of the immersive experience from the installation



Rhys performing some of his own compositions from his new album Hi and Bye

The Night-Church Pianist gave the audience much to ponder on. It provided a stimulus for insightful conversations and new understanding.

Whilst the main aim of Let's Face It! was to raise understanding of homelessness and give a voice to those with lived experience who are often unheard and misunderstood, £2022 was raised across the district, at the events. The money raised will be donated to 10 local charities that support homelessness in the areas that we visited.

A short film created about the installation can be found on the [District Website](#).

Thanks to The South West Peninsula Methodist District who supported this event by granting a Seed-Corn grant to enable this event to occur in the 5 locations.

Thanks to the ministers, venues and volunteers across the District who supported the event in many ways. Thanks to the Suzannah Wesley Foundation Trust for supporting this event.

Thank you to all who came along ready to be challenged, participate, listen, engage and feedback.

Here is some of the feedback received from the event:

"So glad I came in to experience this installation - it brought compassion, and kindness to my heart ad asked me to listen to the stories of others"

"Gives us more detail on "what we thought we knew" so that we can move forward and help"

"Thought provoking. Good to have some practical ideas to help."

"very emotional, thank you to everyone who created the space for this important topic!"

Just wanted to say a huge thank you and a massive well done to you all for such an amazing and inspirational event on Saturday. Rhys is absolutely amazing! In so many ways.

I was just blown away by all of it. Humbling is the right word.

What he said was so profound and heartfelt and what a talent?! When he spoke about not just losing everything but keeping on losing everything and feeling like he had died, that will stay with me forever. The pain of not knowing what's happened to people and the misery of watching others go under, the statistics, just everything.

I deliver training around trauma in my day job to people who work in the 'complex lives' field. We always talk about staff looking after themselves - not pouring from an empty cup. I will quote him now forever and shift the focus to 'you can always, always be kind'.

Huge thanks for a wonderful event

Rowan Burrows, Trustee, Shekinah Mission (Plymouth)

Shekinah supports people facing multiple disadvantages by improving health, housing stability and employment opportunities, while also helping those affected by crime. Our mission is to empower individuals to realise their potential and create lasting change.

Helen Pearce

Social Justice Co-Ordinator



A Social Justice Resourcing Opportunity for you and your church and circuit

A Message from Helen Pearce

Churches together Cornwall is hosting an interesting resourcing opportunity for us on **the 3 and 4th March 2026.**

With new prospects to link in and collaborate - but also to think and engage in the crucial theological perspective which accompanies social action within the church. These 2 day events may be something that your church may wish to engage in. For more info please use this link.

For anyone travelling by train please contact Helen Pearce for help with

transport. socialjustice@swpmethodist.org.uk.

Cost

The fee for the March 4th day will be £25 to include lunch and refreshments. A second person attending from the same parish will only be charged £10. But we don't want this charge to be a barrier to people's participation. Please contact us at heartedge@smitf.org if you need help with this cost'.

On March 3rd at the same venue there is a conference on Faith and Health.

Book tickets <https://tickets.myiknowchurch.co.uk/gb/MzQ5NC03/t>

More information: [Courageous Churches conference | Bodmin Way](#)



Knitted Christmas Tree

A Message from Revd Dr. Tracey Darling

In early August 2025, a request went out across the Ilfracombe and Barnstaple circuit for knitters (and crocheters). The aim was to make over 2000 green squares (small, medium and large) to create a knitted Christmas Tree. Hand-made decorations were also requested.

Week after week the box of donated wool was emptied and the collection box was filled with green squares. Many people also generously bought their own wool. Word soon spread beyond the circuit churches and people from across the local communities and beyond were busy knitting, pleased that they could contribute their time and skill to the project.

By the time the tree was created at the end of November there were 2326 green squares - an amazing achievement. Not only that, but many wonderful stories of how people became involved via asking 'what are you knitting and why?'

Weekly Saturday coffee mornings were held for people to come and see the tree (and to try and spot their knitting!), raising money for 5 charities: Children's Hospice South West, The Wave Project, Penguin Sports Foundation, The Children's Society, and Ask for Jake. Thanks to generous donations, £170 was donated to each charity.

The tree has now been dismantled and the squares will be turned into blankets and donated. If you know anywhere that would like blankets (or any size) please do get in touch.



Rev. Dr. Tracey Darling

Superintendent, Ilfracombe & Barnstaple Circuit

**Updates on our South West Peninsula Methodist District Partnership
with the Diocese of Cuttack in the Church of North India**

We are excited to be planning to receive a group of staff from the Orissa Christian Theological College who will visit the District in May 2026. Please see a separate item advertising an opportunity to support the visit through local fundraising. Further details of the programme will follow in future editions of this newsletter.



Eunice and Malcolm Halliday from Plymouth Methodist Central Hall (seen here with Dr Nanda at the Christian Hospital in Berhampur) will be visiting the college again from 15 January to 13 February 2026. Please remember them in your prayers. The Principal has written this of their support:

“We are absolutely delighted at the prospect of welcoming Malcolm and Eunice Halliday back to the College. Their stay with us last year was deeply meaningful and left a lasting impact on both staff and students. We truly value their dedication and the support they continue to offer.”

Greetings from India

We often receive messages from our Partners in the Diocese of Cuttack in the Church of North India. The following has come from Mary Chang, Principal of The Orissa Christian Theological College.

“Warmest Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I trust and pray that you find this mail in good health and spirit.

I remain ever thankful for your constant prayer and support towards OCTC. Through God’s grace and your faithful prayers, the First Semester Examinations were completed successfully, and the Second Semester of the 2025–2026 Academic Year resumed on 24th November 2025.

It is with great pride that I share the outcomes of the recently concluded Board Meeting and the Senate Convocation of the Senate of Serampore College/University. Fourteen of our graduates received their Bachelor’s Degree upon the successful completion of all Senate requirements. Following the legacy of last year’s graduates, this year one of our students, Mr. Basant Kochim, was awarded the Senate Prize for securing the highest grade in the Senate examination papers and for being the top scorer in Church History.

This recognition is especially significant as the Senate Prize is chosen from among the affiliated colleges of the Senate of Serampore, covering 66 theological institutions across India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. Such achievements bring honor not only to our students but also to the dedicated teaching faculty of OCTC, whose commitment to their assignments has been exemplary. We also thank our students for bringing laurels to the college through their diligence and faithfulness."

We also received this Christmas message from Dr Nanda at the Christian Hospital, Orissa

Season's Greetings and Christmas Blessings!

As we celebrate the joy and hope of Christmas, we at Christian Hospital, Berhampur wish to convey our heartfelt greetings to you, dear Mrs Deborah Kirk, and to the entire South Sedgemoor Methodist Circuit and SW Peninsula Methodist Family.

We remain deeply grateful for your generous support and prayers over the past few years, which have contributed meaningfully to the construction of our In-Patient Building and to strengthening our outreach missions and mission of compassionate healing.

May the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ fill your hearts with peace, joy, and renewed hope. May His love continue to guide and bless your lives and ministry in the year ahead.

With sincere thanks and warm Christmas wishes,

Dr M K Nanda



This May, we must bring a warm welcome to our friends from the **Orissa Christian Theological College**, India, as they visit our Methodist Church district!

Over the next few months, there will be many **fundraising opportunities** to make sure our guests are well looked after and can make the most of their time here. So **we'd love your help**. You could **get involved** through:

- Cake sales
- Sponsored Walks
- Community meals
- Quiz or film nights

To find out more, please contact Tobias Loraine, at tloraine24@gmail.com.

This comes as a strong step in our partnership with the **Diocese of Cuttack in the Church of North India**. It will be a brilliant opportunity for us all to share and learn about our **faith through different cultures**. Let's bring our guests the perfect visit and build lasting friendships.

GROWING THROUGH CHANGE AND CONFLICT

A space to consider how to work well with tension and conflict

An exciting opportunity has come up to take part in the Positive Working Together course run by the Learning Network.

If you are interested in joining this course, please contact:
Georgia Jenkin admin@swpmethodist.org.uk

Dates and venues tbc, it can also be run in person and online. So please don't let distance or travelling put you off if you would like to join!

Details of the course can be found below:

[Positive Working Together](#)



Norah Bellot Court's 25th Anniversary 17th December 2025



The Ilfracombe and Barnstaple Methodist Circuit wanted to celebrate and acknowledge the 25th Anniversary of the opening of Norah Bellot Court.

Norah Bellot Court was officially opened by Mrs Doreen Jones who was the niece of Norah Bellot and Rev. Kenneth Hext who was the Chair of the Plymouth and Exeter Methodist District on the 3rd August 2000.

Mrs Norah Bellot donated three-quarters of a million pounds to the Methodist Homes Association. This gift helped fund the construction of Norah Bellot Court. It was built on the site of the previous Methodist Church. A plaque has been placed outside the Garden Lounge.

Norah Blanche Bellot (nee Watson) was born on the 31st December 1902, in South Molton. Her parents were Lavinia Agnes Heddon and Charles Michael Watson.

Her father was a schoolmaster at West Buckland and Church Organist at South Molton Church. She had one brother – Charles Heddon Watson – who was Vice Principal of North Devon Technical College, Barnstaple. Norah married Theo Charles Bellot, the Classics Master at West Buckland. She married aged 46 in 1948 in West Buckland. Theo was of Greek origin. Norah joined the WRNS during the war. Her brother, Charles, pre-deceased her. Both were childless. She inherited from Charles' estate which naturally enabled her, on her death, to provide funds to establish Norah Bellot Court. At the entrance of Norah Bellot there is a framed photo of Norah Blanche Bellot.

To mark the occasion the congregation from the Circuit and others knitted Angels which included some chocolates. Residents, staff and friends gathered in the Garden Lounge after their Christmas Party. Janet Coates, Madam Mayor of Barnstaple, opened the occasion with a few words and Rev. Tracey Darling the Superintendent Minister spoke about the Angels and Sue Cresswell closed with a prayer. We all joined in singing several Christmas Carols played by Joyce, our pianist. The Angels were then given out to the residents and staff.

There was a lovely sense of celebration as we continued with fellowship and refreshments including mince pies. Many thanks to all who participated to make this a special celebration and to Tina who took the selection of photographs (on the next pages)

Gail
Chaplain



SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

2026

JAN ONLINE ADVANCED:
22ND 7PM FACILITATED- FULLY BOOKED

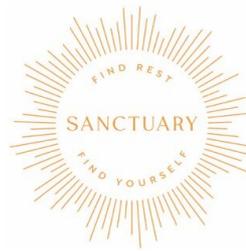
APR IN-PERSON ADVANCED: VENUE TBC
01 TBC

JUL IN-PERSON ADVANCED: VENUE THE
08 TBC MINT CHURCH EXETER

TRAINING IS OPEN TO ALL ACROSS
THE DISTRICT. FOR MORE
INFORMATION OR TO BOOK,
CONTACT

ADMIN@SWPMETHODIST.ORG.UK





Rev'd Loraine N Mellor
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6 Penance Parc, Lanner, Cornwall TR16 5TY
Tel: 07468458900 email. loraine.mellor@swpmethodist.org.uk

8th January 2026

Dear Colleague,

Happy New year!

I am writing with an appeal for chaplains. The Royal Cornwall show held every year at the Wadebridge show ground in June will be with us in a few short months. Churches together every year provides chaplains to the show alongside the sanctuary tent where there is a children's and family area and where refreshments are served and we are always busy, so we need chaplains! Show chaplaincy is both great fun and a privilege and we do all that we can to support the show and the thousands who visit every year. Chaplains come from all sorts of backgrounds, some are ordained, and some are lay and so with this letter I have included the Role Description for a Show Chaplain to help you have a fuller picture of what this act of service involves.

This year the show runs from the 4th -6th June. Importantly, all chaplains are invited to the Royal Cornwall Show Service on Wednesday 3rd June at 6.30pm. This involves an act of Commissioning of Chaplains and it would be super if you are able to join us for this. All we ask is that you offer at least 5 hours as chaplain and Sanctuary can provide a Day Ticket for chaplains for the day/s they volunteer for, in return, of course in addition to this, you are able to relax around the Show as well.

Our intention is to recruit safely. For such an important role at the Royal Cornwall Show we ask our volunteer Chaplains to provide us with evidence of an Enhanced DBS and evidence of Leadership Safeguarding Training/Advanced Safeguarding Training or equivalent from your church or organisation. To help all chaplains understand what chaplaincy at the Royal Cornwall Show involves we are providing annual training for all who wish to serve as chaplains. We will do this through Zoom for about 40 minutes. Here are the dates of the timing and only one session is required
April 22nd 2pm, April 28th 4pm, May 5th 11am, May 6th 7pm

Is this you? Can you give some time to this important work when as a church we support this important and significant event in the life of our rural communities.

Do be in touch with me if I can answer any questions and if you can say yes to my appeal. Thank you for reading this letter it's much appreciated.

Every blessing
Loraine



Role Description – Show Chaplain

A Show Chaplain at the Royal Cornwall Show is a volunteer role which by its very nature means there is contact with the General Public, which includes children and vulnerable adults. A Show Chaplain is expected to have involvement and interest in people's general well-being and engage in pastoral discussion with them during the Show, but is not expected to be involved in the day-to-day affairs of people met at the Royal Cornwall Show afterwards.

The following approaches are included in this role:

- ❖ **Be there** – chaplains walk alongside all who are present at the Royal Cornwall Show.
 - Chaplaincy happens either in the Sanctuary Tent or across the Showground.
 - Help people to feel they belong by your pastoral care reflecting Christian love.
 - Please be in plenty of time for your duty on the rota.
- ❖ **Believe** – God is active and we look to join in with what He is doing. *‘Always be ready to make a reply to anyone who asks you to explain the hope that is in you’ 1 Pet 3:15.*
- ❖ **Be known** – wear your waistcoat whilst on duty, we are representatives of God, the Church and the Royal Cornwall Show. It is a privilege to be invited to serve.
- ❖ **Be confidential** – pastoral conversations are confidential, but if a safeguarding matter arises, speak with Revd. Loraine Mellor (Chaplaincy co-ordinator) Canon Chris Batt (Safeguarding lead for Sanctuary) in the first instance. In the unlikely occurrence of a pastoral matter arising which does need further advice, please speak with Revd. Loraine Mellor.

The role of Show Chaplain requires an Enhanced DBS and Leadership Safeguarding Training/Advanced Safeguarding Training or equivalent.

Part-time Missional and Community Worker – Tavistock Circuit

The Tavistock Circuit of the Methodist Church, based on the edge of beautiful Dartmoor, is seeking a part-time Missional and Community Worker (lay or ordained), to exercise a ministry of missional outreach. The successful candidate will have the responsibility of working with the Mary Tavy and Peter Tavy communities.

Car owner and driver essential, as is an approachable and warm personality, ability to work with people of all ages and willingness to actively engage with the local communities.

20 hours per week, initially for two years to include a six month probationary period, commencing September 2026 or as soon after.

Salary : Commensurate with the Methodist Church's policies, depending on experience and qualifications.

Please email info@tmc.me.uk for an application form. Completed applications to be returned by 12 noon on Monday 23rd March.



Wesley House

The Methodist College in Cambridge since 1921

*Resourcing Wesleyan leadership and scholarship
for the transformation of church and world*

The Revd Dr Daniel Pratt
Morris-Chapman
SENIOR TUTOR

email: dp604@wesley.cam.ac.uk

Introducing the MA in Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy through Wesley House, Cambridge



Our MA in Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy will give you an in-depth understanding of Pastoral Theology as it relates to the goals of chaplaincy and care in contemporary settings. The course is delivered online so as to enable maximum flexibility and taught part time over two years. It includes the possibility to study for one of two intermediate awards: a PG Certificate and a PG Diploma. To enable you to develop your pastoral skills you will be required to organise a two-hundred-hour pastoral placement, which you would aim to start in January.

All applicants would need to have organised their placements including formal authorisation by the start of the academic year (September), which will enable application for university ethics approval. Should you wish to, this course has been accredited by the UK Board of Healthcare Chaplaincy (UKBHC) to count towards partial fulfillment of UKBHC registration. Please consult their website for further information (<https://www.ukbhc.org.uk/>). To allow for the time to process hospital placements, those who wish to pursue UKBHC registration should submit their application well before the deadline.

The course is offered by Wesley House through the Cambridge Theological Federation and, on successful completion, provides a qualification from award winning Anglia Ruskin University. Ecumenical teaching enables students to learn alongside people from a wide variety of theological traditions and perspectives. Those seeking to reflect more deeply on Methodist pastoral practice can also select a pathway which includes the Wesleyan Theology and Spirituality module as one of the options.

See: <https://www.theofed.cam.ac.uk/postgraduate/ma-arj/ma-pastoralcare/>

For advice and more information please do not hesitate to contact us
dp604@wesley.cam.ac.uk

Daniel Pratt Morris-Chapman

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www.wesley.cam.ac.uk
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The Avenue Church presents...



Fairy Mary Flies Again



Thursday 12th and
Friday 13th February
7.30pm

Saturday 14th February
5.00pm

TicketSource link:



Tickets £7 available online
at [ticketsource.co.uk](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk)

or from
the Church Office
01626 360400

(Office open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings)

