South West Peninsula District E-News

March 2026

District E-News

March Issue

As we head into Lent, we bring you the March 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- March

Tuesday 3rd, 10am District Executive- Lifton

Saturday 21st, 0930am-1400pm- District Safeguarding Conference- PCH/Zoom

Thursday 19th, 10.30am-3.30pm- Presbyteral Synod Plymouth Central Hall

Saturday 14th, 10am -12 noon- Local Preachers Secretary Meeting- Zoom

Tuesday 24th, 10.30am- Supervision Oversight Group- Exeter (Velwell Rd)

Thursday 26th, 10.30am-3.30pm- Superintendents Consultation Sherwell United Church, Plymouth

Pause. Breathe. Make Space for God

A Message from Revd Dr Daniel Haylett

Dear friends,

One of the themes for this Lent from the Methodist Church's resource "Pause. Breathe. Make Space for God", is the invitation to "Let go of violence, embrace gentleness." It's a call that is rooted in the narrative of Palm Sunday as Jesus enters Jerusalem in ways that reveal a gentle, non violent vision of kingship, against the contrasting backdrop of the claim of empire.

Jesus comes to the city from a different direction and with an alternative vision to the forces that sought to head him off. During Lent, we too are invited to consider how we engage in actions that mirror that gentle strength and this sometimes comes to us as challenge in the harder circumstances we face. We cannot help but be aware too of the atmosphere around us in political discourse, and in the impact this

Dates for Your Diary- March Cont'd

Thursday 26th, 7.30pm- Circuit Stewards Consultation, Zoom

Tuesday 31st, 10am- Mission Area Leads and Deputies, Liskeard

has on the resilience and the good of communities around the world, and in the very places we live and serve in. We are invited in Lent to choose the way of Jesus in allowing the grace of God to infuse all our relationships, our serving and living.

As we continue to travel through Lent and enter the joy of resurrection of Easter, may the reconciling love of Christ empower your letting go of violence and instead lead you to embrace gentleness.

With Every blessing

Dan

Reflection for March

A Message from Deacon Ruth Richey

Dear friends,

As the first hints of spring begin to stir around us—the lengthening light, the tentative birdsong, the quiet courage of snowdrops and daffodils pushing through cold, wet soil—we find ourselves once again within the holy season of Lent. It is a season that invites us to notice what is awakening and what is being reshaped, both in the world and within our own hearts.

Spring never arrives all at once. It comes gently, almost shyly, as though creation is taking a deep breath before stepping forward. Lent is much the same. It is not a dramatic leap into holiness, but a slow, honest turning of our hearts toward God. It is a time to let go of what has grown weary, to make space for what God longs to grow in us, and to trust that even in the still-cold places, new life is quietly at work.

In this spirit, I find myself drawn to the scripture that has been a focus for the District in this Connexional year: Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14–21—a prayer rooted in kneeling, in longing, and in the vastness of God's love. Paul prays that we may be "strengthened in our inner being," that Christ may dwell in our hearts, and that we may somehow grasp "how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ." It is a prayer that stretches us beyond our smallness and reminds us that God's renewing work is always larger than we imagine.

Lent often asks us to look inward, but Paul's prayer reminds us that this inward journey is not about self-scrutiny for its own sake. It is about making room—room for love to take root, room for courage to grow, room for the Spirit to strengthen what feels fragile. Just as the soil softens in spring, so too does God soften the places in us that have become compacted by worry, weariness, or routine.

And then comes the promise: that God is able to do "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine." Not by our striving, but by God's power at work within us. Lent, then, is not a season of proving ourselves. It is a season of opening ourselves—opening to grace, to transformation, to the possibility that God is already doing more in us than we can yet see.

So, as you walk these Lenten days, may you notice the signs of spring around you and within you. May you feel the strengthening of your inner being. May you be rooted and grounded in love. And may you trust that the God who brings life from winter soil is bringing new life in you too.

Every blessing,

Deacon Ruth Richey

Mission Area Lead

Wesley Cottage

A Message from Paul Wreyford

I have just started in the role of Curator & Missioner at Wesley Cottage and just wanted to introduce myself, as well as encourage you to remember the cottage in your prayers.

I have to be honest and say that I have had no previous experience of being a curator, though I am quite good at looking after old relics…well, I've still got all my football programmes from the days I stood on the terraces at Fulham in the 1980s!

Seriously, I believe being a Christian for the past 40 years is probably the best experience I can bring to the role. Every time I have moved out of my comfort zone in the past, God has helped me and I have to trust that he will do so again.

Dare I compare myself to the great John Wesley, but we do share some similarities:

- he kept a journal…I was a newspaper journalist for more than 25 years;
- he wrote books…I do too (fiction and non-fiction, mostly to do with history);
- he was an itinerant preacher…I am too, as I've been a volunteer lay preacher on the Bude & Holsworthy circuit since moving to Cornwall some ten years ago;
- he travelled by horse to his preaching places. Well, I don't actually do that, but I do cycle to all the chapels I preach at. Some have nicknamed me the 'pedalling preacher'!
- And finally, he was a very small man…I am too, though I'm chuffed to say I'm actually an inch taller than John! (I joke that I only got the job because I don't have to duck to avoid hitting my head on the low beams in the cottage!)

Anyway, that's enough about me. What I'm really writing about is to ask for your prayers.

Some of you will already be a 'Friend of Wesley Cottage' – a group set up a long time ago to support the cottage financially. While donations are always welcome, we're no longer going to be suggesting that 'Friends' pay an annual subscription but instead sign up to be a 'Friend' simply because they want to support the cottage through prayer. If you would like to receive an e-newsletter a few times a year, please email me at curator@wesleycottage.org.uk and I will add you to our mailing list.

Please also follow our Facebook page for all the latest news from the cottage. And I look forward to meeting some of you in the coming months.

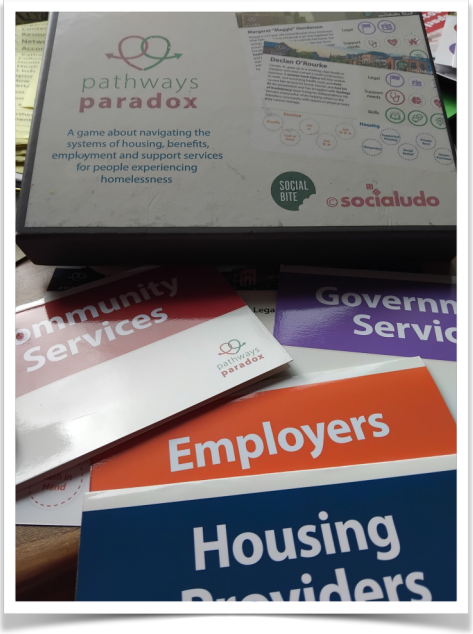
Paul Wreyford

Curator & Missioner at Wesley Cottage, Trewint

District Social Justice Resourcing Day 20.1.26-

Let's Get Connected!

A Message from Helen Pearce



Hosted by:- The Hub, Carnon Community Methodist Church, Carnon Downs Truro.

Theme:- The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1 v5

On Tuesday 20th January, braving rain of Biblical proportions, over 50 committed and tenacious people attended the South West Peninsula Methodist District Social Justice Resourcing Day. Attendees travelled from across the District to participate, some arriving by train to engage in this thought provoking day, at this well-equipped and welcoming Chapel.

Moving around 4 tables, 20 people (who played characters with a variety of difficulties) navigated the "decision makers" representing areas including - government services, housing providers, community services and employers, to try and find a job and secure permanent housing. It

highlighted some of the frustrations, difficulties and complexities from both sides of the table. Following this, tables discussed together what the issues were and more importantly how churches and individuals could help and support the needs of others going through this situation. The immersive game appeared to draw out new depths of understanding and nuance to the systems in place, and this added, therefore new levels of insight in the conversation and reflections, as well as potential solutions to the issues faced.

Feedback forms from the day reported on how good it was to take the opportunity to link in with a variety of excellent charities, organisations and ecumenical partners. At least 8 were represented during the day including some our own District officers.

Helen Pearce

Social Justice Officer

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.

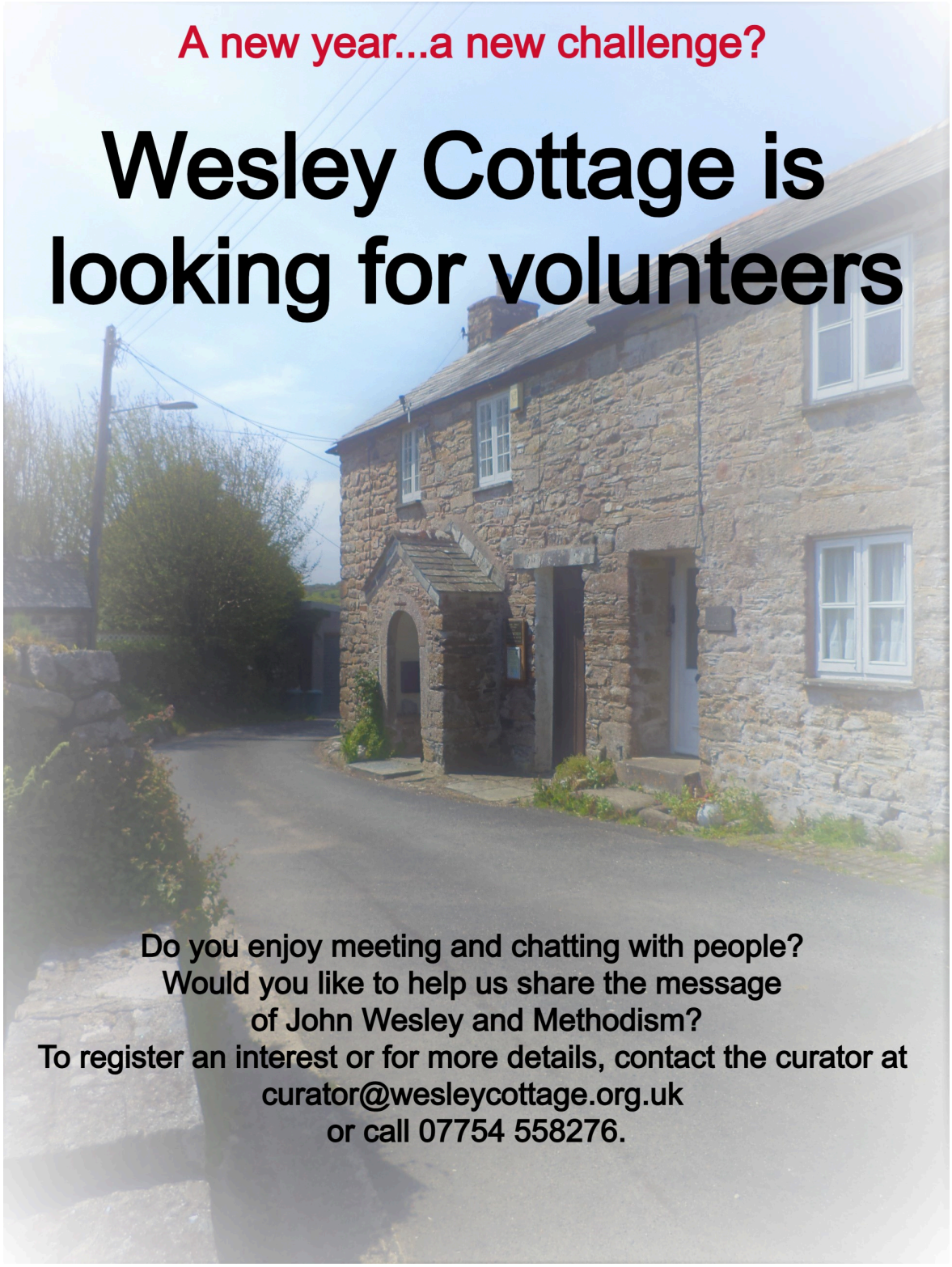
If you are interested in joining this course, please contact:
Georgia Jenkin admin@swpmethodist.org.uk

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!

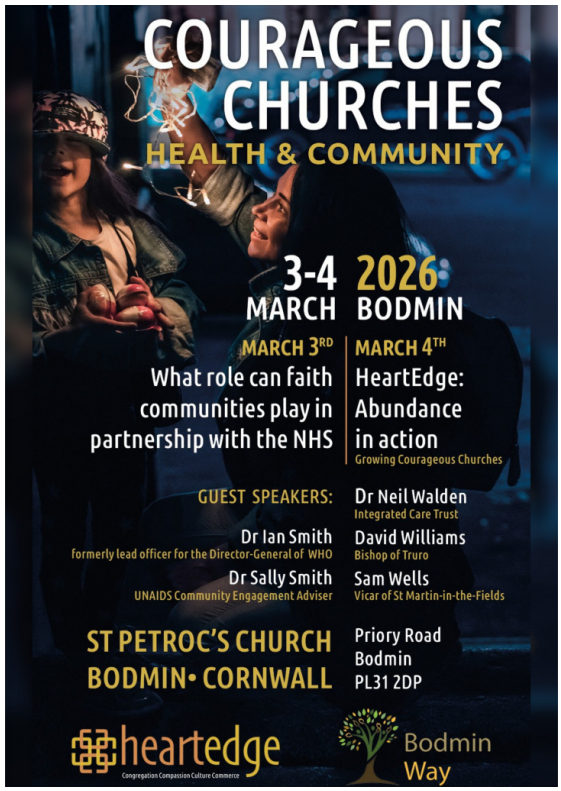
Details of the course can be found below:

Positive Working Together

SOUTH WEST PENINSULA DISTRICT


A new year...a new challenge?
Wesley Cottage is looking for volunteers
Do you enjoy meeting and chatting with people?
Would you like to help us share the message
of John Wesley and Methodism?
To register an interest or for more details, contact the curator at
curator@wesleycottage.org.uk
or call 07754 558276.

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

South West Peninsula District

SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE 2026

21st of March
09:30 – 14:00
PMCH, Plymouth

Guest speaker
Gill Thomas
Place of Hope

The South West Peninsula District Safeguarding Conference 2026 is open to everyone across the District.

To Book your place please email: admin@swpmethodist.org.uk

Tea and Coffee will be provided, you will need to bring your own lunch or use the cafe at PCMH, there are also other venues within close proximity.
Transport and Parking- Plymouth Central Hall is a 15 min walk from the train station, or parking is available at Drakes Circus.
There is Limited Disabled Parking on site, if you require a space please include this in your booking email.

Gill Thomas
Learning & Development Manager – Place for Hope

Rooted in faith and shaped by curiosity, Gill has spent her working life helping others learn and grow — in youth and community settings, further education, and for ten years with the Methodist Church's Learning Network.
She lives in Dorset with her husband and serves as a Licensed Lay Minister in the Diocese of Salisbury. Their son is currently exploring the world by sea, having taken to yacht life last year.
Gill cares deeply about social justice and believes God is often found in the ordinary, the overlooked, and the stories we share. She enjoys reading, travelling, and lively discussion.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING 2026

MAR 03 7PM — FOUNDATION: TRAIN THE TRAINER

MAR 21ST 0930-1400 — DISTRICT SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE-PLYMOUTH CENTRAL HALL

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

ADMIN@SWPMETHODIST.ORG.UK

SOUTH WEST PENINSULA DISTRICT
The Methodist Church

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING 2026

MAR 18TH 6PM — ONLINE ADVANCED: FACILITATED- ZOOM

APR 01 TBC — IN-PERSON ADVANCED: VENUE TBC

JUN 16TH 6PM — ON-LINE ADVANCED: FACILITATED-ZOOM

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

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

ADMIN@SWPMETHODIST.ORG.UK

SOUTH WEST PENINSULA DISTRICT
The Methodist Church

Methodist Women in Britain

for women, for justice, for Christ

Plymouth and Exeter section of SW Peninsula MWiB

Join us for our District Day

"Not Standing By"

With Leonora Wassall,

Co-Chair of MWiB

at St Thomas's Methodist Church

Cowick St, Exeter EX4 1JE

Saturday 25 Apr 2026

11am to 4pm - Coffee from 10.30 am

Everyone is welcome to this free event, whether you are an MWiB member, a Methodist, a church-goer - or not! And whatever your gender

More information from Elaine Banks 07936138345 or daveelainebanks@gmail.com (bring your own lunch, drinks supplied – refreshments at 3.30 pm before departure)

Electric Organ

We have a spare church organ (electric) from our closed Belstone chapel. We have no need for it in the Circuit but before we "get rid of it"….we were wondering whether anyone in the District would be interested in it. It is a Roland Atelier AT15…it is in full working order.

I've attached a pic…and if anyone wants it makes us an offer and collect it at their convenience…

I've also included this link for a few details from Roland website Roland - AT-15 | Atelier Organ

Revd Chris Jackson

Superintendent Minister

West Devon Circuit

A Tapestry of Praise: Worshipping Together Interculturally

Join us for an inspiring online session with Revd Dr Kirk Sims, who will be sharing insights drawn from his rich experience in intercultural ministry.

Wesleyan theology calls us to shape worship that is attentive to context and responsive to the communities we serve. In this webinar, we will explore the theological foundations of **intercultural worship** and consider how worship can be re-imagined in our increasingly multicultural churches and neighbourhoods.

Come and discover practical approaches, theological grounding, and new possibilities for nurturing intercultural faith communities.

Whether you are a church leader, a church member, or someone passionate about inclusion and justice, this webinar will offer a space for reflection and discussion.

Revd Dr Kirk Sims is a missiologist whose work focuses on mission, migration, and intercultural Christian community. He has served as pastor, missionary, and associate professor of intercultural studies, and has lived and worked in the United States, Ghana, the United Kingdom, Czechia, and Germany. Through his current teaching, leadership, and research roles across Europe with Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, he engages questions of worship, belonging, and ecclesial life in increasingly multicultural contexts.

Date: Thursday February 26th
Time: 1900 GMT
Zoom link: https://theofed-cam-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/95458793868?pwd=pQVCn1b03e7SUISAqfVPof1DUIPzzl.1

Join instructions https://theofed-cam-ac-uk.zoom.us/meetings/95458793868/invitations?signature=ADdK2eRwXzLigQyOoN3iU1CR7-MHdZ-8Epdk4kRhcCM

Meeting ID: 954 5879 3868

Passcode: 066881